

# World War 1

## Birmingham City Police

### PC D24 Gerald Aloysius NEILAN

**Lieutenant**  
**10<sup>th</sup> (service) battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers**  
**Died in Republic of Ireland 24<sup>th</sup> April 1916**

Gerald was born on 7th June 1881, the second son of John of Ballygalda, Roscommon and Eva (nee Kelly) of 4, Mount Harold Terrace, Leinster Road, Dublin. He was the second eldest of seven children. He had 5 brothers and two sisters

His father was a farmer and local Justice of the Peace

Gerald was educated at Clongrowes Wood College, County Kildare

During the South African War, Gerald enlisted in the Sherwood Foresters and served with his regiment in South Africa where he was severely wounded. From South Africa, Gerald proceeded to China where he remained for six years until he left the army

On 18<sup>th</sup> January 1908 Gerald joined the Birmingham City Police as a reservist, he served on the 'D' Division with warrant number 7675 and collar number PC D24

In 1911, Gerald was one of 32 police officers lodging at Duke Street Police Station, Birmingham

Gerald resigned on 20th December 1914 to re-join the army and was immediately given a commission being gazetted to the 24th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers, later transferring to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. He was serving in Dublin engaged in recruitment duties

His brothers Charles James and Alan Joseph also saw service during the war as doctors in the Royal Army Medical Corps in Mesopotamia and France

Gerald was killed not half a mile from his parent's house during the Irish Rebellion

Gerald is buried in Glasnevin (Prospect) Cemetery, County Dublin in Grave St. Bridget's. SH. 20.5.-21 and is also commemorated on a memorial panel in the Abbey Presbyterian Church, Parnell Square, Dublin and at The Sacred Heart Church, Roscommon



*Courtesy of findagrave.com*

The grave of Gerald and his brother Volunteer Anthony Neilan who ironically took part in the uprising against the British and was arrested and served a sentence in Knutsford Detention Barracks 1<sup>st</sup> May 1916



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10th Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers.  
Killed In Action Dublin 24th April 1916.

*Photograph of Gerald is courtesy of dublinandthegreatwar.com*