

World War 1

Birmingham City Police

PC B126 Alfred George PHILLPOTT

Sergeant 16/1757
3rd battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment
Attached Army Gymnastic Staff
Drowned in the Irish Sea 10th October 1918

Alfred is on the Roll of Honour but has not been shown as 'K' indicating killed

Alfred was born in July 1888 in Billesdon, Leicestershire. He had three older brothers, Ernest, Walter and Frederick, two older sisters Alice and Margaret, a younger brother James and a younger sister Eleanor. He was the sixth child of Arthur Bentley and Mary Elizabeth (nee Griffin). His mother died early in October 1915. His father was a shoe clicker

Alfred joined Birmingham City Police on Monday 27 June 1910, as a 21-year-old clicker, he served on the B Division with warrant number 7805 and collar number PC B126

In 1915 Alfred enlisted into the army in Birmingham and was a gym instructor, attached to the army gymnastics staff in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment

On 6th February 1918 Alfred married Margaret (Minnie) Bowles, at St John's Church, Ladywood, the daughter of his Ladywood landlady Alice

A few weeks later, Alfred and his new bride left for Ireland as he had been posted to Curragh Camp in Dublin

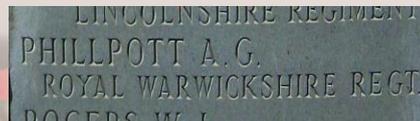
On 10th October 1918, the mail ship RMS Leinster left Ireland for Holyhead, Alfred George and Minnie were aboard, along with many military personnel on leave

The ship was stuck by a torpedo from a German U-Boat which blew up the mail department, killing all but one of the staff, the captain turned the ship to return to Ireland but they were again struck by a second torpedo which blew the ship to pieces

Out of nearly 800 passenger there were 184 survivors and over the coming weeks, casualties were washed up on the shores of western Britain, Ireland and the Isle of Man. Sadly the bodies of Alfred George and Minnie were never found. The offending German U-Boat stuck a mine in the North Sea on its return home

Alfred is commemorated on the Hollybrook Memorial in Hollybrook Cemetery, Southampton

Photograph of Alfred courtesy of his great nephew, John Phillpott, from his news-paper article which featured in Birmingham Mail 22.09.2018



CWGC.com



Alfred's and Minnie's names are engraved on the 'Bowles' family headstone St Nicholas Church, Ashchurch, Gloucestershire

Findagrave.com

