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## FOREWORD - EDITOR

This is my first attempt at producing a Journal, or for that matter, any publication. There are several restraints beyond the obvious one of time and resources, including the material submitted for publication and the wide variety of interests represented among the members. I have therefore tried, given the limitations, to include something for everyone, and by your comments I will know if I have been successful. Please do write, let me know what you require from the P.H.S., and let me have articles and items for publication in Police Review, the Newsletter and in any future Journal. Publications will be our life blood.

Without Police Review the P.H.S. would not be as established as it has become, so quickly. All those with an interest in Police History should buy the magazine which every week has an article of interest to the historian. Additionally, four times a year, the Review publishes a supplement provided by the P.H.S., which remains the best way the Society has of maintaining contact with its members. We thank all of Police Review staff most sincerely for their support, advice and encouragement.

The first A.G.M. and Conference at Cambridge were an outstanding success and plans are advancing for 1986 when we shall probably meet at the Police Staff College near Reading. Accommodation will be available and we expect members to travel long distances to be with us.

The Society has become international in its first months, with members in New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong, U.S.A. and Germany. Within Britain membership covers the spectrum from University Academics, Chief Police Officers, retired officers, serving policemen of all ranks, publishers, librarians, students and so on.

The organisation is a success and will continue to grow and develop, the extent only being limited by the level of participation by members. Encourage friends and colleagues to join. Let us know of your researches, let me have articles to publish. It is your Society, without you as individuals it cannot survive.

Robert Bartlett  
December 1985

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION

Gerald Lambourne  
Retired Commander Metropolitan Police  
Author of "The Fingerprint Story" published in 1984 by Harrap

The ability to identify a criminal, either to link him to his previous criminal history or to link him to a particular crime, is of paramount importance in any form of criminal investigation. Before embarking on the history of fingerprints it is worth reflecting on how our predecessors coped with the difficulties of personal identification.

Probably the first person in this country to make any attempt to maintain some form of criminal record was Sir John Fielding, who established at Bow Street a central register of burglars, housebreakers and receivers in about 1755. These records were presumably of a local nature and, unfortunately, faded into obscurity after a while. A likely explanation for this was the large scale transportation of criminals to the colonies during the last half of the eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth which lessened the need for such records.

It was the Habitual Criminals Act 1869 which first established the Habitual Criminals Register. This was the only agency especially established by Parliament and was intended for general use throughout the country in the work of identifying old offenders. This Act was very soon repealed and partially re-enacted by the Prevention of Crimes Act 1871. Section 6 of that Act stated that:-

Registers of all persons convicted of crime ... shall be kept in such form and contain such particulars as may from time to time be prescribed ... by the Secretary of State ... The Register for England shall be kept in London, under the management of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, or such person as the Secretary of State shall appoint.

At first the register included all persons convicted of crime, but it was soon found that the registration of criminals was being carried out on far too large a scale, and the results obtained were altogether disproportionate to the labour involved. A large proportion of the persons

registered were not habitual criminals in any ordinary sense of the term, many of them were first offenders and children convicted of trivial thefts. The Prevention of Crimes Amendment Act 1876 was therefore passed and power was given to the Secretary of State to determine what classes of prisoners should be registered. By Lord Cross' Regulations of 15 March 1877, the register was confined to 'every person convicted on indictment of a crime, a previous conviction being proved against him.'

The Habitual Criminals Register was published annually and contained details of all habitual criminals and convicts who had been liberated between 1 January and 31 December of the previous year. All the names were in alphabetical order, and gave, in columns opposite to each name, the prisoner's full description at the time of his discharge, including his distinctive marks, the particulars of his last conviction, his destination on discharge and the number of his previous convictions, with references to entries in previous registers.

From details gleaned from the Habitual Criminals Register, a Register of Distinctive Marks was also produced. This register was published annually, but contained details of criminals who had been released in the preceeding five years. The entries in this register were classified by the position of the marks on the body under nine main divisions: the head and face, the throat and neck, the chest, the belly and groin, the back and loins, the arms, the hands and fingers, the thighs and legs and, finally, the feet and ankles. These were again sub-divided; for instance, under the heading 'arms' were such headings as: loss of arms, tattoo marks, distortion from fracture or dislocation, loss of power and scars from wounds or burns.

The work of identifying criminals in the Metropolitan Police District was managed by the Convict Supervision Office, a department originally formed to deal with convicts and others under sentence of police supervision within the Metropolitan District, but which gradually increased its activities to deal with the whole of the crime records and other habitual criminals within the Metropolitan District. They maintained albums of photographs of all convicts and other habitual criminals. In the earlier volumes the photographs were arranged chronologically as they were received, but gradually the photographs were sub-divided according to the age and

stature of the person concerned and the type of crime he committed. A very elaborate register of distinctive marks was maintained, which, unlike the published version, was divided generally by the parts of the body, that is to say, all criminals who had distinctive marks on their right arm were logged together and so it continued through various other parts of the body. Supplementary to this was an alphabetical register of tattooed initials and names.

Although this method of identifying criminals had a limited success, it was quite apparent by 1893 that there was a high degree of urgency to find a more effective method of identifying criminals. One Chief Constable was so impressed by the difficulties of identifying criminals that he volunteered the desparate suggestion that the only common sense was to tattoo the arm of the criminal about to be discharged with a letter, number and the year of his discharge.

On 21 October 1893 the Home Secretary, the Rt. Honourable H.H. Asquith appointed a committee to enquire into: (a) the method of registering identified habitual criminals now in use in England, (b) the anthropometric system of classified registration and identification in use in France and other countries and (c) the system of identification by means of a record of finger marks as suggested by Francis Galton.

