

**Warrington Cemetery,  
Warrington, Cheshire/Lancashire  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**474A PRIVATE**

**C. F. COX**

**31ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**7TH FEBRUARY, 1919 Age 30**

*In Loving Memory Of  
Our Dear Son & Brother  
Greater Love Hath No Man*

## Charles Frederick COX

Charles Frederick Cox was born at Cobram, Victoria on 25th October, 1889 to parents George William & Nancy "Annie" Cox (nee Tilling).

Charles Frederick Cox attended school at Macarthur Street, Ballarat, Victoria.

Charles Frederick Cox was a 27 year old, Single, Petrol Mechanic from 215 Pier Street, Perth, Western Australia when he enlisted on 25th January, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 474 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his Mrs Annie Cox, Wanneroo Road, West Perth, Western Australia. Charles Cox stated on his Attestation Papers that he had previously been rejected from serving for His Majesty's Service due to his teeth.

Private Charles Frederick Cox was posted to 46th Depot on 25th January, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to "C" Company, 44th Battalion on 1st February, 1916.

Private Charles Frederick Cox embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on HMAT *Suevic* (A29) on 6th June, 1916 with the 44th Infantry Battalion "C" Company & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 21st July, 1916. Private Cox was written up while at sea on 26th June, 1916 – AWL (absent without leave) for 1 day. He forfeited 1 days' pay.

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 Charles Frederick Cox was transferred to 31st Battalion on 4th November, 1916.

Private Charles Frederick Cox proceeded overseas via Folkestone on 11th November, 1916 per S.S. *Golden Eye* from 8th Training Battalion at Codford, Wiltshire to reinforce 31st Battalion.

Private Charles Frederick Cox was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 12th November, 1916. He was marched out from 5th A.D.B.D. on 14th December, 1916 to join 31st Battalion. Private Cox was taken on strength of 31st Battalion in the field on 16th December, 1916.

Private Charles Frederick Cox was reassigned a regimental number of "474A" due to a duplication of numbers.

Private Charles Frederick Cox proceeded to 3rd Army Sniping School on 9th July, 1917 & returned to his Battalion on 22nd July, 1917.

The Army Corps Commander expressed appreciation of gallant services rendered during recent operations (no date recorded). This advice was also sent to Private Charles Frederick Cox's mother – Mrs A. Cox, of Wanneroo Road, North Perth, Western Australia.

Private Charles Frederick Cox was mentioned in Despatches for Operations between 26th & 28th September, 1917. *"At POLYGON WOOD on 26/28th September, 1917, whilst the consolidation of the final objective was in progress, a Mills grenade was struck by a pick with the result that the fuze became ignited, The trench was crowded and realising that prompt measures were necessary this soldier, after hurriedly shouting a warning to the others, seized the bomb and hurled it away. By this action six or more of his comrades were undoubtedly saved from serious injuries."*

Private Charles Frederick Cox was sent to UK on leave from 9th January, 1918 & returned from leave on 24th January, 1918.

Private Charles Frederick Cox was detached to 5th Division Canteen on 17th May, 1918. He was reported still detached with 5th Division Canteen on 13th December, 1918.

