

World War 1

Birmingham City Police

PC D24 Gerald Aloysius NEILAN

Lieutenant
10th (service) battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers
Died in Republic of Ireland 24th April 1916

Gerald was born on 7th June 1881, the second son of John of Ballygalda, Roscommon and Eva (nee Kelly) of 4, Mount Harold Terrace, Leinster Road, Dublin. He was the second eldest of seven children. He had 5 brothers and two sisters

His father was a farmer and local Justice of the Peace

Gerald was educated at Clongrowes Wood College, County Kildare

During the South African War, Gerald enlisted in the Sherwood Foresters and served with his regiment in South Africa where he was severely wounded. From South Africa, Gerald proceeded to China where he remained for six years until he left the army

On 18th January 1908 Gerald joined the Birmingham City Police as a reservist, he served on the 'D' Division with warrant number 7675 and collar number PC D24

In 1911, Gerald was one of 32 police officers lodging at Duke Street Police Station, Birmingham

Gerald resigned on 20th December 1914 to re-join the army and was immediately given a commission being gazetted to the 24th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers, later transferring to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. He was serving in Dublin engaged in recruitment duties

Gerald was killed not half a mile from his parent's house during the Irish Rebellion

Gerald is buried in Glasnevin (Prospect) Cemetery, County Dublin in Grave St. Bridget's. SH. 20.5.-21 and is also commemorated on a memorial panel in the Abbey Presbyterian Church, Parnell Square, Dublin and at The Sacred Heart Church, Roscommon



Gerald was unmarried. His brothers Charles James and Alan Joseph also saw service during the war as doctors in the Royal Army Medical Corps in Mesopotamia and France

Ironically another brother, Anthony, took part in the uprising against the British and was arrested and served a sentence in Knutsford Detention Barracks

Photograph of Gerald is courtesy of dublinandthegreatwar.com

Lt. Gerald Aloysius Neilan
10th Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

Killed In Action Dublin 24th April 1916.

