



Journal of the Police History Society

Number 15 2000

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- The Bicentenary of the Paris Prefecture of Police
- Chief Officers of Borough Police Forces in Surrey
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The Police History Society publishes the *Journal of the Police History Society* annually. Contributions are welcome from both members and non-members. Please send material double-spaced and typed on A4 paper with details of any discs you can supply to save retyping. The Editor produces the *Journal on Word for Windows in Microsoft Office 2000*.

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Editorial

As I take over the editorial chair of the Police History Society Journal I have some trepidation, the last Editor was hard act to follow! Jenny has brought to this journal over the time she administered to it an aura of professionalism and credibility that I may find difficult to emulate. I will however do my best. I have for many years, 23 to be precise, edited a small magazine for the Mounted Branch of the Metropolitan Police. Although that organ was primarily a social club publication I always endeavoured to include some form of historical content, be it an old photo of a mounted man or an article. Later in 1996 I began to edit and publish The Peeler, the magazine of the Friends of the Metropolitan Police Museum. This magazine has run to its 4th edition so far and I am still getting articles on the Mets. On that basis I am hoping that I will have little trouble in gleaning material from the readership of this Journal being that it covers many Constabularies and Forces nationwide. You may find that you will be reading a little more about Mounted policemen than you have in the past, my having been for many years a serving Horse Copper. Strangely enough there is

at least one article in this edition on horses albeit from Jeanne Williams in Sacramento, USA, pure coincidence of course. Other pieces give a fair cross-section of policing and its chequered history. I was particularly pleased to include an article on women police by Maureen Scollan and I would welcome other memories on this neglected subject. Alistair Dinsmore throws some light on the early policing of Glasgow and challenges some fondly held views of who was first in the enforcement field. Other Forces covered are Dorset, Surrey, Lincolnshire and Norwich. Europe features with an outline of the Prefecture of Paris by Roy Ingleton an established Police Historian from Kent. This county is also covered by G. S. Edwards account of the Murder of PC May in 1873. Lastly my own offering of the story of the Commissioners sword completes this Millenium edition.

I will finish by asking for more articles and contributions to your journal and assist me to continue to make this a worthwhile publication.

CHRIS FORESTER
Editor

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The Policemen from Doles Ash

Alfred Barrett (Superintendent, Retired, Dorset Police)

I am indebted to Mrs Thompson of Dorchester for the loan of a file relating to the farming community at Doles Ash, near Piddlehinton, during the later decades of the 19th century. Life was very hard, the houses primitive, wages for farm labourers were eight shillings a week for men and eight pence a day for women, little better than as was the case in 1834, the year of the Tolpuddle Martyrs. Farm hands were hired by the year from Lady Day, 6 April, when contracts were either renewed or the workers sought other employment. Hedging, ditching, turnip-hoeing, threshing corn with flails (they made their own tools) and mowing with scythes were their lot. The mowers formed a team of four and took pride in their work. A boy was paid one shilling and sixpence a week for pig-keeping or bird-starving (scaring). At one time there were 22 horses on the farm, not counting hackneys and hunters. The carters had to be in the stables by 4 a.m. during the summer, or when a worker was moving to a new employer. From October to March carters started out with the horses at 7 a.m. so had to be at the stable at 5 a.m. to clean the stable and feed and clean the horses. They then went home to breakfast and returned at 7 a.m. At this time all farm hands would be assembled. They then received orders and started to

work until 2 p.m. when they returned home to dinner before returning to work for the rest of the day. It was always necessary to work from about 7 to 8 in the evening, cleaning, feeding and bedding the horses down for the night. The bailiff would often visit the stables to see that everything was in order.

It was from these lowly stations in life on the farm that three men set forth to serve the community as Police officers.

William Saint, who had been born in 1864 at Doles Ash Farm, had worked on the farm until 1883 when he gave notice on Lady Day and sought other employment. He walked to Dorchester and, having failed to get employment at The South Western Railway Station as a porter, went to the County Police Station where he had an interview with the Deputy Chief Constable who took particulars, examined him in reading and writing, and told him that he would be notified when there was a vacancy. He returned to work at Doles Ash as a carter where, a vacancy having arisen, he became a 'full-blown carter' as he expressed it, at eleven shillings a week, which was the highest wage paid on the farm, a rate which was maintained in Dorset generally until the Great War. He then received notification to be at the Chief Constable's office on



From Wyke Regis reader Mr T. H. Cailes comes an early picture of those stout-hearted boys in blue. Taken in 1912 when instant justice in the form of a clip around the ear for minor transgressors was not howled down by legions of do-gooders, this picture shows the force at Portland police station. Standing from left: PCs 46 Hansford, 21 C. Cailes, 131 W. Tolley, 71 F. Norris, 42 Dyer, 21 Mitchell, 40 Guppy, 106 Hayward and 151 House. Sitting, from the left: PCs 4 F. Fall, 82 R. Gillam, Sgt F. Osment, Superintendent W. Saint, Sgt W. Brown, PCs 65 J. Swain and 47 T. Harvey

21 April, 1883. He then saw the Chief Constable, Captain Amyatt Brown, who served in that office from 1867-98. He was told that he looked very young. In fact he was just 19, but had given his age as 20. After some hesitation the Chief Constable said: 'Very well, if you pass the doctor, be here at 10 a.m. on Monday.' He passed the doctor, walked back to Doles Ash, arriving there early in the afternoon, when he took on his usual work for the remainder of the day and continued on the following day, Sunday, when he finished his farm work. William Saint recalled that he left home early on the Monday morning to walk to Dorchester, when he learnt that the village Constable, PC Ridout, had



been thrown into the river, no doubt The Piddle, the evening before. When he reached the Police Station, he reported what he had heard. Shortly after, the Constable and Superintendent Lavender drove into the yard. They had obtained a warrant for the arrest of the two men who had committed the deed. They had heard that they had gone to Dorchester and were not long in finding them.

William Saint, a great-uncle of Mrs Thompson, advanced in the service to the rank of Superintendent. He is shown in the photograph, taken at Portland Police Station in 1912, together with a surprisingly large number of officers who were stationed there at the time. PC Swain became a Superintendent at Poole, PC Dyer was at one time a trumpeter with the Assize Squad when the Judge was escorted to the Court. It will be seen from the other photograph that the officers at Portland won a trophy at the Dorset Constabulary Police Sports.

William Saint's brother, Charles, had been born at Whitcombe, Doles Ash, on 8 June, 1860. He attended school at Piddletrenthide. When he was six years old he went to work on Doles Ash Farm where he was employed until 8 January, 1884. He then joined the Police Force of The Borough of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis. He attained the rank of Sergeant and retired in 1910, having completed the 26 years service entitling him to a full pension. He was called up for further police

service at Weymouth during The Great War.

This was the last of the Borough Forces to join the County Force, which took place in 1921. The County Force had been established at the Mid-Summer Quarter Sessions in 1856 in accordance with the provisions of The County and Borough Police Act of that year.

Frederick Charles Saint, Mrs Thompson's father, was born on 1 August 1900. He was the eldest son of Charles, referred to previously, and a nephew of Superintendent Saint. He sought to fulfil his ambition far from his rural home, having joined the Metropolitan Police at the age of 20. When he was appointed Inspector he was one of the youngest men in the Force to hold the rank, and was later one of the first and youngest Superintendents to be appointed by Lord Trenchard, the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

Following his untimely death at the age of 43, his funeral took place at Wyke Regis. Amongst the mourners, as well as members of the family, were Superintendent S. Lovell, MBE, a first cousin, in charge of the Dorchester Division, Superintendent B. Sprackling of the Weymouth Division, Mr W. O. Powell, a Chief Constable, Superintendent S. Brind (representing the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police), Chief Inspector Hewson and Sergeant Collins of that Force.

My father, Alfred Barrett, was born at Piddlehinton, near Doles Ash, the son of a groom. After employment as an outfitter's assistant with the well-known firm of Jackmans (the name is still shown in a mosaic design at the entrance to Meech's shop), he joined the Dorset Constabulary on 31 October, 1908. After service at Portland, Bourne Valley and Poole he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in April 1914, to Inspector at Sturminster Newton in 1919, and to Superintendent in 1920 at Sherborne, where I was born. When, on 1 November, 1923, after only 15 years service, he was appointed Deputy Chief Constable he was the most junior of the eight Superintendents then serving. In 1942 he became the first Assistant Chief Constable of the Force and in 1946 was awarded the King's Police and Fire Services Medal for Distinguished Service. He died in August 1950 shortly before his expected date of retirement. An account of his funeral may be seen in The Dorset Year Book of 1950-51.

Although the principal duties of the Police, namely the prevention and detection of crime and the preservation of life and property, remain the same, in all other aspects the Service has changed almost beyond recognition. It is hoped that the lives of the members of Police families, dating from over 100 years ago, will prove to be of interest and an inspiration to those who follow in the Police tradition.

The Bicentenary of the Paris Prefecture of Police

Roy Ingleton

Towards the end of the XVIIIth Century, the First Republic under First Consul Napoleon Bonaparte felt the need to provide Paris with a specific, structured and efficient policing system.

In February 1800, a mere three months after it arrived on the public scene, the provisional government or 'Consulate' passed a law which provided for a Prefect to govern each of the administrative *départements* of France. In addition to the Prefect for the Seine *département*, an additional Prefect of Police was appointed to be specially responsible for the policing of Paris which at that time boasted just over half a million inhabitants. Article 16 of the Law provided that he would be 'responsible for all policing matters and will have under his command *commissaires* (superintendents) distributed throughout the twelve boroughs'. Just 20 days later, a member of the Central Bureau, Louis-Nicolas Dubois, then aged 42, was selected by Bonaparte to be the first to fill this post. To assist him one Antoine-Pierre de Piis was appointed Secretary-general. The Prefect was paid 30,000 francs a year and was to wear a blue morning coat and jacket and red trousers or breeches with a white cummerbund and a silver-braided hat.

His powers were laid down in a decree: general administrative powers including the issue of passports, security and hospitality cards, as well as residence permits. He was responsible for controlling begging, vagrancy and prisons as well as public buildings, hotels, boarding houses, gaming rooms and 'dens of vice'. He was to police unlawful assemblies and enforce the regulations regarding bookshops, printing presses and theatres, as well as the laws on immigrants, religious groups and deserters.

He also issued licences to carry firearms. Town police duties came next: he was to supervise public safety, street cleaning, fires, the stock exchange, exercise currency exchange control, oversee commerce, and collect taxes and fees, as well as having responsibility for monuments and public edifices.

Finally, he was responsible for crime. He could issue arrest warrants and bring accused persons before the courts. In all, a very wide range of powers which enabled one writer to say that 'they had recreated, in a way and under a different name, the functions of the lieutenant-general of police whose position was done away with in 1789'.

In this way, First Consul Bonaparte put a stop to the negligence and malpractices of certain elected officials. But more to the point, he provided a counter-balance to the powers of the Prefect for the Seine and reduced the influence of the all-powerful Joseph Fouché, Minister of Police. By an order dated 25 October 1800 he extended the authority of the Prefect of Police over the whole of the Seine *département* and certain suburbs of Paris.

At the time they were created, all the departments, administrative offices and operational services were located in the City, in the cramped former residence of the Speaker of Parliament where comfort was somewhat lacking.

The Prefect was assisted in his heavy burden by 48 *commissaires de police* (police superintendents), one for each district, making four in each borough. These had to maintain their offices at their own expense and were permitted to wear 'a black French-style suit with a tri-coloured belt with a black fringe and a plain French (i.e. Napoleon style) hat'. These carefully selected gentlemen included, for example, Louis-François Beffara who would be in the forefront of the failed assassination attempt on Bonaparte in the rue Saint Nicaise in December 1800.

At the same time the Prefect had at his disposal 24 inspectors. More operational, closer to the streets, they were issued with a white baton as a symbol of public authority. Assisted by detectives, these field officers were specially responsible for arrests.

In 1802, unlike Dubois, Fouché was opposed to the Senate's vote for the Consulate to continue for ever but he was not sufficiently discreet about it and fell out of favour. Bonaparte abolished the Ministry of Police and attached its functions to the Ministry of Justice but Fouché quickly consoled himself with the lucrative post of Senator for Aix. For his part, Dubois took the opportunity to extend his autonomy but he proved unable to quickly curb certain conspirators. In July 1804, two months after the inauguration of the First Empire, Napoleon drew on this experience and restored the Ministry of Police, with the indispensable Fouché at its head.

Although he was a State Counsellor and a Count of the Empire, Dubois found it difficult to hold his own against the all-powerful Minister of Police until in 1810 Fouché was once more in disgrace for having entered into dangerous liaisons with

England. Shortly afterwards, on 1 July, a chance happening served as a pretext for Napoleon to get rid of his Prefect of Police as well, the latter having been in post for 10 years. A fire during a ball at the Austrian embassy caused several dozen deaths and numerous burned casualties. Napoleon was there and could not fail to note the absence of Dubois and the inefficiency of the emergency services. On 14 October the Prefect was recalled to the Council of State.

He was replaced the same day by Etienne-Louis Pasquier, a member of an old family of lawyers who had nonetheless supported the Empire. This 43 year old magistrate and State Counsellor was noted for his moral rectitude and great probity, which was not something which could be said about his predecessor. Napoleon knew this, 'He who you are going to replace will have left you much to do on this road, much to put right. You will clean up the police for me'.

Despite all his good qualities, Pasquier allowed himself to be surprised by the incredible conspiracy of General Malet. The latter, claiming that the Emperor had died while engaged in the Russian campaign, tried to effect a coup d'état at four in the morning on 23 October 1812. He released from the Force prison the Republican general Lahorie who immediately, at the head of a company, seized the Prefect of Police, Minister of Police Savary and his assistant, Pierre-Marie Desmarest, and took them to the Force prison. By nine that morning, Malet was effectively the master of Paris but he had not counted on the loyalty of the general staff of the 1st Division who resisted the take-over and apprehended the dissidents. When Napoleon returned, Savary, Desmarest and

Pasquier managed to weather the storm, albeit with difficulty, but the over-complacent Prefect Frochot was dismissed.

