

**St. George's Churchyard,
Fovant, Wiltshire
War Graves**



Lest We Forget

World War 1



55915 PRIVATE

S. FOX

43RD BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

16TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 34

Beloved Son Of R. T. Fox

Of Alberton, S.A.

Sydney FOX

Reuben Sydney Fox was born at Raglan, near Beaufort, Victoria in on 7th August, 1884 (as stated on Attestation Papers, however his birth was registered in 1885) to parents Reuben Thomas and Christina Fox (nee Abercrombie).

Sydney Fox attended Raglan State School, Victoria.

Newspaper Article – *The Advertiser*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 29 March, 1909

THE WAYMOUTH-STREET FRACAS

Sydney Fox, one of the men connected with the fracas that occurred in Waymouth-street on Friday about midday, when the police were endeavouring to take a drunken man named Ramage into custody, appeared before the Police Court on Saturday morning to answer a charge of having assaulted Police-Constable J. F. Naylor while in the execution of his duty.

Inspector Burchell said assaults on the police had lately become so numerous that it was a serious problem as to what steps to take to suppress them. IN addition to asking the bench to impose severe penalties he thought they would also have to request them to bind the prisoners over to keep the public peace.

Constable Nylon reported that at about 12 o'clock on Friday the defendant stepped out of the crowd that surrounded the police as they were attempting to capture Ramage and struck him tow heavy blows on the face. The force of the blows caused him to reel and stagger back, and accused then followed up his advantage by striking him three times more on the body. In consequence of his interference Ramage was able to effect his escape handcuffed.

Fox asked to be excused on the ground that he had been drinking heavily and was in a half-muddled state when he made the assault.

The Bench – You will have to pay a fine of £10 or go to gaol for three months.

The prisoner, who stumbled from the box on hearing the sentence, elected to “take it out.”

The South Australian Police Gazette – 16th June, 1909:

Sydney Fox, labourer, native of Victoria, 23 years of age, 5ft 8 in. high, dark hair, brown eyes, dark complexion, strong build, small scar outside left forearm, small scar on centre of forehead high up, tried at Adelaide on March 27th, 1909, for assaulting police; three months.

Newspaper Article – *Barrier Miner*, Broken Hill, NSW – 29 August, 1911:

ASSAULTING A POLICEMAN

At the Police Court this morning the case in which Sydney Fox was convicted on a charge of having assaulted Constable Webster in the execution of his duty was again called on. The case was adjourned yesterday to permit of expert evidence being given as to the damage caused to Constable Webster's teeth by the blow he alleged was struck by Fox.

Thomas Bede Griffin, dentist, stated he had examined the teeth and plate, portions of which were missing. It would cost £3 3s. to repair the damage.

The S. M. fined accused £3, with £3 3s. costs – in default, two months imprisonment.

Entrance & Description Book – Broken Hill Gaol:

29 August, 1911 – Sydney Fox of B. Hill, born Victoria, C. of E, Miner, committed for Assaulting Constable, age 27 (born 7.8.84) 5ft 7, brown hair, brown eyes. Fined £6.3 paid 29 August, 1911

A “Sydney Fox”, Miner, aged 28, born Victoria, Church of England was convicted of Stealing on 15th August, 1912 & sentenced to 6 months. He was 5 feet 7 inches with brown hair & brown eyes.

Photograph Description Book – Broken Hill Gaol

- Sydney Fox, born Victoria, 7th August, 1884, Labourer, Church of England, 5 feet 7 inches with brown hair & brown eyes



Newspaper Article – *The Register*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 5 December, 1911:

BARRIER QUARTER SESSIONS

BROKEN HILL, December 4 – At the quarter sessions to-day, before Judge Gibson, Henry Brown, Frederick Linder, Thomas Hangan, and Sydney Fox were charged with having assaulted and robbed John Rogers in the yard of the Denver City Hotel on September, 25. Brown and Linder were found guilty and remanded for sentence. The other two were acquitted.

Newspaper Article – *The Advertiser*, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 6 February, 1913:

LAW COURTS

MAGISTRATES COURT – BRIGHTON

Tuesday, February 4.

.....

Sydney Fox, alias John Ball, was charged by the same informant with having used indecent language and disturbed the peace of the Thatched House Tavern. A fine of £1 and 15/ costs was imposed; in default, 7 days' imprisonment. The same defendant was charged with having on February 3, assaulted Mounted-Constable Searson, whilst the officer was in the execution of his duty. He was fined £5 and 15/ costs; in default, three months' imprisonment with hard labour. He was also charged with having no lawful means of support, and being an idle and disorderly person.

