

World War 1 Roll of Honour

Birmingham City Police

Sergeant R41 James Henry WILDING

Lance Corporal 16401 Military Foot Police

James was born 17th April 1892 in Ladywood, Birmingham and resided at 12 Serpentine Road, Harborne, Birmingham. He was the son of Edward William (bn 1861) who was also a constable on the R Division, and Sarah Margaret (1867-1939). He had a sister Clara Elizabeth Alice (1890-1957) and a brother William Gilbert (1897-1954)

20th August 1914 James joined Birmingham City Police as an engineer from W Williams, Foundry Lane, Smethwick, he was issued with warrant number 8524 and posted to the D Division. On his application form, he states his uncle by marriage, A Harris, was an Inspector in Birmingham City police, and was stationed at Central Lock Up

5th March 1917 James resigned to join HM Forces On 14th July 1918 whilst in France, he suffered a gunshot wound to his left forearm which resulted in compression of the ulnar nerve. He had an operation nearly a year later to liberate the nerve which relieved the pain and gave him more use of his hand

17th July 1917 James returned home from France due to his wounds

16th May 1918 James married Beatrice Celia Yates in Kings Norton, Birmingham and they resided at 207 High Street, Harborne, Birmingham. They had two children, William Ronald who was born 19th June 1928 but who sadly died 12th August 1929, and Judith who was born 22nd July 1930

9th February 1919 James was hospitalised with acute appendicitis and an appendectomy was performed from which he recovered well

4th June 1919 James was discharged as medically unfit from HM Forces due to his wounded arm and hand

4th July 1919 James re-joined the Birmingham City Police from HM Forces, he was issued with a new warrant number of 9056 and posted to the D Division

30th May 1921 James transferred to the R Division with collar number PC R156 to perform duties in the Chief Constable's Office

25th October 1932 James was complimented by the Chief Constable for action taken in compiling evidence given to the Justices at Juvenile Court on 19th October in a case of not being under proper guardianship

6th May 1935 James was promoted to the rank of Sergeant with collar number PS R41

23rd April 1939 James's mother Sarah died, she was buried 26th April 1939 at St Peter's Church, Harborne

September 1939 The residents of Flat 1/52 Newton Street, Birmingham were police officer Frederick Baguley, and his wife Clara Baguley, who it is believed was James's sister; widowed and retired police officer Edward W Wilding, James's father, and Edmund W Wilding (bn 17.4.1893) also a police officer, so it would appear James's father is residing with his married daughter and his son in law and Edmund W Wilding

27th October 1946 James retired from the police aged 54 years on a police pension of £248 14s 4d per annum

22nd January 1971 James sadly died whilst residing with his wife Beatrice at Granford Lodge, 71 Ashley Drive South, Ringwood, Hants, who was granted a police widow's pension of £2.41 per week