The anthropometric system was devised by Monsieur Alphonse Bertillon and had been introduced into France in 1885. The principle of the system was to record certain measurements of various portions of the body of each prisoner. These measurements consisted of: height, span of arms, height of trunk (sitting height), length of head, width of head, length of right ear, width of right ear, length of left foot, length of left middle finger, length of left little finger and length of left forearm. The cards on which these particulars were recorded were so classified that each could be found by means of the measurements and without the name of the person, and then by taking the measurements of any person arrested it was possible to ascertain his identity if he was already included among the records under any other name whatever.

The fingerprint system suggested by Francis Galton was a development of the method first suggested by Sir William Herschel.

Herschel's interest in fingerprints began in 1858 while he was serving in the Indian Civil Service in Jungipoor on the upper reaches of the Hooghly river. Many years later, in 1877, he was appointed as Magistrate and Collector at Hooghly, near Calcutta. This appointment gave him control of the criminal courts, the prison and the department for the registration of deeds. He was responsible for various minor duties, including the payment of government pensions. With such diverse responsibilities, the ground was set for the introduction of fingerprints.

He first introduced the taking of fingerprints of pensioners to prevent their impersonation by others after their death. In general they appeared to approve of the new system. Even the clerks enjoyed the fun of explaining to the pensioners the 'sahib's hikmat (skill).' He next introduced this system into the office of the Registrar as the final act during the processing of a legal document. After all legal formalities had been completed the Registrar required the person to record the impressions of their right fore and middle fingers simultaneously on the document, and again in a register kept by the Registrar. Many years later Herschel wrote:-

As long as I was at Hooghly I was satisfied that no will or other deed registered there with the new safeguard would ever be repudiated by the actual executant.

Herschel finally introduced fingerprints into the prison. At that time it was not uncommon for a prisoner or his family to hire a substitute to serve the prescribed prison sentence. Sham death and a conveniently purchased corpse was another method of defeating the rigours of a prison sentence. To ensure that the prisoner could always be accounted for, his fingerprints were placed on the court record, and on the warrant to the gaoler.

Satisfied with the effectiveness and efficiency of the new system, he wrote to the Inspector of Jails and the Registrar-General detailing his ideas and asked them to give the system a trial in other areas.

He only received one reply and that was not particularly encouraging. In 1878, having completed twenty-five years service in India and suffering poor health, Sir William Herschel returned to England.

Galton's interest in fingerprints did not surface until 1888. Using material supplied by Herschel, he gave the first public demonstration of the persistence of ridge characteristic data at a Friday night lecture to the Royal Institution. The prints he used were from the right forefinger and right middle fingers of Sir William Herschel taken in 1860 and again in 1888.

In the following seven years Galton was to do more than any other man of his time to promote and encourage the use of fingerprints. He produced the first authoritative book on the subject, entitled 'Fingerprints', in 1892. It was a masterpiece of analysis and understanding.

Although Galton was able to demonstrate to the committee that fingerprints could be divided into three classes, the arch, the loop and the whorl, he was unable to demonstrate the ability to sub-classify fingerprints to deal with a collection greater than 2500 persons.

The committee produced its report on 12 February, 1894, and recommended an amalgam of both systems, classification of prisoners by their measurements and identification of prisoners by their fingerprints. It was recognised that this system was far superior to the methods previously used, but, for a number of reasons the system was not used as much as it could have been.

Meanwhile, in 1891 Edward Richard Henry, a doctor's son, was appointed Inspector General of Police for the Lower Provinces in India. He made one of his priorities the improvement of an inadequate identification system. By the beginning of 1892 he had started experimenting with the anthropometric system, using ten measurements and noting the colour of the eyes. In January 1893 he refined this system to only six measurements and the inclusion on the record card of the left thumb-print.

The left thumb was chosen because it was assumed that as most persons were right-handed the ridges on the left hand would not be as worn, and would therefore give a clearer impression.

Henry was reasonably satisfied with this modification, but he did have strong doubts about the accuracy of the measurements being submitted, as strict supervision was extremely difficult. He was convinced that a record system based solely on fingerprints would solve many difficulties. To increase his knowledge of the subject he wrote to Galton, and thus started a friendship which was to last for many years. In the latter half of 1894 when he returned to England on leave, he lost no time in visiting the Convict Supervision Office, Galton's laboratory and of course Galton himself.

When Henry returned to India he was determined to find a formula which would enable a fingerprint collection of many thousands to be formed. His first action was to arrange for all ten fingerprints of each prisoner to be taken in addition to the anthropometric measurements. Fortunately, among his staff at the Central Anthropometric Office were a number of Indian officers who took a keen interest in fingerprints. Among them were Azizul Haque and Chandra Bose, who were to make a substantial contribution to the development of the fingerprint system.

Eventually, after much hard work, Henry and his team were successful. A classification which allowed all fingerprints to be filed in 1,024 primary positions with secondary and tertiary sub-divisions within each of the primary positions was devised. Although Galton was pleased with Henry's success, he was a little sceptical, and indicated that he would like to see the system tested on a really large collection of 100,000 fingerprint forms. In years to come he was to see the system tested many times in many countries.

Early in 1897 Henry made application to the Government of India for the appointment of an independent committee to inquire into and report upon this system. In March of that year General Strahan, R.E., Surveyor-General of India, and Mr. A. Pedlar, F.R.S., Director of Public Instruction, were selected to form a committee.

They inquired into both systems, and submitted a report to the Government of India, the concluding paragraph of which stated:-

In conclusion we are of the opinion that the method of identification by means of fingerprints, as worked on the system of recording impressions and of classification devised by Mr. Henry, may be safely adopted as being superior to the Anthropometric method; (1) in simplicity

of working; (2) in the cost of the apparatus; (3) in the fact that all skilled work is transferred to a Central or Classification Office; (4) in the rapidity with which the process can be worked; and (5) in the certainty of the results.

