

World War 1 Roll of Honour

Birmingham City Police

PC D116 James Harold THOMAS

Guardsman 27540 3rd battalion Coldstream Guards

James was born on 23rd June 1888, a native of Shifnal, Shropshire and resided in Bentley, near Walsall

James joined Birmingham City Police on 7 December 1908 as a 20-year-old carter, he was allocated warrant number 7726, collar number PC D116 and he was posted to the D Division

On 26th December 1914 James married Sarah Ann DEAKIN in Ketley, Salop. They had three children, Evelyn Mary was born on 2nd November 1915, Edward J was born on 7th March 1917 and Joan Beryl was born on 7th April 1920

5th February 1912 James was awarded two guineas for courageous conduct in stopping runaway horses on two occasions

19th June 1912 James was awarded a gratuity of a guinea for vigilance in the arrest of a thief loitering at night with intent and in possession of a housebreaking implement

24th April 1918 James resigned to join HM Forces and served as Guardsman 27540 3rd battalion Coldstream Guards. He remained on home service until 23rd November 1918 when he joined the BEF

26th June 1918 James was in Bermondsey hospital with influenza until 7th July 1918

13th November 1918 James, whilst stationed at Windsor, was fined a day's pay and confined to barracks for three days for being absent for 11 hours 15 minutes after leave

22nd April 1919 James re-joined Birmingham City Police from HM Forces and was given a new warrant number of 8947

6th December 1922 James was awarded a guinea for rendering first aid in two cases relating to a fractured leg

5th January 1927 James was complimented for rendering first aid to a fractured femur

2nd April 1930 James was commended for rendering first aid to a fractured forearm

23rd June 1935 James, aged 47, resigned on superannuation with a pension of £164 13s 4d per annum after completing 26 years approved police service.

22nd May 1944 James suddenly died at his home of 74 Johnson Road, Erdington, his funeral took place 26th May. The cortege left his home at 1.45pm and the internment took place at Witton Cemetery at 2.20pm. Arrangements were made for six police officers in uniform to act as pall bearers

25th May 1944, James' son, Edward wrote to the police on behalf of his mother requesting a police widow's pension, he stated she was in no position to support herself having been invalided for a number of years. He stated that the responsibility of the upkeep of the family rested chiefly with his sister as he was a member of HM Forces himself. He said this made conditions very difficult as in addition to an invalid mother, a mentally ill sister also had to be supported which necessitated the employment of hired help to assist in looking after his mother and sister whilst his other sister was working. He stated all of that costed money and the only money coming into the house was his sister's earnings. He stated he could not help as he was a married man and doubted if he could get a grant for his family. He signed the letter as Guardsman E J Thomas of the Coldstream Guards.

26th May 1944 the Chief Constable replied with a letter offering his condolences to him and his mother for their sad loss of James and would place the application before the Judicial Committee at their next meeting on 21st June 1944

21st June 1944 it was agreed a £30 per annum widow's pension would be granted to James' widow Sarah Ann

March 1961 Sarah Ann sadly died in Shropshire