

**Earlham Road Cemetery,
Norwich, Norfolk
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



J. J. FITZGERALD SERVED AS

3170 PRIVATE

J. J. COX

4TH AUSTRALIAN PIONERS

10TH APRIL, 1917 Age 25

John Joseph FITZGERALD

John Joseph Fitzgerald was born at Oakvale, near Quambatook, Victoria in 1892 to parents Augustine (Austin) & Mary Ann Fitzgerald (nee O'Donnell).

Mary Ann Fitzgerald, mother of John Joseph Fitzgerald, died in 1909 in Victoria.

John Joseph Fitzgerald enlisted under the name of John Joseph Cox & stated he was a 23 year old, Single, Bullock Driver from Quambatook, Victoria when he enlisted in Melbourne, Victoria on 16th June, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3170 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr M. A. Cox, of Quambatook, Victoria.

Private John Joseph Cox was posted to 28th Company on 18th June, 1915 for recruit training. He was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 25th Battalion on 23rd June, 1915 then transferred on 18th October, 1915 to 10th Reinforcements of 12th Battalion.

Private John Joseph Cox embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Port Lincoln (A17)* on 18th October, 1915 with the 12th Infantry Battalion, 10th Reinforcements.

Private John Joseph Cox proceeded to join his Unit at Tel-el-Kebir from Zeitoun, Cairo on 19th January, 1916. He was taken on strength of 12th Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 19th January, 1916.

A letter was sent to Base Records, dated 30th January, 1916 from Mrs G. Corr, 225 Exhibition Street, asking for them to kindly send the address for Pte J. J. Cox. Base Records replied on 4th February, 1916 stating that a Private John Joseph Cox had enlisted at Melbourne on 16th June, 1915 stating that his age was 23 years and 3 months, occupation, Bullock Driver and that he was born at Quambatook where his next-of-kin was also resident. Base Records advised that if the soldier proved identical with the subject of her enquiry, his address in Egypt was given.

Private John Joseph Cox was awarded 10 days F. P. No. 2 (Field Punishment) while posted at Serapeum & forfeited 3 days' pay.

Private John Joseph Cox was transferred from 12th Battalion at Railhead to 52nd Battalion on 1st March, 1916. He was posted to 52nd Battalion at Tel-el-Kebir on 5th March, 1916.

Private John Joseph Cox was transferred from 52nd Battalion to 4th Pioneers Battalion on 16th March, 1916 at Tel-el-Kebir.

Mr A. Fitzgerald wrote to Base Records on 4th March, 1916 enquiring about his son & had heard that his son had enlisted under the name of J. J. Cox and that he had sailed some time ago. Mr Fitzgerald stated that his nephew Andrew Fitzgerald who had enlisted saw his son and was speaking to him. Base Records replied on 15th March, 1916 stating that a Private John Joseph Cox had enlisted at Melbourne on 16th June, 1915 stating that his age was 23 years and 3 months, occupation, Bullock Driver and that he was born at Quambatook where his next-of-kin shown as father, Mr A. Cox was also resident. His personal description was listed as 5 feet 10 inches in height, fresh complexion, blue eyes and black hair. He had scars on right knee and calf. Base Records advised that if the soldier proved identical with his son then no report had been received concerning him & it may therefore be assumed that he was with his Unit & provided the address in Egypt for Mr Fitzgerald.

Mr A. Fitzgerald wrote to Base Records on 27th March, 1916 stating "*I am extremely thankful for the trouble you have taken about my son's address many thanks for same; it is him what possessed him to not give his right name puzzles me. He was born at Oak Vale a few miles from Quambatook he was registered at Quambatook South. There never was anyone of the name of Cox about Quambatook to my knowledge. At any time if you would kindly communicate with me you would greatly oblige if any thing should happen him.*" Base Records replied to Mr A. Fitzgerald on 1st April, 1916 stating that before his "*name could be added to the records it would be necessary for you to forward me his birth certificate and a statutory declaration to the effect that he is your son, and if same are found to be in order his records will be endorsed, "stated to be J. J. Fitzgerald" and all advices received regarding him will then be transmitted to you.*"

Private John Joseph Cox was admitted to No.2 Australian Stationary Hospital at Tel-el-Kebir on 21st June, 1916 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). He was transferred from No. 2 A.S.H. on 26th June, 1916 & admitted to No. 3 Australian General Hospital at Abbassia on 27th June, 1916 with Pleurisy. Pte Cox was transferred to Ras-el-Tin Convalescent Depot on 6th July, 1916 with Pyorrhoea.

