

Tom Fox Private 436052, Canadian Infantry

Thomas (Tom Fox) was born in Swindon on the 30th January 1886, his birth being registered in the Highworth Registration District in the March Quarter of that year. He was the son of James and Annie Fox.

In the 1891 census the family are recorded as living at Stafford Street, Swindon. The family are:-James, Head, Age 40, Railway Shunter for the GWR, Born in Wiltshire; Annie, Wife, Age 40, born in Surrey; Emily, Daughter, Age 14, Scholar; Annie A., Daughter, Age 13, Scholar; George, Son, Age 12, Scholar; Henry J., Son, Age 10, Scholar; Florence, Daughter, Age 8, Scholar; Tom, Son, Age 6, Scholar; Elizabeth, Daughter, Age 3, Scholar; Winifred E., Infant Daughter. All children are recorded as having been born in Wiltshire.

The Great Western Railway Staff Register records Tom as having joined the company in March 1900 as a Lad Porter.

The 1901 Census at Crowdys Hill, Stratton St. Margaret records the family as:-James, Head, Age 50, Shunter for GWR, born in Wroughton; Annie, Wife, Age 51, Born in Camberley, Hampshire [sic]; Tom, Son, Age 15, Porter for the GWR, Born in Swindon; Lizzie, Daughter, 13, Born in Swindon; Nellie, Daughter, 10, Born in Swindon; Rosie, Daughter, Age 9, Born in Swindon

Annie Fox died on the 5th April 1904 aged 53, her husband James died on 15th September 1904, also aged 53 and both are buried in Radnor Street Cemetery, Swindon.



In 1905 Tom resigned his position at Great Western Railway in Swindon

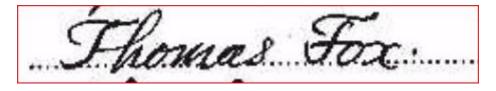
Tom is next found in immigration papers where as a literate labourer, age 21, he arrives in either Halifax, Nova Scotia or St. Johns, New Brunswick on the 31st Match 1907, having left Liverpool, UK on 22nd March 1907 aboard the S. S. Parisian. On 2nd April 1907 Tom is found entering the USA via Blackrock and his

reception processed at Buffalo, New York on 5th April 1907. He names a friend, Anthony Hill of 17 Washington Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as a contact in his request for entry to the USA. He is recorded as having paid his own passage and arrived with \$40 [this equates to around £740 in 2017]. He is described as 5' 10½" tall, of ruddy complexion with brown hair and blue eyes.

The next record we find is the Canadian Census of 1911 where Thomas is recorded in Battleford, Saskatchewan as head of household, single and a farmer. He is recorded as having arrived in Canada in 1911.

On 4th January 1915 Tom Fox attested to join the Canadian Infantry. He names Mrs. E. Scrivens of Beaumaris, Muskoka Lake, Ontario as his next of kin. In what way Mrs. Scrivens was related if at all to Tom in not known at the time of writing. He is described as 5' 10" tall, with brown hair, light blue eyes and of a fresh complexion. His religion is recorded as Wesleyan Methodist.

Below is the signature of Tom on his attestation papers.



In September 1916 Tom was posted as missing in action presumably during the Battle of Flers-Courcelette, an offensive of the Battle of the Somme from 15th - 22nd September. It was in this battle that tanks were used for the first time and also the first time Canadian troops were engaged on the Somme.

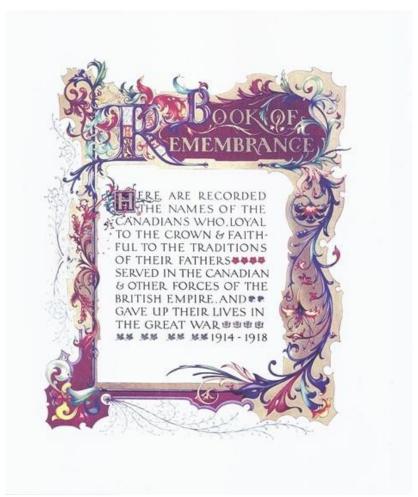
It was later confirmed that Private Tom Fox of the 49th Battalion, Canadian Infantry had been killed in action on 16th September 1916 at the age of 29. Tom has no known grave and his name is recorded on the Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France





Private Thomas Fox is named in the Book of Remembrance housed in the Peace Tower of the Memorial Chamber, House of Commons, Ottawa, Canada







87