

William J Cox Age 29

William Joseph Cox was born in 1886, son of Henry and Ester (or Hester) Cox. He was probably born in Glamorganshire where his parents went in search of work. By 1891, Henry and Ester were living in South Wales with their two younger children, Frank and Emily Louisa, but William had returned to Long Sutton to live with his grandparents, Joseph and Mary Burt. By 1901 Ester had returned with the two younger children and they were all living with her mother, Mary Burt, in Shute Lane. Ester is described as a washerwoman. Henry was still in South Wales, working as a labourer at the gas works.

William married Mary Sophia Ellis in 1905 and they lived in Hartley Wintney in Hampshire. William was only 19 in 1905, but it is possible that he added two years to his age at the time of his marriage and this might account for the apparent discrepancy in age at the time of his death.

In the 1911 census, William's age was recorded as 27. He and Mary were living at Phoenix Green, Hartley Wintney and he was working as a carter on a farm. They had three children, Arthur (6), Charles (4) and Ernest (2).

He joined the 2nd Battalion Hampshire Regiment. The Hampshire Regiment was attached to the 88th Brigade in 29th Division. An account in the **Hants and Berks Gazette** tells us that he enlisted in December 1914 and after training at Gosport sailed on May 26th, 1915 for the Dardanelles. William was killed in action on 29th June 1915, after only 17 days in action. His name is recorded on the Helles Memorial as he has no known grave.

HANTS AND BERKS GAZETTE

Saturday, July 24, 1915

HARTLEY WINTNEY.

ROOM WANTED one afternoon weekly by dentist—Full particulars first letter to D.S., Gazette Office, Basingstoke.

KILLED IN THE DARDANELLES.—With deep regret we have to record the death of Private William Cox, of the 2nd Hants Regiment. He previously worked for Mr. Proctor, of Church House Farm, but enlisted at the call for men on the 30th December last. After being in training at Gosport he sailed on May 26th for the Dardanelles and laid down his life on the 29th June, after only about 17 days' fighting. He leaves a widow and 7 children to mourn his loss. Another who has died for his country is Private Frank Butler, who also joined the 2nd Hants Regt. He was for eight years gardener to Mr. P. D. Jones, of Belswood, but enlisted about the middle of January. Trained at Gosport with Private Cox, he sailed on the same boat and was killed in the same engagement. He leaves a widow and two children to mourn his loss.—Mrs. Frank Butler and Mrs. Butler of Odiham desire to take this opportunity of expressing their sincere gratitude for the innumerable letters of sympathy and regret received by them, and to their many friends for the kindness and sympathy extended to them in their sad bereavement.

Mary Cox had seven children, the last being only weeks old when the news of her husband's death was received.