Private John Joseph Cox was transferred from Convalescent Depot at Ras-el-Tin on 6th August, 1916 to 21st General Hospital, Alexandria - P.U.O. (Pyrexia (fever) of unknown origin. He was transferred to Montazah Convalescent Depot on 9th October, 1916 with Paratyphoid & discharged to Moascar on 27th October, 1916.

Private John Joseph Cox joined Details Camp at Moascar on 28th October, 1916. He proceeded from Moascar on 7th November, 1916 to join B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force). Pte Cox embarked from Alexandria on H.T. *Megantic* on 8th November, 1916 to join B.E.F.

Private John Joseph Cox rejoined his Battalion from Hospital in 8th February, 1917.

[Note – there is no record between 8th November, 1916 & the entry of rejoining his Battalion on 8th February, 1917].

According to details provided by Constable T. FitzGerald, his brother wrote him a letter on 25th February, 1917 from Norfolk War Hospital, England.

[Note – there is no record between in the Service Record file for Pte J. J. Cox of being admitted to Hospital]



Private John Joseph Cox died on 10th April, 1917 at the Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich, Norfolk, England from Tuberculosis.

A death for John J. Cox, aged 26, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Blofield, Norfolk, England.

Private John Joseph Cox was buried on 14th April, 1917 in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England – Section 24, Grave no. 224. From the burial report of Private John Joseph Cox - *Coffin was Elm, black polished. A Gun Carriage was provided; no Firing Party. Last Post sounded. Coffin bearers provided by A.S.C. Depot at Norfolk. No relatives were present. Wreath provided by Hospital.*

The details sent to Mr FitzGerald, regarding his son's burial:- *“The deceased soldier was accorded a military funeral, gun carriage and firing party provided. The “Last Post” was sounded at the graveside and the Coffin bearers were furnished by the Army Service Corps Depot at Norfolk. A wreath was sent from the Hospital.”*

A letter was sent on 20th April, 1920 from Base Records to Mr A. Fitzgerald, of Cocamba, Victoria, father of the late Private John Joseph Fitzgerald who served as Private J. J. Cox, advising that *“now in receipt of further advice which shows that his remains have been exhumed from the former site, and re-interred in Grave No.693 Section 54, Norwich Cemetery, Norwich. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain.”*

John Joseph Fitzgerald who served as Private J. J. Cox has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Private John Joseph Cox contains a letter on behalf of the Matron, of The Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich which reads: *“Re Pte Cox. There is really very little to say about him. He was treated here for tubercle and on April 10th was seized with acute abdominal pain, this increased and the doctor decided an operation necessary. This was done in the evening and they found Tubercular Peritonitis from which he died at 7 am. He did not have a great deal of pain after the operation as he was given morphia. He was buried here in Norwich, it was rather sad as he had no friends and so far away from home. Up till the time when he had the acute attack he had not suffered at all. I hope this is all you wish to know.”*

A telegram was sent to Base Records stating *“23rd Battalion 318 Cox John J reported died 10th April Tuberculosis Norfolk War Hospital next of kin stated as Mrs Corn Exhibition Street Melbourne No Trace on my records unless identical with 3170 Cox John Joseph Fourth Pioneers late 52nd Battalion original 23rd Battalion Advise.”*

A letter was sent to Mrs G. Corr (Allottee of No. 318 Pte J. J. Cox), c/o Postmaster, G.P.O. Melbourne, Victoria on 26th April, 1917, asking for her to contact the Base Records Office at her earliest convenience regarding a report of an urgent nature. The envelope & letter were returned to Base Records marked “Dead”. The 3rd Military District wrote to Base Records on 24th April, 1917 stating that exhaustive enquiries had been made into but no trace could be found of the present whereabouts of the next-of-kin of Mrs Corr.

