

# World War 1

## Birmingham City Police

### PC B Thomas Benjamin COOK

#### Lance Sergeant 14709

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion Grenadier Guards

#### Died on the Isle of Wight June 1919

Thomas was born in 1892, in Nunhead, London, the son of Thomas Benjamin and Anne Maria (nee Venn) of 365 High Street, Chatham, his father being a skilled labourer. His mother was a self-employed greengrocer working from home.

His mother pre-deceased him in early 1903 and Thomas married Caroline Jane Forge at Medway in late 1905 residing then at 51 Ernest Street, Chatham, Kent.

On 30<sup>th</sup> March 1910, Thomas enlisted in the 3<sup>rd</sup> battalion Grenadier Guards, as a porter's labourer, and served until he transferred to the reserves on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1913.

On 7<sup>th</sup> May 1913, Thomas joined Birmingham City Police as a reservist, he served on the B Division with warrant number 8290 and was stationed at Ladywood Police Station.

He was mobilised in London on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1914 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion Grenadier Guards and was drafted to France on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1914.

Army records dated 8<sup>th</sup> October 1915 states Thomas was wounded in the field on 27<sup>th</sup> September and suffered a gun shot wound to his lower jaw and arrived in England on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

On 31<sup>st</sup> October 1916 Thomas married Hepzebah Adelaide Thompson, a pattern card moulder of 19 Parr Street, London at St Mary's Church, Hoxton, London. Thomas was residing at 66 Britannia Street, London.

Returning to the front, Thomas was promoted to corporal on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1917 and paid lance sergeant on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1918.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1918, Thomas was slightly wounded in the field in Belgium, suffering a gun-shot wound to his hand, he initially remained but on 4<sup>th</sup> August he attended hospital and re-joined his battalion some five days later.

Thomas's health deteriorated considerably at this time and he developed a cough and a general weakness. He returned to England on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1918 and was appointed paid acting sergeant on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1918.

Thomas's health continued to deteriorate and he was admitted to the Connaught Hospital at Aldershot on 24<sup>th</sup> August 1918 where he was diagnosed with tubercle of the lungs due to service.

He was discharged from the Army on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1918 as 'no longer medically fit for war service', his address at this time being 70 Oakley Street, Essex Road, Islington.

Birmingham Police records dated 27<sup>th</sup> September 1918, state *8290 Thomas Cook, having been invalided and discharged from the army, is reinstated in the police force to date from 20<sup>th</sup> Sept, and is posted to the B Division.*

On 26<sup>th</sup> September 1918 Thomas was issued with a silver war / wound badge number B/11769 in the rank of A/Sgt due to tubercle lung.

Thomas died on the Isle of Wight in June 1919 at 27 years of age.

A place of burial has not been identified.