Following Napoleon's forced abdication in April 1814, Pasquier managed to maintain order in the capital for a month, until the prefecture of police was disbanded by Louis XVIII on 12 May. De Piis, with the title of Assistant General Secretary, remained at the head of the Paris police. Assisted by three senior Counsellors of State he came successively under the control of Count Beugnot, then Baron d'André, both Directors-General of the Royal Police.

Re-established when the first Restoration of the monarchy came to an end in March 1815, the Prefecture of Police was directed during the Hundred Days by the prefect Louis de Bourrienne, then by Count Pierre Réal.

It has continued to operate without further interruption until the present day – two centuries of virtually unbroken existence.

Roy Ingleton served with the Kent County Constabulary from 1952 to 1978, retiring in the rank of Superintendent. He has an MA in Police Studies from Exeter University and is a Fellow of both the Institute of Linguists and the Institute of Translation and Interpreting.

He is the author of a number of published works on policing matters, including 'Police of the World', 'The Gentlemen at War', 'Mission Incomprehensible', 'The Great Debate – Arming the British Police', 'Elsevier's French/English Dictionary of Police and Criminal Law', etc., plus numerous articles.

A keen police historian, he is currently working on a definitive and official history of the policing of the county of Kent from 1800 to 2000.

Chief Officers of Borough Police Forces in Surrey

Richard Ford

In past days of the Surrey Constabulary there were three separate borough forces, all of them now amalgamated into the present-day County police.

Earliest of them was the Guildford Borough Police Force, which was formed in 1836 under Richard Jarlett as the Superintendent Constable, at a salary of £15 per annum. His was a part-time appointment as he was actually a High Street baker by occupation.

Five years later, on 28 September 1841, Charles Hollington was appointed Superintendent Policeman and Head Constable of the Borough at a wage of 25 shillings (£1.25) per week plus a house. Consideration was given to consolidating the Borough Force with the proposed new Surrey Constabulary in November 1850 and, no doubt in preparation for such an event, Superintendent Hollington resigned in the same year.

A merger with the newly-formed Surrey Constabulary took place in 1851 but the arrangement was considered unsatisfactory in 1854 so the Guildford Borough Police Force re-formed as a separate unit under the command of Superintendent Goff. Regrettably, he died on 31 December of the same year so was succeeded by Mr George Vickers. One of Mr Vickers' first duties was to appoint a 'medical man'; thus bringing the Borough Police into line with the Surrey Constabulary.

On 30 November 1863, following some serious rioting in Guildford by the notorious 'Guy's' mob, Vickers resigned his post as Head Constable. He was succeeded by the aptly named John Harvey Law, formerly an Inspector in the Surrey Constabulary. With the Mayor, Law was determined that the Guy's riots should be suppressed and in a violent confrontation on Boxing Day 1865 (a Sunday), his men, armed with cutlasses, emerged victorious and put an end to the activities of the Guy's gangs.

After 24 years loyal service to the borough Law retired in 1887 to be succeeded by William Berry. Compared with Law his term of office was short as he left in 1892 to become Chief Constable of Southampton.

His successor was William A. Worlock, who transferred from the Borough of Hove Police. His term of office included the period of the South African War when moving scenes were witnessed in Guildford streets and at the railway station as troops departed for overseas service. On the

occasion of the Relief of Mafeking, Chief Constable Worlock headed a procession through the town 'seated on a spirited charger'.

Mr Worlock died in 1909 and was then followed by William V. Nicholas, formerly Deputy Chief Constable of Oxfordshire. Necessarily a man of some versatility, he was required to undertake various other appointments as well as his police duties. Among these was the office of Inspector under the Butter and Margarine Act of 1907. Nicholas was another long-serving Chief Constable. Like his predecessor, he died in office in 1929 to be succeeded in command by Mr Walter Oliver, formerly the Deputy Chief Constable.

Mr Oliver was to be the last of the Guildford Borough Chief Constables. He retired in 1943 on the occasion of the wartime merger (later to become permanent) of the Borough Force into the Surrey Constabulary. On his last official appearance before the Town Council many tributes were paid to him and he was referred to as 'a genial, wise and dignified Chief Constable'. Replying, he said, 'I return thanks with a certain amount of regret at severing my connections with the Guildford Police.' At the Guildford Court both Bench and Bar paid similar tributes.

Next in order of seniority in formation of the Borough Forces was Godalming who established their Police in 1841 when they appointed William Henry Biddlecombe, formerly of the Hampshire Constabulary, as Superintendent. He held office until 1851 when the Godalming Borough Police was merged into the newly formed Surrey Constabulary in which he became Superintendent at Reigate.

The first marriage of the Godalming Borough Police with the Surrey Constabulary was not a happy one and the arrangement was ended in 1858, when a return to borough status was effected with Charles Everett as Superintendent and one constable to assist him.

In 1859 James Wheller assumed command, taking the title of 'Head Constable', a term which was to be used as well as Superintendent for some years. Wheller's term of office was not long as Thomas High became Head Constable in 1860, holding the additional appointment of 'Inspector of Nuisances and Low Lodging Houses' for which he received £7 10s. (£7.50) a year extra.

After five years with High as Head Constable the

command passed to Mr J. H. Burt in 1865. By 1869 H.M. Inspector of Constabulary was suggesting that the Borough Force should be merged into the Surrey Constabulary. Possibly taking serious heed of his words, the borough authorities increased the strength of the force in 1870 by one constable, making the establishment one Head Constable and two constables. At about this time Thomas High is reported as being Head Constable – probably the same man as before, but not necessarily so (such posts sometimes ran in families).

In 1879 High was succeeded by George Turner. Obviously the authorities wanted value for their money as by the following year Turner was holding several additional appointments including that of Inspector under the Dairy and Cowsheds Act. In 1880 the Godalming Almanac and Directory divided local residents into two classes, viz. 'Nobility, Clergy and Gentry' and 'Inhabitants and Traders'. The Head Constable came in the latter one.

But the days of the Godalming Borough Police were numbered and on April 1, 1889, under the provisions of the Local Government Act of the previous year, the force was merged with the Surrey Constabulary and the borough so remains to this day.

Last of the Borough Forces to be formed in Surrey was that of Reigate which was established in 1864 following the birth of the Borough by grant of a Royal Charter in the previous year.

The first Head Constable to be appointed was George Gifford but he resigned after only nine days to be replaced by Mr George Rogers. In its first year the force was reported by HM Inspector of Constabulary to be 'efficient in organization and numbers'. The strength, including the Head Constable, was 12.

Mr Rogers was succeeded as Head Constable in 1888 by Mr William Pearson, who resigned only three years later to be replaced by Mr William Morant. Mr Morant left in 1894 to become Chief Constable of South Shields and later Chief Constable of Durham. Inspector Philip Woodman of the Bradford Borough Police was appointed Head Constable of Reigate in October 1894 but

disaster was hot on his heels as before the year was out he was arrested for embezzling police funds at Bradford and was eventually sentenced to a term of imprisonment.

In December 1894, after a period of comparative instability, the Head Constableship passed safely into the hands of Mr James Metcalfe, formerly of the Bacup Borough Police, who was to command the Reigate Police with zeal and efficiency for the next 36 years. It was in his time, in 1896, that a dog, suspected of suffering from rabies, was summarily shot by PC Skeggs. Arrangements were then made by the Borough Sanitary committee, via the Head Constable, for a boy who had been bitten to be taken to the Pasteur Institute in Paris for treatment.

Mr Metcalfe was obviously careful and attentive to force equipment for in 1923 he issued an order restricting the use of the police bicycle to himself and the Inspector.

The end of 1930 saw the termination of Mr Metcalfe's long term of office and on 1 January 1931 he was succeeded by Mr William Henry Beacher, formerly a Superintendent in the West Sussex Constabulary. On taking up office Mr Beacher adopted the more modern title of Chief Constable instead of that of Head Constable which was gradually falling into disuse in the police service. As an ex-soldier he was keenly interested in athletics and was also a very fine horseman who soon became a familiar figure on mounted duty on the streets. But he was also technically minded and forward looking. Novel ideas of his were the formation of an air section and a high-speed car section from suitably qualified pilots and racing car drivers who he appointed as Special Constables. (A far cry from Mr Metcalfe and his bicycle.)

In 1943, similarly with Guildford, the Reigate Borough Police Force was merged into the Surrey Constabulary in what was alleged to be a temporary wartime measure but which later became permanent in 1947. Mr Beacher accepted the situation with dignity and fortitude and continued to serve as superintendent of the newly-formed Reigate Division of the amalgamated force. He retired in 1951 and returned to his native Sussex where he died on 1 June 1974.

Glasgow Police Pioneers

Many books have been written on the history of the 'British' police by generations of police historians, but it would appear that the vast majority have overlooked the contribution that the development of some Scottish police forces played in the evolution of preventative policing in Britain.

Even today, in what we call enlightened times, video documentaries and books are being produced, using 1829 as the historical base line, discounting, with the exception of the Thames Police, the innovative and pivotal work of the early pioneers of preventative policing in the rest of Britain in general and Scotland in particular. There seems to be a tendency to dismiss any policing organisation before 1829 as not being 'real' policemen, just a collection of old night watchmen or bumbling parish constables. It may, therefore, come as a surprise to those dazzled by the radiance of Peel's police reforms in London, that preventative policing was evolving successfully in the majority of the 11 Scottish cities and towns who had their own Police Acts, prior to 1829.

There is no doubt that Peel excelled as a Statesman and Parliamentarian, demonstrating his belief in the preventative policing concept by his determination to overcome the many obstacles put in his way by the rich and influential merchants and bankers of the City of London. To their eternal discredit, they brought tremendous political and financial pressures to bear, in an effort to defeat his proposals every step of the way. He also deserves the credit for re-organising the morass of parish constables, 'Charlies' and other miscellaneous agencies in the 108 Parishes that constituted London at that time, which was an immense task'. However, his 'New Police' were only new to the people of London and the majority of English cities and towns. His dream that they would spread, as a national organisation, throughout England did not happen. What he did achieve was that the 'New Police' obviously inspired, and provided an organisational template, for the many towns and cities who had not yet established police forces themselves.

The small number of police historians who have looked at the Scottish perspective have no hesitation in acknowledging that policing in Scotland developed much earlier than south of the border and, despite the differing legal system, were more influential than most people think.² The key is

the connection between Patrick Colquhoun's civic duties in Glasgow and the contemporaneous establishment of a police force by the Council on which he served, that does not appear to have been linked before now.

The majority of serious students of British Policing history maintain that Patrick Colquhoun (1745-1820) was the first person to write down the concept of preventative policing in his book 'A Treatise on the Policing of the Metropolis' in 1795.³ It is also well documented that the concept contained in his book, together with the practical expertise of John Harriot, resulted in the founding of the private Marine Police Establishment, on the Thames in 1798. The Marine Police Establishment was thereafter acknowledged as an example of the practical application and success of the 'preventative policing principle', when the establishment of preventative policing in London was being debated.

When we look closely at Patrick Colquhoun's life in Glasgow, apart from his service as a Baillie (Magistrate), his activities were concerned mainly with commerce, which included his founding of the Tontine Coffee House and the first Chamber of Commerce. He also used his business connections to secure work for the growing cotton and muslin industries, essential to the regeneration of Glasgow following the collapse of tobacco importation from America. With this background, we must ask ourselves where Colquhoun got the inspiration for his detailed concept of 'disciplined, preventative and proactive policing', so eloquently laid out in his 'Treatise on the Policing of the Metropolis'.

It was while Patrick Colquhoun was active as a Merchant Baillie on the Magistrate Courts of Glasgow and as a Merchant Councillor in the Council, that deliberations on the establishment of a policing system in the City were taking place all around him. A Police force had been established in Glasgow in February 1779 and James Buchanan appointed Inspector, but it was not financially supported by a rating system. It was obviously a success in its first year, as on 12 April 1780, Inspector Buchanan was re-commissioned by the Council.

Unfortunately, James Buchanan resigned on 5 April 1781 for reasons unknown, but he was not replaced and it would appear that the policing system collapsed through lack of finance.⁴

Following the failure of the first Glasgow Police,

the City Council set up a 'committee of council' to consider the appointment of an inspector of police, his powers and other relevant details. As a result, this committee of six would produce an innovative and ground-breaking report which laid down, for the first time, the foundations of a disciplined, preventative and proactive police force for the City. This effectively established them as 'policing pioneers' although they have not, until this time, been recognised as such.

The six member committee was lead by John Campbell the Lord Provost, and included the Dean of Guild Alex Low, the Deacon Convenor John Tennent, Merchant Baillies John Dunlop and John Alston, and Trades Baillie Ninian Glen. The main recommendations submitted in the committee's report of 10 December 1788 were radical and innovative, laying down the basic regulations for a preventative Police force, a far cry from the old city guard, and militia.

The report recommended that the Council should appoint an 'Intendent of Police', eight uniformed police officers, who would also wear numbered badges with the word 'Police' inscribed thereon. They would swear an 'oath for the faithful execution of their duty' and lodge £50 for 'their honest and faithful behaviour' during the time they were in office. Their duties would include:

- (a) patrolling the streets to detect and prevent crimes during the day, the evenings and at night.
- (b) detecting house and shop breaking and theft by pocket picking.
- (c) searching for stolen goods and detecting reseters (receivers) of stolen goods.
- (d) gathering information on crimes, convicted persons and the public houses they frequent, recording it in a book for the purpose.
- (e) suppressing riots, squabbles, begging and singing songs.
- (f) apprehending vagabonds, vagrants and disorderly persons.
- (g) Controlling carts and carriages.

From this short extract, it can be seen that the Committee were, whilst responding to the problems they were seeing in the city at that time, laying the foundation for the establishment of a police force with duties we could easily recognise as the basic duties of today's police service.⁵

It is interesting to note that in his 'Treatise on the Policing of the Metropolis', Colquhoun gave examples of what he saw as the objectives of a preventative police and they included, in particular, the pursuit of thieves and receivers of stolen property, gathering and recording information on

criminals, supervising licensed premises where criminals frequent, controlling carriages,⁶ some of the key points of the 1788 Glasgow Committee Report.

