

World War 1 Roll of Honour

Birmingham City Police

DC R88 John Hamlyn ALGAR

Private 26171 Coldstream Guards

John was born 23rd February 1891 in Newton Ferrers, Devon. He was the eldest son of Charles John (1846-1926) and Laura Susan Amelia nee Hotten (1870-1923) and was one of ten sons and 6 daughters although sadly, five children died as infants

Two of John's brothers were killed in WW1, Wallace was killed in action as Private 36132 of the Leicestershire Regiment. He was killed in action early morning of 29th June 1917, he is buried at Mazingarbe Communal Cemetery Extension, France and his Captain wrote to his mother "*He died as he lived, steadily and fearlessly doing his duty. During the whole period of his service with the company he was always a man to whom his comrades, among whom he was a great favourite, looked up, and a great influence for good among all with whom he came into contact. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him*" *Western News Newspaper 09.07.1917*

John's other brother, Cecil Charles died on 26th August 1918, as Private 255032 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles Battalion, (Saskatchewan Regiment). He was reburied at Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery, France

23rd February 1912 John joined Birmingham City Police as a baker. He was issued with warrant number 8179 and he was posted to the C Division with collar number PC C184

15th June 1913 John was complimented for assistance rendered to PC George Jones in rescuing people from a fire

1st June 1914 John was transferred to the R Division to perform duty in the Detective Department

10th December 1915 John was enrolled into the Army Reserve

2nd May 1917 John was awarded a first stripe of merit for assisting DS Beckett in arresting thieves stealing and receiving metal also in a case of stealing bicycles

2nd January 1918 John was awarded a second stripe of merit for the arrest of thieves in two cases

23rd April 1918 John resigned to join HM Forces and served as Pte 26171 in the Coldstream Guards

7th September 1918 John married Jessie Elizabeth GRANT at Christ Church, Summerfield, Warwickshire and they resided at 21 Gillott Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

30th December 1918 John re-joined Birmingham City Police from HM Forces and was again posted to 'R' Division with a new warrant number 8623 and collar number Detective Constable R 88

16th June 1919 John was awarded a guinea in the case of a pickpocket

1st December 1920 John was awarded five guineas and a silver medal by the Society for the Protection of Life from fire for bravery at a fire

24th May 1923 John was transferred to the C Division to perform duty in uniform from the 28th May 1923 with collar number C144

22nd July 1925 John was complimented for the arrest of a man for indecent exposure

2nd December 1925 John was complimented for courageous conduct at the Hockley Brook Flood

10th June 1926 John was fined £4 for neglect of duty

27th February 1938 John retired from Birmingham City Police and on 10th July 1987, sadly died in Plymouth aged 96 years of age whilst residing at Kingsland Residential Home, Brixton, Plymouth

