

LANCE-CORPORAL THOMAS COX 16674

9th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment

Killed in action Friday 14th July 1916

Born in Burbage, Enlisted Hinckley Living in Burbage

Age 22, Thiepval memorial, France Pier and face 2C&3A

Son of Charles and Elizabeth Cox, Hogue Hall Cottages, Burbage

Wesleyan Methodist Memorial

Former Ancient Order of Foresters Memorial

St Catherine's Church War Memorial

Burbage War Memorial

Thomas Cox was born on the 27th May 1894 in one of the Farm Workers Cottages belonging to Hogue Hall farm which is on Lutterworth Rd near the A5 (Watling street).



Hogue Hall Cottages

His father Charles worked as a wagoner on the farm; he and his wife Elizabeth Cheney had moved from Wolvey after their marriage in 1887 and were to raise 15 children in the two tiny cottages.

From 1898 Thomas was educated at the Burbage National School, which he attended with his elder brother and sister. By the age of 16 in 1911; he was working as a Van Mans Assistant for a local Grocer.

Thomas would have been 20 when war broke out in 1914 so he may have enlisted quite early in the war.



Lance Corporal Thomas Cox



Hogue Hall Farm

By the end of June 1916, thirteen divisions of Commonwealth forces massive amounts of men and weapons were ready for the attack on the German line from the north of Gommencourt to Maricourt on the Somme, which started on the 1st July 1916.

Despite the preliminary bombardment lasting seven days the German defences were barely touched and the attack met with fierce resistance. Losses were catastrophic and the initial attack was a failure. In the following weeks huge resources of manpower and equipment were deployed, the German Army resisted and repeated attacks and counter attacks meant a major battle for every village, copse and farmhouse gained.

It was in one of these early attacks On Friday 14 July that Thomas was killed Instantly. At the end of September Thiepval was finally captured, the village had been an original objective on 1st July.

Thomas has no known grave so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, which was unveiled in 1932.



Thiepval Memorial

Thomas was one of the three Cox brothers to serve in the war. The eldest William lost one leg but survived and Charles who returned to Burbage after serving in France.



Some of the Cox family