Thomas Cox

Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry

1895 – 1918

Thomas Cox was the son of Jesse and Evelina Cox (nee Baker) of Aylesbury, and was born in Little Brickhill in 1895. He had four older sisters, Emma (1885), Sarah (1887), Nellie (1892) and Lillie (1894). By 1899, the family were living in Swanbourne at Charlton Hill Farm, where Jesse Cox was a farmer. Evelina had two more children here, but both died as infants. By 1911, Jesse had retired and the family had moved to live in Aylesbury at 47 Manor Road. Thomas was a printer.

He enlisted in Aylesbury, and joined the 1/1 Battalion of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry. 1/1st Buckinghamshire Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry were a territorial unit based in Aylesbury, serving with South Midland Brigade, South Midland Division. The units had just departed for their annual summer camp when war broke out in August 1914 and they were at once recalled. They mobilised for war service on 5th of August and moved to concentrate in the Chelmsford area by the second week of August and commenced training.

Thomas Cox with his sisters
L to R back row
Emma and Lillie
L to R front row
Sarah and Nellie

The Division proceeded to France from Folkestone, landing at Bologne on 31st March 1915, and concentrating near Cassal. On the 15th of May the formation was renamed the 145th Brigade, 48th (South Midland) Division. In 1916 they were in action in the Battle of the Somme, suffering heavy casualties on the 1st July in assaulting the Quadrilateral (Heidenkopf). They were also in action at the Battle of Bazentin Ridge, capturing Ovillers. The Battle of Pozieres Ridge, The battle of the Ancre Heights and the Battle of the Ancre. In 1917 the Division occupied Peronne during the German Retreat to the Hindenburg Line and were in action in the Third Battles of Ypres. On the 21st of November 1917 they entrained for Italy. In 1918 they were involved in the fighting on the Asagio Plateau and the Battle of the Vittora Veneto in the Val d'Assa area.

It was here that Lance Corporal Thomas Cox was killed on the Asagio Plateau, Italy on 29th October 1918, aged 23 years.

He was buried in the Bareththal Military Cemetery, Italy.