

World War 1 Birmingham City Police PC E210 Harold Edward PITT

Lance Sergeant 5046 4th Company 2nd battalion Coldstream Guards Died in France 2nd February 1915

Harold was born on 8th September 1884 in Erdington, Birmingham, son of Frances John and Lilian Mary Pitt. Harold, aka Hal, upon leaving school became an edge tool worker but his main calling had always been the army

In 1903 he joined the 2nd battalion, Coldstream Guards and upon leaving the army in 1906 as a reservist, Hal joined the Worcestershire Police as PC 1906, before transferring to Birmingham City Police in 1911 when the boundaries were redrawn. He served on the E Division with warrant number 8004 and collar number PC E210. Hal worked at Sparkhill and Hall Green police stations. He was also a member of the 'E' Division swimming club



Hal in his Worcestershire Police uniform



*Hal in front of the gates at Sparkhill
Police Station in 1906*

*Photographs and information of Hal, are
by kind permission of Hal's great nephew
Anthony G Schuck*

At the outbreak of war, on 12th August 1914, Hal was recalled to the colours and went to France with the Coldstream Guards and fought in the battle of Mons, Villers Cotterets and Ypres throughout 1914

On 30th January, they marched up to La Basse Canal near Cuinchy where, on 1st February, the Germans attacked with trench mortars and then hand grenades

Hal began picking up the German grenades out of their trench and threw them back, but after four or five successfully thrown back, one exploded in his hand, severely injuring his left side, his left leg, left arm and head

Hal was taken to Bethune Hospital before being transferred to No 4 Casualty Clearing Hospital, Lillers, where he died the following day

His comrade and pal Private Nightingale, who was with Hal at the time when he was wounded wrote to Hal's wife telling her how he and the others would never forget Hal's brave actions in the trench, and that he was always as brave as a lion

Hal is buried at Lillers Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France



Photographs of Hal's headstone and cemetery
courtesy of Su and Paul Handford
taken August 2014



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