He was sentenced to two months' imprisonment with hard labour. For restricting Mounted-Constable Virgo in the execution of his duty, he was awarded three months' imprisonment.

The South Australian Police Gazette – 21st May, 1913:

Sydney Fox, tried at Brighton, on February 4th, 1913, for assaulting police three months, and idle and disorderly two months (cumulative); a native of Victoria; a labourer; born 1885; height, 5ft 7 ¼ in; complexion, sallow; hair, black; eyes, brown; nose, long straight, thin; mouth, medium; chin, square. Four vaccines left arm (two of them indistinct), scar outside left forearm, small scar inside left wrist, marks from twitches on each wrist (perhaps temporary), scar inside third finger right hand, back right hand knocked up, small scar forehead in hair and one below between eyebrows, small scar over left eyebrow, recent scar on nose, small mole, midway between nipples, boilmark left shoulder blade, recent scar right knee, ears stand out. Vide Police Gazette, 1913, pages 128 and 139 "Prisoners Discharged." Freedom due May 23rd, 1913.

Newspaper Article – The Port August Dispatch, Newcastle and Flinders Chronicle, Sth Australia – 12 September, 1913:

POLICE COURT

Edward Dolton and Sydney Fox were each fined 5s for drunkenness.

Newspaper Article – Daily Herald, Adelaide, Sth Australia – 6 October, 1917:

POLICE COURT

ADELAIDE, OCTOBER 5

Two persons were fined for insobriety.

.....

Sydney Fox was charged on the information of the police having insufficient means of support. Defendant, who pleaded not guilty, was represented by Mr W. A. Rollison.

Detective McMahon said he had known the accused for about 12 months. During the last six weeks he had seen him almost daily in the city streets "hanging around" several of the hotels at the west end of Hindley street mostly, and frequently in company with convicted and drunken men. During that time, so far as the witness knew, he had followed no lawful occupation. Witness twice cautioned him regarding his mode of living, but each time defendant said he would not alter his habits or leave the town.

Replying to Mr Rollison, witness said he did not know that the accused had worked on the East-West line until the outbreak of the strike, and that since that time had worked in Adelaide and lived with his mother.

Constable Lindsay said he had known accused for three years. He saw him often in the company of a convicted man named Redpath, and had seen him talk to persons in the street whom he (witness) had reason to believe were not of "good repute".

Questioned by Mr Rollison, witness admitted he could not say why the suspected persons were not of "good repute."

Constable Dedman deposed that he had seen accused trying to force his company on to people in the street.

The accused, on oath, said he worked on the Melbourne sewers for two years before coming to Adelaide in November last. From that date he was employed by Burt & Timms on various works for nearly nine months, and afterwards worked on the East-West railway for several months.

Christina Fox, mother of the accused, said he had slept home since his arrival in the city six weeks ago.

Wm. Milne, fireman for Burt & Timms, said accused worked for the firm from November, 1916, to June last, and was a good workman.

The case was dismissed.

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Christina Fox, mother of Sydney Fox, died on 15th April, 1918.

Sydney Fox was a 33 year old, single, Labourer from Alberton, South Australia when he enlisted at Adelaide on 25th April, 1918 with the 2nd (S.) Reinforcements of the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 55915 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr R. T. Fox, of Newcastle Street, Rosewater, South Australia. Sydney Fox was 5 feet 7 ¼ inches, 135 lbs with brown eyes, dark hair & a dark complexion, 2 vaccination marks faint.

Private Sydney Fox was posted to "B" Company on 1st May, 1918 then transferred to "A" Company on 22nd May, 1918 at Mitcham Camp. He was transferred to Reinforcements "S" (South Australia) to UK on 30th May, 1918.

Private Sydney Fox entrained to Sydney on 31st May, 1918.

Private Sydney Fox embarked from Sydney on RMS *Orontes* on 5th June, 1918. Pte Sydney Fox was written up for an Offence while on RMS *Orontes* – on 23rd June, 1918 1. Wilfully damaging Govt. property –smashing front out of No. 2 Cell & 2. Drunkenness. Private Sydney Fox was deprived of 28 days' pay on 25th June, 1918. Pte Sydney Fox was written up for an Offence while on RMS *Orontes* – New York - A.W.L. (Absent without leave) from midnight on 25th July, 1918 till midnight on 29th July, 1918. He forfeited a total of 25 days' pay. Pte Fox disembarked at Liverpool, England on 11th August, 1918.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Private Sydney Fox was marched in to 9th Training Battalion at Fovant, Wiltshire on 12th August, 1918.

