

Rifleman Thomas Harvey Cox

Regimental Number: C/9595

20th King's Royal Rifle Corps

born: 1886 - died: 27 May 1918

Thomas Harvey Cox was the son¹ of Harvey Thomas Cox (born about 1866 in Stratford, Essex)² and his wife, Emily Harriet Hearn (born in 1866 in Haggerstone, Middlesex).³ Harvey and Emily were married on 25 December 1885 in the parish church of St Mary's Haggerston.⁴ Harvey was a glass beveller.⁵

Thomas was born in the autumn of 1886 in Shoreditch.⁶ Nearly two years later, his sister, Emily Harriet was born in the spring of 1888⁷ and then a brother, Frederick James born in the summer of 1890.⁸ Although Thomas and Emily had seven children, only three survived until 1911.⁹ A daughter, Rosina ETTY, was born in late 1894 or early 1895 and baptised at St Paul's Haggerston on 18 January 1895,¹⁰ but died shortly afterwards.¹¹ Another daughter, Grace Beatrice, was born in 1896 and baptised on 10 April 1896.¹² She died a few months later.¹³ The identities of the other two children who died before 1911 were not found.

Then Thomas' father, Harvey, died in 1903.¹⁴ Emily continued to live with two of her three surviving children, Thomas and Emily, at 12 Suffolk Road, Pownall Road, Dalston, London N.E.¹⁵ Her brother, Frederick Benjamin Hearne, a packer at a glass blower's, was also living with them, as he had been in 1901.¹⁶ Thomas was a draper's assistant. His brother, Frederick, a printer, had married a few months earlier¹⁷ and was living a few blocks away at 70 Pownall Road, with his wife, Elizabeth Margaret Mallows.¹⁸

Thomas enlisted in London as a rifleman in the 20th Battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps. This was a service battalion formed in London in 1915 by the British Empire League.¹⁹

Thomas was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 25 May 1918 with shrapnel wounds in his shoulder that were penetrating his chest.²⁰ He died the following day and was buried in the Pernes British Military Cemetery (Plot 2, Row C, Grave 41) with the chaplain J. K. Tibbits presiding.

The Pernes British Military Cemetery was only set up in April 1918 when the 1st and 4th Canadian Casualty Clearing Stations came to Pernes, driven back by the German advance.²¹ On 26 May, only two soldiers were admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, bringing the total number of patients to 374.²² In the whole month of May, there were 115 deaths at this CCCS – more than in any of the other three and a half months that the 1st CCCS was in Pernes.

On 27 August 1917 Thomas had married Beatrice Eleanor Groves at St Michael's and All Angels in the parish of Hackney.²³ At the time, he was a draper's assistant and a soldier in the 20th Battalion of the Royal Rifle Corps and his wife was a machinist. She was living at 3 York House, London Lane, Mare St., Hackney, N.E. and was at the same address when she was notified, just a few months later, of his death.²⁴

Thomas was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918) and the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre).²⁵

¹ "1901 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 January 2015), entry for Harvey Thomas Cox, Registration district: Shoreditch, Sub-registration district: Haggerston, ED, institution, or vessel: 13, Piece: 279, Folio: 96, Page Number: 37, Household schedule number: 271

² Ibid.

³ "London, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 January 2015), entry for Emily Harriet Hearn, Baptism, Haggerston St Augustine, Parish Registers

⁴ "London, England, Marriages and Banns, 1754-1921," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 January 2015), entry for Harvey Thomas Cox, Parish: St Mary, Haggerston, Borough: Hackney, Register Type: Parish Register

⁵ "1901 England Census," entry for Harvey Thomas Cox

⁶ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 January 2015), entry for Thomas Harvey Cox, Registration district: Shoreditch, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1c, Page: 108

⁷ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 January 2015), entry for Emily Harriet Cox, Registration district: Shoreditch, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1c, Page: 109

⁸ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 January 2015), entry for Frederick James Cox, Registration district: Shoreditch, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1c, Page: 128

⁹ 1911 census

¹⁰ "London, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 January 2015), entry for Rosina ETTY Cox, Baptism, Haggerston, St Paul, Borough: Hackney, Parish Registers

¹¹ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 January 2015), entry for Rosina ETTIE Cox, Registration district: Shoreditch, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1c, Page: 122

¹² "London, England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 January 2015), entry for Grace Beatrice Cox, Baptism, Haggerston, St Paul, Borough: Hackney, Parish Registers

¹³ "England & Wales deaths 1837-2007," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 31 January 2015), entry for Grace Beatrice Cox, District: Shoreditch, County: London, Volume: 1C, Page: 80

¹⁴ "England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 January 2015), entry for Harvey Thomas Cox, Registration district: Hackney, Inferred County: London, Volume: 1b, Page: 281

¹⁵ "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 January 2015), entry for Thomas Harvey Cox, Registration district: Shoreditch, Registration District Number: 16, Sub-registration district: Shoreditch North East, ED, institution, or vessel: 13, Piece: 1376

¹⁶ "1901 England Census," entry for Harvey Thomas Cox

¹⁷ "England & Wales marriages 1837-2008," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 31 January 2015), entry for Frederick James Cox, District: Shoreditch, County: London, Volume: 1C, Page: 153

¹⁸ "1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census," *Findmypast* (www.findmypast.co.uk: accessed 31 January 2015), entry for Frederick James Cox, District: Shoreditch, County; Registration district number: 16, Subdistrict: Shoreditch North East, Subdistrict number: 3, Enumeration district: 13, Piece number 1376, Schedule number: 67

¹⁹ "The Long, Long Trail: The King's Royal Rifle Corps," (<http://www.1914-1918.net/krrc.htm>: accessed 20 January 2015)

²⁰ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Library and Archives Canada, (records accessed 2013 & 2014), Record Group 9, series IIIIC10, volume 4556, Record number 520

²¹ "Pernes British Military Cemetery" *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/11600/PERNES%20BRITISH%20CEMETERY>: accessed 13 January 2015)

²² "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," *Library and Archives Canada* (http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9-52&Sect1=IMAGE&Sect2=THESOFF&Sect4=AND&Sect5=WARDPEN&Sect6=HITOFF&d=FINDD&p=1&u=http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02015202_e.html&r=1&f=G: accessed 15 December 2014)

²³ Thos marriage "London, England, Marriages and Banns, 1754-1921," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 31 January 2015), entry for Thomas Harvey Cox, Parish: St Michael and All Angasl, Hackney, , Borough: Hackney, Register Type: Parish Register

²⁴ "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Record number 520

²⁵ "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.co.uk: accessed 20 January 2015), entry for Thomas H. Cox