

# World War 1

## Birmingham City Police

### PC A John Richard MADDOCKS

## Lance Corporal 9645

### 3<sup>rd</sup> battalion Worcestershire Regiment

### Died in Belgium 13<sup>th</sup> January 1915

John was born 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1888 in Ettingshall, Wolverhampton, the only son of John Richard and Kate Mary (nee Connolly) of 131 Bescot Road, Walsall

John had three older sisters, Florence, Sarah and Kate and three half-sisters Nellie, Mary and Catherine. His father was a blacksmith

In 1891 the family were living at Pond Lane, Wolverhampton

In 1901 the family were residing at 396 Pleck Road, Walsall, his father was still a blacksmith but his mother and three sisters were working as leather stitchers

On leaving school, John worked at the offices of Richardson Ltd, Charles Street, Walsall

In 1905 John joined the Worcestershire Regiment, his occupation was a butcher. He served seven years in Malta and India and then left the army

He joined Birmingham City Police on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1913 aged 18 years and three months

John served on the A division with warrant number 8298 and was recalled to military service on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914

He returned to his battalion in Belgium. He was promoted the day before his death as a result of being shot in the head by a sniper whilst in the trenches near Kemmel

John's Company Sergeant Major P Bland wrote to John's family

*At about 8.30 on the morning of 13th January, your son, whilst in the trenches, was hit in the head by one of the enemy's snipers. The doctor was in attendance almost immediately and everything was done that was possible. However, he did not regain consciousness and died about 3pm. We removed him from the trenches after night fall and he is buried here, some way back out of the firing line.*

John is buried at Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery Ypres, Belgium. Grave A14



*Photographs courtesy of Su and Paul Handford taken August 2104*

John is also commemorated on Walsall Town Hall and St John's Church, Pleck, Walsall

*Photograph of John courtesy of [inmemories.com](http://inmemories.com)*