Constable T. Fitzgerald, Police Station, Sale, wrote to Base Records on 1st May, 1917 stating *“I see by todays Argus, that you wish to hear from the next-of-kin to Pte J. J. Cox, No. 318, 23rd Batt, A.I.F. This soldier is my brother and his father is Augustine FitzGerald of Manangatang via Korong Vale, Vic. The reason he enlisted under a wrong name was that his father objected to him going to the War. I can easily prove that he is my Brother, as I had several letters from him since he has been at the front. The last written on 25th February last from Norfolk War Hospital.”*

T. Fitzgerald, Police Station, Sale, wrote to Base Records on 10th May, 1917 advising that he had several letters from Pte J. J. Cox that *“will prove without doubt that he is my brother. I do not like to let the letters out of my hands, otherwise I would send them down”* and advised that if the Officer in Charge of Sale District would call on him he would show him the letters. Base Records replied that they had no representative in the Sale district and if the letters were sent per registered post, every care would be taken of them and returned in due course.

T. Fitzgerald, Police Station, Sale, wrote to Base Records on 9th June, 1917 advising that he was enclosing five letters as requested for the purpose of identifying his brother the late Private J. J. Cox, No. 318, 23rd Battalion. He writes in the letter *“kindly take care of them and return same as promised. You will see by No.5 that he signed himself Brother. I have another letter where he told me not to sign myself Brother but just sign the same as he dine but you could not understand that letter without me being there to interpret as he as a very poor scholar at any time and he was suffering from bad nerves when he wrote it...”* Base Records replied to Mr T. Fitzgerald, brother of the late John Joseph Fitzgerald who served as Private J. J. Cox on 13th June, 1917 stating that they had received the letters but also required a Statutory Declaration to be made.

From the Statement of Service Form in Private John Joseph Cox's Service Record file – *“O'seas files disclose that baptismal name was not forthcoming until subsequent to soldier's demise...”* Pte assumes the correct name of FITZGERALD, John (undated). From another Statement of Service Form in Private John Joseph Cox's Service Record file - Documentary evidence has been produced showing true name to be FITZGERALD, John (undated).

A Statutory Declaration was signed by Thomas Fitzgerald, Sale, Victoria, Constable of Police on 3rd July, 1917 declaring *“that Private John Joseph Cox, No. 318 is a brother of mine. I have received letters from him under than*

name, which I have forwarded. I knew he enlisted under the name of Cox as he believed my father would not care for him to go to the war. My father Augustine Fitzgerald of Manangatang is next-of-kin."

A memo was sent from Base Records on 15th July, 1917 to A.I.F. Headquarters, London to advise *"It is notified for information that a Statutory Declaration, and other evidence in support, has been furnished to show that the late No. 318 Private John J. Cox, 23rd Battalion, who died of Tuberculosis at the Norfolk War Hospital on 10/4/17, enlisted under an assumed name, his correct one being JOHN FITZGERALD, and the next-of-kin as father - Mr Augustine Fitzgerald, Manangatang, Victoria. All records have been amended accordingly"*

A memo was sent from Base Records on 15th July, 1917 to 3rd Military District stating *"Necessary evidence has been produced to show that the late No. 318 Private John J. Cox, 23rd Battalion (formerly 10th Reinforcements, 12th Battalion) enlisted under an assumed name, his correct one being JOHN FITZGERALD, and next-of-kin – Mr A. Fitzgerald, Manangatang, Victoria."*

A letter was sent from Base Records on 15th July, 1917 to Mr T. Fitzgerald, Police Station, Sale, Victoria stating *"I return herewith the letters you forwarded as evidence that the late No. 318 Private John J. Cox, 23rd Battalion, was you brother, and that he enlisted under an assumed name and have amended all records accordingly. showing his father as next-of-kin...."*

Mr A. Fitzgerald, Manangatang, wrote to Base Records on 27th August, 1917, having received advice of a list of the personal effects of his son from Norfolk Hospital, due to be delivered to Mrs Corr, Exhibition Street, Melbourne ex "Wiltshire". Mr Fitzgerald stated *"I live 260 miles from Melbourne, those things are supposed to belong to my son J. J. Fitzgerald, late Pte J. J. Cox. I cannot see what Mrs Corr has got to do with them.....P.S. I do not think his identity wants any more proving. I forwarded marks, Birth Certificate and all particulars long ago."*

A package of the personal effects of the late No. 318 Private J. J. Cox (stated to be J. Fitzgerald, 23rd Battalion) ex "Wiltshire" was signed for by Mr A. Fitzgerald on 29th August, 1917.

