

**Towcester Road Cemetery,
Northampton, Northamptonshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



852 PRIVATE

W. C. EBDEN COX

24TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

22ND SEPTEMBER, 1916 Age 32

Walter Charles Ebden COX

Walter Charles Ebden Cox was born at Sale, Gippsland, Victoria in 1883 to parents Frederic Arthur Cox and Charlotte Barwise Cox (nee Williams). He was the youngest of six children born to Frederic & Charlotte Cox.

Frederick Arthur Cox, father of Walter Charles Ebden Cox, died in April, 1884 at Sale, Gippsland, Victoria.

Walter Charles Ebden Cox attended State School at Sale, Gippsland, Victoria.

The 1906 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Gippsland, subdivision of Sale, Victoria listed Walter Charles Ebden Cox, Labourer, of Pearson Street, Sale. His mother – Charlotte Barwise Cox, Home Duties, was also listed at Pearson Street, Sale.

The 1909 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Gippsland, subdivision of Sale, Victoria listed Walter Charles E. Cox, Labourer. His mother – Charlotte Barwise Cox, Home Duties, was listed at Pearson Street, Sale.

The 1914 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Gippsland, subdivision of Sale, Victoria listed Walter Charles Ebden Cox, Driver, of Pearson Street, Sale. His mother – Charlotte Barwise Cox, Home Duties, was also listed at Pearson Street, Sale. The 1914 Supplemental Electoral Roll for the division of Gippsland, subdivision of Lucknow listed Walter Charles Ebden Cox, Labourer, care of Woodward, Wy Yung.

The 1915 Australian Electoral Roll for the division of Gippsland, subdivision of Lucknow listed Walter Charles Ebden Cox, Labourer, care of Woodward, Wy Yung.

Walter Charles Cox was a 31 year old, single, Labourer from Sale, Victoria when he enlisted at Bairnsdale, Victoria on 20th March, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 852 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs C. B. Cox, of Sale, Victoria. Walter Cox stated on his Attestation Papers that he was a member of the Rangers for two years until the Corps was disbanded.

Walter Charles E. Cox was posted to Depot Battalion on 31st March, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to "D" Company of 24th Battalion on 28th April, 1915.

Private Walter Charles Cox embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Euripides (A14)* on 10th May, 1915 with the 6th Infantry Brigade, 24th Infantry Battalion, "D" Company.

Private Walter Charles Cox proceeded to join M.E.F. (Mediterranean Expeditionary Force) on Gallipoli Peninsula on 30th August, 1915.

Private Walter Charles Cox disembarked at Alexandria from Mudros on 10th January, 1916.

Private Walter Charles Cox proceeded to join the B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) from Alexandria on 20th March, 1916 & disembarked at Marseilles, France on 26th March, 1916.

Private Walter Charles Cox was "evacuated wounded" in France on 5th August, 1916. He was admitted to 4th Field Ambulance on 5th August, 1916 with Shell shock then transferred & admitted to 3rd Casualty Clearing Station the same day. Pte Cox was transferred to Base Hospital on 7th August, 1916 & admitted to 2nd Canadian Stationary Hospital at Outreau on 7th August, 1916. He embarked for England at Boulogne on Hospital Ship *Stad Antwerpen* on 14th August, 1916.

War Diary – 24th Battalion

Sausage Valley – 5th August, 1916:

5am – A Comp returned from OGi to jump off trench R 34a 22 – R 34c 75. D Comp returned to rest gully, Sausage Valley. Lt Frank Reginald HAYS killed in action. (Lt. Hays recommended for gallantry on morning of 5 8/16)

6 pm – B Comp relieved 22nd Bn in OG2 in trench S9 34 6 12 to 34 d 69. 7 Bde. on right left flank exposed. Measures taken by means of blocks to guard left flanks. C Comp in trenches 34 c 44 to 34 c 80. Heavy shelling by evening.

6th August, 1916:

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6 pm - Bn relieved by 15 Bn. Bn moved to Tara Hill for Bivouac. Casualties since 4th August 21 Off Killed 27 O/R killed 121 O/R wounded 79 missing.

(Extract of War Diary from the Australian War Memorial)

24th Battalion

The 24th Battalion was raised in a hurry. The original intent was to raise the fourth battalion of the 6th Brigade from the "outer states", but a surplus of recruits at Broadmeadows Camp in Victoria lead to a decision being made to raise it there. The battalion was formed during the first week of May 1915, and sailed from Melbourne at the end of that week.

Training shortfalls were made up in Egypt in July and August, and on 4 September 1915 the Battalion went ashore at Gallipoli. It spent the next 16 weeks sharing duty in the Lone Pine trenches with the 23rd Battalion. The fighting at Lone Pine was so dangerous and exhausting that battalions rotated every day. While the bulk of the battalion was at Gallipoli, a small party of 52, trained as packhorse handlers, served with the British force in Salonika.

The Battalion was reunited in Egypt in early 1916 and proceeded to France in March. It took part in its first major offensive around Pozieres and Mouquet Farm in July and August 1917. The Battalion got little rest during the bleak winter of 1916-17 alternating between the front and labouring tasks.

(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)

Private Walter Charles Cox was admitted to Northampton War Hospital, England on 14th August, 1916 with gunshot wounds to spine – severe. He was reported as "*considerably weaker than when last reported*" on 27th August, 1916. Pte Cox's condition was reported as "*no improvement*" on 3rd September, 1916 & "*somewhat weaker*" on 5th September, 1916.