On the 12th June, 1897, a Resolution signed by the Governor-General in Council directed that the system of identification of criminals by finger-impressions be adopted generally in British India. Needless to say, the two systems had to operate side by side until full sets of fingerprints were obtained for all those persons with an anthropometric record only. At the time of the changeover it was estimated that between 150,000 and 200,000 anthropometric cards had been collected.

In 1899 with the system well in use in India, Henry was invited to read a paper on his system to the British Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1900 his book, 'Classification and Uses of Fingerprints' was published, ironically at the request of the Governor of India. On 5th July, 1900, the Secretary of State appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Lord Belper to enquire into the working of the method of identification of criminals by measurements and fingerprints. The report was completed in December 1900. This recommended that the present system (measurement and fingerprints) should be maintained for such reasonable time as may be necessary to enable the Department to decide how far Henry's system, with or without any modifications, could safely be adopted, and the present system gradually superseded, but that active steps should be taken towards the immediate introduction of the Henry system.

The steps taken were active indeed. On 31st May, 1901, Henry was appointed Assistant Commissioner in charge of the Criminal Investigation Department. On 1st July, 1901 the Fingerprint Branch at Scotland Yard was formed with three officers, Detective Inspector C.H. Stedman, Detective Sergeant C.S. Collins and Detective Constable F. Hunt. They tackled their task with enthusiasm and dedication. The Commissioner in his annual report for 1901 wrote:-

Owing to the greater effectiveness of the new method it has been found possible to dispense with the attendance of officers from Divisions at prison identification parades, much saving of time and men resulting.

With man's natural ingenuity, it was soon discovered that by applying a powder to a hard smooth surface a latent fingerprint could be made visible to the naked eye and recorded by a camera. Armed with a photograph of a fingerprint left at the scene of crime, the next obvious step was to search the fingerprint collection to identify the perpetrator of the crime. With such a system available, the method of criminal investigation took a mighty step forward.

On 13th September, 1902, Henry Jackson gained a place in English criminal history. He had been identified by his thumb print found at the scene of a burglary in Dulwich. He pleaded not guilty when he was tried at the Central Criminal Court. However, after Detective Sergeant Collins had identified the thumb-mark as that of Jackson, the jury returned a verdict of guilty and he was sentenced to seven years penal servitude.

It was not until 1905 that fingerprint evidence was given in an English murder trial. On 27th March of that year Mr. and Mrs. Farrow were brutally murdered in Deptford. A cash box from the scene was examined for fingerprints by Inspector Collins. The thumb print he found on the box was not that of any of the people who could have handled the box legitimately. During police enquiries, suspicion centred on two brothers, Alfred and Albert Stratton. When their prints were checked, the thumb-print on the cash box was found to be identical with the right thumb of Alfred Stratton, the elder of the brothers. Each brother denied that he had committed the murders and tried to blame the other brother. At their trial, evidence of the thumb print was given by Inspector Collins. The brothers were found guilty and subsequently hanged.

By 1905 small fingerprint bureaux had been started in England at Blackburn Borough, Blackpool Borough, Bradford City, East Suffolk Constabulary and York City.

In the early days of fingerprint identification a strict requirement for a specific number of characteristics was not enforced. The early experts relied on quoting how many sets of fingerprints they had in the collection, and how many comparisons they had made without finding a duplicated fingerprint. It was not until 1920 that Scotland Yard introduced the present standard of sixteen characteristics for all fingerprint identifications

placed before the courts. This, incidentally, is one of the highest fingerprint standards in the world.

A slow but constant escalation in the crime-rate led to more arrests, which in turn increased the size of the National Fingerprint Collection and made it imperative by the mid-sixties that computerised systems for fingerprints should be developed. Parallel to this ran an intensive programme of research into new techniques for the development of crime scene prints.

Today, the National Fingerprint Collection forms part of the data base on the Police National Computer and automatic scanning of fingerprints has been introduced into New Scotland Yard for processing and comparing fingerprints recovered from crime scenes.

The ability to develop latent fingerprints at crime scenes has been enhanced over the years by the introduction of ninhydrin, a physical developer, radio-active sulphur dioxide, metal deposition, cyanoacrylate fuming and the argon-ion laser.

The fact that all fingerprints are different and capable of being identified is taken very much for granted these days, but occasionally, it is as well to reflect on the efforts of those tenacious early pioneers who provided the firm foundation for this most perfect of personal identification systems known to man.

## A WATERSHED IN POLICING

Robert Reiner

The author is a Lecturer in the Sociology of Law, Bristol University, and author of *The Blue Coated Worker* (Cambridge, 1978), *The Politics of the Police* (Harvester, 1985) and several articles on policing.

"Civilisation is nothing else but the attempt to reduce force to being the last resort."

Ortega y Gasset

After the 1981 turmoils, and the Scarman Report, there seemed to be a turn in the policies of many police forces towards a primary concern with winning the consent and support of the community. Even the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, which many see as a further twist of the Authoritarian screw, includes a section (106) that adopts Scarman's idea of statutorily based consultation.<sup>(1)</sup>

This new emphasis on depoliticisation and reconciliation was not just a matter of Scarman's ideas being the flavour of the month. The Home Office was beginning to realise that for all the bonanza in 'law and order' expenditure since the Conservatives came into office, crime rates had boomed even more. In November, 1983, the Home Office issued a Circular 114 stating firmly that no further increases in police resources or establishment would be sanctioned unless the Home Secretary was satisfied that the best possible use was being made of existing manpower. It became clear that police services would have to be included within the tightening control of public expenditure.

