

World War 1

Birmingham City Police

PC A Thomas BILLINGSLEY

Guardsman 13178
1st battalion Grenadier Guards
Killed in action France 13th March 1915

Thomas was born in 1889 in Pattingham, South Staffordshire, son of Thomas (1847-1906) and Jane (nee Gardener) (1851-). Thomas had four brothers George Henry, John, William and Andrew and one sister Louisa

Thomas's parents married in 1872 in Shifnal, but his father died in September 1906 at the age of 59 when Thomas was 17 years of age

23rd May 1910 Thomas joined Birmingham City Police as a 21-year-old general labourer and a reservist with the Grenadier Guards

He served on the 'A' Division with warrant number 7801

In 1911, Thomas was residing at Duke Street Police Station along with many other police constables

5th August 1914, Thomas was recalled to military service with the army reserve

Records show that Thomas died between 10th and 13th March 1915 but it is believed to be that he died on 13th March in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle

Thomas was single when he died and his effects were left to his mother Jane

Thomas is commemorated at Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France Panel 2

Thomas is commemorated alongside another Birmingham City Police Constable, PC Herbert Horace GOODLEY who also paid the ultimate sacrifice when he died of his wounds on 24th December 1914



Photographs of cemetery and memorial courtesy of Su and Paul Handford taken August 2014