The Committee initially overcame the problem of finance, first encountered by the 1778 police force, by suggesting that the many Trades Houses could meet the cost of the police force from the coffers and maintain the payments until they obtained an Act of Parliament empowering the Council to levy a rate for that purpose. It was proposed that such an Act should be obtained as soon as possible.⁷

When the Council received the report on 19 February 1789, the main change instigated was that the force should be under the direction of the Lord Provost, three Baillies and nine Commissioners. The Commissioners would be elected annually from the traders and merchants of the City. This concept of having the Police controlled by 'the people' and not, as in England, by a Magistrate in his Police Office, was another innovation far ahead of its time, and is the basis of the local government Police Committee system still in use in all parts of Britain (except the Metropolis).⁸

The second Glasgow Police force was established in April 1789 and the Council immediately set about the requisite procedures to obtain the Act of Parliament they needed for its upkeep.⁹

In the meantime, Patrick Colquhoun took his family to London in the hope of securing a Government post in America, but it was not to be. He accepted a post as a Magistrate with responsibility for Middlesex, Surrey, Kent and Essex.

Although Patrick Colquhoun had not been an appointed member of the Committee of Council, as a Baillie and a member of the Merchant Council, he had access to all the proposals and meetings relative to the founding of the Glasgow Police of 1789. The members of the Committee were his friends and colleagues whom he met almost every day in his activities in the city. Before moving to London, he would also see the effectiveness of the Glasgow Police of 1789 for the first nine months of their existence, when they brought offenders before him in his court. There are, therefore, ample grounds for believing that Patrick Colquhoun used his knowledge of the regulations governing the duties and responsibilities of the Glasgow Police as a reference when he suggested the 'disciplined, preventative and proactive Police force' in his 'Treatise on the Policing of the Metropolis'.

However, it was not until 30 June 1800, that the Glasgow Police Act received Royal Assent,¹⁰ (four weeks before the Thames Police Act of 28 July), after having been continually delayed by Parliament for eight years. This delay had

contributed to the failure of the second Glasgow Police force, again due to lack of finance in 1790.

With the passing of the Glasgow Police Act of 1800, the way was clear for the City Council to levy each property to support the Police without fear of the previous crippling financial constraints, which brought the collapse of the two previous police forces. A merchant, John Stenhouse, was hired as Master of Police and nine police officers, including three sergeants, were taken on as the total strength of the force. They were divided into three reliefs, providing 24 hour patrols on the streets and the continuous manning of the police office, which was the Session House of the Laigh Kirk in Trongate.¹¹ Watchmen still manned fixed points throughout the city as was customary, while the police officers patrolled. The success of this small force resulted in the removal to the suburbs of many of the city's criminal inhabitants, thereby prompting the citizens of Gorbals, Calton and Anderston to obtain similar Acts of Parliament in 1808, 1819 and 1824 respectively.

By 1829, there were preventative Police forces in 10 other Scottish cities, on similar lines to the Glasgow Police. Glasgow Police had also progressed their organisational innovation by appointing its first detective in 1819 and a Criminal Department followed within two years. The Central Police Office in Glasgow was opened in 1825¹² and, unlike the 'Police Offices' of the English Magistracy, functioned just as the police administrative and custodial centres we know today.

It is known that Peel was a frequent visitor to Scotland early in the century, and it is more than likely that he was aware of the policing evolution that was taking place. The part played by Colquhoun in carrying the idea to London and incorporating some of its principles in his acclaimed book, does provide the likely source of that portion of his work which dealt with his vision of preventative policing.

Seeing the process as a period of evolution from the end of the 18th century, through 1829 and beyond, is more realistic when account is taken of the changes and improvements taking place throughout the United Kingdom, rather than the insular view that all the important policing innovations were happening in London. It is also more accurate to conclude that the pre-1829 period was an integral part of the evolution of policing in Britain, than to credit Robert Peel with 'inventing' the policing system in 1829, as so many appear to do¹³. The 'New Police' were a pivotal point in the evolution of preventative policing in Britain, rather than its beginning, and when viewed as a process of

evolution, it is difficult to credit Peel with founding British 'preventative policing' over 40 years after the idea was first put into practice elsewhere.

So, it becomes clear that whilst the Metropolitan Police of 1829 could, thanks to Rowan and Mayne, claim to be better organised and administrated than anything Londoners had known before, the pioneering work had been carried out during the preceding 40 years in Glasgow and other British cities. The organisational lessons learned by the early forces were easily avoided in the setting up of Peel's 'New Police' and together with the financial backing of the Government, the financial problems which had been encountered elsewhere, were easily overcome.

The activities of the early Glasgow policing pioneers are reasonably well known to local historians in Glasgow for around 100 years and the original minutes of the Committee in Council of 1788/9 have been available for research for at least that period¹⁴. Therefore, it would appear that their significance, especially when compared with Colquhoun's Treatise of 1795, has been overlooked by police historians over the years, an oversight hopefully rectified by this article. It is, of course, important that the contribution of less well-known personages and forces in the evolution of the British Police is acknowledged and recorded, for the benefit of all.

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If You Want to Know the Time Pre-war Policing in Norwich

by Ernie Croxson

Over the last 30 years policing in Norwich has seen many changes. The modern police date back to 1829 when Sir, Robert Peel founded the Metropolitan Police. Previous to that, the law enforcement was carried out by Justices of the Peace. In Norfolk there were 42 of these. In Norwich the Aldermen were the Justices. A body of influential businessmen and gentlemen they were self selected and self-perpetuating. They were assisted by the parish constables, two to each of the 12 wards, one appointed by the common councillors and one by the aldermen. Another body called the Watch patrolled the streets during the hours of darkness, apparently calling out the time and giving weather forecasts.

Following the passing of the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835, boroughs such as Norwich were allowed to appoint full-time officers such as Town Clerk, Treasurer, Surveyor, etc., and also to employ a full-time police force. Norwich quickly took advantage of this and early in 1836 William Yarrington as Superintendent with 18 men paraded for duty. The pay was between 35p and 52p per week less 5p per week stopped for uniform. The night watch continued as before until embodied into the police. In the first 50 years the force expanded to 100 men and at the end of the next 50 years to 154 men.

Other duties were imposed on them, including fire brigade duties. Eventually by 1935 these were carried out by four full-time firemen, an inspector, sergeant and two sub-engineers, and 24 single men living in a section house, performing normal police duties but available for fire-fighting during their off-duty time. They were allowed free time every third day from 2 p.m. until midnight and their weekly leave day. Payment for this was three shillings (15p) per week for being on call plus two shillings and sixpence (12p) for each fire attended or five shillings (25p) if water was used. These men, like all policemen, were required to remain single for at least the first three years of their service and had to request permission to get married.

Ambulance work was another task, originally by handcart, then a covered hand ambulance, then horsedrawn and finally motor ambulances. Other responsibilities were for weights and measures enforcement, supervision of Hackney carriages, explosives and street obstructions.

The police station in 1935 was where it had started 100 years before, in the east end of the Guildhall. The administrative headquarters was a corrugated iron building at the south end of the market place containing the Chief Constable, superintendents, inspectors and general offices with the Hackney carriage office and a parade room.

Of the 154 men on the strength, only 10 were used on ancillary duties such as fire brigade, weights and measures and administration. The criminal investigation department was eight detectives plus two uniform branch as plain-clothes aides.

Pay in 1935 was 58 shillings (£2.90) per week on commencement, rising to 70 shillings (£3.50) after 17 years. The maximum could be achieved in 15 years on passing the promotion examination to sergeant which could be taken after five years.

Norwich itself was a vastly different place to today. It was still very much in the nineteenth century with narrow streets with much of the lighting being 60-watt lamps. All the main streets in the city still had yards with houses still occupied. Many of these yards were paved with cobbles and all were criss-crossed with washing lines. They were a constant hazard to the patrolling night-duty policeman, with loss of helmet or even near strangulation or smothering when sheets were left out.

The market place was cleared every Saturday evening and replaced for the Sunday evening meetings held by the Labour Party, the Communist Party, Mosley's Fascists and, usually in the middle, Surrey Chapel. Pre-war Sunday evenings off were a rarity.

The police worked three shifts, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. and 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. The day shifts were worked alternately between 2 p.m. and the next 2 p.m. with the next 24 hours off. This continued for two months and was followed by one month on night duty.

There were 10 foot beats within the city walls taking between 1 hour and 3 hours to complete. They were on a laid-down route with conference points at 15 or 30 minute intervals. This enabled the supervising sergeant or inspector to know where each man was at any given time, or at least where he should be.

On joining, a recruit had to pass an entrance examination. He was kitted out with a second-hand uniform, very ill fitting, consisting of two pairs of

trousers, two tunics with high collars, double-breasted overcoat, two capes, two helmets and the usual appointments of staff, handcuffs, pocket books, etc. The shiny badges of one helmet had to be blacked over with enamel for night duty. An allowance of 6d per week was paid to purchase boots. My first pair cost 10 shillings (50p).

Weekly leave was by rota, Monday one week, then Tuesday, etc., until Saturday when Sunday was taken with it. Annual leave was 12 days a year and taken at any time between February and November. It could be changed by mutual consent with another officer. Twelve days meant that one usually had to return to duty on a Saturday unless weekend leave coincided with the beginning or end of the leave period.

Thirty minutes refreshment time was allowed sometime between the third hour of the shift and the end of the shift as convenient to the service. It was taken on the two day shifts in the canteen opposite the old fire station in Pottergate or, on the night shift, in the Guildhall for the men on the city centre beats or one of the wooden police boxes scattered around the city for the outer beats. These were warmed by a small electric ring and tea or coffee was distributed by car in enamel cans. The man delivering the tea or coffee often tried to help by switching the heating ring on and putting the drink on it to keep warm. Unfortunately if the beat man was delayed, the drink could be boiled for a long period until he arrived and was not fit to drink.

All reports were written in a pocket book with indelible pencil. For many years it had to be written in the street and, when it rained, became a horrible mess. All reports were prefixed by the phrase 'I have to report' and concluded by 'I am, Sir, Your Obedient Servant'.

Discipline was strict, being enshrined in a Discipline Code of several pages. A Beat Book was issued laying down a route to be followed and times for conference points and telephone calls to the station. The main offences that could be committed against the Discipline Code were 'Failing to work his beat in accordance with orders', 'Disobedience to orders' (and this could include any order ever made over the past 100 years), 'Idling and gossiping whilst on duty', 'Insubordinate conduct by word or demeanour' including the old favourite of dumb insolence. One particularly heinous crime was being late for duty. The punishment for this could be a fine of one day's pay. If the man was late for the 5.45 a.m. - 2 p.m. shift he was also sent home to return for the 1.45 p.m. - 10 p.m. shift. Other punishments ranged from five shillings (25p), 10 shillings (50p - one or two days pay), up to 30 shillings (£1.50), or a reduction of pay up to 20 shillings (£1) per week.

Police motor transport was rare. In the 20s and early 30s, two BSA three wheeled-cars were in use, to be replaced by two Austin 10 h.p. two-seater open tourers with a rear 'Dicky' seat, and to see this with four hefty policemen full out was a sight to behold. Their main job was as traffic patrols to catch errant motorists, Road Traffic Acts having been passed by Parliament in 1930 and 1933 and a speed limit of 30 m.p.h. having been introduced in built up areas in March 1935.

Two extras were required of recruits. One was that they should be able to swim 50 yards and swimming instruction took place in the Eagle Baths, Heigham Street, at 6 a.m., usually after a night on duty; not very conducive to great energy. The other skill to be learnt was first aid and all officers had to undertake a course of this every year for three years, held on a Sunday after noon from 2 to 4 p.m., on duty or off duty; and usually the latter with no time off in lieu.

On joining the force all recruits did a period on night duty, sometimes as long as three months, in 'the company of an experienced officer,' being shown the beats and lock-up premises. It appeared that this was what police work was all about: lock-up premises!

They had to be examined during the evening, two, three or four times a night and again on the early shift to ensure that they were secure, had not been entered or that unusual lights were not left burning. To miss an insecure door or window or unusual light on night duty got you hauled out of bed before the Inspector to explain why you had not seen whatever it was, and could mean being charged with an offence against the discipline code or, if repeated too many times, the sack.

When there were sufficient numbers of recruits, classes in police law and procedures were run. Three hours in the afternoon dealt with law and reports, and the final hour was foot drill and practising saluting, this to the petrol pump in the fire station yard.

Saluting was considered still important, it being required that all Inspectors and above, including Aldermen, Councillors and Magistrates received this honour. One hour a week was spent on fire drill as all policemen were expected to be trained firemen.

Then came the great day when you were allowed out on your own, in daylight.

All served two years on probation and services could be dispensed with without appeal under the heading of 'Unlikely to become an efficient policeman'; and there were many who departed under that heading. In daytime the city centre provided varied interests, including dealing with motorists who still wanted to stop outside all the shops they

visited and businessmen who thought they should be allowed to leave their cars outside the front doors of their offices. Evening and nights could be more boring and gave time for window shopping, visits to the projection rooms of some of the cinemas, cups of tea and, not entirely unknown, supper.

Probably the worst to contend with was a wet shift. The sole wet weather clothing was a cape of thick Melton cloth reaching to just above the knees. This soaked up the rain which then dripped to the bottom edge and onto the trousers and became very uncomfortable after eight hours. Boots had to be special to keep out the rain for eight hours of solid rainfall and rubber boots were not comfortable for an eight hour shift. On the other hand, to be on a cycle beat on a lovely summer day was a very pleasant way of passing eight hours.

Christmas Day was recognised by a shift of only four hours and the whole force did their four hours, otherwise it was business as usual.

One of the highlights of the late 30s was the opening of the new police station and City Hall. It was such a vast contrast to the Guildhall and tin hut, although it must be said that almost anything would have been an improvement, and the new building was soon to be stretched to its grander limits.

Just before the outbreak of World War II, further

communications were installed consisting of over 50 pillar telephones at strategic points around the whole of the city, with a flashing red light to indicate that the patrolling policeman was required.

Contrary to modern beliefs, violence was not unknown and the policemen of the day had not the instant back-up provided by personal radios and vehicles but had to deal with all incidents on their own. Arrests were mostly brought to the station on foot from the city centre.

The coming of the war brought bonuses, particularly on night duty. There were numerous service canteens, firewatchers, civil defence wardens, etc., all brewing up tea round the clock and willing to share it. Undoubtedly the war was responsible for many changes in police work; these reflected the many changes in society. Criminals were no longer confined to their own areas and, with the improvements to roads and vehicles, the police responded by becoming more mobile. Traffic police became more frequent in an attempt to halt the rising casualty figures and road traffic law became more complex, unfortunately resulting in more strained relationships between police and public; at least the motoring public who did not always realise the terrible cost of road incidents.

