

**Walton-on-Thames Cemetery,
Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, England**

War Grave



Lest We Forget

World War 1



6/1848 PRIVATE

W. FOX

CANTERBURY REGIMENT

NEW ZEALAND EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

26TH OCTOBER, 1915 Age 22

William FOX

William Fox was born on 17th June, 1893 in Queensland, Australia to parents John and Nellie Fox.

William Fox was a 21 year old, single, Labourer from Kinsey Street, Sydenham, Christchurch, New Zealand when he enlisted on 5th January, 1915 with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (N.Z.E.F.). His service number was 6/1848 & his religion was Anglican. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr John Fox, Esk Line, Toogoolawah, Queensland, Australia. William Fox stated he had last worked for Shaw, Saville & Co. His left forefinger was missing.

Private William Fox was posted to “C” Company, 4th Reinforcements of Canterbury Infantry Battalion on 5th January, 1915 for recruit training.

Private William Fox embarked from Wellington, New Zealand on 17th April, 1915 with the 4th Reinforcements of Canterbury Infantry Battalion & disembarked at Egypt on 25th May, 1915.

Private William Fox joined 1st Company, Canterbury Infantry Battalion on 8th June, 1915.

Canterbury Infantry Regiment

The Canterbury Infantry Regiment was one of four regional infantry groupings (along with Auckland, Wellington, and Otago) which made up the bulk of New Zealand's infantry forces during the First World War. It served as the Canterbury Battalion at Gallipoli in 1915, before being divided into 1st Canterbury Infantry Battalion and 2nd Canterbury Infantry Battalion in March 1916.

Private William Fox was wounded in action at the Dardanelles on 22nd July, 1915. He was admitted to 1st Australian Casualty Clearing Station at Anzac on 22nd July, 1915 with gunshot wounds to left thigh & compound fracture. Pte Fox was transferred & admitted to Floriana Hospital at Malta on 28th July, 1915. He embarked from Malta on Hospital Ship *Panama* for England on 13th September, 1915.

Private William Fox was admitted to The New Zealand Military Hospital, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, England on 21st September, 1915 with gunshot wounds to left hip. Gangrene developed on 25th October, 1915.

Private William Fox died at 11.50 pm on 26th October, 1915 at The New Zealand Military Hospital, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, England from Gas Gangrene following wounds received in action (gunshot wounds to left hip/thigh).

A death for William Fox, aged 22, was registered in the December quarter, 1915 in the district of Chertsey, Surrey, England.

Private William Fox was buried on 29th October, 1915 in Walton-On-Thames Cemetery, Walton-On-Thames, Surrey, England – Screen Wall 913. His death is acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Private William Fox was entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Fox's father - Mr John Fox, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1921 & Plaque sent February, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private William Fox – service number 6/1848, aged 22, of Canterbury Regiment, New Zealand Expeditionary Force. He was the son of John and Nellie Fox, of Toogoolawah, Queensland, Australia.

William Fox is remembered on the Commemorative Roll Book, located in the Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. The Commemorative Roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion on the Roll of Honour.

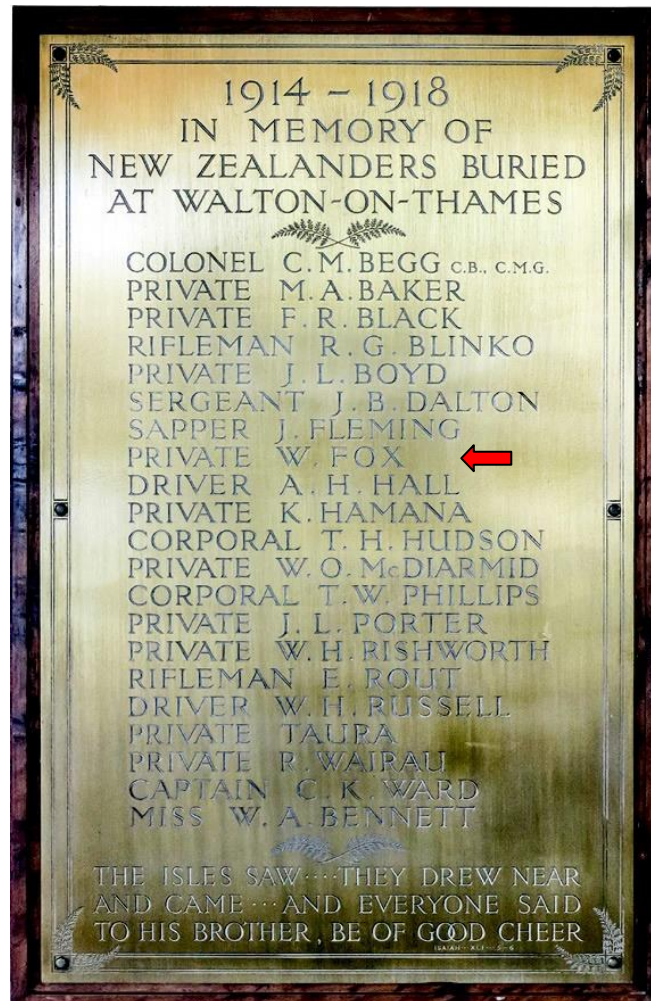


Commemorative Area of the Australian War Memorial (*Capital Photographer*)