## 31st Battalion

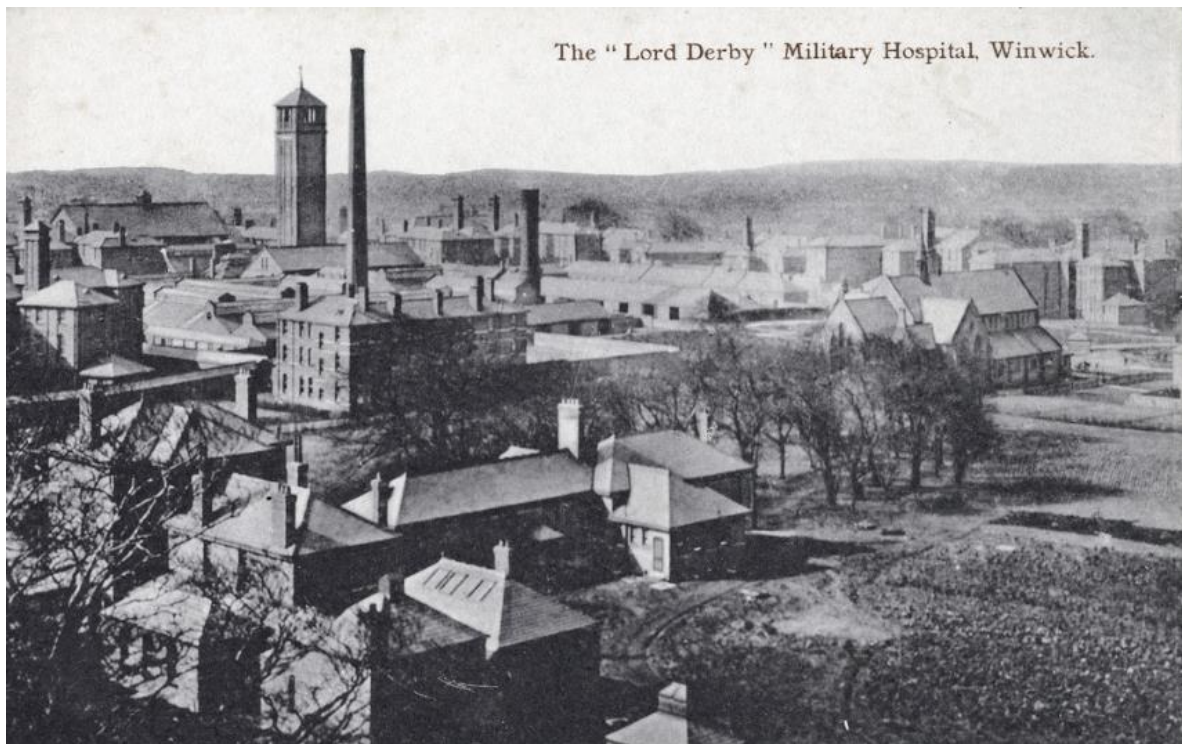
In early 1917, the German Army withdrew to the Hindenburg Line allowing the British front to be advanced and the 31st Battalion participated in the follow-up operations. The battalion subsequently missed the heavy fighting to breach the Hindenburg Line during the second battle of Bullecourt as the 8th Brigade was deployed to protect the division's flank. The only large battle in 1917 in which the 31st Battalion played a major role was Polygon Wood, fought in the Ypres sector in Belgium on 26 September.

Unlike some A.I.F. battalions, the 31st had a relatively quiet time during the German Spring Offensive of 1918 as the 5th Division was largely kept in reserve.

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private Charles Frederick Cox was admitted to 8th Australian Field Ambulance on 5th January, 1919 with Delusional Insanity. He was discharged & transferred to 47th Casualty Clearing Station on 5th January, 1919. Private Cox was transferred to Ambulance Train on 6th January, 1919 & admitted to 8th General Hospital at Rouen on 7th January, 1919 – cause – N.Y.D. (Not yet determined) – Mental. Private Cox was transferred to England on 13th January, 1919 on Hospital Ship *Grantully Castle*.

Private Charles Frederick Cox was admitted to Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley on 14th January, 1919. He was transferred on 17th January, 1919 to The Lord Derby Hospital, Warrington, Lancashire, England in a Mental Stupor. The Hospital admission form states he was suffering from Manic Depressive Insanity. Private Cox was reported as seriously ill on 1st February, 1919 at The Lord Derby Hospital, Warrington.



A Medical Report was completed on Private Charles Frederick Cox on 1st February, 1919 at The Lord Derby War Hospital, Warrington. Private Cox was described as suffering from Manic Depressive Insanity which had originated on 3rd January, 1919 in France. The entries from the Medical History Sheet were listed as:- *“Australian Div. Noted to be intensely Excited. Told M O to go to hell for last 5 months had been noted quiet and Morose Seldom speaking Seldom took Alcohol. He complained of feeling unwell after leaving Charleroi 3.1.19. Refused to see M O last few days has looked very dejected. 5.1.19 He is stated to have looked ghastly. Thought he was god. Dressed disorderly. No 8 Gen Hosp Netley 14.,1.19 Does not know why sent to Hospital Says he knows nothing of being excited. Appears to have given some account of himself, but very difficult and inaccessible. Lord Derby War Hospital 17.1.19 Can give no account of himself Attention cannot be obtained. When quiet is chattering When excited violent Wet and*

*dirty feeds badly.*” Private Cox’s current condition was listed as:- *“In accessible. Incoherent uses foul language as though speaking to someone Evidently full of wild ideas. Alternatively quiet and excited. Very resistive. Restrictive. Wet and dirty refuses food. He is not conscious of the want of it. General condition Haggard looking has lost flesh Dirty tongue. No disease heart Lungs or abdominal viscera. Very constipated K Js Pupils react to light, speech when heard is clear.”*

The Medical Report attributed the disability to stress of campaign as a soldier. The Medical Board recommended repatriation to Australia dated 4th February, 1919.

