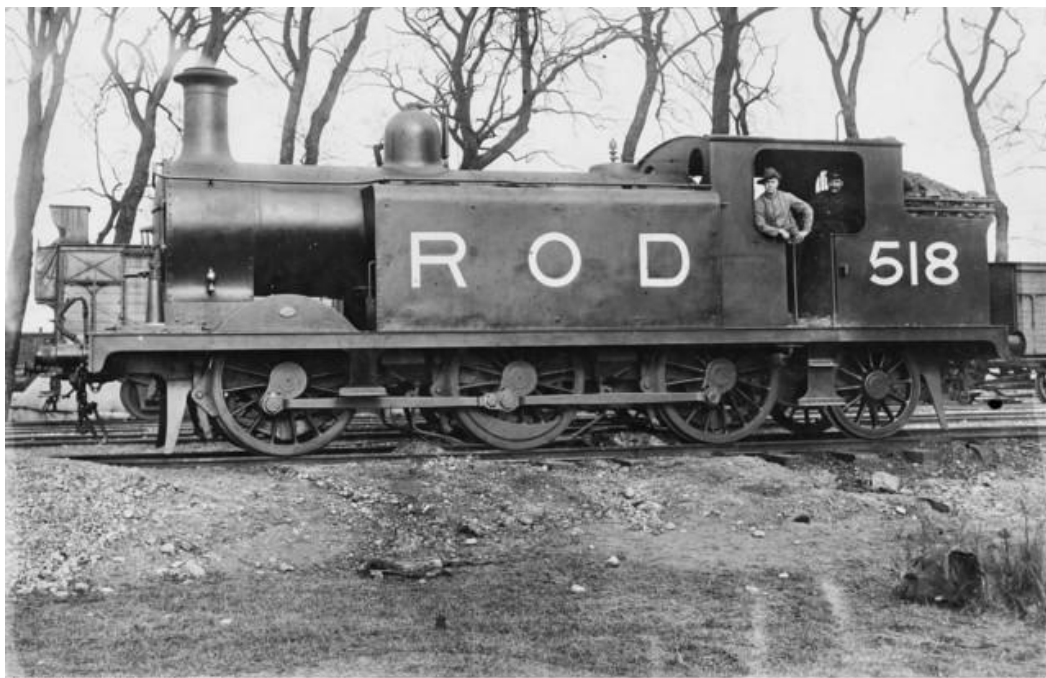


James Cox

Private (Pte) 1138 James Cox enlisted in the Railway Corps in Perth on 24 October 1917. He embarked overseas on 23 November and disembarked at Suez, Egypt on 22 December. He left Egypt on 9 January 1918 and landed in Taranto, Italy on 20 January, then entrained for Cherbourg on 24 January. He sailed from Cherbourg a week later and disembarked at Southampton on 2 February, where he joined the Australian Railway Corps Depot at Longmoor.

He was diagnosed with German measles and hospitalised at the Aldershot Military Isolation Hospital from 4 March – 4 April, then returned to Longmoor. Pte Cox left England on 26 May and landed in France the next day, where he was taken on strength of the 5th Australian Broad Gauge Railway Operating Company (Coy) at Audruicq on 8 June 1918.

This was one of several Australian broad gauge railway operating companies formed to support the war effort. These companies, together with their British and French counterparts, played a crucial role in transporting large quantities of troops, supplies, and munitions to the front lines along the Western Front.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A02524

Railway engine used by the 5th Australian Broad Gauge Railway Operating Company at Conchil-le-temple

In August 1918 the company took control of a 55 km section of line running southeast from Conchil-le-Temple to Candas, east of Abbeville. They also later operated services to Boulogne and Dunkirk which were connected to the main French rail network.

Pte Cox contracted influenza on 27 October and was hospitalised at the Canadian General Hospital at Etaples from 27 October – 6 November. He was transferred to England and hospitalised at the Northampton War Hospital between 6 – 19 November, then granted leave until 3 December.

On 5 December, Pte Cox was transferred and taken on strength of the AIF Kit Stores Depot in Hammersmith, England. A fortnight later, he was hospitalised with bronchitis from 19 December – 9 January 1919, then attached to the No. 2 Command Depot at Sutton Veny, before embarking for return to Australia on 3 March.

Private 1138 James Cox disembarked in Fremantle on 10 April, where he was discharged from the AIF on 11 May 1919.

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|--------------------------------------|--|
| Name: Cox, James | |
| Service Number | 1138 |
| Date enlisted | 24 October 1917 |
| Place enlisted | Perth, WA |
| Rank on enlistment | Private |
| Initial Unit | Railway Corps |
| Date and ship embarked for overseas | 23 November 1917 <i>SS Canberra</i> |
| Stated age/DOB (if known) | 20 years 5 months (14 May 1897) |
| Place of birth | St Leonards, Victoria |
| Marital status | Single |
| Occupation | Fireman (WA Railways) |
| Religion | Church of England |
| Next of kin and address | Cox, Mr Frederick, father, Newcastle Road, Midland Junction, WA |
| Permanent address | Midland Junction, WA |
| Appearance | Tan complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, height – 5 feet 8 ½ inches, weight – 8 stone, 5 lbs, chest measurement – 31/34 inches |
| Final Rank | Private |
| Final Unit | AIF Kit Stores Depot |
| Theatres of war served in | France |
| Fate | Returned to Australia |
| Date and ship embarked for Australia | 3 March 1919 <i>HT Euripides</i> |
| Date discharged | 11 May 1919 |
| Nature of discharge | Termination of Period of Enlistment |
| Honours/medals | British War Medal, Victory Medal |
| Notes | Brother of Frederick & William Cox. Died 2 March 1938. Remembered on the St Paul's Anglican Church Honor Roll. |