No doubt the police service will continue to change and adapt to the demands made upon it but can never return to the methods from 1835 to 1935.

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Letters to the Editor

From the desk of:
Mr Reginald Hale,
Cheltenham,
Gloucs.

30th April 2000

Dear Chris

Having just escaped my 14th visit to Cheltenham General Hospital and being idle at home, I decided to go through the PHS membership list to see if I could find anyone who might be interested in the early history of the Metropolitan Police as several officers from that Force were loaned or transferred to early Police Organisations in Gloucestershire and I came across your name. The following names may be of interest to you.

In 1821 the Commissioners of Cheltenham obtained an Act, part of which included the words 'For regulating the Police'. A Watch Committee was set up to supervise the policing and such supervision was exercised by a former Police Officer which was crucial in a move to improve the Watch. When this officer resigned the Town Surveyor and High Constable, George Russell, was appointed to Police Superintendent at £200 per year.

In the case of Tewkesbury Town the Town Clerk Joshua Thomas, who had been sent to confer with Richard Mayne, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, returned with advice as to the size of the Force and its rate of pay. This Force was to replace the Old Watch system. In the event a Sergeant Eaton of the Metropolitan Police was loaned at the rate of 5s (25p) per day, plus expenses to advise the newly formed Watch Committee during his fortnights stay.

He suggested that the Force should consist of a Sergeant and four Constables who may have been appointed sometime after the 24th January 1836.

The influence of the Metropolitan Police continued when Constable Henry Rackham an ex-member of this Force was sworn in as a Sergeant at Tewkesbury on the 8th June 1836. He remained until 27th June 1838.

There were two other Sergeants appointed between this last date and 1854 when the Town Force was absorbed into the Gloucestershire Constabulary. They were John Martin and a J. Herbert – it is not clear whether these officers were ex-Metropolitan.

In 1834 after a particularly vicious murder and robbery an experienced Metropolitan Police

Officer was employed by the Stow on the Wold Magistrates to assist in discovering the identity of the perpetrators. He was unable to discover the killers and returned to London.

On 11th January 1836 the Magistrates made a request to Colonel Charles Rowan, CB, the Co. Commissioner with Mayne for two experienced Police Officers to serve at Stow on the Wold as residents. As a result, James Otway and George Millington were sent in early 1836 and probably served there until 1st July 1840. At this time Henry Makepeace was appointed 2nd Class Superintendent of Police in the Stow District.

In November 1830 during the 'Swing' riots a Metropolitan Police Officer was despatched from London to Dursley to assist the Town Commissioners to control the striking cloth workers.

From August 1834 to December 1836 George Cooper, another ex-Metropolitan Policeman served at Bourton on the Water, also patrolling the adjoining parishes of Ashton Blank, Little Rissington and Clapton. After this date he also included Little Slaughter in his perambulations.

Home office records show that Metropolitan Police Officers were loaned to the various authorities around Gloucestershire at Andoversford, Bourton on the Water, Cheltenham, Fairford, Minchinhampton as well as Tewkesbury.

I hope that this is of some interest to you.

Kind regards,

Reg Hale

From the desk of:
Mr Alan D. Course
Cherryhinton,
Cambridge

Dear Chris

I am writing to you as a point of contact about a ring in my mother's possession. My mother, Mrs Violet Course, is now 82 years of age and has a black ring that belonged to her father, Charles Webb, who was in the Metropolitan Police, Thames Division for 25 years until his retirement on 28th July 1924. I know that the date is correct because I

still have a smoking cabinet inscribed and presented to him on his retirement. The black ring has a number of colours cut into the face and was apparently made from a cable and presented to a number of serving police officers in London. For what reason she does not know, but she is adamant about the presentation and is very proud of it. My mother, and indeed I, would very much like to

know of any history that may be available about these rings or indeed the circumstances leading up to their presentation; hopefully if such a history is available it may be of interest to your society too.

Any information and pointers in the right direction would be very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Alan D. Course

Notes made at the time? An Essex Woman Patrol's notebook

Maureen Scollan

The sight of uniformed women police officers causes little or no comment today as they work alongside their male colleagues on the full range of police duties. It has not always been so. Women seeking acceptance within the masculine world of policing have been obliged to tread a stony path; often having to face negative attitudes towards them as individuals, while trying to prove that they could make a positive contribution in what had long been considered a purely masculine occupation. As long as policemen's wives were expected to chaperone female prisoners, few policemen at the end of the 19th century could see the need for women to have any official involvement in police work.

Some of the earliest moves to give women a policing role can be traced to an article in the 1870s in *Prevention*, the journal of the National Council for Public Morals. The writer of the article suggested that if the Home Office encouraged the appointment of a few specially trained police-women in larger towns, more humane methods in police operations might result.¹ The suggestion was not received enthusiastically! After its establishment in 1893 the *Police Review* regularly invited readers to express their feelings about being accompanied on duty by 'cohorts of ladies . . . and how pleasant upon the long beat might such co-operation prove'. Few American police forces showed any more enlightenment towards the employment of women as police officers: intending recruits to the Chicago Police in 1913 had to demonstrate their strength and agility by lifting a 35 pound dumb-bell while hopping across the floor. Apparently that was a skill that women were not expected to have.²

While some could see a minor role for women as searchers of female prisoners, few chief constables contemplated such women being accepted as full members of a force and given powers of arrest. 'On the whole women constables are not only unnecessary but objectionable, because they would inevitably lead to what one may call specialised enlistment.'³

It was the beginning of the First World War in August 1914 that prompted changes in attitudes towards the employment of women in a wide variety of different roles. Many women jumped at the chance to take over what were previously considered men's jobs, and thereby widen their horizons. Within a few months of the beginning of the war, an epidemic broke out of what became known as 'khaki fever', its 'victims' were the women and girls who became strongly attracted to men in military uniforms.

'War turned men into heroes, while women thought the war was going to be so fine that they could do anything to help . . . the easiest way to gain this was the ownership of a soldier lover. It prevented the feeling of being left out . . .'⁴

Towns having large railway stations and army camps became particularly vulnerable, as girls and women flocked to seek the company of soldiers. The presence of groups of women working together in munitions factories was also a source of disquiet to the authorities: some felt that their morals needed to be supervised. At least three organisations accepted the role of supervising morals early in the war, and although their

ideological agendas were different, each one wanted to protect women from becoming embroiled in the white slave trade, and to provide moral guidance and advice for victims of 'khaki fever'. Many of the full-time Women Police Volunteers were former suffragettes who wanted a permanent policing role when hostilities were over. The rival Women Police Service was commanded by an upper-class lady named Margaret Damer Dawson, and when she realised that the two groups had similar objectives they combined, and she became their commandant.

The third organisation interested in giving women a policing role had a more direct impact in the county of Essex. In September 1914 the Patrols Committee of the National Union of Women Workers – later renamed the National Council of Women – established a number of schools for women police in various parts of the country. Suitable volunteers were trained in law and welfare procedures, and sent to work in towns which had branches of the NUWW. While the trained women organisers received a small wage, the local volunteers they recruited did not. The volunteer women patrols generally worked in pairs, wearing ordinary clothes of 'a dark and unobtrusive character', plus an armband to signify their function: they had no police powers, so had to call upon a male officer to make any arrests.

By June 1916 the Criminal Law Amendment Committee was urging all chief constables to include 'properly qualified women in the police force with full recognition and status'. It was a plea which fell on deaf ears in many county forces, although some of the borough forces like Colchester were more open-minded and innovative; two women constables were appointed there in July 1918 and paid £2 15s a week, five shillings a month clothing allowance and one shilling a week for boots.⁵ After the Standing Joint Committee of Essex Constabulary discussed the question of appointing women in 1916, its members agreed that further discussion was unnecessary for at least two years!

During 1917, however, voluntary patrols organised by the National Union of Women Workers started patrolling in two Essex towns – Romford (now a London borough) and Brentwood. When their services were withdrawn in March 1918 the Justices of the Romford bench were still concerned about morality in the Romford area. Captain Unett, then the Chief Constable of Essex, was requested to employ two full-time, paid women police patrols, initially for six months, while soldiers continued to be billeted in the Romford area. The six months was extended in stages until October 1919.

The *Romford Times* for 7 August 1918 recorded that a Mrs Alice Maud Wilson and a Miss Dora Jordan had begun duty three days earlier as women police patrols. While on duty each wore a dark blue jacket and skirt, and a hat with the letters NUWW (National Union of Women Workers); their uniforms were provided by the Union, but the Essex Constabulary was asked for (and grudgingly paid!) a contribution of £5 8s towards the cost. The women patrols were paid five shillings each a day, plus a monthly boot allowance of 3s 8d; 1s 3d a month was deducted for insurance. Although the Essex Constabulary paid the two women they had no police powers and could not carry out a formal arrest.

Woman Patrol Dora Jordan's pocket notebook was issued to her on 3 August 1918 at Romford police station, and is still a cherished document owned by her daughter, who kindly allowed it to be used for this article. The notebook measures 5.5 inches by 3.5 inches and was obviously bought specially at a price of one shilling, as it is completely different to the type of notebook usually issued to policemen. It could be said that police work was in Dora Jordan's blood, for when she was born in 1892 at Broxton in Essex her father was the village policeman, and two of Dora's brothers subsequently followed their father into the Essex force.

Dora Jordan was 22 years old when she made the first entry in her notebook, having already spent several years 'in service' at Latchingdon Rectory, the parish in which her family originated. Alice Wilson, the second woman patrol, seems to have been an older person who was always formally referred to in both Dora's notes and conversation as 'Mrs Wilson'. Dora's initial training does not seem to have included much about how to complete her notebook entries, as the first few pages are untidy, with crossing-out, insertions, and incomplete notes containing hearsay evidence. Practice obviously improved things, however, and later entries are more detailed.

The first entry in the notebook is timed at 8.15 p.m. on 4 August 1918, and records Dora's concern at the waiting room door on Romford railway station being locked. One wonders what could have been going on inside? There are a number of references in the notebook to girls whom Dora saw and spoke to while they were in the company of New Zealand soldiers, possibly from the New Zealand expeditionary force which was billeted at Grey Towers Camp in nearby Hornchurch. Grace Cant, for example, was cautioned against sitting on a railway station window ledge with soldiers, while a girl recorded only as 'Christy' has several references in the notebook for keeping company

with different New Zealand soldiers. Dora was later obliged to keep observations on a house thought to be used as a brothel for soldiers. Another girl who was investigated for being friendly to German prisoners of war working in the area told the women patrols that she thought the Germans were 'a jolly decent lot of fellows'.

Although women patrols were not generally welcomed at a high level in the Essex police force, there is some evidence that the operational policemen appreciated the work they did. As long as the women patrols restricted their duties to welfare matters and dealing with women and girls they were tolerated. When His Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary visited Romford on 21 November 1918 a photograph was taken of everyone present; the fact that the two women patrols were also included suggests some sort of acceptance, even if they had no police powers.

On 5 December 1918 the two women patrols were involved in a different sort of incident in one of the main streets in Romford. While returning to the police station they came upon a runaway horse dragging a brewer's dray with no lights. 'Mrs Wilson shouted to someone to stop the horse', records the notebook, 'as it was obvious that the driver was quite incapable of managing it . . . being hopelessly drunk'. A passing youth caught the horse, and the drunken driver was taken to the police station where a male constable had to formally make the arrest because the women patrols had no such powers.

Amongst the official entries in Dora Jordan's notebook is a tantalising insight into her private life. On Friday 17 January 1919 she 'went to London for the day (leave) and had a most enjoyable time in the night watch'. The word 'scandal' is written in the margin of this entry, but without further explanation!

As long as soldiers remained in the Romford

area the two women patrols continued their advisory role with official approval, but their contracts were finally terminated on 31 October 1919. It is not known what happened to Alice Wilson, but Dora Jordan returned to her family home and was later married to a farm bailiff from Great Bardfield. According to her daughter she was proud of her police experiences in Romford, and always regarded herself as having been a police-woman, even though she had no power of arrest.

The preventive work carried out in Romford by the two women patrols was sorely missed, and in 1924, a group of women's organisations in the town petitioned the Chief Constable for policewomen to be reappointed. In 1926 the Federation of Essex Women's Institutes also joined a campaign aimed at persuading the Chief Constable to appoint full-time policewomen in Essex. Captain Unett replied in the following terms:

'In large cities the employment of women police is probably found to be desirable and useful, but in my opinion there is at the present time no town within my jurisdiction whatever for their employment.'

It took another world war before Captain Unett's successor was obliged to change his mind and appoint policewomen with full powers in the Essex Police.

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The Murder of PC Israel May at Snodland, Kent, 1873

G. S. Edwards

Constable 2nd class Israel May was the local constable of the Kent County Constabulary stationed at Snodland, a small village near Rochester. He had been stationed there for 30 months and was described as a fine built man who stood nearly six feet tall. He was aged 37 years, married with three small children, he was well liked and respected by the villagers who described him as being civil, quiet and temperate, important qualities for a detached constable in those days.

On the evening of Saturday 23 August 1873, PC Israel May commenced his 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. patrol of the village on foot. At a quarter to eleven that evening PC May was seen speaking to a man who was drunk and leaning against the wall of the 'Bull Inn'. He advised the man to go home but was met with a load of abuse. Two soldiers of the Royal Engineers who were passing were heard to intervene between the drunk and PC May. The constable was then called away to deal with another disturbance elsewhere in the village, leaving the drunk outside the 'Bull' which is situated near the centre of the village.

At 1 a.m. on the Sunday morning PC May was seen by a Mrs Selina Upton, wife of a beer house keeper at Ham Hill, which is a mile from Snodland village, they had a short conversation and then the constable continued his patrol towards Snodland. This was the last time that he was seen alive.

