

World War 1

Birmingham City Police

PC E209 Thomas Henry BURT

Lance Corporal P/8105
Military Mounted Police
Died in Aldershot, England 27th March 1917

Thomas was born circa 1879 Hanley Castle, Worcestershire, son of Charles and Abigale (nee Medens) his father was a domestic gardener

Thomas joined the Cavalry and fought in the Boer War, being at Ladysmith during the siege of November 1899 – March 1900. He left the army immediately after and joined Worcestershire Police on 16th March 1900 with an occupation of a groom. He was stationed at Stourport and Acocks Green and then Billesley in 1904

Thomas married Louisa Schofield at Ledbury in 1904 and later resided in Brook Lane, Kings Heath, with his elder sister Gertrude and his widowed mother Elizabeth Schofield

During the Birmingham City Police 1911 annexation, Thomas transferred on 9th November 1911 and served on the E Division with warrant number 8000 and collar number PC E209

Thomas joined the Mounted battalion of the Military Police Corps and left Birmingham 27.02.1917 to begin training at Aldershot. However, a month later on 27th March 1917, Thomas died from an attack of cerebo-spinal meningitis at Aldershot barracks

The Birmingham Daily Mail 28th March 1917 wrote;

Birmingham Constable's death
The City Police have received official intimation of the death, yesterday, at Aldershot, of Police Constable Thomas Henry Burt of the E Division who for a number of years had been stationed at Billesley in the Yardley district. An old cavalryman he served in the South African War. Selected for the Military Mounted Police he left Birmingham a month ago and had been in training at Aldershot, where he died. He was a married man, and was about 40 years of age

Birmingham City Police records dated 3rd December 1917 stated of Thomas's death

The funeral of the above will take place Monday next 2nd April 1917 at Brandwood End Cemetery. The cortege will leave Billesley Lane at 2.30pm. 1 PS and 6 PCs from each of the A B C D and E Divisions will assemble at Kings Heath Police Station at 2pm sharp. The band with instruments will also attend, same time, same place Insp David will also attend.

Great coats and black gloves will be worn by all ranks. It is understood that 50 men are on leave from Aldershot from the Military Mounted Police and desire to attend. Superintendents will please let them know of these arrangements.

Thomas was buried at Brandwood End Cemetery, Kings Heath, Birmingham Grave B2 C 1173

The inscription on his headstone reads
IN THE MIDST OF LIFE
WE ARE IN DEATH