Private Charles Frederick Cox died at 14.20 hrs on 7th February, 1919 at The Lord Derby War Hospital, Warrington, Lancashire, England from Mental Stupor and Broncho pneumonia. The Hospital Admissions form states *“Died from Septic Pneumonia following oral sepsis. He had (to) be tube fed.”*

A death for Charles F. Cox, aged 30, was registered in the March quarter, 1919 in the district of Warrington, Lancashire, England.

Private Charles Frederick Cox was buried on 11th February, 1919 in Warrington Cemetery (Manchester Road), Warrington, Cheshire, England – Plot number C. CE. 788. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Charles Frederick Cox - *Coffin was oak. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and conveyed to the graveside surmounted by beautiful wreaths sent from:- Mrs & Mr Bowen. The “Last Post” was sounded at the graveside, and Chaplain the Rev: F. W. Chadwick, S.C.F. officiated. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral. Names of Relatives or Friends present at the funeral – Mrs Bowen, Lt. G. R. Crumpton.*

Private Charles Frederick Cox requested in his Will dated 4th April, 1918 that all money due to him and all money belonging to him, In the Commonwealth Bank to be paid to his mother – Annie Cox, Wanneroo Road, North Perth, Western Australia.

Base Records contacted Mrs A. Cox, 37 George Street, Ballarat East, Victoria in January, 1922 asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself due to the “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc.

Base Records contacted the 5th Military District in February, 1922 asking if they had the present address of the late Private C. F. Cox’s mother as communications to her had been returned unclaimed.

Base Records again contacted Mrs A. Cox at the new address of 79 Enmore Rd, Enmore, NSW in March, 1922. Mrs Annie Cox replied to Base Records that she was the next-of-kin of the late Private C. F. Cox & that her son was unmarried & his father had died over six years ago.

Private Charles Frederick Cox was entitled to British War Medal & Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private C. F. Cox’s mother – Mrs Annie Cox, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent May, 1922 & Plaque sent October, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Charles Frederick Cox – service number 474/A, aged 30, of 31st Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of George William and Annie Cox, of 37 George St., Ballarat East, Victoria. Born at Cobram, Victoria.

Private C. F. Cox is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 118.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(87 pages of Private Charles Frederick 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) & National Archives*



**Memorial Plaque for Charles Frederick Cox** (Photo from VWMA – Stephen Brooks)

## **Newspaper Notices**

### **AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION**

#### **W.A. ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **CASUALTY LIST NO. 460**

#### **DIED, OTHER CAUSES**

474A, Chas. Frederick Cox, Ballarat, Victoria, 7/2/19, illness

(*Western Argus*, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia – 18 March, 1919)

---

### **DECEASED SOLDIERS ESTATES ACT, 1918**

#### **List No. 8**

Notice is hereby given that the undermentioned members of the Australian Military Forces have died, and the amount of the Military Estate of each member is now being ascertained with a view to its distribution amongst the persons entitled thereto under provisions of the Deceased Soldiers Estates Act and the Regulations made thereunder. All persons who claim to be entitled to share in the distribution of the Military Estate of any of the deceased soldiers mentioned in this notice are required to submit particulars of their claims by letter addressed to the District Paymaster, Francis-street, Perth, W.A., on or before the 30th day of May, 1919.

Dated this 1st day of May, 1919.

D. FORDYCE Major,  
Paymaster 5th Military District.

.....

COX, Charles Frederick, 474 Pte., 31st Btn., formerly of Perth.\*

\*Intestate

(*The West Australian*, Perth, Western Australia – 1 May, 1919)

---

### **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 C. F. Cox does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Loving Memory Of Our Dear Son & Brother*

*Greater Love Hath No Man*

## **Warrington Cemetery, Warrington, Cheshire, England**

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Warrington was the depot for the South Lancashire Regiment for both wars and was home to the Lord Derby War Hospital and White Cross Auxiliary Hospital during the First World War. During the Second World War, a shore establishment of the Fleet Air Arm was stationed there. Warrington Cemetery contains 199 First World War burials, 74 of them in a war graves plot with a Cross of Sacrifice. The 102 Second World War burials are scattered. A Polish airman is also buried in the cemetery.

*(Information from CWGC)*



**Cross of Sacrifice & War Graves in Warrington Cemetery** *(Photo by David Dixon)*

Photo of Private C. F. Cox's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Warrington Cemetery, Warrington, Cheshire/Lancashire, England.



(Photo courtesy of Len Scott)