At 6.15 a.m., Sunday, 24 August, a local brick-layer named Samuel Stone was making his way to work along the Snodland Turnpike road when he saw signs of a scuffle in the road. He then noticed another man, Walter Imms who was looking into a field and when Stone joined him they saw what appeared to be a dead body. The two ran to PC May's house to tell him what they had seen, however, they could not get a reply and so they returned to the scene with William Farley, the toll-gate keeper. There were signs of a fierce struggle and there was a quantity of blood on the ground, the hedge had been broken through, and nearby they found a pair of handcuffs. The local *Kent and Sussex Courier* graphically described what they found. 'The body was that of PC May who lay almost full length upon the ground with one leg slightly drawn up and one arm stretched out as though to protect the head, which was almost literally shattered to pieces, the brains protruding, and some portions scattered over the ground and

over the poor fellow's face'. Near the body lay a brace torn from the assailant's clothing, and in the nearby hedge were two caps, one the police cap of PC May and the second was a cloth cap thought to have been worn by the murderer. The body was carried to the 'Bull Inn' where it was laid out ready for the doctor's examination and the Coroner's Inquest.

Superintendent Hulse of Malling Division, of which Snodland was a rural station, arrived at the village and took charge of the investigation.

Dr Charles White, a local surgeon, carried out a post-mortem examination and reported finding a large wound on the forehead of PC May and a larger one at the back of the head. The bones of the nose were broken. There was a wound on the left cheek, bleeding from the left ear, and bleeding in the left eye. The right elbow was severely bruised as though used to deflect a blow. Dr White concluded that either of the wounds to the front or back of the head would have proved fatal. The head injuries, it was deduced, were caused by a blunt instrument and he thought that Constable May's staff which was missing could have caused the injuries.

The Inquest on PC May was held at the 'Bull Inn' on Monday, 25 August, by Mr J. N. Dudlow, Coroner for Mid-Kent, with a jury. Superintendent Hulse gave evidence of having visited the scene and finding the body of PC May with severe head injuries. The constable's uniform was covered in mud and barely recognisable. The cloth cap found in the hedge thought to have belonged to the assailant had several blood marks on it. He said that the constable's truncheon could not be found and the presumption was that this had been the murder weapon. The jury retired for some time and then returned a verdict of 'Wilful Murder against some person or persons unknown'.

The immediate suspects for the murder were the two soldiers of the Royal Engineers who had been seen near the scene, and enquiries were made to trace them. It was found that they had been staying at the 'Nags Head Inn', but they had left shortly before the police arrived. The two were eventually traced to a lodging house in Whitechapel, London, they were arrested by Sgt Dillon of 'K' Division, Metropolitan Police, and taken back to Malling Court. The two were examined by the court and then discharged for lack of direct evidence.

Suspicion then pointed to a man who had been employed locally as a labourer. Enquiries were made and search commenced for Thomas Atkins, aged 27 years, described as a bargeman or labourer, who had a reputation for drunken and disorderly behaviour. No trace of the suspect could be found until Superintendent Hulse received information on Friday, 29 August, that three children who knew Atkins had seen him the previous Tuesday in a nearby wood when he had run into the open across a clearing to a smaller wood. The children thought Atkins' actions strange but as they did not know at that time that he was suspected of murder they did not tell anyone until the Friday.

Superintendent Hulse immediately sent Instructing Constables Harman and Girton with two detachments of constables to the woods to make a search for Atkins. No trace of the suspect was found but on the Saturday morning Superintendent Hulse received a telegram from Instructing Constable Girton stating that Atkins had been seen that morning by a man who knew him at the 'Horse and Groom' inn, Stansted, and he was on the road to Kingsdown. The police immediately followed but before catching up with Atkins a carrier from London driving along the road saw and recognised Atkins and immediately turned back and informed PC Euden, the local policeman, that Atkins was on the road. PC Euden went to the scene and found Atkins sitting on the bank at the side of the road. He did not offer any resistance and was taken into custody. After being cautioned and having been told the reason for his arrest he asked to be allowed to eat a piece of bread because he had not eaten for several days. A telegram was sent to Superintendent Hulse informing him that Atkins was in custody and he then was conveyed to Malling Police Station where he was charged with the murder of PC May. Later he asked to see Superintendent Hulse who cautioned him. Atkins said: 'I was lying along by the road, and the constable came and shook me. I got up and the constable then struck me on the head with his staff and made the wound you see here (pointing to a contusion on his head). We struggled together and fell through the hedge into a field. We continued to struggle there, and I took the constable's staff from him and hit him about the head. I threw the staff away, I don't know where. I should not have done it if the constable had not interfered with me. That is the truth, so help me God'.

Atkins was then remanded to Maidstone Gaol.

The clothing worn by Atkins was removed and sent to Dr Thomas Stevenson, MD, Fellow and examiner in chemistry at the Royal College of Physicians. Dr Stevenson reported after his

examination that 'all the bloodstains were indistinguishable from that of man, but the blood might be that of an ordinary domestic animal. It is impossible in the present state of science to distinguish with certainty between the blood of a human being and that of an ordinary domestic animal'. The bloodstains could not therefore provide conclusive proof that Atkins had been in violent contact with PC May.

Evidence was given during the depositions that PC May's watch had stopped at 2.40 a.m., the watch presumably being damaged during the struggle fixing the time of the assault.

The funeral of Constable Israel May took place on Thursday, 28 August, at Snodland Parish Church, the body being carried shoulder high from the 'Bull Inn' by fellow constables to the churchyard. Sixty police from surrounding divisions and representatives from Rochester City Police attended, led by Captain Ruxton, Chief Constable of Kent County Constabulary. The vicar in his address said 'few could imagine what dangers a policeman has to face, while his fellow creatures could safely sleep'.

Atkins was remanded to the Kent Winter Assizes at Maidstone which commenced on 2 December 1873, and he was indicted for the murder of PC May. Evidence was given on behalf of Atkins that the wound on his head was consistent with his story that the constable had struck him first. It was admitted that he had used the constable's truncheon to hit him, which indicated that he had not gone prepared with a weapon to assault Constable May. It was alleged by the defence that the evidence would not support a charge of wilful murder but was consistent with manslaughter. The jury were told that they must decide if they believed the story that the constable struck the first blow with his staff, as this was relevant to the charge of murder or manslaughter.

The jury retired to consider their verdict and returned after 20 minutes with a verdict of manslaughter. Atkins expressed his remorse for his actions and was then sentenced to 20 years Penal Servitude. The trial of Thomas Atkins had lasted for just one day.

Atkins was only 5 ft 7 in tall and appeared quite slim, it did not seem possible that a man of his physique could be a match for someone the size of PC May who was of good build and nearly 6 ft tall. On closer examination it was found that Atkins was exceedingly well built with very large hands and large arm muscles developed by his work as a bargeman which involved pulling barges along the river. It was this abnormal strength of hands and arms that enabled him to overcome PC May and cause the fatal head injuries.

During the trial some unusual facts came to light. Evidence was given that Atkins's father, John Atkins was tried at Kent Winter Assizes held at Maidstone in December 1861, for the murder of his wife at Malling on the 19 July 1861. A verdict of 'Not Guilty' on the grounds of insanity was returned, principally on the evidence of a brother, Thomas Atkins, who spoke of the strange behaviour of John Atkins, and added that his sister and father were of unsound mind although not under any restraint. This evidence was challenged by the curate of the church where they lived who wrote to the local paper accusing the prisoner of shamming, but it did not affect the jury's verdict.

The allegations that Thomas Atkins's father, grandfather and aunt had been of unsound mind may have been responsible for the jury bringing in a verdict against Atkins of manslaughter instead of the murder of PC Israel May.

PC May's missing staff was eventually found by a man named Woodger in Birling Trees Wood, where Atkins had been hiding. Woodger received a reward of 20 shillings when he handed in the staff to police.

The widow of PC May received from the Force

a gratuity of £63 17s 6d being not more than one year's pay as PC May had only paid into the Superannuation Fund for three years. The local Vicar, the Reverend Carey, started a fund to provide help for PC May's widow and children.

In Snodland churchyard stands a monument marking the grave of PC May. Inscribed on the sides are the words: 'In memory of Israel May aged 37 years. Police Constable of the Malling Division Kent County Constabulary. Found cruelly murdered on Sunday morning August 24th 1873. He received a Public Funeral on Thursday August 28th 1873. Erected by voluntary contributions. The Memory of the Just is Blessed'.

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The Policeman's Sword

Chris Forester

On a day in January 1963 Metropolitan Police Superintendent, Dan Denton was the officer in charge of Great Scotland Yard Stables in central London, the headquarters of the London Mounted Branch. A caller from the War Office interrupted him from his duties. The Captain from the Ordnance Corps explained that he had been given the task of disposing of a rather unusual article. It was a Field Officer's Ceremonial Sword that had been left in an office at the Ministry of Defence by a retiring Brigadier General. In the military only an officer of senior Field Rank was authorised to wear this pattern of sword. However, this particular sidearm was different in that, with its black ivory handle and crests, it had been identified as a colonial senior police officer's sword and was thus unsuitable for use by the Army. The officer had enquired of the Brigadier what he wished to do with this sidearm and he suggested had that it was

passed to the police.

Superintendent Denton was in a quandary and after accepting the item on receipt the sword was put in the property store pending a decision. A letter was despatched thanking the Army for this unusual present and over the next few months several reports were passed around. At that time various of Great Britain's imperial possessions were very noisily gaining independence and the last thing the Home Office wanted were reminders of our colonial rule, however benevolent being advertised. Discreetly Superintendent Denton was advised to find a home for this relic of a now unwelcome and embarrassing Empire. After making unsuccessful attempts to offload it officially he dealt with it pragmatically and took it home. There it lay in a cupboard, unwanted for many years.

Time moved on and in 1987 the now retired Dan

Denton visited the recently opened Mounted Branch Museum at Imber Court near to Thames Ditton in Surrey. In conversation with the Curator, Chris Forester, it was mentioned that the present Commissioner, Sir Kenneth Newman, had no suitable ceremonial sword to wear. Mr Denton immediately offered to return the Colonial Sword to the Metropolitan Police for use by the Commissioner. The sword was then handed to the Commissioner's Groom, at that time PC Stuart Smith. He made enquiries and later the accoutrement was identified as a Ceremonial Sword of a District Commandant of the South African Constabulary. It had originally belonged to Lieutenant Colonel Sir Hoel Llewellyn, DSO, DL, who had died in April 1945 after a long, eventful, and exciting life. The pedigree was deemed worthy and the sword was gratefully accepted.

After considerable refurbishment by Messrs Wilkinson Sword Ltd, including the renewal of the handle and replacing the central boss with the Metropolitan Police Motif, the reborn sword went on display and was then used by Sir Kenneth Newman and, since, by all subsequent Commissioners of Police for ceremonial events.

But what was known of its previous owner?

Hoel Llewellyn was born on 24 November 1871, the third son of Colonel Evan Henry Llewellyn, of Langford Court, Somerset, a former Member of Parliament for North Somerset. He joined the Royal Navy in 1884 and served under Lord Charles Beresford as a Midshipman on HMS Boadicea, seeing active service from 1888 to 1890 off the East coast of Africa enforcing the blockade against the slave trade. On one occasion on patrol in the Red Sea he was in charge of a steam pinnace with a cargo of rescued slaves. After one of the women slaves, a mother, died he found himself improvising with a fountain pen filler to feed the orphaned baby a mixture of condensed milk, navy rum and water to keep it alive.

On to the Artillery

Two years later he was embroiled in the 1st Matabele War and an officer in the Mashonaland Artillery where he gained a medal (Mashonaland 1893) and a mention in despatches. By 1895 he was officer commanding artillery and machine guns in Rhodesia and it was at this time that his military career started to overlap into the Police. Given the rank of Captain in the British South Africa Police to command the Bulawayo Police District he was also a made Justice of the Peace for Matebeleland.

On the outbreak of the 2nd Matabele War in 1896 he performed such sterling work he was again

mentioned in despatches and later unsuccessfully recommended by the General Officer Commanding General (later Field Marshal) Plumer for the Victoria Cross for gallantry. The recommendation read:

'Captain Llewellyn, Bulawayo Field Force (Late Royal Navy) 29th July 1896, during a rush on Beresfords Force (in the attack on Sikowbo), ran to the Maxim (gun), which was for the moment without a firer, and remained alone on it, keeping it in action, with the enemy within a few yards. He displayed great coolness in working his Maxims under fire in the attack on Babyans stronghold, and on other occasions.'

The Boer War

At the outbreak of the Boer War he was put in charge of: 'Armoured trains and all forces in Bechuanaland north of Mafeking'. Later he took part in Plumer's advance and, after resuming command of the Artillery, he assisted at the Relief of Mafeking. During this war he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in 1900 and added four clasps to the Queen's South Africa Medal and another two clasps to his King's South Africa Medal.¹

By the end of the conflict Llewellyn had gained another four Mentions in Despatches from General Plumer putting on record that:

'That the damage was not more serious and that it did not extend further north was in great measure due to the excellent work done by the armoured trains commanded by Captain Llewellyn, British South Africa Police.'

Constabulary Duties

In 1901 the South African Constabulary was formed and Llewellyn was a prime candidate for recruitment. Given the position of District Commandant it would possibly have been around this time that he acquired the sword that was later to be carried by the Metropolitan Commissioner. On leaving the BSAP he received the thanks of the Chartered Company for his eight years' service. For the rest of the conflict he commanded a column of mounted infantry in the field. At the cessation of hostilities he took up a position as Commandant of the Lichtenburg District and was Justice of the Peace for Transvaal Colony. It was also in this year, 1902 that he married the woman who was to be his first wife, Winifred Berens. It may have been

Winifred who persuaded him to resign and return to England the following year.

Learning the Ropes

Back in England he managed to gain valuable experience in police management with a variety of posts in various Police Forces and seems to have applied for many positions up to 1908. For instance he is noted as being attached to Hertfordshire Constabulary for seven months under the tutelage of Colonel Henry S. Daniell, the Chief Constable. After this time he was attached to the City of London Police, again for seven months and also worked with the Metropolitan Police for two years in order to learn the rudiments of the recently introduced fingerprinting system pioneered by another ex-Colonial Police Officer, Sir Edward Henry. He unsuccessfully applied for the post of Chief Officer of the London Fire Brigade after acquiring extensive training in their duties. In 1906 he applied for the Chief Constable's appointment in Shropshire Constabulary but was unsuccessful. The following year and in spite of being short listed he again failed the board for the Devon Constabulary position.

Success

On 9 April 1908 Llewellyn took up the position of Chief Constable of Wiltshire Constabulary. His tenacity had paid off.