Mr A. Fitzgerald, C/o A. J. Fitzgerald, McHenry Street, Ripponlea, East St. Kilda, wrote to Officer in Charge of Deferred Pay in December, 1917 stating that he had *"put in a claim for my son Private J. J. Cox, No. 3170 -3180, 52nd Battn. Late 23rd Battn months ago, I received notice that I could not get it before six months and I still know nothing further. Would you kindly let me know at once how long more I will have to wait thanking you."*

Mrs Gracie Corr, 477 George Street, Fitzroy wrote to Base Records in August, 1918 enquiring if Pte J. J. Cox, No. 318, 23rd Battalion had left a Will. Base Records replied that no notification had been received of a Will.

Mrs Daniel Daly, Manangatang, Victoria, wrote to Base Records in July, 1920 asking for the next-of-kin medals to be sent to her sister & herself in regards to their brother Pte J. J. Fitzgerald, No. 318, 4th Pioneers. Base Records forwarded an application form for "Nearest Female Relative's Badge" to Mrs Daly.

John Joseph Fitzgerald who served as Private J. J. Cox was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to his father – Mr A. Fitzgerald, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent September, 1921 & Plaque sent January, 1923 – Plaque issued as John Joseph Cox as he had served & died as John Joseph Cox). (The 1914/15 Star was issued to Pte Fitzgerald

Private J. J. Fitzgerald is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 174.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John Joseph Fitzgerald, served as COX – service number 3170, aged 25, of 4th Australian Pioneers. He was the son of Austin Fitzgerald and the late Mary Ann Fitzgerald.

(113 pages of John Joseph Fitzgerald who served as Private J. J. 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



Newspaper Notices

THE 294th CASUALTY LIST

DIED OF ILLNESS

Private J. J. Cox, Quambatook

(The Mildura Cultivator, Victoria – 12 May, 1917)

Honor the Brave

Following on the brilliant and daring gains made recently on the West Front, comes the inevitable long lists of casualties of those put out of action during the advance, and a number of these participants are sleeping their last beneath the sod of foreign soil until the sounding of the mighty trump on the last day awakens them to take their place in an advance with the right, the cause for which they so nobly gave their all. Hence it is our unenviable duty this week to add still another name to our imperishable honor roll, that of Pte. J. J. Cox, of Quambatook, who is officially reported as having died of wounds. Although practically unknown locally, we are deeply indebted to this departed hero for associating himself with our town—we owe him a debt that can never be repaid. He did his duty as a man, by displaying the greatest love, and as such we reverently mourn the loss of a soldier and a man as we would our own native sons.

(Quambatook Times, Victoria – 16 May, 1917) & (Ultima and Chillingollah Star, Victoria – 18 May, 1917)

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)

A letter from Base Records, dated 11th July, 1921, to Mr A. Fitzgerald, of Manangatang, Victoria advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late Pte J. Fitzgerald, No. 3170, 23rd Battalion, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken.

J. J. Fitzgerald who served as Private J. J. Cox does not have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich contains 533 Commonwealth War Graves.

The cemetery was laid out in 1856 and casualties of the South African War were buried in the oldest part. Nearly half of the 1914-1918 burials are to be found in two military plots; one in the North-Eastern part and the other in the Western part of the burial ground. Ground immediately adjoining the latter was reserved for service burials of the 1939-1945 War and is now combined with it to form the 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 War Graves Plot. The Cross of Sacrifice, which honours the servicemen of both Wars who are buried in the cemetery, stands in the plot, and carved upon two of the panels of its base are the dates 1914-1918 and 1939-1945. There are now nearly 350, 1914-1918 and nearly 200, 1939-1945 war casualties commemorated in this site. In addition, a special memorial is erected to one soldier buried among civilian air raid victims in a grave on which it was not possible to erect a headstone.