In this climate of financial and political restrictiveness, the 1984/85 miners' strike has been the catalyst for a return of the repressed tendencies towards more militaristic and less sensitive policing. The police response has resembled that of an alcoholic who, having taken the pledge, wakes up to find he has inherited a distillery. At present the lessons of Scarman are vying unequally with the pernicious consequences of policing the bitterest and most polarised industrial dispute of the last sixty years.

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(1) Since the June 1982 Home Office circular giving guidelines for consultative arrangements, several hundred formal police-community consultation committees have been established around the country. R. Morgan and C. Maggs, *Following Scarman?* Bath University: Social Policy Papers 1984.

Undoubtedly no government, of whatever political hue, would have countenanced the frustration of its policies (right or wrong) by mass unconstitutional action, and would have supported a policing exercise adequate to prevent this. To this extent the radical critique of policing tactics in the strike, even if correct in detail, is disingenuous<sup>(2)</sup>. But the policing of the strike has highlighted several issues which require dispassionate analysis.<sup>(3)</sup> Among these are: (i) the problems of reconciling contending rights in picketing (and other public order situations); (ii) how standards of police discipline can be maintained amidst acrimonious and confused crowd conflict; (iii) how the police can have available defensive (or even offensive) riot control equipment when necessary, but without aggravating violence through premature shows of force. The logically fundamental problem is that of accountability. The massive police operation has clearly accentuated already on-going tendencies towards greater centralisation. The National Reporting Centre, under the President of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), has emerged as the pivot of a co-ordinated national operation without any clear lines of accountability to either national or local elected authorities. The problem of achieving some adequate structure of accountability for institutions of policing at national level, which may well be necessary on some occasions, must be addressed with urgency now the strike has ended.

This task will be made much more difficult by the political polarisation around the issue of policing which the strike has accentuated. This was most marked at the 1984 party conferences, which the Labour Party passed several resolutions highly critical of the police, including ones to give day-to-day control of policing to elected authorities, and to limit the police role in industrial disputes. Speaker after speaker hurled abuse at the police, with one rejecting Mr. Kinnock's comparison of the police to the meat in the sandwich of conflicting forces. They were not the meat, she said, but the salmonella poisoning. It is scarcely surprising that the Police Federation Chairman reacted by wondering whether the police would be able to continue to give equally loyal service to a Labour as to a Conservative Government. The Conservative Conference, for its part, basked the police in glory, and the Home Secretary pledged to limit one of the few powers of

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(2) For examples, see Taking Liberties, A Sheffield Police Watch Report, November 1984 and J. Coulter, S. Miller and M. Walker, State of Siege, London: Canary Press, 1984.

(3) These are usefully explored in the First Report of the Independent Inquiry, Civil Liberties and the Miners' Dispute, London: National Council for Civil Liberties, December 1984.

local police authorities by making attempts to remove a chief constable subject to an appeal to the new Police Complaints Authority. This was a response to the attempts of various police authorities, notably South Yorkshire, to express disapproval of the strategy (and expenditure) used in the miners' strike, by such measures as disbanding the police band or mounted section.

The Left has begun to develop its own stance on policing, but it is a one-sided attempt to compensate for previous lack of concern.<sup>(4)</sup> Its interest has been entirely critical, the mirror image of the Right's law and order position. Policy initiatives have crystallised almost entirely into the issue of accountability, conceived in a purely negative way, as the task of bringing into account police excesses and wrong-doing. The only positive measures of reform on the agenda remain the ones initiated by the police themselves following Scarman. The increasing social polarisation certainly makes the project of restoring police legitimacy an uphill struggle. But Sir Kenneth Newman's strategy is clearly predicated on accepting this, as he implies in his 1983 Annual Report (p. 2). The original achievement of police legitimacy in Britain was the product not of social harmony, but the acute political conflicts of the early nineteenth century.

### The Achievement of Policing by Consent

From a position of almost complete invisibility as a political issue, policing has thus become a babble of scandalous revelation, controversy and competing agendas for reform. Since the ~~climax~~climax of 1981 - the riots, Scarman, and all that - there has been a remarkable redirection of police thinking and strategy. But the viability of the associated reforms is threatened from two sides: contradictory implications of Government policy and a near consensus on the Left that the new policing initiatives are at best window-dressing, at worst an insidious hardening of social control. The police force as an institution is beset by innovation and undergoing changes which are the most momentous since the 1829 establishment of the Metropolitan Police. The delicately drawn tacit contract between police and people has begun to fray. The still open question is whether current efforts will suffice to repair it.

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(4) For an excellent critique see M. Kettle, "The Police and the Left", New Society December 6, 1984, pp. 366 - 367.

From the perspective of police history the 1950's (as in many other respects too) was a unique Golden Age of tranquility and accord. In 1955 an editorial in the *Police Journal* commented: "The law-abiding sections of the community (and in this we include the larger majority of all classes, working, professional and leisured, alike) have come to accept the police more as guardians, and not as oppressors. Time and experience have dispelled old fears, and even when engaged in illicit or unofficial strikes trade unionists now rarely resort to rowdiness or disorder." In the same year Geoffrey Gorer in his survey *Exploring English Character* claimed that the police "had an appreciable influence on the character of most the population during recent decades, so that the bulk of the population has ... incorporated the police man or woman as an ideal and become progressively more 'self-policing'."