His predecessor was, however, a hard act to follow, being that he had been in the position since 1870. Wiltshire Police had at that time only had two Chief Constables since its formation in 1839. Both these officers, like Llewellyn had been ex-Naval Officers and both had served for long periods. The first, Captain Samuel Meredith for 30 years and the second, Captain Robert Sterne for 38 years!

Hoel Llewellyn had come up against some stiff competition in his selection, the other six had included such military worthies as Major, the Lord Heytesbury of the 2nd Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment, Captain W. M. C. Caillard, Captain The Hon E. R. Thesiger, Captain J. H. Thresher, Captain H. De Vere Wilkinson and, finally, Captain E. M. Lafone. The last was later to find fame in the Metropolitan Police. In spite of this opposition he was to triumph and begin his 37-year term.

'Back in the Army again'

Llewellyn's position as Chief Constable did not stop

him from serving in the next conflict and in 1914 he was recalled to the colours.

In August 1915 and as part of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force he landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula and received a shell splinter in his left foot. The wound got worse and in September he was invalided home in HMS Soudan. Promoted to the rank of Colonel he then became Assistant Adjutant General on GHQ Staff and was appointed Provost Marshal of Egypt and the British Mediterranean Force. He later served in the Tank Corps and gained another three mentions in despatches.

At the cessation of hostilities he returned to his former position running the Wiltshire Force. In 1939 at the outbreak of the Second World War he took over the additional responsibility of County Civil Defence Controller. His long service and hard work was at last recognised in 1943 when he was awarded a knighthood. During the 37 years he remained in the post he was by account much admired for his common sense and pragmatic views. The care of his men was always paramount and one of his achievements during his tenure was to considerably improve the housing of the officers.

In March 1945 Colonel Llewellyn gave notice of his resignation to take effect the following June. Sadly, he was not to retire and on 2 April 1945 died at his home in Caen Hill House, Devizes, still holding the office of Chief Constable of Wiltshire and at that time the longest-serving senior police officer in Great Britain. His memory is preserved in the Commissioner's Sword.

Reference

1. Soldiers who served in the Boer War were awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal. However, after the demise of Queen Victoria in 1901 the new Monarch, Edward VII issued another medal. This was unsurprisingly called The King's South Africa Medal. Officers and men who served from 1899 to the end of the War gained both awards.

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Police Constable K19 Henry Matsell, Lincolnshire Police

Michael D. Matsell (Fellow of the Fingerprint Society, now retired)

Henry Matsell was born at Helhoughton, near Fakenham, in the county of Norfolk. It was in the 1860s when Henry was brought into a family of Master Mariners.

When young Henry was in his teens he found that the Chief Constable of Lincolnshire, one Colonel Bicknell, wished to recruit men of the land to join the Lincolnshire Police. About this time many vagrants were wandering in Lincolnshire and the Chief Constable wished to rid the county of these miscreants.

Henry set off from his home in Helhoughton and walked to Spalding in Lincolnshire to join the force. He was gladly sworn in as Police Constable Kesteven 19. The year was 1882. At this period in time Lincolnshire was divided into three police areas: Kesteven, Holland and Lindsey.

PC Matsell married Elizabeth Hannan Needham

and from the marriage had Claud Albert Matsell, Urban Ernest Matsell, Cyril Matsell, Horace Matsell, Eva Matsell, Ralph Matsell, Edgar Oscar Matsell and Rupert Matsell. The two first named, Claud and Urban, died in the First World War and Edgar Oscar died as a result of falling whilst sliding on the ice.

PC Matsell's wife was quite a character. She would advise the local baker that her husband was going to check the weight of the bread loaf and was given a reward of cakes, etc, for the information. Part of the constable's duties were weights and measures.

PC Matsell was caught several times riding a bicycle and was fined or given extra duties. One night at Burton Coggles he inspected a barn, unknown to the constable two vagrants were inside. One knocked the oil lamp out of the officer's hand



Lincolnshire Police Bourne Section.



while the other attacked and stabbed the officer in the leg. PC Matsell was given a reprimand for allowing himself to be injured.

PC Matsell was the last serving officer to live in the House of Correction at Folkingham, near Bourne. Prisoners were kept in the cell block and to gain entry to feed the prisoners one had to lift a trapdoor in the constable's living quarters. PC Matsell also had to walk the nine miles to Bourne magistrates' court with the prisoners who had to wear leg irons. If the prisoner had been arrested for a serious offence then the Superintendent would ride them to court in his horse and cart.

PC Matsell finished his service at Corby Glen and after retiring lived in the village until he passed away on the 19 February 1938.

My father was Ralph Matsell and how I enjoyed the story that he told me about my grandfather PC Henry Matsell.

Mounted Enforcement Out West

Jeanne Williams

Law enforcement, like government, in the United States has a much shorter history lifeline to follow backwards to the 'good old days'. Enforcement of American law in our relatively brief history has been carried out by a variety of organisations, many of which relied on horses to travel about, because that's how other members of society travelled. While England's police force has formally made use of four-legged transportation to carry out justice for nearly two centuries, coppers in the United States made a mad dash for their love affair with the automobile in its early years. Using equines to get the job done went somewhat by the wayside.

In the early days in the USA, law and order was created, maintained and respected thanks to the United States Cavalry, among others. Riding the ranges of America cost many a US cavalryman his life. Horses were integral in making it possible to push settlers and government into a hostile territory where our notion of civilization eventually took hold.

In 1836 the still new government passed an act authorising the President of the United States to accept the services of volunteers to raise a regiment of dragoons, or mounted riflemen. The longest serving mounted regiment still in service with the United States Army today, the 2nd Dragoons,

served in the Seminole Indian War in Florida, a place Brits now love to vacation, and in the Mexican War. The 2nd Dragoons also served in the western territories, intervening between European settlers, natives and bandits.

On 3 August 1861, the unit became the 2nd United States Cavalry and remained a Mounted fighting unit until World War II when the horses were finally given up for motorized transportation.

Those early law enforcers on horseback were comprised by a large percentage of members who were Irish-born. The horses came from the plains, open ranges and mountains across America. If the mounted patrol budgets today look tight, the US Cavalry undoubtedly spared no hardship to save expenses for a suitable mount to get the job done.

In 1922, my own grandfather, Aaron L. Bullock, personally broke to ride 21 wild horses at his Cheyenne Ranch in Wyoming. He rode each bronc to a standstill and broke it to rein and saddle. He then sold all 21 horses, for a menial price, to the US Cavalry. If you've never spent part of your career riding in heat, dust and drought amid hostiles and bandits, mount up on a newly broke wild horse and trust him to see you through safely.

One would wonder, however, about the duty of the horses themselves in those cavalry battles gone by. Many bloody encounters between opposing human beings showed horses to return to their place in regiment line after being wounded and losing their riders. Some cavalry horses, wounded by artillery fire, had their saddles and bridles removed by the men, but it was reportedly almost impossible to keep the wounded horses out of the ranks. Every government can provide accountings of the horses lost in battle, whether purposely or accidentally, who could have bolted from the battle scene, but stayed only to be killed. As America entered the 'Great Depression', military budgets were whittled down to the bone. By 1932 America had the 16th largest army in the world, right behind Yugoslavia, with 132,069 Americans in uniform, approximately 30,000 of which were designated for actual combat. That's fewer than the number of soldiers King George sent to calm the rebels in the American colonies in 1776.

General MacArthur, the only four-star general in the country, could have fielded no more than 1,000 obsolete tanks, 1,509 aircraft, and a single mechanised regiment, which was led by cavalrymen on horses, wearing mustard-gas proof boots. The American Army was described as the 'worst equipped' in the world. The push for bigger guns, faster planes and different strategies left the need for mounted patrols in the back of the pack, even in the last frontier known as 'way out West', or California.

The new millennium marks more than just 2000 years of recorded modern history. It also marks the 150-year mark for a northern California law enforcement organisation, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department. Many early law enforcement leaders of the Department were part of historically significant events, in and outside of Sacramento. On 1 April 1850, Joseph H. McKinney was elected the first Sheriff of Sacramento. Four months later, Sheriff McKinney was killed in a violent and bloody battle with squatters. The first Sheriff in the Department was killed in the line of duty. After his short term in office, others followed, many with distinguished careers. Sheriff Benjamin J. McCullough, Sheriff from 1850 to 1851, served with Davy Crockett when Texas gained its independence from Mexico and later served as a Brigadier General in the Confederate Army during the US Civil War, where he was killed in battle.

In 1853, David Nelson Hunt became Sheriff of Sacramento, having served as a mounted rifleman in the Mexican American War. In 1854, Sheriff Hunt had the distinguished privilege of seeing Sacramento designated by the governor of California as the capital of the State. By 1855, Sacramento was the home of California's first railroad, 'The Sacramento Valley Railroad'. The iron horse took its place in American history as a competitor to man and horse.

From 1859 to 1861, Sylvester Marshall was Sheriff of Sacramento and in 1860 he founded the Young America Fire Company. Better known as the Pony Express, the first express rider left Sacramento at 2:45 a.m. on 4 April 1860. All total, about 80 riders and 500 horses travelled the pony express. Young men who were interested in becoming pony express riders answered advertisements like one that read,

WANTED
Young, skinny, wiry fellows
not over 18.
Must be expert riders,
willing to risk death daily
Orphans preferred.

During the Civil War, the pony express riders were still carrying important information across the western plains at top speed. Riding at a dead run through a 120-mile stretch of Paiute Indian territory, a pony express rider could arrive at his destination with arrows in his body, as well as in his horse.

By 1866 the United States Congress allowed Central Pacific Railroad and Union Pacific Railroad to build train rails across the land. At that time Wells Fargo Stagecoach was still the world's largest stagecoach company. By 13 April 1868,

however, the first train car ran on the Western Pacific Railroad line and once again created a faster mode of travel than the horse. The introduction of the automobile in Sacramento occurred at a street fair in 1900. By the onset of World War I horses were heavily outnumbered by the motor car. The Delta King and Delta Queen sister ships built in northern California were put into service in 1927. The two paddle-wheelers were the largest and most costly of their type in the state. They hauled cargo and passengers up and down the Sacramento River. In 1930, the Sacramento Municipal Airport began operation. The Sheriff's Department had little need for mounted officers. Other modes of transportation were here to stay.

Unlike England's mounted branch officers, recognized worldwide as part of the familiar scene in and around Greater London, Sacramento's leading law enforcement organization only recently experienced a resurgence of interest in using horses in an official capacity. In 1971 the Sacramento Sheriff's Department formed a full-time Mounted Unit, with eight officers and their mounts. The officers' primary duties were to patrol the parkways and river trails. Six of the deputies were full-time members of the Department, the other two were reserves.

Each deputy was required to provide his own horse, meeting size and colour specifications, that is, bay or black, usually Quarter Horses, at somewhere between 15 and 17 hands high. The deputies had to be able to maintain their mounts, however they leased their horses to the Department. The Department owned the horse trailers and deputies were issued county-owned pick-up trucks to tow the trailers. The Department paid a stipend for feed and veterinarian bills, but the bulk of the cost was the deputies' responsibility. The Mounted Unit was responsible for removing several groups of unsavoury characters from the county's park and river areas. Groups, such as motorcycle gangs, found remote bike and hiking trails attractive hang-outs until the mounted officers began appearing at their campfires. The unit was so successful, in 1977 four motorcycles were added to the team.

Then, in 1992, the entire unit was eliminated due to budget cuts. The Mounted Unit members soon formed a collateral unit, a non-profit corporation that operates primarily on a volunteer basis. The members included 12 full-time and five Reserve deputies. The deputies purchased and continue to maintain their own horses and equipment.

Currently, these deputies and their mounts serve the public and the Department during demonstrations, crowd control, high visibility patrols in parks and shopping centres, as well as high crime and public housing areas. Additionally, and possibly

most important, the Mounted Unit performs search and rescue functions within Sacramento County, as well as the foothills of neighbouring counties when requested.

The deputies wear 'working' uniforms, which have been changed to black in recent years. Deputies carry a Boken baton to fend off those who want to assault the horses. The batons are over three feet in length. For crowd control, the deputies wear face shields and place face protectors on the horses as well.

In 1994 a local government organisation, the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, began providing salary funding, on a contract basis, to utilize the Mounted Unit in apartment complexes and low-income neighbourhoods. Working 10-hour shifts, the deputies riding through such neighbourhoods are frequently approached by young people. They initiate positive contact and conversation with law enforcement by taking an interest in the horses. For some of them, that positive contact is a first. The deputies enter the neighborhood in a manner that is non-threatening and are open to conversation with residents.

These encounters allow the deputies an opportunity to give information to residents about any programmes the Sheriff's Department offers. It also provides residents a chance to speak to the officers about specific problems involving drugs or gang activities in their neighborhood. The information may be forwarded to narcotics officers, for example, to follow up on. The Mounted Unit officers get feedback from the residents the next time they patrol there, most of which has been quite positive.

The Mounted Unit has also been contracted to work at large shopping malls during the holidays, which has given the deputies many opportunities to catch thieves in the act. The ability to see across a parking lot is greatly enhanced on horseback. On one occasion, four mounted officers stopped an occupied stolen vehicle at the mall. Their presence was a complete surprise to the car thief, until it was too late, and he was 'nicked'.

The Mounted Unit has also participated in many prestigious parades, including representing California in the 1992 Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington DC. As a representative of the United States that year, the Sacramento Sheriff's Mounted Enforcement Unit was awarded 1st place at the Calgary Stampede parade in Canada. Both functions were funded entirely from local donations and out-of-pocket expenses by the deputies themselves. Funds are raised in a variety of other ways, including the sale of shirts, mugs, thermos cups and hats with the Unit's logo. One rare assignment even included escorting Queen

Elizabeth on her visit to Sacramento. In addition to work assignments, the deputies in the Mounted Unit have developed a well-respected training programme. For the past 10 years the Sacramento Mounted Enforcement Unit has facilitated the only certified school for mounted enforcement in the Western United States.

Instructors have included officers from various states and from the prestigious Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who have participated in training over 750 officers. The Unit's internal training consists of one training day a week and participation in the one-week school once a year.