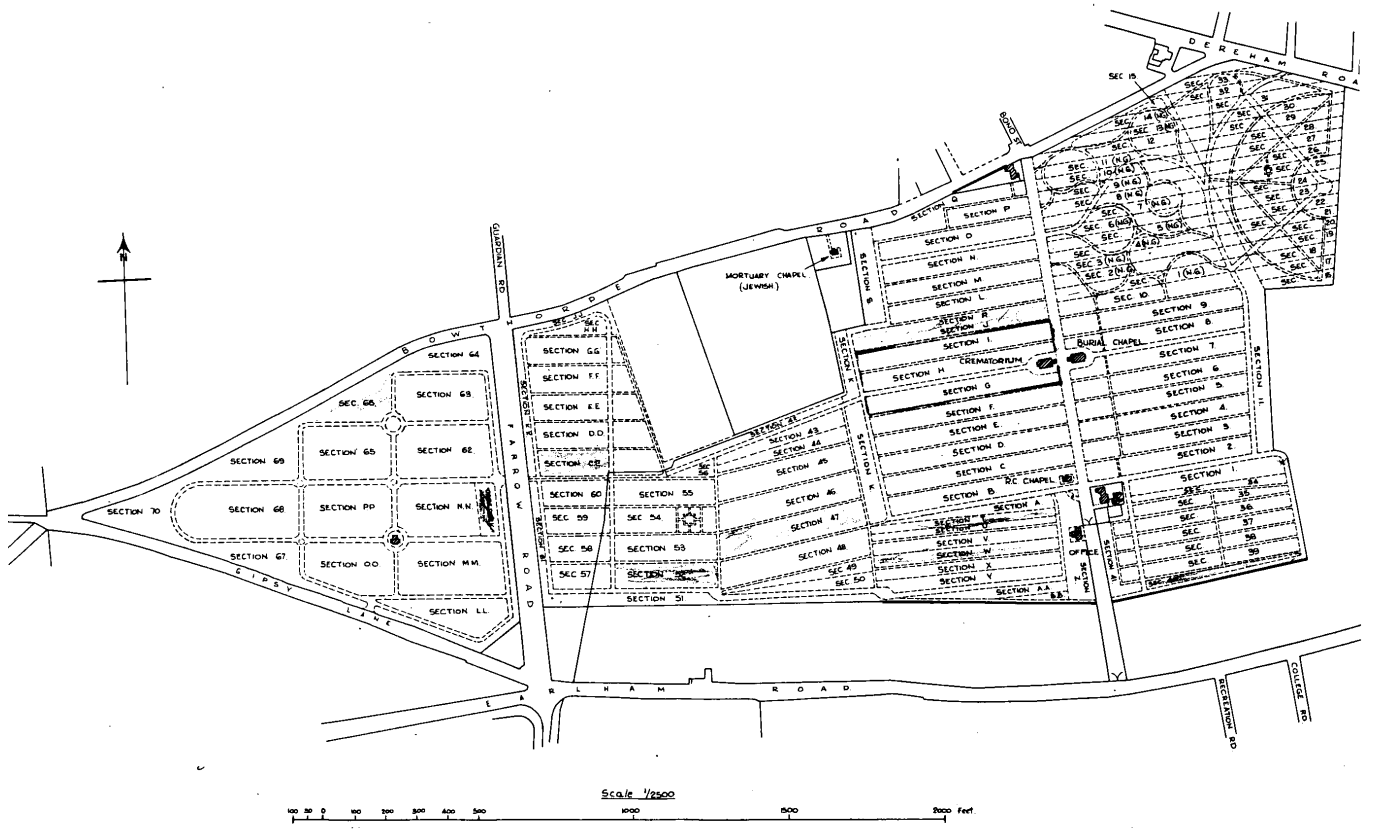
(Information & photo from CWGC)



Photo of J. J. Fitzgerald who served as Private J. J. Cox's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England.



(Photo by Jennifer Hart – Find a Grave)



Map of Earlham Road Cemetery, Norwich, Norfolk, England

