

Sutton Veny War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



2345 PRIVATE

G. S. COX

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

28TH JANUARY, 1918 Age 46*

With Christ

Which Is Far Better

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte G. S. Cox is located in
Grave Plot # 320. D. 10 of St. John the Evangelist Churchyard, Sutton Veny*

George Sandford COX

George Sandford Cox was born on 28th January, 1867 at Demerara, British Guiana to parents Nicholas & Charlotte Cox (nee Badley).

George Sandford Cox, aged 34, Sugar Planter, was a passenger aboard the *Savan* which had departed from London on 31st January, 1902. George Cox was due to disembark at Demerara.

George Sandford Cox, aged 38, born British Guiana, was listed as a passenger aboard *Oroya* which arrived in London on 11th March, 1906. He had embarked at the port of Colombo.

George Sandford Cox was listed on the Australian Electoral Roll in 1913 in the Division of Herbert, subdivision of Mackay, Queensland. He was living at the Shamrock Hotel & was a Labourer.

George Sandford Cox stated he was a 45 year old, single, Labourer (Sugar Planter) from Mackay, Queensland when he enlisted at Brisbane, Queensland on 18th August, 1915 with the 7th Infantry Brigade, 26th Infantry Battalion, 5th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 2345 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his sister – Maud Cox, Ingleby, Thorpehamlet, Norwich, Norfolk, England. George Cox had previously been rejected from Serving due to Hydrocicle

Pte George Sandford Cox embarked from Brisbane on HMAT *Warialda* (A69) on 5th October, 1915.

Pte Cox was allotted & proceeded to join 12th Battalion at Zeitou on 1st March, 1916. He joined the Battalion the same day at Railhead from 26th Battalion Reinforcements. He was detached on Duty before Battalion moved out on 30th March, 1916.

Pte Cox was struck off strength on 28th August, 1916 at Bikener Camel Corps then taken on strength Details Camp at Moascar from Bikaner Camel Corps on 29th August, 1916.

Pte Cox was marched out of Details Camp at Moascar & embarked overseas aboard *Minnewaska* from Alexandria on 22nd October, 1916.

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.

A Medical Report "on an Invalid" was made on 23rd February, 1917 on Pte George Stanford Cox - his disability was "Over age". Pte Cox had stated "*that his real age is 51, but that he gave his age on enlistment as 45. Says that he cannot manage hard military training. His spirit is willing, but his flesh is weak.*"

The Medical Board found on 14th March, 1917 that Pte Cox's condition was "*An old man turning grey & looks quite 51. Heart & Lungs in good condition..... Suitably employed as pioneer corporal.*" He was found to be permanently unfit for General Service but fit for Home Service – C1 by the Medical Board at Larkhill on 27th March, 1917.

While with 3rd Training Brigade, Pte Cox was classified medically as C1 – Fit for Home Service only, on 16th April, 1917.

A Medical Report on 20th April, 1917 found Pte Cox's disability to be "Overage & unable for Bayonet Exercise." Pte Cox had stated that "*after enlistment he had good health & did not find active service (was in one engagement) a trouble, but since transferring to England feels left leg weaker & does not feel able for strenuous infantry work. Liked his work with Camel Corps & did not feel tired when as engaged apart from little weakness has had good health in England.*" The Medical Board found that Pte Cox "*looks well for age & is a good figure of a man.....is usefully employed as Corporal with the Pioneers at the Camp.*"

Pte Cox was found to be still classified as C1 during his monthly review on 6th June, 1917 at Larkhill.

Pte Cox was found to be still classified as C1 on 16th August, 1917.

Pte Cox was marched out from 3rd Training Brigade on 7th November, 1917 & marched in to 1st Training Brigade at Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.

Pte Cox was found to be still classified as C1 during his monthly review at Sutton Veny on 24th November, 1917.

Private George Sandford Cox died on 28th January, 1918. Cause of death – “Died suddenly in Lines. Cardiac failure due to Myocardial degeneration. No. 1 Command Depot, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire”.

A memo from Lieut-Colonel Commanding 1st Training Brigade A.I.F. dated 29th January, 1918 to Headquarters A.I.F Depots in U.K. Tidworth, concerning the death of 2345 A/Cpl. Cox, G.S. – 12th Bn reads:
“The above named N.C.O. died suddenly to-day. He was sitting in the Canteen reading and it was noticed that he suddenly collapsed. Medical aid was summoned but life was extinct when the Medical Officer arrived. A post mortem re cause of death will be held to-morrow, the result of which will be notified to you. Deceased enlisted in Queensland in August 1915 and was a member of the 12th Battalion. He was an Acting Corporal and Medical classification was “C. 1” His next of kin (his sister) Maude Cox, Inglesby, Thrope Hamlet, Norwich, Norfolk, England, has been notified.”

A death for George S. Cox, aged 46, was registered in the March quarter, 1918 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire. (Information provided for the Roll of Honour by Miss Charlotte M. Cox, sister of late Pte Cox, states he was aged 50 when he died.)

Private George Sandford Cox was buried on 31st January, 1918 in St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny - Grave no. 320. From the burial report of Pte Cox - *Coffin was good polished wood. The funeral left Sutton Veny Military Hospital at 2 p.m. The Firing Party consisted of 12 men from the late Cpl. Cox’s unit. The Bearers were 6 corporals, comrades of the deceased. Lieut. L. Dadson M.C. (Bar) was chief mourner, while a number of personal friends also attended. Wreaths from the C.O. 1st Training Battalion and from the corporals mess were placed on the grave after the volley had been fired and the “Last Post” sounded. The band, nearly all of whom were personal friends of the late corporal were in attendance. The late corporal was most popular with his comrades, who with his officers deeply regret his death.*

George Sandford Cox requested in his Will dated 28th January, 1902, that he bequeaths all his real and personal Estate and any money to his sister – Charlotte Matilda Cox, who was also appointed Executrix of his Will.

Private G. S. Cox is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 65.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte George Sandford 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 sister – Miss C. Cox (both sent October, 1922).

The CWGC lists Private George Sandford Cox, 2345, of 12th Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F., as the son of Nicholas and Charlotte Bradley Cox. Born at Georgetown, Demerara, British Guiana.

(66 pages of Pte George Sandford Cox's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives.



Newspaper Reports

AUSTRALIAN CASUALTIES

Casualty List No. 383 was released today. It contains the following names of 116 Queenslanders.

Died from Cause Not Stated

Private G. S. Cox.

(The Capricornian, Rockhampton, Queensland – Saturday 23 February, 1918)

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 at St. John the Evangelist Churchyard at Sutton Veny. 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)

Pte George Sandford Cox does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

With Christ Which Is Far Better

Photo of Pte G. S. Cox's Headstone in St. John the Evangelist's Churchyard, Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.



(Photo courtesy of David Milborrow)



War Graves at Sutton Veny *(Photos from CWGC)*