The Mounted Unit keeps going because the deputies love what they're doing. The dedication and persistence of those deputies have kept the Mounted Unit alive and functioning. They have demonstrated repeatedly their effectiveness and the advantages of law enforcement from the back of a horse. The feedback received from citizens in all types of environments has been overwhelmingly positive.

Even so, the Mounted Unit still has not been

returned to full-time status. It is the members' contention that best use of law enforcement manpower can be made by combining mounted officers with patrol car and foot beat officers in situations that call for well-organised measures. Until such patrol philosophy is again appreciated and accepted in administrative and political circles, the Sacramento Sheriff's Mounted Enforcement Unit will continue to provide its unique services by deputies who dedicate themselves to maintaining the methodology they most enjoy and believe in to get the job done.

Our nation was won and developed by that kind of determination.

Jeanne Williams is a 12-year veteran with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department and is currently assigned to the Detective Division, North Central Station. Her husband, Keith, is a retired police constable from the London Metropolitan Police. Keith was a Mounted Police Officer in London for 13 years, serving at Bow Road and Kings Cross stables.

Greeno, Master Detective

Dick Kirby

Nowadays with the best will in the world, few if indeed any, detectives can be described as being household names. Sadder still is the fact that if any do become known to the public, it is usually because a disaster has occurred in a sensitive investigation. The ubiquitous action group that is always formed, then secures the services of one of the more predictable left wing barristers to bray hysterically at the alleged inadequacies of the Police in general and the senior detective in particular.

It was not always so. Go back some 50 years or so: in those days Scotland Yard detectives were indeed household names. The billboards of the evening newspapers would proclaim, 'Murder in Halifax – Capstick called in', or 'Gruesome murder in home counties – Beveridge on the case'. These were the names of senior detectives whom the public knew and respected. I have mentioned two names out of many but one man was admired above all others and by the others. Physically he was very

tough, he was fearless, well informed and was a shrewd investigator who was completely unorthodox. His name was Ted Greeno.

Greeno had gained a taste for adventure whilst serving as a radio operator on board an ammunition ship, the SS Rother, during the first world war. From an early age he had also developed a passion for betting and studying form at horserace tracks all over England but this did little to satisfy his craving for excitement.

Following the cessation of hostilities and finding peacetime exceedingly dull, on 10 January 1921, this brawny young pugilist joined the Metropolitan Police. His new employers provided him with Warrant number 111283 and a blue serge uniform to cover his 5ft 9in frame which weighed in at 11st 6lbs. And decided that the East End of London would be an excellent testing ground for him.

In the 1920s 'H' Division was probably a daunting prospect for many probationers, although possibly less so for one with Ted Greeno's talents.

'I've given some villains some awful hidings'

He was a tough fighter and was hugely disinclined to accept abuse, whether it was verbal or physical from anybody. 'I've given some villains some awful hidings', he once said; not with any sense of contrition. He was also shrewd and supplemented his weekly wage of £3 5s 0d with rewards of 10s (50p) or £1 from the Commercial Gas Company for arresting meter thieves and awards varying from 5s (25p) to £1 which often accompanied commendations as well as revenue from horse racing tips.

In September 1923 Greeno was appointed to the CID. He was building up an encyclopaedic knowledge of the gangs who infested the racetracks and the pickpockets who also frequented them. He was quickly co-opted onto the Flying Squad and during the 1920s and 30s, he was largely responsible for smashing the racetrack gangs. In June 1936 Greeno received a tip from an informant, which resulted in him and his Flying Squad team racing down to Lewes Racetrack. Alfred Soloman, a bookmaker, and his clerk, Mark Frater, were attacked by some 30 members of the notorious Hoxton Gang, who were armed with hatchets, hammers, knuckledusters and crowbars. The two men who suffered disabling injuries were lucky to escape with their lives. The Squad rushed in and arrested many of the gang. Later, at Lewes Assizes, Mr Justice Hilbery sentenced 16 of them to a total of 43½ years imprisonment. The effect that these sentences had on the criminal fraternity can best be described from the records. In 1923, 110 arrests had been carried out at Epsom Racetrack for offences ranging from blackmail and welshing, to pick-pocketing. On Derby Day, 1937, the years following the attack by the Hoxton Gang, the arrests amounted to just eight.

Having a reputation as a tough guy did have its drawbacks. Whenever Greeno's reputation was challenged, whether in a pub, a racetrack or a street market, the matter was ratified then and there. Off would come his jacket, a makeshift ring would be hastily formed and the challenger would be taken on and thrashed. At the conclusion of the fight, Greeno and his adversary would shake hands and that was the end of the matter. There was, of course, no question of the challenger being arrested. Greeno's reputation, not only of being a hard case, but a sport as well, remained intact.

Mistaking Greeno for the night watchman the leader shouted at the gang to 'Do 'im', it was a classic mistake

By 18 November 1933 Greeno had attained the rank of Detective Inspector, 1st Class. It was on this

date that Greeno had acquired some excellent information about a gang of safeblowers. The gang, he was told, intended to break into a store in Ilford and blow the safe. At the appointed time Greeno was secreted in the darkness of the store. Outside were his Flying Squad Officers waiting to swoop once he gave the signal. After the officers had spent hours patiently waiting the gang broke into the store and made their way to the safe. Greeno waited just long enough for the gang to satisfy the requirements of the Larceny Act 1916 and then he called out to his colleagues. It was at this time that matters became a little tricky. The doors through which the Flying Squad had intended to enter became jammed. Now that Greeno had called out to his men the gang also knew that he was in there. Mistaking him for the night watchman the leader shouted at the gang to 'Do 'im' – it was a classic mistake. Greeno drew his truncheon and went into action. As the figures loomed out of the darkness towards him Greeno lashed out with studied ferocity. The night air echoed with the sound of wood smashing on skulls, the howls of the safeblowers and the frantic hammering of the Squad men attempting to gain access. With a final crash the door flew open and the Squad officers fell into the room and put the lights on. Greeno panting from his exertions looked around. He later admitted that he that he was horrified when he saw the three inert bodies on the floor and the whitewashed walls covered with so much blood that he described the scene as rather like standing in the middle of an enormous jam sandwich. The night duty staff at Ilford Police Station were suitably shaken when the Squad officers pulled the blood spattered gang into the charge room; but it was an ashen-faced Greeno who had to sit down when one gang member was found to be in possession of eight and a half sticks of gelignite and a second man was found to have a number of detonators in his pockets. It was a minor miracle that Greeno's thrashing had not caused his and the gang's detonation. In sentencing the gang to terms of penal servitude, the Justices at Stratford Petty Sessions warmly congratulated Greeno and after having been highly commended by the Commissioner, he was awarded £10 from the Bow Street Police Fund.

'A hard taskmaster who expected and got total loyalty'

'Greeno was one of the best murder investigators the Yard ever had. He was also one of the best thief catchers.' A commonplace tribute from a police colleague or newspaper reporter, perhaps except those were the words of Billy Hill, the self-

proclaimed 'Boss of Britain's Underworld', who had served prison sentences totalling over 23 years. A more conventional accolade came from Bob Higgins who later retired as Detective Chief Superintendent after a spell as deputy head of the Flying Squad. As a 2nd class Detective Sergeant on the Squad in the 1930s, Higgins considered Greeno to be the best detective the Squad ever had, and described him as being an officer who worked hard and played hard. Often the two were combined at horse and greyhound tracks, with Greeno collecting his winnings and first-rate underworld information at the same time. Higgins would often be called out in the middle of the night to act on information acquired by Greeno. 'He was a hard taskmaster who expected and got total loyalty,' said Higgins, speaking to me nearly 60 years later.

Greeno was promoted to Detective Chief Inspector in October 1940 and was posted to COC1 Murder Squad. He was sent out to the counties to solve some of the most baffling murders of the next two decades. A bottle of whisky was always included in the murder bag. It served to keep out the cold at a windswept murder scene and also to win the confidence of any of the provincial officers who might feel affronted by the stranger from London, who, they erroneously felt, had come to tell them their business.

Greeno served in the Metropolitan Police for almost 40 years. He was commended on 88 occasions, awarded the MBE and retired with the rank of Detective Chief Superintendent. A fine rugged-looking man he planned to devote a long

retirement following the fortunes of the track. Sadly it was not to be, he died in May 1966, just six years later.

Finally, the following anecdote serves as a fitting tribute to a great detective and a sportsman. Greeno and his Squad had spotted a gang of international forgers who had just arrived in Harwich from the Hook of Holland. The gang boarded a train bound for Liverpool Street and as they were closely followed on to the train by the Flying Squad officers, Greeno gave careful instructions to the Squad driver, PC 383 Bob Edney, before joining the rest of his team. With the train pulling slowly out of the station, Edney jumped into the Squad Lagonda and gunned the engine. As the Hook Continental thundered across the Essex countryside, Edney tore past it covering the 71 miles to Liverpool Street Station in record time and as the train pulled into the station, Edney was waiting at the barrier.

The gang were rounded up, the counterfeiting ring was smashed and on 29 June 1934 Police Orders noted that Greeno was one of two officers to be highly commended by the Commissioner for his initiative, perseverance and ability. Bob Edney did not receive a commendation. Instead he pocketed a £10 note which consisted of part of the winnings after Ted Greeno, unable as ever to resist a bet, had wagered against Bob Edney beating the train to its destination.

(This article first appeared in *The Peeler*, No 4, 1999)

Book Reviews

A Hundred Years in the Saddle

The Avon and Somerset Mounted Police 1899-1999 by Stephen Foulkes

With a Foreword by David Shattock CBE, OStJ, QPM (former Chief Constable, Avon and Somerset Constabulary)

Surviving two World Wars, several political attempts at disbandment, football riots, civil disorder and even the policeman who ate his own horses, the Mounted Branch of the Avon and Somerset Police celebrates its centenary anniversary in 1999.

Stephen Foulkes intertwines local history and the development of the Mounted Unit in this affectionate and often moving portrait. He describes the Unit's beginnings in 1899, when the Bristol City authorities, already panicked by dockers riots, needed reinforcements to police the populations of the newly increased city boundaries. Mounted police soon became a familiar sight on the streets of Bristol, and in 1914 one of its members became the first Bristol policeman to be killed in the First World War.

Over the following decades, political opposition to the Mounted Unit increased as its use in controlling public disorder became controversial. However, its popularity increased as well. The Unit made an invaluable contribution to missing person searches and royal and mayoral ceremonial duties. It soon became nationally renowned for riding displays and participation in horse shows, and produced many champions, including the ultimate prize of Police Horse of the Year for nine years in succession. We meet many of the horses which belonged to the Branch: well-known names such as Robin, Redcliffe and Steele, and also less well known horses such as Magic who used to fall over as a result of sleeping while standing up!

Stephen Foulkes is a Bristolian who joined the Somerset Constabulary in 1965. In 1975 he fulfilled a lifetime ambition by joining the Bristol-based Mounted Section and he was promoted to Sergeant in 1990. He retired in 1996 to pursue a career as a bass baritone soloist, and indulge in his other main interest of sailing.

Cost £7.95. Paperback, fully illustrated. To

purchase a copy please contact Catherine Mason, Broadcast Books, 4 Cotham Vale, Bristol B56 6H R (Tel. 01179 732010).

London Police, Their Stories

80 Years at the Sharp End, the Best of the London Police Pensioner Magazine

One thing that is certain in the Police Service is that sooner or later the police officer will leave it, either the honourable way with a pension or by other means. It is then that swinging the lamp becomes an art form. This art form has been capably captured over the past few years in the pages of The London Police Pensioner Magazine. The LPP magazine has become the lifeline to memories, happy and otherwise for many ex-City and Metropolitan Police Officers so it is heartening that all these stories will not be lost after the magazine is disposed of

Norma Brown, Committee Member for the London Branch of National Association of Retired Police Officers, compiled the collection. Karen McCall, editor of the London Police Pensioner, strung all these stories together with Geoff Taylor, ex-Traffic Police, providing the venture capital. All profits go to the Police Pensioners Housing Association, a very worthy cause that serves ex-officers nationwide. As editor of three magazines and also still a serving officer I am privileged to receive a copy of the London Police Pensioner on its publication so I am probably the only one who does not turn to the back page to see who's dead. I am also quite familiar with the stories from way back. Nothing changes, there were still the nice guys and the evil ones, that's only the Senior Officers, and the criminals were something else.

I would highly recommend this book to all who like to remember the 'Good old days' and even those younger ones who might find a common chord with the old boys. Excellent stuff!

Published by Merlin Unwin Books, Palmer House, 7 Carve Street, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 1DB. Price £7.99.

Herefordshire Constabulary 1857-1967: A Pictorial History

Compiled by Vera Hadley from the research of G. E. Forrest and E. A. Hadley.

Fascinating and very readable this A4 sized paperback book is an essential addition to any police historian wishing to find out more about a small county constabulary and the way it was run. Listing its Chief Officers at the beginning of each chapter it chronicles the development of policing in this largely rural area from its inception in 1857 to amalgamation along with Shropshire and Worcester Counties to become West Mercia Police.

A county that came in rather late to form its police force, Herefordshire had only half-heartedly embraced policing prior to 1857 with a force set up only in Hereford itself in 1836. In 1838 and 1839 the towns of Ross and Ledbury had both imported the advice and services of ex-Metropolitan Police Officers to form short-lived forces in response to localised public disorder caused by navvies. By 1841, however, the money had run out to keep these local police in employment and the towns reverted to the previous system of Courts Leet. In 1842 The Parish Constables Act enabled those counties with no paid police force to appoint Superintendent Constables. Their duties were to police the 11 Petty Sessional Divisions and oversee the unpaid Parish Constables in up to 25 parishes. For these duties they were paid between £60 and £75 per annum. They were also given a lock-up house to live in and a uniform. This system proved to be the most acceptable and lasted until 1856 when the County & Borough Police Act made it compulsory for all counties to set up a bona fide police force. In spite of initial opposition to this by the county worthies the promise of financial assistance to those constabularies proving to be efficient soon smoothed the way to the transition and on 19th January 1857 Herefordshire Constabulary came into being.

The story continues via each Chief Constable to the end of the period in 1967 outlining their individual problems and style of government of their officers.

With a wealth of fascinating photographs to illustrate what is an excellent source book for police in this part of the country, the publication includes a chapter on uniforms and insignia. Many pictures are extremely old and presumably rare with the earliest dating from 1860. They show officers from all the various divisions and many rural police stations. Family life, too, is illustrated with officers and, wives and children well represented. Virtually every aspect of police life in

Herefordshire during the period is covered including good illustrations of transport and the women police. For genealogists there is a handy index to names appended at the back.