Mrs C. B. Cox was advised on 25th August, 1916 that her son, Private Walter C. E. Cox, was seriously ill with gunshot wounds to spine and paralysis of legs and improving. Subsequent reports were sent on 3rd September, 1916, 11th September, 1916 & 25th September, 1916 advising that Pte Cox's condition was stationary.

Mrs C. B. Cox was advised on 29th September, 1916 that her son, Private Walter C. E. Cox, had been admitted to Canadian Stationary Hospital on 7th August dangerously ill & his condition was now stationary.

Private Walter Charles Ebdon Cox died on 22nd September, 1916 at War Hospital, Duston, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England from wounds received in action in France – Gunshot wounds to spine.

A death for Walter C. E. Cox, aged 33, was registered in the September quarter, 1916 in the district of Northampton, Northamptonshire, England.

Private Walter Charles Ebdon Cox was buried in Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England – Plot number 466.I.18070. He was given a Private Headstone but now has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Base Records contacted Mrs C. B. Cox, of Sale, Victoria in October, 1920 asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & in particular if Pte Cox's father was still alive due to the "Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918" which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. A reply was sent from Mrs Cox's daughter stating that her mother was on a visit to Tasmania & that her mother was a widow, her father having died about thirty years ago.

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Private Walter Charles Ebdon Cox was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Cox's mother – Mrs C. B. Cox, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent August, 1921 & Plaque sent May, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Walter Charles Ebdon Cox – service number 852, aged 32, of 24th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of Frederic Arthur Cox and Charlotte Barwise Cox, of Pearson St., Sale, Gippsland, Victoria.

Private W. C. E. Cox is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 101.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

W. C. E. Cox is remembered on the Sale District Roll of Honour which is a paper honour roll listing the names of those who served in World War 1 & is located inside the Sale Historical Museum, 130 Foster Street, Sale, Victoria.



Sale District Roll of Honour (Photo from Monument Australia – Mark Riggs)

W. C. E. Cox is remembered on the Sale Cenotaph, which is located outside Memorial Hall, 82 Macalister Street, Sale, Victoria.



Sale Cenotaph (Photos from Monument Australia – Kent Watson)

(47 pages of Private Walter Charles Ebdon Cox's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DA08746

Private Walter Charles Ebdon Cox



Newspaper Notices

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

209th AND 210th LISTS

WOUNDED AND SERIOUSLY ILL

Pte W. C. E. Cox, Sale

(*Gippsland Mercury*, Sale, Victoria – 15 September, 1916)

PERSONAL

On Friday evening the Rev. Godfrey Smith broke the sad news to Mrs C. B. Cox, of Pearson-street, that her son, Pte W. C. E. Cox, who enlisted at Bairnsdale, had, on September 22nd, succumbed in the Dunstan War Hospital to a gunshot wound in the spine and paralysis of the legs. The municipal flag was hoisted half-mast on Saturday in honor of Pte. Cox, another of our young men who has made the supreme sacrifice for King and Country. Pte. Cox received his wound whilst helping a wounded comrade on the 7th August. Mrs Cox recently received news from friends in England that her son was in the Northampton Hospital. His mother had given him their address, and it was found fastened in his coat sleeve. They were see him. He was still very ill, too ill to have the shrapnel removed from the spine, but it cheered him up to see them, as he was feeling so far away from every one.

(Gippsland Times, Victoria – 9 October, 1916)

DEATHS

COX – On September 22, died of wounds received on active service in France, Walter C. E., youngest and dearly loved son of Mrs C. B. Cox and the late Mr F. A. Cox, Sale, Gippsland, aged 33 years.

He rose responsive to the Empire's call.

And gave his strength, his life, his all.

(Gippsland Mercury, Sale, Victoria – 10 October, 1916) & (Gippsland Times, Victoria – 12 October, 1916) &

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 13 October, 1916)

715 CASUALTIES

IN 235TH LIST

Died of Wounds

Pte W. C. E. COX, Sale, 22/9/16

(The Bendigo Independent, Victoria – 17 October, 1916)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

COX – In loving memory of our dear Walter, youngest son of Mrs Cox, and the late Mr F. A. Cox, who died in England, Sept. 22, 1916, from wounds received in the Somme, after serving in Gallipoli.

Honour to those who wear the Cross!

But 'neath a brighter sun

A hero band one day shall stand

When earth's brief race is run,

And shall rejoice to hear His voice,

“Soldiers of God, well done!”

- (Touchstone).

(The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria – 22 September, 1917)

A photo of Private Walter Charles Ebden Cox's Private Headstone. (Note: the headstone has the initial's engraved incorrectly as "W.E.C. Cox")



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H02083

In Memory Of
Pte W. E. C. COX
24TH Battalion

Australian Imperial Forces
Died Of Wounds Received
In The Battle Of The Somme
Sep. 22. 1916. Aged 33 Years.

*He Rose, Responsive To His Empire's Call
And Gave His Strength, His Life, His All.
Greater Love Hath No Man Than This.
Erected By His Relatives & Comrades.*

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Private W. C. E. Cox does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England

Northampton (Towcester Road) Cemetery contains 116 First World War burials and 17 from the Second World War, most of which form a combined war graves plot to the left of the chapel. The cemetery also contains five non-war service burials and three Czech war graves.

(Information & photos from CWGC)



Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton

Photo of Private W. C. Emden Cox's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England.



(Photo from Great War Forum - Biffo)



Towcester Road Cemetery, Northampton (Photos from CWGC)

