

## Joseph Cox Age 35

There were several young men named Joseph Cox in Long Sutton and it is difficult to be sure which one died in the war. The only confirmable fact is that he was born in Long Sutton. The most likely is Joseph Cox who was baptised on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1879 the son of Joseph and Jane Cox. (Another possible candidate is Joseph John Cox, baptised on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1884, the son of John and Harriet Cox.)

The 1891 census lists Joseph as already working as an agricultural labourer at the age of 11. By 1901 he was still working as a labourer and living with his parents, Joseph and Jane in Back Street along with his younger brother Charles and niece Anne.

The 1911 census records Joseph working as a Blue Stone Quarryman and boarding with William and Mary Eliza Cox.

Joseph joined the Prince Albert's Somerset Light Infantry 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion which was formed at the outbreak of the war. It is not possible to know if Joseph enlisted immediately, but his medal record shows that he arrived in France on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1915. The 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion was in action within a fortnight.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> September the Battle of Loos began with considerable participation by the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion. They were deployed along the Hulluch-Lens Road but when attacked they were forced to retire to the front-line trenches. The day's fighting on 26<sup>th</sup> September saw 29 killed, 163 wounded and 91 missing. Joseph Cox was amongst the missing. He was probably 35 years old and had been in France for three weeks.

On 29<sup>th</sup> April 1916, the Langport and Somerton Herald printed a photograph of Joseph with the caption 'Missing since Sept 26<sup>th</sup>'.

Joseph Cox is commemorated on the Loos Memorial which forms the side and back of Dud Corner Cemetery (named Dud corner because so many unexploded enemy shells were found in the neighbourhood after the Armistice). It commemorates over 20,000 officers and men who have no known grave and who fell in the local area.