

# World War 1 Roll of Honour

## Birmingham City Police

### Chief Inspector John Kenneth DODMAN

#### Corporal 291974 132 Hvy By Royal Garrison Artillery



John was born 20<sup>th</sup> February 1895, in Norfolk, a native of St Helens, Ipswich and a resident at The Farm, Highbury Moor Green, Birmingham and 140 Berridge Road, Halstead, Essex

19<sup>th</sup> November 1913 John joined Birmingham City Police as a farmer, he was issued with warrant number 8402 and was posted to the A Division with collar number PC A207

19<sup>th</sup> May 1915 John resigned to join HM Forces

23<sup>rd</sup> April 1918 John was discharged from the army as medically unfit after being wounded in the leg. He was issued with a Silver Wound/War Badge number 361587

11<sup>th</sup> May 1918 John was reinstated into the police, he was issued with a new warrant number 9066 and posted to the A Division

28<sup>th</sup> December 1918 John married Helen Agnes Grace Eddrup who was born in London on 26<sup>th</sup> February 1888. They had a son, John Alexander who was born on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1924 (the newspaper article reporting on the bombing incident of 9-10<sup>th</sup> April as below, refers to John's son who served in the RAF, as Alec. John junior died aged 69 years, in 1993 in Solihull

2<sup>nd</sup> October 1922 John was promoted to the rank of sergeant and appointed additional constable to act as curator of Victoria Law Courts a job he held for 26 years

2<sup>nd</sup> June 1937 Awarded Coronation Medal

9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> April 1941 John received another leg injury, his one leg was wounded in WW1 and this was his other leg that was badly injured which almost severed his foot, when a 1,000lb bomb hit the Victoria Law Courts. John was on the roof in charge of the fire watchers, the injury rendered him bed bound for seven months and his leg was in plaster of Paris for two years. Police Inspector Mark William Selleck, who was with John at the time was killed, and the blast temporarily blinded Sergeant Tom Smith. John had numerous operations on his leg, but was still able to perform his duties at the Law Courts until an operation he had in early 1948

1<sup>st</sup> July 1930 John was promoted to the rank of Inspector

1<sup>st</sup> January 1942 John was promoted to the rank of Chief Inspector

30<sup>th</sup> September 1948 John retired from the police on an ill health pension due to the increased disability of his war injury and again when badly injured whilst on duty in 1941. He retired after 34 years and 10 months service. He initially received a police pension of £393 6s 8d per annum which was later upgraded to £491 13s 4d due to his illness being confirmed as a direct result of his injury being received whilst on duty. He moved to 9 Decoy Road, Newton Abbot, Devonshire but continued to visit Birmingham to visit the hospital and see his former colleagues

9<sup>th</sup> January 1965 John suddenly died at his home, he was survived by his widow Helen who received a police widow's pension of £2 5s 8d per week. The funeral was 11am on 13<sup>th</sup> January in Newton Abbott

1967 John's widow was residing at 35 Buryfield Road, Solihull, Warwickshire