

World War 1 Roll of Honour

Birmingham City Police

PC R63 Francis Edward ASH

Gunner 66757 7 8th Siege bty Royal Garrison Artillery



Francis was born 11th December 1891 in Oxford and a resident at 164 Marlboro Road, Grandpont, Oxford. He was the eldest of four sons of Thomas (1857 -1900) and Mary Ann (bn 1854). His father was an ex Police Constable of Oxford Police

18th May 1914 Francis joined Birmingham City Police as an asylum attendant at Long Grove Asylum, Epsom. He worked there from 8th April 1913 to 21st February 1914 when he left to try to join the police. He was issued with warrant number 8486 and he was posted to the C Division with collar number PC C281

In November 1915 Francis resigned from the police to join HM Forces with the Royal Garrison Artillery, where he was wounded, his 2nd and 3rd toe of his right foot were amputated, he was issued with silver wound badge Number 390295

14th June 1917 Francis married his first wife Almah Alice Hooper of Headington Quarry, Oxford who sadly died on 19 March 1929 in Headington, Oxford where they were married. They had three children Francis born 27th February 1919, Seamus born 1st March 1922 and Almah Betty born 5th December 1928

17th June 1918 Francis re-joined the police from HM Forces and was issued with a new warrant number of 9064

14th November 1920 Francis transferred to R Division with the collar number PC R63 to perform plain clothes duty as an orderly at the Chief Constable's office. His war wounds played a part in his transfer

19th August 1933, Francis married his second wife Miss Elsie Lee, of 9 Cornwall Road, Handsworth. She had been employed as a housekeeper to Francis for the previous 11 months. Her father was Joseph Lee a boot maker and her mother was Ada Lee, who resided at Orchard Street, Fleckney, Leicestershire. Francis's relatives were John Ash a packer residing at 63 Oxford Street, Stirchley, Birmingham and James Ash employed at the Cocoa Shop at Cadbury Bros Ltd and resided at 9 Hay Green Lane, Bournville. Francis and Elsie married at St Andrew's Church in Handsworth, Birmingham

30th December 1945 Francis retired aged 54 years after 31 years of police service, his reason was to retire and live a country life. He was granted a police pension of £213 18s 8d per annum

Wednesday 24th February 1954 Francis sadly died aged 62 years, at his home of 17 Orchard Street, Fleckney, Leicestershire. His widow Mrs Elsie ASH was granted a widow's pension of 19/2d per week. Francis's funeral was 27th February where he was buried in the parish of Fleckney, Leicester

