

World War 1 Roll of Honour

Birmingham City Police

PS E20 John Thomas FAIRHURST

Bombardier 159422 504 siege battery Royal Garrison Artillery



Photograph kindly provided by John's daughter Ellen (Edith)



John pictured with officers and Sergeants of E Division 1931

John was born 24th July 1892 in Goose Green, Wigan, Lancashire and was a resident at Clapgate Farm in Wigan. He was the son of William (1855-1928) and Ellen nee Bradshaw (1859-1945) and one of 11 children, he had 7 brothers and three sisters

27th July 1914 John joined Birmingham City Police as a farmer, he was issued warrant number 8514 and posted to the E Division with collar number PC E268 and PC B23 as of 2nd January 1924

14th May 1917 John resigned to join HM Forces, he served at home with the Royal Garrison Artillery until he went overseas on 15th February 1918

27th January 1919 John re-joined the police and was issued with a new warrant number of 8745

11th September 1920 John married Gladys Elizabeth Seddon (born 11.04.1893 in Wigan). They had three children, their first child Edith Ellen known as Ellen, pictured above, was born 21st October 1921 and was later a member of the Women's Auxiliary Police Corps as PW6. She later married Police Constable Henry Ogilvie of Birmingham City Police who became an Inspector and sadly died 28th April 1996 aged 81 years of age. Ellen became a typist at Steelhouse Lane Police Station and is currently 98 years of age and has assisted with providing the photograph of John in full uniform. John and Gladys's second child, Harold was born on 7th December 1923 and went onto to be an electrical engineer and sadly died aged 47 of a brain haemorrhage, their third child, Gladys, was born 30th January 1930 and is still living



John's daughter Edith is pictured centre as PW6 in first aid training

John's career continued

22nd July 1925 Awarded 2 guineas for the arrest of burglars

31st March 1926 Awarded a guinea for the arrest of a house breaker

17th January 1927 John was promoted to the rank of sergeant and was issued with the collar number PS E20

19th October 1927 Complimented for rendering first aid (fractured femur)

4th April 1928 Complimented for rendering first aid (fractured femur and wounds)

4th March 1931 Complimented for rendering first aid (cut throat)

5th April 1933 Awarded one guinea for rendering first aid (coal gas poisoning)

4th March 1936 Complimented for arrest of persons garage breaking and taking a vehicle without the owner's consent

1939 census John was living at 2 Harbury Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham with his wife Gladys, and two other persons believed to be Edith and Gladys

18th May 1941 John retired on a police pension

23rd October 1964 John sadly died at Solihull, Birmingham