

World War 1

Birmingham City Police

PC E158 William Henry MARSHALL

Private 21903
2nd battalion Coldstream Guards
Died in France 27th August 1918

William was born 7th May 1892 in Saintbury, Worcestershire. He was the son of Arthur and Alice Mary Marshall nee Chadban of Court Lane, Offenham, Evesham, Worcestershire. His father was a cattleman

William had two sisters Edith and Alice and five brothers Walter John, Lewis Albert, Arthur, Percy and Philip

William's brother Walter John also served with the 2nd battalion of the Coldstream Guards, and he received the Military Medal for distinguished service in the field in July 1917. Walter was killed in action on 1st December 1917 at Gouezancourt

An officer wrote of Walter,
Your son was my ideal of a Coldstreamer; if the British army were half its size and composed of boys like yours, the war would have been over by now.

William joined Birmingham City Police on 14th December 1914, as a gardener and served on the E Division with warrant number 8577 and collar number E158

William was a member of the Birmingham City Police gymnastic team as he is pictured, in January 1915, with other police colleagues, some who also served in WW1



William is third from right second row from the front

William resigned from the police on 5th March 1917 to enlist in the Army which he did in Birmingham on 7th March. He served with the BEF from the following December

William died in France 27th August 1918

William was re buried at Croisilles British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France Grave 111 A4 in 1919



William's mother requested the inscription on his headstone to read

REST IN PEACE

Photographs courtesy of Su and Paul Handford taken August 2022