Private Sydney Fox was allotted to Reinforcements of 43rd Battalion on 12th August, 1918 whilst at 9th Training Battalion on 12th August, 1918.

Private Sydney Fox was sent sick to Bulford Hospital on 13th August, 1918. He was admitted to 1st Australian Dermatological Hospital at Bulford, Wiltshire on 13th August, 1918 with V.D. He was discharged to Convalescent Training Depot at Parkhouse, Wiltshire on 15th August, 1918.

Private Sydney Fox was written up for an Offence at Parkhouse Shipton - A.W.L. (Absent without leave) until found by M.P. on Shipton & Cholderton Road about 2.20 pm. on 9th September, 1918 without a pass & neglecting to obey A.I.F. Depot orders of 22.6.17 in that he was found on Shipton & Cholderton Rd on 9th September, 1918 not in possession of Pay Book or Identity disc. He was awarded a forfeiture of 1 days' pay.

Private Sydney Fox was marched in to 9th Training Battalion from Parkhouse Hospital on 1st October, 1918.

Private Sydney Fox was sent sick to Hurdcott Hospital on 7th October, 1918 & admitted with Bronchitis then transferred & admitted to Military Hospital, Fovant on 9th October, 1918 seriously ill with Pneumonia.

Private Sydney Fox died at 3.20 am on 16th October, 1918 at Fovant Military Hospital, Wiltshire, England from Pneumonia.

A death for Sydney Fox, aged 34, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Private Sydney Fox was buried on 19th October, 1918 in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England – Plot number I. A. 3. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte Fox - *Coffin was good, polished Elm with brass mounts. Deceased was buried with full Military honours, the coffin draped with the Australian flag being borne to the graveside on a Gun-carriage preceded by a Firing Party and Band from the 9th Australian Training Battalion. Six of deceased's comrades acted as Pall bearers and a number of Officers, N.C.O.'s and Men from his late Unit attended as mourners. Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in United Kingdom were represented at the funeral.*

Private Sydney Fox requested in his Will dated 31st May, 1918 that all his property be given to his sister Georgina Francis Fox, of Newcastle Street, Rosewater, South Australia. Georgina Fox was also appointed sole executrix.

Private Sydney Fox was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Fox's father - Mr R. T. Fox, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent July, 1921 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Sydney Fox – service number 55915, aged 34, of 43rd Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Reuben Thomas and Christina Fox, of Newcastle Street, Alberton, South Australia. Born at Raglan, Victoria.

Private S. Fox is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 136.



(Photos Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

R. S. Fox is remembered on the Rosewater War Memorial located at Eric Sutton Oval, Canning & Chad Streets, Rosewater, South Australia.



Rosewater War Memorial (Photos from RSL Virtual War Memorial)



S. Fox is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



National War Memorial – Adelaide (Photos by Bilby)

(47 pages of Pte Sydney Fox'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) & National Archives



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HEROES

CASUALTY LIST NO. 447

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DIED OTHER CAUSES

55915, Pte S. Fox, Rosewater

(*Daily Herald*, Adelaide, South Australia – 28 November, 1918)

IN MEMORIAM

FOX – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Sydney Fox, died at Fovant Military Hospital, October 16th, 1918.

-Inserted by his loving father, brother and sisters.

(*Daily Herald*, Adelaide, South Australia – 16 October, 1919)

Sydney Fox is remembered on his parents' headstone located in Cheltenham Cemetery, South Australia.



In Loving Memory Of

CHRISTINA

Beloved Wife of R. T. Fox

Died April 15TH 1918

Aged 61 Years

R.I.P.

Also

REUBEN THOMAS

Husband Of Above

Died Sept. 19th 1937

Aged 81 Years



*In
Loving Memory Of
SYDNEY
Beloved Son Of
C. & R. T. Fox
Died In England
Oct. 16th 1918
Aged 33 Years
Late A.I.F.*



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 S. Fox does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Beloved Son of R. T. Fox Of Alberton, S.A.

St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England

There was a 600 bed hutted military hospital at Fovant during the First World War, and the concentration of Australian depots and training camps in the area is reflected in the 63 First World War burials in this churchyard. The war graves form two groups, one west of the church and the other at the east end. There is also one burial of the Second World War. There are 44 War Graves belonging to those who served with the Australian Imperial Force in World War 1. *(Information from CWGC)*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

D00299

(Photo c 1919)





St George's Churchyard, Fovant – War Graves at front & rear (*Churchyard photos courtesy of Andrew Stacey*)



Photo of Private S. Fox's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in St George's Churchyard, Fovant, Wiltshire, England.





Cross of Sacrifice (Photo courtesy of Andrew Stacey)