

World War 1 Roll of Honour

Birmingham City Police

PC R121 Albert COAKLEY aka CARROLL

Lance Corporal P10787 CARROLL Military Foot Police

Formerly Private 5130 2nd battalion Coldstream Guards

Albert was born 19th February 1883 in Birmingham and was a resident at 9/14 Mott Street, Birmingham

1st July 1903 Albert served as Private 5130 with the 2nd bttn Coldstream Guards for three years until 30th June 1906 and was placed on reserve for nine years. 1st July 1903 until 30th June 1906 Albert served at home, 21st February 1904 he suffered a contusion of his ankle and 23rd May 1905 he suffered a sprained arm

October 1905 to 30th June 1906 Albert was a waiter in the officers' mess

18th March 1907 Albert joined Birmingham City Police as a 24-year-old gun worker. He was issued with warrant number 7578 and posted to the A division with collar number PC A136

17th September 1908 Complimented in police orders for vigilance in the arrest of a man carrying soldier

23rd February 1910 Awarded a gratuity of a guinea for good police duty in two cases of robbery

21st December 1910 Awarded the 1st stripe of merit and complimented in police orders for good police duty in several cases

19th July 1911 Awarded a gratuity of a guinea and complimented in police orders for the arrest of a man, going off duty, on suspicion of stealing brass taps leading to his conviction

13th October 1913 Awarded a gratuity of a guinea and complimented in police orders for vigilance in the arrest of a thief in possession of house breaking implements at night, loitering

4th August 1914 Albert was recalled to the colours Coldstream Guards Albert is referred to as Albert E Coakley within Birmingham City Police records but in the military, he is referred to as Albert Carroll which is his widowed mother's surname. Albert's war service papers survived which confirm that Albert left the Coldstream guards to join the Military Foot Police as Lance Corporal P10787. His trade was a gun maker. His mother was named as Eliza Carroll of 81 Mott Street off Hampton Street, Birmingham, his elder brother was William and his younger brother was James

5th August 1914 Mobilised in London / 25th March 1915 Posted as Lance Corporal / 28th September 1915 Promoted as Corporal / 1st November 1915 Appointed L/Sgt 9th / April 1916 Promoted paid L/Sgt / 5th July 1916 Promoted to Sergeant

27th September 1914 – The Evening Despatch newspaper article states there were rumours that Private Coakley / Carroll had been killed, this was refuted when Police Constable McDonnell received a letter from him stating he was having a terrible time working day and night and being restricted from conveying news he could not divulge his location, he said he was feeling ok and waiting for the attack to come, he signed off *Best wishes to the chums Play up Villa*

28th April 1917 Transferred to the Military Foot Police as acting lance corporal

Birmingham City Police records confirm Albert was wounded and suffered an injury to his right eye but there is no confirmation of how the injury was sustained but a local newspaper article stated he lost the sight his right eye as a result of a shell explosion which later, rendered him unable to perform police duties. The police wrote to the military requesting confirmation of the injury as when Albert re-joined the police, he was obviously injured which he stated was received in war service. The military confirmed he was issued with a SWB but no other details were given. As he could not perform street patrol, he was given a job a telephone operator at headquarters in Newton Street, Birmingham which he performed until his retirement

18th July 1918 Albert re-joined Birmingham City Police after service with HM Forces, he was issued with a new warrant number of 9065. He was now residing at 17 Clifford Street, Aston, Birmingham

6th August 1918 Albert was discharged as being no longer physically fit for war service and was issued a Silver War Badge

Although the newspaper entry states Albert remained as a telephone operator until his retirement, his police file states he received the following awards, it is not known if Albert achieved these awards whilst working in the telephone department

16th June 1919 Awarded a gratuity of a guinea and complimented in police orders for the arrest of thieves

18th October 1919 Albert transferred to the R Division with collar number PC R121

3rd December 1919 Awarded a gratuity of a guinea and complimented in police orders for courageous conduct in stopping a runaway horse

27th March 1932 Albert retired from the police after 25 years' service, with a police pension of £153 2s 10d per annum. His colleagues in the telephone department made him a presentation of pipes and a pouch

18th January 1944 PC A 103 Knight completed a Birmingham City Police Report to Superintendent Brown to inform him of Albert Coakley being knocked down by a Midlands Red omnibus in Corporation Street opposite Bradford passage. Albert was 61 years of age and residing at 161 Aldershaw Road, Sheldon. PC Knight picked him up and took him into County Chambers to sit him down. Albert refused hospital treatment and PC Knight walked Albert to Albert Street where he placed him on the number 94 trolley bus for home. One witness stated "Albert hobbled across the road as if crippled and almost blind. When halfway across he seemed to have got his walking stick stuck in the tram lines. The red bus was going slowly and only just brushed him. The driver had no chance" The report stated that Albert was an ex-police constable and four years previous had suffered a stroke and since had become nearly blind and walks with great difficulty.

17th September 1946 Albert sadly died at The General Hospital. His brother William who lived with Albert at 161 Aldershaw Road, South Yardley attended the Chief Constable's Office to inform them of Albert's death the previous day. At the time of Albert's death, he was single as he had never married and the funeral was to be private. His effects of £2358 were left to Ada, wife of William John Coakley and Police Constable William Turner