

World War 1

Birmingham City Police

PC E167 Thomas CALDICOTT

Sergeant 17322
1st battalion Coldstream Guards
Died in Belgium 5th August 1917

Thomas was born 1892 in Polesworth son of John and Mary (nee Allsop), his father was a railway labourer. He was the eldest of six children, his two brothers also served in WW1, in the Coldstream Guards, his brother Charles was badly wounded and spent 13 months in hospital, and his other brother William served and survived the war.

In April 1916, Thomas married Dorothy at Gilson Hall, Coleshill and on 17th July 1911, Thomas joined Birmingham City Police as a plate layer. He served on the E Division with warrant number 7865 and collar number PC E167.

Thomas resigned on 15th November 1915 to enlist in the army and went to France in December 1916

Birmingham City Police records stated that Thomas had died of wounds, however a newspaper article from the Coleshill Chronicle dated August 25th 1917, quotes a letter from Thomas's platoon officer which states he was killed instantly.



The letter from the officer to Thomas's mother read

I am more than sorry to have to tell you that T Caldicott Coldstream Guards was killed on the coming out of the trenches on the night of 5th and 6th August. A shell landed on the road in the centre of the platoon and a fragment struck Caldicott and several others., killing him instantly. He was an exceedingly fine soldier and is a great loss.

Thomas's sergeant wrote

I feel it my duty to write you a few lines of sympathy on behalf of the comrades of the late Pte Caldicott who fell in action on 5th August. He was a good soldier, who knew no fear, a cheery companion, and liked by all. One and all send their deepest sympathies in your sad bereavement.

At this stage, Charles, Private 16328 Coldstream Guards, was now at home on leave after spending 13 months badly wounded in hospital in France and was due to enter a convalescent camp, Charles died in June 1977. William was still serving in France as Private 17305 Coldstream Guards, William died in February 1965.

Thomas is buried in Bleuet Farm Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium Grave I B 36. Thomas is also commemorated on Coleshill Memorial.

His inscription on his headstone reads
REST IN PEACE
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

Photographs were courtesy of Thomas's family member John Perry

