

# World War 1 Roll of Honour

## Birmingham City Police

### PC B166 William FRYER

### Sapper 17382 Royal Engineers



William was born 29<sup>th</sup> April 1889 in Chelmarsh, Shropshire

9<sup>th</sup> October 1911 William joined Birmingham City Police as a blacksmith (journeyman) and reservist. William had served as Sapper 17382 with the Royal Engineers for 3 years. William had tried to join Shropshire Police but there were not any vacancies. On joining the police, he was issued with warrant number 7896, and posted to the B Division with collar number B166

4<sup>th</sup> August 1914 William was recalled to re-join his regiment

31<sup>st</sup> August 1917 William married Annie Elizabeth VAILE, they had three children Irene M who was born on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1920; Ethel M who was born on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1937 and Margaret who was born in 1930

7<sup>th</sup> May 1919 William re-joined the police from HM Forces, he was issued with a new warrant number of 8977. Police records dated January 1917 stated William had been wounded

5<sup>th</sup> December 1919 William was awarded a gratuity of a guinea for skill in rendering first aid (severed artery)

27<sup>th</sup> November 1924 William was awarded a gratuity of two guineas for stopping a runaway horse on two occasions

4<sup>th</sup> March 1931 William was complimented for rendering first aid (fractured humerus)

3<sup>rd</sup> October 1934 William was awarded a guinea for rendering first aid (coal gas poisoning)

4<sup>th</sup> June 1936 William was complimented for first aid (fractured ankle)

29<sup>th</sup> July 1936 William was complimented for rendering first aid (fractured femur, compound fracture of fibula and tibia)

10<sup>th</sup> October 1937 William retired from the police aged 48, his reason being he wanted to take advantage of his pension which was £165 4s 8d per annum. William was, on retirement, residing at 161 Westheath Road, Northfield. Birmingham.

9<sup>th</sup> November 1937, the Governor of HM Prison in Birmingham asked the Chief Constable for a reference as William had applied for a post at the prison, he was given a good reference but it is not known if William took the post

16<sup>th</sup> February 1938 The Austin Motor Company asked the Chief Constable for a reference as William had sought employment there as a labourer. It is not known if William took this post

26<sup>th</sup> April 1969, William sadly died at the Sheldon Geriatric Hospital, Rubery. William had been in poor health for about four years suffering from a hernia which could not be operated on due to cancer of the prostate gland. He had been admitted to the hospital ten days earlier and had died of prostate cancer. His widow, Annie, was very grateful to the officers from Cotteridge police station who had recently assisted her in getting her husband into bed as he was very heavily built and she could not manage on her own. The funeral was 2pm 1<sup>st</sup> May at Lodge Hill Cemetery and six police officers acted as bearers. Sergeant B2 Owen, and B division PCs 89 Bridge, 102 Baker, 184 Ware, 253 Robertson and 295 Bullwright. Annie was granted a police widow's pension of £2 8s 3d per week. Annie died in 1970

