

# World War 1 Roll of Honour

## Birmingham City Police

### PC JOSEPH JOHN CHINN MSM

### Corporal P/1314 Military Foot Police

Joseph was born 9<sup>th</sup> March 1894 in Balsall Heath, Birmingham the son of Joseph Thomas bn 1869 and Priscilla nee Franks bn 1866. His father was a serving officer in Birmingham City Police, PC E102 Joseph Chinn who had already served 21 years 6 months and was performing the duties of reserve Office Constable at Acocks Green police Station. Joseph junior had two brothers, Arthur bn 1897 and Horace 1899 and a sister Elsie bn 1901

16<sup>th</sup> June 1913 Joseph joined Birmingham City Police as an iron moulder. He had also served with the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Territorials for three and a half years. He was issued with warrant number 8328 and posted to the A Division with collar number PC A37

12<sup>th</sup> November 1913 Joseph was stopped one days leave for neglecting to attend an evening class at Bristol street School, on 3<sup>rd</sup> November

30<sup>th</sup> April 1915 A letter from the War Office in London states *It is considered Police Constable Joseph Chinn possesses qualifications not possessed by ordinary recruits and is entitled to benefit the provisions of section 2 (2) of the Police Constables (Naval and Military Services Act of 1914)*

25<sup>th</sup> May 1915 Joseph resigned to join HM Forces with the Military Foot Police

26<sup>th</sup> March 1918 Birmingham Daily Mail Newspaper article *Lance Corporal Joseph Chinn (24) Military Police and formerly of the A Division Birmingham City Police has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. His two brothers are serving, one with the RGA and one with the RNAS (Arthur and Horace)*

10<sup>th</sup> April 1918 London Gazette entry confirms Joseph's award of his MSM

21st July 1919 Joseph re-joined the police from HM Forces, he was issued with a new warrant number 9067 and again posted to the A Division

29<sup>th</sup> March 1920 Joseph was severely reprimanded for neglect of duty for failing to search a prisoner whom he had lodged in Central Lock Up at 4.40 am on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and who attempted to commit suicide by cutting his wrist with a pocket knife which he had in his possession

27<sup>th</sup> September 1920 Joseph was called upon to resign after being reported by Superintendent Monk for being absent from the single men's quarters at Digbeth police station for one hour and 35 minutes from midnight to 1.35 am on 1<sup>st</sup> August: also, for bringing an improper charge to Digbeth police station at a latter time. Further complained of by Gladys Edwards 28 Hurst Street for assaulting her by knocking her down when in Hurst Street at about 1.30am 1<sup>st</sup> August

29<sup>th</sup> November 1929 Joseph married Mary Doherty and they had three children, Joseph, Maurine and Ellen

1921 After leaving the police, Joseph had employment as a pig drover until June 1921 earning £1 10s per week, he then became manager of the Cecil Street Common Lodging house, Ipswich from July 1921 to August 1923 at a rate of £2 per week. He then went to Bristol where he acted as manager of the Model Lodging House, Redcross Street, from August 1923 until November 1926 earning £2 5s per week. From this date until January 1927 he was similarly engaged in London when he returned to Birmingham and became manager of the Model Lodging House at 109 Rea Street, Birmingham on a salary of £2 5s per week

3<sup>rd</sup> April 1927 Joseph was residing with his three children and his adopted niece Annie Lambert

June 1929 Joseph was residing at number 20 Digbeth, Birmingham in three rooms with his wife, three children and his adopted niece, with a weekly rent of 12/6d. His wife was expecting to be confined in two months-time in August. He was employed at Messrs Hatfield and Sons in Cannon Street as a labourer at a wage of £2 4s 7d per week

