

World War 1 Roll of Honour

Birmingham City Police

Sergeant B60 Leonard Leslie TANSELL

Lieutenant 14th battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment



Leonard was born 13th January 1885 in Upton Snodsbury, Worcester and was a resident at Cooksey Green, Upper Warren, Bromsgrove

May 1902 – March 1910 Leonard served as a signaller with the 2nd battalion Worcestershire Regiment and transferred to the army reserve on 25th May 1910. He served in Ceylon, South Africa and India. For 17 months he served as a regimental policeman and was a proficient boxer

18th January 1911, Leonard joined Birmingham City Police as a farm hand, he was issued with warrant number 7850, and posted to the E division with collar number PC E166

11th April 1914, Leonard resigned from the police at his own request

4th June 1914 Leonard re-joined the police, he was issued with a new warrant number of 8499

8th September 1914 Leonard was lent to the War Office as a drill instructor, one of 149 men to be sent

26th November 1915, Leonard resigned to join HM Forces. He was initially serving with the 2nd 6th battalion. They were present at the battle of the Somme, after which Leonard received a commission. Whilst he was serving in the war, the Watch Committee authorised his mother to be given 5 shillings per week

30th May 1917 Leonard was appointed Second Lieutenant and posted to the 14th battalion (The first Birmingham Service Battalion)

12th April 1918 Leonard was wounded in France, he was admitted to St John Hospital at Etaples suffering from a severe gunshot wound to his leg, and was evacuated to England and admitted on the 16th April to the 2nd Western General Hospital in Manchester

At the end of the war Leonard was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant

26th May 1919 Leonard re-joined the police from HM Forces and was posted to the R Division (public carriage department) with collar number PC R102 and transferred on 26th June. He was issued with a new warrant number of 9019. This department regulated taxi cabs, looked after lost property, made enquiries concerning vehicles and kept records of accidents

5th December 1921 Leonard was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the B Division later that week on 12th December with the collar number of PS B10

4th May 1923 Leonard reported sick suffering from influenza and was confined to single men's quarters at Harborne police station, however it was thought Leonard was suffering from more than the flu, on May 27th Leonard was diagnosed with a brain tumour with a grave prognosis and was admitted to the General Hospital, but Leonard sadly died at 1am 7th July aged 38, his funeral was 11th July at Upton Warren Church. A wreath was delivered on behalf of the taxi cab drivers who also paid homage to him in the Steering Wheel Magazine as they thought so much of him as a police officer

As Leonard died whilst in police service, a gratuity of £32 19s 8d was paid to his mother Elizabeth of Diamond Cottage, Buntsford Hill, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, this was Leonard's contributions towards the superannuation fund