It is this period which colours our perception of the last twenty years of increasing involvement of the police in political controversy. Policing by consent was not an automatic product of English national genius, as the cop-sided version of police history which was the received wisdom in the 50's and 60's would have us believe. It was the hard-won and brittle coincidence of deliberate strategies adopted by the architects of British policing (notably Peel, Rowan and Mayne), and wider social and economic developments which were a precondition of the success of their agenda<sup>(5)</sup>. As the more critical recent contributions to the history of the police (which now amount to a new revisionist orthodoxy) emphasise, not only was the establishment of the police bitterly resisted before and immediately after 1829 (as the conventional histories recognise) but this opposition was only slightly attenuated throughout the nineteenth century. Acquiescence in policing by many sections of the working-class continued to be grudging and volatile.

The gradual achievement of consent was the produce of policies adopted specifically to secure legitimation of an institution at first widely seen as an instrument of political oppression and a threat to liberty. These policies centred on the de-politicisation of the police image and the presentation of policing as the enforcement of a neutral law and order.

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(5) These are explored more fully in R. Reiner, *The Politics of the Police*, (Brighton: Harvester, 1985) Chaps, 1 and 2.

This was accomplished by: the bureaucratic organisation of the force subjecting constables to a strict set of rules; the adoption of a strategy of minimal force in riot control and routine patrol (what Mark referred to as "winning by appearing to lose"); the encouragement of the service role of the friendly bobby; and insulation from politics in the double form of the development of the doctrine of constabulary independence from governments and non-involvement of police officers in political activity. Gradually also the police secured what Ignatieff has called "a near-monopoly over the market in violence and redress."<sup>(6)</sup>

These elements combined in the presentation of an image of police as neutral agents of the law, impartially representing the communal interest. The wider precondition for the successful achievement of this was the whole set of processes accomplishing the incorporation of the working-class into the social and political order. This meant that no structured, self-conscious group saw itself as in conflict with the police.

### The Politicisation of Policing

In the late 1950's a series of what seem with hindsight relatively minor causes celebres (one involving Brian Rix of Whitehall farce fame) led to the establishment of a Royal Commission which examined the fundamental issue of the constitutional status of the police for the first time in the century since their foundation. The Commission's Report and the 1964 Police Act which derived from it, laid down the respective roles of Home Secretary, local police authority, and chief constable, with the latter firmly in the saddle as far as operational policy was concerned, a source of much current controversy.

At first, however, the 1964 Act constituted a settlement which was generally accepted. The re-organisation of policing in the mid-60's with the replacement of the foot patrol system by Unit Beat policing. 'Panda' cars and personal radios, was widely welcomed as a 'police revolution' in the fight against more sophisticated professional crime. The image changed from Dixon to Barlow, but neither was seen as a politically controversial figure. The police were no longer Plods, but not yet pigs.

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(6) M. Ignatieff: "Police and People: the birth of Mr. Peel's "Blue Locusts" New Society, 30 August 1979, p. 444

However, a series of related changes during the late 60's and 70's have re-politicised the police, undoing the achievement of the previous century and a half. These can be seen as the reversal and undermining of each of elements of legitimation. The rule-bound image of the policeman was dented by a series of revelations of widespread police deviance, both in the sense of corruption and violation of due process of law. The corruption scandals stretched from The Times probing of the "firm within a firm" of 1969 to the fiasco of the Countryman inquiry into corruption in the Metropolitan Police. A continuous undercurrent of allegations of police malpractice and brutality from radical circles was given some quasi-official backing by the Fisher report into the Confait case and the Policy Studies Institute study of the Metropolitan Police.<sup>(7)</sup> The minimal force strategy seemed to be departed from as the police reacted to increasing problems of handling public order by stiffening their capacity to mobilise in mutual support (culminating in the nationally co-ordinated police response to the 1984/85 miners' strike), intensified riot control training for ever larger numbers of officers, increasing reliance on protective equipment (shields, helmets), and, since 1981, the stockpiling in many forces of CS gas, water cannon and rubber bullets. In addition, although the British police remain the only force in a major industrial country not to be routinely armed, there has been a rapid increase in the number of officers trained to use firearms and the number of occasions they have been issued. Concern over this trend was crystallised above all by the 1983 shooting of Steven Waldorf. The service role of the friendly Dixonesque bobby was down-played as an unintended consequence of the reliance on technology and specialisation associated with unit beat reorganisation.

The traditional non-involvement in politics of the British police ended in the 1970's as the bobby lobby grew in the wake of Robert Mark's famed 1972 Dimbleby TV lecture, which initiated the new practice of chief constables, and later the Police Federation, of trying to mobilise public opinion behind a set of demands for harder-line "law and order" measures. The climax of this was pretty open support for the Tories in the 1979 general election, and the unprecedented release in Sir David McNee's 1981 Annual Report of 'mugging' statistics analysed by race, which was widely interpreted by critics as a last-ditch attempt to 'mug' Scarman. The

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(7) J. Baxter and L. Koffman, "The Confait Inheritance - forgotten lessons" *Cambrian Law Review*, 1983; D.J. Smith et al., *Police and People in London* (4 vols.). London: Policy Studies Institute, 1983.

worsening of relations between blacks and the police (and more generally youth and the police) has meant that there are now specific groups self-consciously in conflict with the police. From the point of view of the public in general, the capacity of the police has furthermore been called into question because of their apparent ineffectiveness in the 'fight against crime', which the police have emphasised in order to accrue resources. The police have never had it so good, in terms of money, manpower, equipment, legal powers and government aid and comfort generally, as in the Thatcher years, but crime is a boom industry. Crime increased at 10 per cent per annum in the first three years of this Government, the fastest annual rate since the Macmillan era. Finally, the 1960's counter-culture and its legacy brought the police into regular conflict with sections of the articulate and aware 'talking classes', as many forms of deviance came to be seen in a political light.

