

# World War 1

## Birmingham City Police

### PC A25 Fred Alva WATSON

**Private 306369**

**1<sup>st</sup> bttn Royal Welch Fusiliers Infantry Base**  
**Died in France 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1916**



*Fred Alva Watson was baptised as Fred Alva, but in the police records he is referred to as Alva Fred Watson and in the army records he is referred to as Fred Alva.*

**Fred Alva Watson was born in the spring of 1894 in Bilton, Rugby. His father was named Alva Fred Watson, his mother was Lilian**

**Fred was the oldest child and their only son. He had 4 sisters, Lilian Ellen, Minnie, Catherine and Gladys**

**In 1901 the family were living at 43 Union Street, Rugby and in 1911 they were living at 38 Bye Street, Ledbury, in 2 rooms. Alva's father was a plumber and his sister Lilian Ellen and Alva were in service**

**Fred joined Birmingham City Police on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1914, as a 20-year-old carter. He served on the A Division with Warrant number 8540 and collar number PC A25. Throughout his police service he is referred to as Alva Fred Watson**

**He resigned from the police on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1915, to enlist in the army in Birmingham**

**Fred attested at 1 Morris Road, Witton, Birmingham on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1915 as a police constable aged 21 years and 8 months**

**Fred embarked for France on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1916 and was killed later that year on 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

**Fred was re-buried after exhumation at another cemetery, which would have been a smaller or isolated cemetery in order to be buried in a war cemetery, Fred is buried at Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval, France Grave X111 F 5**



Photographs courtesy of Su and Paul Handford taken August 2022