Vera Hadley and her co-authors have produced a well-researched, interesting and valuable addition to any police historian's library.

Highly recommended.

£11.95 + post and packing additional to book: UK 2nd class £2, Europe £3. USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand – surface mail £3, air mail £6. Obtainable from Mrs V. Hadley, Whitecross Road, Hereford HR4 0LT.

The Official Encyclopedia of Scotland Yard By Martin Fido and Keith Skinner

This is a detailed and authoritative work, recording the long and varied (the high and lows) in the history of the Metropolitan Police. Naturally it has to be called 'Scotland Yard', to grab the attention of the public. Between the 300 pages of this book Martin Fido, a crime writer and broadcaster, ably assisted by Keith Skinner, a professional researcher, there can be found an incredible amount of detail and facts spanning the 170 years of the Metropolitan Police. There are many wonderful photographs, some never in print before, and the information is explained in a clear style with an easy to follow layout that allows the reader to quickly find the answer to any question posed. The *Encyclopaedia* profiles both the famous and the many 'ordinary' officers who have served in the first uniformed and largest police Force in the country.

I was at the launch on 23 October 1999 and was able to hear the fulsome praise of the recently retired Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon on the outcome of this reference work. He mentioned that as a young Chief Inspector he drafted the foreword to the commemorative '150 Years of the Metropolitan Police' booklet and he remarked that it appeared mainly to be a record of the Commissioners. He is pleased that this *Encyclopaedia* is much more and tells the story of the many branches and ordinary officers that have made up the Met. This is certainly true. I know that Martin Fido was keen to do more on the unsung heroes from all sections of the service.

However, by their very nature of being 'unsung' and just going about their job without fuss, few details were forthcoming.

I was particularly pleased to see in print the Appendix, which lists the many bravery awards and the Roll of Honour, some 11 pages.

A great reference work for the bookshelf to check on details or to 'assist with your enquiries'.

Paul Rason

Chairman of the Friends of the
Metropolitan Police Museum

ISBN 1-85227-712-2). Obtainable from all good booksellers. Pub.: Virgin Books 1999. Price £25.

The British Police, Police Forces and Chief Officers 1829-2000

Authors: Martin Stallion and David Wall

A book sorely needing to be written, this volume is set to become the definitive source for Police Force origins in Great Britain. Martin Stallion is a researcher and was at one time the Honorary Secretary of the PHS. David Wall is the Deputy Director of the Centre for Criminal Studies at the University of Leeds. Both had independently set about charting the early Town, County and Borough Police Forces and their Chief Constables. Eventually discovering each other's projects and the similarities they sensibly decided to collaborate and pool their information. The result is a well-researched and accessible book that will be a boon to police researchers and historians.

The main lists of Police Forces are set out alphabetically with their dates of formation and amalgamation. The lists include the Chief Officers by their starting date of service; however, there is also an alphabetical list of these officers' names with their complete service dates.

Included in the text is an Essay by David Wall on the Organisation of Police 1829-2000 and some observations on collecting police historical information.

It could be thought that one gets two for the price of one in this publication with the addition of Martin Stallion's extremely useful Bibliography of British Police Forces. Anyone who has researched information on local Forces only to find that a Force History is already extant will thank Martin for this Bibliography.

Apart from the earlier monographs this is one of the first large-scale publications from the Police History Society and one that is hopefully the forerunner to many other equally important and relevant studies on police history.

One not to miss!

Pub.: The Police History Society, 1999. ISBN: 0-9512538-4-0.

Monuments to Courage: Victoria Cross Headstones and Memorials

By David Harvey

Whilst not appertaining to police history the following publication is worthy of mention by the sheer effort put in to produce it. The author, David Harvey, an ex-Metropolitan Police officer who was forced to curtail his career prematurely through a crippling accident, spent some 36 years of research on tracing the locations of the dead heroes' graves and their stories. After his tragic accident put him in a wheelchair David continued his researches for the book via a network of serving and retired police officers, mainly his ex-colleagues from the Mounted Branch. All these people were asked or inveigled to photograph many graves worldwide on holidays or visits abroad and in Great Britain. Had it not been for this assistance, plus correspondence with almost 400 other researchers, 'Monuments' would still be a few years away from publication, and maybe would not have ever seen the light of day.

The original concept of producing a small 'book-let' revealing the sites of the graves and memorials to all holders of the Cross, eventually grew into a two volume boxed-set with over 800 thick glossy art pages with almost 6,000 photographs most of which have not been published before.

One of main reasons for the book is to correct many errors that have crept into reference books over the years, then taken for fact and perpetuated in later works. One 'recent' book listing all holders contained almost 30 per cent of errors, which have already been taken as fact by authors and used in their own books.

Each of the 1,350 holders is shown in chronological order of date of deed, from the Crimea through to the Falklands. Where they exist, three photographs accompany each entry, the holder, his gravesite and a memorial, the main events in his life and a précis of his deed.

Included are 50 pages of unusual photographs and a 70 page appendix which incorporates a full gazetteer, listing country, county and town where each of the 1,322 deceased holders are buried; maps of various battlefields, cemeteries and other useful guides.

Breakdowns of the award are given by regiment, service, rank etc; with a list of museums where

their VCs can be seen. The major 'coup' of the book being that the author has tracked down every one of the 650 VCs interred in the UK, and all but 10 world-wide – the latter in cemeteries where confirmation is nigh impossible. It is a sad fact that over 100 of those in the UK lay in unmarked pauper's graves! In consideration of what they did for their country and now that each has been accurately pinpointed it is hoped that work can begin in earnest to get memorials erected on the sites.

With the Foreword, which has been written by Sir Roden Cutler, VC, AK, KCMG, KCVO, CBE, there are messages from HRH Princess Alexandra, GCVO, and four other VC holders.

Also included are articles by Lt Col Eric Wilson, VC, Vice-Admiral Sir David Dobson, KBE, and a biography of Canon W. M. Lummis, MC, by his son, Lt Col Eric Lummis. In addition, there are articles on the origins of the Cross, covering the Warrants relating to posthumous, elected and forfeited awards, which are then shown in detail in the appendices.

As David is donating all proceeds to the Royal Star & Garter Home for Disabled Ex-Servicemen at Richmond and to enable more people to buy the set, the printers and publishers in Bahrain had agreed to hold the price as low as possible. Each set weighs around 9lbs. The cost of airfreighting 2,000 sets to the UK was also quite hefty, and had to be added in with the cost. Orders have already been received for well over half the first printing, with libraries, museums and 400 contributor's orders yet to come, so it is hoped that the Star & Garter will receive around £40,000 for the first run alone.

By purchasing the boxed-set, you are helping the Star & Garter with their tremendous overheads, currently running at £7 million each year. With similar sized reference books WITHOUT illustrations costing in excess of £100, the trimmed down cost of £75 is a bargain

'Monuments to Courage' costs £75, plus £6.50 p&p (mainland UK). Please write directly to the distributor: Messrs P. M. Da Costa, 124 Oatlands Drive, Weybridge, Surrey KT3 9HL, cheques made payable to 'Monuments to Courage'.

The Miracle of Papa One

By Terence McFall, GM

This book, 43 pages long, is a first hand and graphic account of a famous incident in Shepherds Bush in 1966 less than a fortnight after the Shepherds Bush shootings, which involved two Metropolitan officers, Anthony Gledhill and Terence McFall, in a prolonged car chase through Deptford and other parts of South London. The two officers pursued a car containing five armed robbers, one of them John McVicar, and they were fired at no fewer than 15 times. After one failed attempt to ambush the police car, the chase eventually ended after the robbers crashed. One of the robbers held up the officers and forced them to surrender the police car. The officers seized the car back again, arrested the robber and were awarded the George Cross (Gledhill) and the George Medal (McFall). The book is unusual because it is one of the officers who has written it and has published a limited number from his own resources. It contains photographs, maps and copies of the letters received by Terry McFall, who now lives in Canada.

Copies of the book may be obtained from Mr A. Moss, 32 Warren Road, Orpington, Kent, BR6 6HY. The cost, inclusive of postage, is £7.50 (ISBN 0 9685929 0).

The Killing at the Hole in the Wall

Len Woodley

The River Wye neatly divides the village of Foy from the charmingly named hamlet of 'Hole in the Wall'. A ford and ferry once crossed the river but now a footbridge makes the connection. Apart from the excited shouts of the young people enjoying an adventure holiday, Hole in the Wall reposes in a rural tranquillity little changed over hundreds of years. In the 19th century it must have seemed as remote a part of the country as one could imagine. Nothing, it could be thought, would have disturbed the peace of the area. Nevertheless, a parish constable met his death acting in the defence of persons and property, some four years before the formation of the Herefordshire Constabulary superseded that ancient office.

It was on a Monday 30th May 1853, that the Foy Friendly Society celebrated their annual festival at the Anchor & Can public house and, it being a fine day, a large number of people visited the inn for there can be few more pleasant ways of spending a delightful summer's day than by supping ale in such beautiful surroundings. Joseph Hardwick, the landlord, and his wife were having a busy day serving all the customers who had attended the festival. Amongst them, as members of the Friendly Society, were the brothers, George and Charles Davis who were also two parish constables.

The day progressed peacefully until a nearby beer house shut at 10 o'clock and some of their customers migrated to the Anchor & Can. By 11 o'clock the public house was full to capacity and Hardwick decided to close. Accordingly, he requested his patrons to leave and whilst most departed, albeit somewhat grudgingly, others became vociferous in their objections. One of them, Thomas Russell, who had been refused drink, rose from his seat and kicked a clock so hard that it stopped. Others, emboldened by their consumption of liquor, became abusive and demanded more drink. Hardwick explained that he could not serve them any more as the taps had been turned off for the night, but he agreed to allow them time to

finish off what they already had. John Davis, a nephew of the parish constables, muttered darkly, 'I won't leave for no constable until I choose to do so.' There was bad blood between him and his Uncle George.

After 20 minutes had elapsed and there being no sign of anyone leaving, Hardwick turned to the two constables and directed him to remove his somewhat unruly customers. This the Davis brothers then did with the minimum of fuss but once outside the pub the crowd, feeling cheated of a night's drinking, became a raging mob and began pelting the public house with stones of various shapes and sizes. Soon the windows were smashed and the shutters and bars broken. Shouts of 'Let's have old Hardwick out' were heard and the landlord, his wife and others moved to an inner room in an effort to avoid the barrage of missiles.

George Davis decided that things had gone too far and, declaring 'This will never do', took his truncheon out and left by the back door to confront the howling mob. Charles Davis hesitated for a few minutes before leaving by the front door to assist his brother. As he emerged he saw George lying on the road being beaten about the head with a wooden stave wielded by Russell. Charles at once

struck his brother's assailant with his staff but was almost immediately hit by a blow on the head. Momentarily stunned, he recovered to see another of his brothers struggling with Russell who was still holding onto the stake. Charles was continually assaulted but owing to the darkness and the press of the crowd was unable to see who was responsible, although he was able to identify



The Anchor & Can, now a private residence.

several of the villagers who were either taking an active part in the affray or were shouting encouragement to the participants. Eventually the constables managed to retreat to the comparative safety of the Anchor & Can, where they presented a terrifying spectacle to those who were still cowering inside from the shower of stones and threats emanating from outside. Both had been



The grave of George Davis.

severely injured and blood poured from head wounds, although George appeared to have suffered the worst. He staggered about, holding his head in an effort to staunch the flow of blood. Mrs Hardwick sat him down and gave him some brandy but his condition deteriorated during the course of the night.

The shouting of the mob outside continued all through the night and only abated at daybreak when they finally drifted off to their various homes. It must have been a night of pure terror for those people inside the Anchor & Can, nursing two severely injured men amongst the debris that littered the public house while hearing the baying of the rabble outside, fearful in case they managed to gain entrance and unable to contact anyone in the outside world to assist them in their plight. As soon as they were able, a message was sent for a Dr Roots to attend to George Davis. On his arrival he arranged for the wounded constable to be taken to his house where, despite the ministrations of the surgeon he died at 10 am.

The ringleaders were arrested immediately and brought before the Coroner who held the inquest a few days later. All the evidence was listened to attentively, especially that of Dr Roots who had performed the post mortem on George Davis. He disclosed that he had suffered multiple fractures to his skull as well as to other parts of his body and it was his opinion that the fatal wound had been inflicted by a jagged stone. In fact, he added, all the

deceased constable's injuries had been caused either by stones or sticks.

The Coroner's jury deliberated and returned a verdict 'That Thomas Russell, on the 30th day of May 1853, feloniously, wilfully and of malice aforethought did kill and murder the said George Davis and that James Rudge, Thomas Adams, John Davis, Thomas Wilks and Thomas Trilloe before the committing of the said felony did counsel, procure and command the said Thomas Russell to commit the said felony'. They were all committed to stand trial at the Herefordshire Assizes in July.

However, when the indictment was considered by the Grand Jury they found a 'True Bill' against Russell and Davis only and reduced the charge to one of manslaughter. Both defendants pleaded 'Not Guilty', but after hearing the evidence, especially where Russell had been seen striking the constable and of John Davis throwing a stone that hit his uncle on the head, the (petty) jury had no hesitation in returning a verdict of 'Guilty'.

In passing sentence on Davis, the Judge, Mr Justice Crompton, expressed his belief that the death of the constable was caused by a stone thrown by the accused and that the offence was one of the most heinous nature particularly as the injured party was a relative. He would not be discharging his duty if he allowed Davis to stay in this country and he hoped that his life would be spent in repenting and regretting that savage act. Davis was transported for seven years.

Turning to Russell, his lordship told him that his conduct was of a most outrageous description but it did not appear to have been the immediate cause of death. If a deadly weapon had been used by either, both must have been executed. However, as it was probable that he did not know that the deceased was a constable and he, the judge being pretty clear that the blows inflicted by him were not the cause of death, his punishment would be less severe. He was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment with hard labour.

The inn where the Friendly Society festival took place that fateful Monday still exists though as a private residence. Across the river in the churchyard of St Marys lie the remains of George Davis with those of his wife who died three years afterwards.