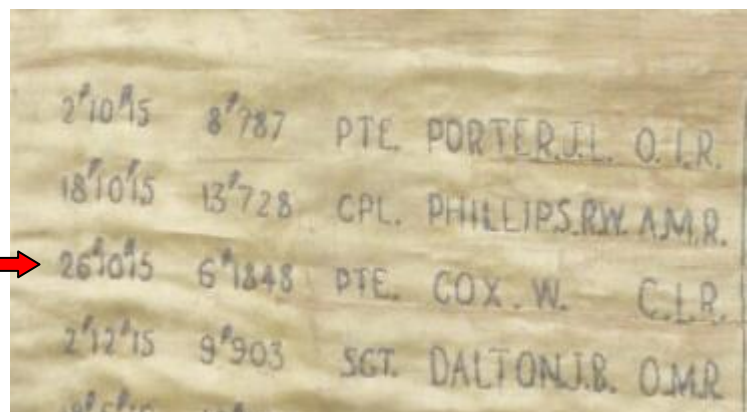
Pte W. Fox is remembered on the St. Mary's Walton-on-Thames Roll of Honour which lists the names of all those who are buried in the Churchyard & were treated at the No. 2 New Zealand General Hospital.



St. Mary's Walton-on-Thames Roll of Honour



Pte W. Fox is also named on a Memorial Banner & Brass Plaque honouring the 19 New Zealand Soldiers who died during World War 1 & were buried in the churchyard of St. Mary's Church, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, England. Pte Fox was incorrectly named on the Memorial Banner as Pte W. Cox & Brass Plaque as A. S. Cox.





(32 pages of Private William Fox's Service records are available for On Line viewing at Archives New Zealand online).

Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial & Archives New Zealand



Newspaper Notices

ROLL OF HONOUR

NEW ZEALAND CASUALTIES

HEAVY LISTS OF SICK

WOUNDED

CANTERBURY BATTALION

Right thigh, 22nd July.

Fox, William, 6/1848, Pte (John Fox, Esk Lion, Toogoolawah, Queensland)

(*Evening Post*, Volume XC, Issue 35, 10 August, 1915) & (*New Zealand Times*, Volume XL, Issue 9118, 10 August, 1915)

A FURTHER REPORT

SICK AND WOUNDED ADMITTED N.Z. HOSPITAL LONDON

Canterbury Battalion

Fox, William, 6/1848 Private

(New Zealand Times, Volume XL, Issue 9162, 30 September, 1915)

NEW ZEALAND CASUALTIES

DIED OF WOUNDS AND GAS GANGRENE

CANTERBURY BATTALION

Fox, William, 6/1848, Pte (John Fox, Esk Line, Toogoolawah, Queensland, father); Walton Hospital, 26th Oct.

(Evening Post, Volume XC, Issue 107, 2 November, 1915) & (New Zealand Times, Volume XL, Issue 9185, 3 November, 1915)

& (Dominion, Volume 9, Issue 2609, 3 November, 1915)

NEW ZEALAND CASUALTIES

AUCKLAND, November 3.

The latest casualty list contains the names of one killed in action, two died of wounds, including William Fox, of Toogoolawah, Queensland, four died of sickness, and two prisoner sat Constantinople.

(The Telegraph, Brisbane, Queensland – 3 November, 1915)

BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

Mr and Mrs J. Fox wish to THANK all kind Friends, who, by sending letters and cards, or in any way showed sympathy with them in their recent sad bereavement.

(Queensland Times, Ipswich, Queensland – 13 November, 1915)

Walton-On-Thames Cemetery, Walton-On-Thames, Surrey, England

This adjoins St. Mary's Churchyard. There are 30 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war and 3 of the 1939-1945 war commemorated here. Two of these are commemorations to New Zealand soldiers who were patients at the N.Z. Hospital and whose graves are not known. (McDiarmid and Ward). All the New Zealanders are commemorated on a Screen Wall Memorial near their two plots, at the North entrance. (*Information from CWGC*)

The commemoration of the casualties is on Screen Wall monuments rather than individual headstones as some graves contain more than one burial. Two plots containing eight grave spaces are directly in front of the two Screen Walls and the other plots are elsewhere in the graveyard.



Screen Wall Memorials in Walton-On-Thames Cemetery & (below) St. Mary's Churchyard Walton-On-Thames
(*Photo by Peter Wood*)



Photo of Private W. Fox's name on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Screen Wall Memorial in Walton-On-Thames Cemetery, Walton-On-Thames, Surrey, England.



CWGC Screen Wall (Photos courtesy of Graham Grist)

