

William Henry Norman (PC Billy Norman) 1889 to 1958

Early life

William Henry (Billy) Norman was born on 29th March 1889 in Oadby. He was only 15 when he joined the 2nd Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment where he reached the rank of Sergeant Major and went on to serve in India.

Serving in WW1

He left the Army in March 1914, and joined the Police Force, but as a reservist he was called into service as soon as war broke out later that year.



1. DCM Distinguished Conduct Medal
2. MM Military Medal
3. 1914-15 Star
4. The British War Medal
5. Victory Medal
6. Defence Medal
7. King George VI Coronation Medal 1937

During WW1 Billy Norman was fearless and won the Military Medal for conspicuous gallantry in Belgium 1916. In 1917 he won the Distinguished Conduct Medal and was mentioned in despatches.



Lieutenant William Henry Norman D.C.M., M.M.



Enteric Depot, Nilgiri Hills, India. 1909
Billy is on the far left with the cane



2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment Rugby Team winners.
Madras, 1909.
Billy is on the back row, second from right.



Billy Norman (standing back right), Verquin, France 1917

In 1918 he was given an immediate Commission in the field. He continued to serve in the Army until 1920, when he rejoined the Constabulary.

Excelling at Sport

Sport played a large part in the life of Billy Norman. He was a physical training instructor in the army and also played rugby when he was in India. He even played for Leicester Tigers for a short time in 1920s. However this was frowned on by the Police Force in case he was injured. In 1926 when he was goalkeeper in a Police v. Parsons Football Match at Filbert Street, he amazed everyone by taking a goal kick which soared over the heads of all the players and scored a goal at the other end of the field!

Police Service in Loughborough

For ten years Billy worked in Loughborough and was held in very high esteem. He was a well-known character, being 5 feet 11 inches and weighing 16 ½ stones.



Bill (left) at the opening of Loughborough Carillon in 1923



Billy (front right) accompanying the Mayor's parade in 1935, which he did for 24 years.



Billy (back left) at a boxing tournament at the Tigers Ground in 1933. Seated in front is Larry Gains, a black Canadian heavyweight boxer who was one of the top heavyweights of his era.

Life in Quorn

In 1930 he was transferred to Quorn, living with his wife Gertrude and family at 30 Leicester Road, opposite where The Mills flats are today. He kept law and order in the village single handedly until he retired in 1944. His time in Quorn is covered in Artefact 2394.

Billy died on Boxing Day 1958, aged 69, at his home at 51 Barrow Road in Quorn, leaving his wife Gertrude, son Kenneth and daughters Jean, Barbara and Ann.



Billy Norman in his later years