All these developments have re-politicised the issues of law and order and policing. Within policing circles debate polarised in the 70's between the advocates of (crudely put) "hardline" versus "community" policing. Since 1979 the Labour and Liberal Parties have departed from the tradition of regarding law-and-order as a non-partisan issue, and thrown their weight behind demands for clear accountability to elected police authorities, and opposition to the Government's Police and Criminal Evidence Act.

### From Scarman to Newman

In this highly politicised context the riots of 1981 served to crystallise debate, and the subsequent Scarman report became the focal point for a fundamental re-orientation of police thinking. The key to this is Scarman's clear prioritising of "the maintenance of public tranquility" over "law enforcement" as the principal object of policing. This is not really a departure from hallowed tradition - indeed Scarman draws on Richard Mayne's 1829 instructions to the new Metropolitan Police in arguing his case. But the clear message that comes over from Scarman is that in the balance between "hardline" and "community" policing, both of which must co-exist in an overall strategy (he rightly rejects "a simplistic dichotomy between 'hard' and 'soft' policing styles)" the emphasis has tilted too much towards the reactive "fire-brigade" pole.

Scarman has been much criticised by the Left for accepting the need for the 'hard' elements of policing, and not arguing for control of police policy by elected authorities (as distinct from consultation). It is certainly true that the bulk of Scarman's recommendations are what Professor Lawrence Sherman of the American Police Foundation has called 'people' rather than 'system' theories of police reform, emphasising measures to alter individual police characteristics through changes in selection, training and increased minority recruitment. In his thorough review of how in the United States "police-minority relations substantially improved throughout the 1970s" following the 60s ghetto riots. Sherman mainly credits structural factors like increasing black political power, tougher police discipline and more restrictions on discretion, with the 'people' factors only marginal in significance<sup>(8)</sup>. As Sherman recognises, the crucial structural factor in the United States - black political control of some cities - is not attainable in Britain. However, the crucial implication of black political control was to shift "the very philosophy of police work away from a rigidly mechanistic conception of enforcement of every law to a more malleable conception of keeping the peace." The significance of Scarman is that he encourages the same shift in philosophy. This explains the opposition to Scarman among police hard-liners which radical critics have pointed to but which secretly justifies their interpretation of his report as a ratification of the status quo.

However, if the trigger for a re-orientation of policing was Scarmania, the mechanism has been the taking-over of key positions of power by sympathisers, notably Newman as Metropolitan Commissioner and Lawrence Byford as HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, with a batch of important reports from the Home Office Research Unit (as well as the much publicised and seminal PSI Report) to provide the intellectual backbone. The key promise of the new approach is that crime control cannot be (in Newman's words) "a strategy for the police alone, but rather the most apparent feature of the contract between police and public." This premise is drawn from a series of research studies in the United States and Britain which have demonstrated the key role of the public in the recording and detection of offences, and the unresponsiveness of crime rates to strengthening traditional tactics of patrol and criminal investigation<sup>(9)</sup>. In short, the

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(8) L. Sherman "After the Riots: Police and Minorities in the U.S. 1970-1980", in N. Glazer and K. Young (eds.) *Ethnic Pluralism and Public Policy*, London: Heinemann, 1983.

(9) R. Reiner (1985), *op. cit.*, Chap. 4

"law and order" equation encapsulated in a Police Federation pay campaign slogan "Up Police Pay - Down Crime" does not hold. The twin pillars of the Newman strategy for dealing with this are a combination of more purposive and efficiently directed policing, and greater involvement of the "public" and other social agencies in crime prevention.

In line with some of the criticisms of the PSI report which found that "much patrolling by police officers on foot and in vehicles is apparently aimless" an attempt is being made to move towards "policing by objectives." This involves relating resource allocation to a tighter definition of priorities determined at divisional level by special research teams established at each station. The priorities for these plans are often based on surveys of the "public", and are the basis of targetting particular areas and individuals.

Changes in internal police procedures and organisation are intimately related to attempts to achieve the active co-operation of the public. This is intended to be both instrumental in crime prevention and the source of legitimation of police activity more generally. In Newman's words, "I see consultative committees as the focal point for my attempts to encourage a constructive problem-solving approach to many of the issues which have hitherto been dealt with exclusively by police but which are suitable for more broadly based community action. For example, initiatives to combat juvenile delinquency and vandalism ... The committees will help police achieve some consensus about the optimum style and method of policing for different areas."

Other elements of the strategy include neighbourhood watch schemes, greater use of the Special Constabulary (and attempts to recruit more blacks into it) and lay visitors to police stations, reporting back to the local police consultative committee.

The new approach to policing has been bitterly attacked by many on the Left, notably the GLC Police Committee and writers associated with it. The criticisms are summed-up in a recent article:

"community policing is not an alternative to reactive policing ... (it) is an attempt at the surveillance and control of communities by the police,

an attempt which operates under the guise of police offering advice and assistance, and which is all the more dangerous because it not only merges the activities of different agencies of the state, but does so under the control and direction of the police ... community policing offers no prospect of greater democratic control of the police and policing<sup>(10)</sup>."

