

World War 1 Roll of Honour

Birmingham City Police

PC B115 Thomas PARKES

Lance Corporal P5138 Military Foot Police (5th Army)

Thomas was born in Halesowen, Worcestershire on 1st September 1885 and later resided at 124 Glover Street West Bromwich

From September 1899 to August 1904 Thomas worked as a dresser at Archibald Kendrick and sons Ltd Iron founders, Spon Lane, West Bromwich until he joined the army

From September 1904 to 1st September 1907 Thomas served with the army as Gunner 20496 of the Royal Garrison Artillery and left as a reservist

21 April 1908 Thomas joined Birmingham City Police as an iron turner and a reservist with warrant number 7689, collar number PC B115 and he was posted to the B Division

6th August 1911, Thomas resigned at his own request owing to the continual ill health of his wife who was ill with consumption. Thomas was advised to take her into the country and so took his wife to the south of Ireland

3rd April 1912, Thomas re-joined Birmingham City Police as his wife had sadly died on 4th January 1912 and he wanted to return to police work. He was issued with a new warrant number of 8203. He had written a letter from Lower Belvelly, Queenstown, Ireland to the chief constable to ask permission to re-join the police

10th July 1912, Thomas wrote to the chief constable requesting permission to marry Catherine DALY (born 18th April 1879) and who was a domestic to Mrs Wallace of The Priory, Queenstown, Ireland

6th August 1912 Thomas married Catherine DALY of 49 Friston Street Birmingham, they had three children Michael J who was born on 30th December 1912; Annie who was born on 27th August 1914 and their third child Helen C who was born on 31st December 1922

4th August 1914 Thomas was recalled to HM Forces where he served as Lance Corporal P5138 Military Foot Police (Fifth Army)

24th August 1918 a letter was received from Thomas' mother who wrote to Sergeant Brown of Ladywood Police Station stating she had received notification that her son Thomas had died of wounds in May 1918 but thought that the police had news he was alive and well. The police assumed they had the wrong person as Thomas was reported to be alive and well

5th May 1919 Thomas re-joined BCP after serving with HM Forces and he was issued with a new warrant number of 8973

28th September 1935 Thomas requested to retire due to failing eyesight

31st December 1933 Thomas retired and received an annual police pension of £153 2s 10d

24th December 1942 Thomas sadly died at home at 229 Linden Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham. His funeral was 29th December at Lodge Hill Cemetery. Thomas's widow received a police widow's pension of £30 per annum

2nd December 1964 Thomas's widow Catherine was admitted to Highcroft hospital as an informal patient aged 85 years, she was unable to manage her own affairs and therefore the police decided her widow's police pension was to be paid to the hospital for her benefit