The trouble with this approach is that there is no analysis offered of what "democratic control" of the police would hope to achieve. The emphasis is entirely on the project of altering the structure of governance of the police, premised on a total critique and rejection of current police practices. But no indication is given, except negatively, of what acceptable policy would be like. Two lessons from the American experience of attempts to reform the police seem to be valuable here. One is that the structure of formal control and accountability bears no clear relation to the quality of policing. As David Bayley suggests on the basis of a comparative examination of police and government: "Accountability to a community does not depend on particular mechanisms but on the spirit activating the political system as a whole ... Political habits, not administrative structures, are the crucial ingredient in making accountability vital."<sup>(11)</sup> The second lesson is that while police reform will not occur without the stimulus of some political scandal and, of course, some external accountability is essential, reform attempts carried out in the teeth of police opposition will founder, David Bayley again puts the point well: "The art of achieving accountability, especially when there is clamour for reform is to enlist the support of the police in disciplinary activities. If they become alienated, a crisis will emerge that is not the benefit of discipline, public confidence, or law enforcement. In order for processes of external regulation to succeed in the long run, to be more than a highly publicised morality play, the police must become convinced that they will be trusted to bear most of the active responsibility for ensuring correct performance and that they have much to gain from the favourable testimony of external review agents. If this can be done, then external regulation works in support of the only disciplinary processes that will ultimately be successful, namely, internal ones."<sup>(12)</sup>

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(10) P. Gordon, "Community Policing: Towards the Local Police State", *Critical Social Policy*, Summer 1984, p.56

(11) D. Bayley, "Accountability and Control of Police: Lessons for Britain." in T. Bennet (ed.) *The Future of Policing* (Cambridge: Institute of Criminology, 1983) p. 147

(12) *Ibid.*, p. 158

It is this understanding which informs the approach of Scarman, the much maligned Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure (which was equally condemned by police critics), and the PSI study. It is an approach to accountability which mirrors Newman's strategy for policing, stressing the importance of precise objectives and the willing co-operation of each partner to the police-public contract. It is more likely to achieve acceptable and effective policing than a nihilistic condemnation of all police practices and an all-or-nothing demand for political control. Moreover the lower profile version of accountability (local consultative committees, neighbourhood watch and lay station visitors) could open up those parts of policing - the crucial rank-and-file culture which police authorities (even with nominal control of operational policy) cannot reach. (13)

The major problems which may vitiate the success of the current police attempts to restore their legitimacy lie, however, in opposing elements of government policy. The first is the 1984 Police and Criminal Evidence Act, which remains viewed with much suspicion by civil libertarians and the black community, despite the improvements over the original version which have defused the initial almost unanimous opposition. This suspicion may not be well founded, and much of the propaganda against the Bill stressed only the increased police powers it contains, wilfully neglecting even to mention the safeguards it embodies. But whatever the intrinsic merits of the case, the Act is viewed with apprehension precisely by those groups where consent to policing is most fragile.

The more fundamental problem is that "community policing" cannot flourish in the face of economic and social policies which ruthlessly divide the community. As the history of the achievement of consensus policing in England indicates, the police strategies could be effective only in the wider context of the incorporation of the working-class into the political order. Present Government policies are having the effect of de-incorporating sections of society, notably the young "never-employed", especially concentrated among ethnic minorities, swelling the ranks of those groups who have historically and recently been the hard-core of rejection of the police. The harsh consequences of Government policy in this respect are encapsulated by the miners' strike. The Government by its apparent initial

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(13) S. Savage, "Political Control or Community Liaison?". Political Quarterly, January-March 1984, pp. 48-59.

reluctance to intervene and encourage a negotiated settlement has created a situation with disastrous and tragic results for police-public relations in the striking areas. Moreover the police operation has accentuated all the centralising and militaristic tendencies which the post-Scarman initiatives were aimed at reversing. This point was made explicitly by George Moores, Chairman of the South Yorkshire Police Committee: "The National Recording Centre is destroying something that we have worked hard for in South Yorkshire - full consultation, policing by consent." The police forces' worst enemies are not their overt critics, but their apparent benefactors - a law and order government which seems unconcerned about destroying the social preconditions of consensus policing and the virtues of the British police tradition. Recent reports of anti-police riots and attacks on the police stations in Maltby and Grimethorpe, South Yorkshire, begin to resemble uncannily the account of anti-police violence a century ago which have been detailed by Robert Storch in his celebrated paper on "The Plague of Blue Locusts."<sup>(14)</sup> Thus police are bearing the brunt of the miners' resentment, deflecting attention from the sources of the conflict. It is a classic case of executing the bearer of evil tidings, an understandable if unhelpful response. Now the conflict is over the issues raised by it will require some formal parliamentary or judicial inquiry as the NCCL's Report urges. This will have to consider the broader question of how to repair the damage done to the post-Scarman reform initiatives. Perhaps the noble Lord's diary for the coming year is not yet too full?

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(14) R.D. Storch, "The Plague of the Blue Locusts: Police Reform and Popular Resistance in Northern England 1840-57", *International Review of Social History*, 20, 1975, pp 61-90

## CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

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Much has been said and written in recent times on the 'fors' and 'against' of the death penalty for convicted perpetrators of heinous crimes. In support of the 'fors' are the many who hail the past as having had the right and proper answer. It is not the author's intent to take sides on the matter, but he does think that it will be of interest to his readers to show some of the barbaric ways in which society has, in earlier times in Great Britain and in some other countries also, dealt with law breakers.

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In Biblical days the concept of 'an eye for an eye' was upheld in the fights against the criminal. If the criminal killed someone, then he himself was put to death, the state's objective being one of pure vengeance. Prisons, probation officers, etc., were unheard of and the death sentence was the only way to deal with those who took away the life of others.

The death sentence, however, was limited not only to cases of murder, but also for offences offending the Law of Moses. Today's all too common offence drunkenness was then dealt with by death. A person who blasphemed or gathered sticks on the Sabbath also suffered the ultimate sentence. In those days the offender would have been stoned to death, either by having small rocks thrown at him by the crowds or by perhaps being thrown upon a large sharp-edged stone or even a large rock being dropped from a height upon his head. Death was, on many occasions, slow in coming and many must have prayed to have been killed by the first stone but this, of course, would not have been so entertaining for the crowd.

The stoning of a prisoner has never been officially recognised in English Law. However, there have been occasions when persons who had been placed in a pillory have died from injuries received from the stones thrown at them. The pillory was, in its simplest form, a wooden 'T' through the cross-bar of which the head, sometimes shaved, and the hands of the prisoner

were locked. It was also known as the 'stretch neck' and would appear to have been in use in Saxon England. The Statute of the Pillory which was passed in 1266 stated that it was to be used for offences of perjury and using fake weights and measures. A later Act of King Edward I gave instructions that all such pillories should be of a convenient height so that no discomfort occurred to the offenders.

In March 1756 a highwayman named James Egan and three other criminals were placed in such a pillory at London's West Smithfield. One of the stones thrown by the crowd who were ridiculing the offenders hit Egan on his head causing his immediate death. His colleagues were also seriously injured. Earlier, in 1731, a procuress known as Mother Needham died of similar injuries received whilst in the pillory.

The pillory was abolished for all offences except perjury in 1815 and was finally struck off the list of punishments in 1837. The last person to suffer the humility of the pillory in Britain was a perjurer named Bossy on 22nd June, 1830. This punishment, however, was not abolished in Delaware, United States of America, until 1905.

The Anglo Saxons, however, did not always stick rigidly to the earlier concept of death for death. To them the sentence imposed on a person who had killed depended very much on that persons status in society. An employer who killed his employee was fined a lot less than the employee who killed his employer. If you were high in status you were dealt with quite leniently or even let off.

The Romans put their criminals to death by throwing them from a tall tower or from the top of a cliff. The Emperor Zeno and mathematician Putuanius both met their fate by this method.

The Romans also favoured death by drowning for offences of bigamy and parricide and this method was really a way of appeasing the Gods by way of sacrifice. A heavy stone would be tied around the neck of the victim who would then be thrown into a river or pond. Some would have been tied up inside a sack which would itself be tied and then thrown into the water. It is through that this method of the death penalty took place in England before the time of Christ and continued right up until the end of the 16th century.

It was not until the time of King Henry II that it was accepted that crime was an offence against the State as opposed to the earlier idea that it was a matter between the offender and offended. This did of course have its complications. With the State taking vengeance on behalf of its citizens, it was not long before rival religions were subjected to continuous and unremitting persecution and the persecution of the witches in the seventeenth century is a good example of this.

The punishment of being buried alive does not appear to have been used in England although in France in 1460 the Provos of Paris sentenced a female thief named Perette to be 'buried alive before the gallows'. Plutarch also refers to it as a punishment for an unmarried woman who lost her virginity.

In 1426 pressing to death or 'peine forte et dure' was adopted, the objective being to get a person to plead Guilty or Not Guilty to a charge. At that time a person could not be tried under English Law without such a plea.

The prisoner would be stripped of his or her clothing and stretched out on his back on the prison cell floor. Each limb would be tied with cord and secured to a peg at each corner of the cell. So tied the prisoner would be unable to move. Heavy weights would then be placed on the chest. Highwayman William Spiggot endured a weight of nearly 400 lbs before pleading Guilty. To increase the torture a sharp object like a stone would be placed under the victim's back.

The fact that a person may have been a mute was never considered, for records shown that in 1735 such a person was pressed to death.

So common was this form of punishment that part of Newgate Prison in London became known as the 'Press Yard'. Thankfully this form of punishment was abolished in 1772.

Perhaps the worst sentence of all must have been being boiled alive. Boiling became part of the English death penalty in 1530 and was used in cases of wilful poisoning. The first person to suffer death by this appalling method was a cook named John Roose that same year. He poisoned seventeen members of the Bishop of Rochesters household, killing two of them.

The following year a servant girl poisoned her mistress and she was boiled to death at Kings Lynn, Norfolk, England. This punishment lasted only until 1547 when King Edward the Sixth repealed the Act.

Burning to death was once the punishment for incest and prostitutes in Old Testament Days. In 1555 the Bishop of Gloucester was burnt to death in front of 7000 people for his heretical preachings. The last execution of this type was on 18th March, 1789 when a woman called Christian Murphy was burnt at the stake at Newgate for coining while her male companions were hanged the same day. This practise ceased in 1790.

'Breaking on the wheel' was a method used during the 18th century for murderers and traitors. The prisoner was bound, face upwards, to a large cart-wheel which was mounted on a platform, so that all could see. The executioner would then smash every bone in the prisoners arms and legs. Having succeeded in that, he would then commence on the rest of the body, eventually killing the victim with a blow to the heart. The author can find no trace of this form of barbaric punishment being used in England but it would appear to have been quite common in France and Germany. There are records of it being used in Scotland on a couple of occasions.

Beheading has been in use since the days of the ancient Greeks and Romans. It was generally looked on as a more honourable death than hanging. In Britain beheading was used especially for nobility - Charles the First, Mary Queen of Scots, Anne Boleyn being but some of those who lost their heads with the help of an axe. Britain had always favoured the axe as opposed to the sword.

Although the executioner's objective was to behead the victim with one stroke of the axe there are records which show that in 1665 a woman suffered five such strokes but was still alive. The sixth stroke finally put an end to her misery. The last person in Britain to be beheaded was Lord Lovat on 9th April, 1747.

In the days of William the Conquerer (1066-1087) punishment of death was used on extremely rare occasions, but as each Century passed the number of offences bearing the death penalty and the numbers of people actually put

to death increased. During the reign of King Henry VIII 2000 people a year were put to death. In Queen Elizabeth I's reign the numbers were about the same.

In 1777 there were about 160 different offences punishable by death. By the 1830's it had increased to 222 offences, and included such things as shooting rabbits or even adopting a disguise. In fact in 1814 a man was hanged at Chelmsford in East Anglia for cutting down a cherry tree. No wonder London became known as 'the city of the gallows'.

Hanging has long been the main method of punishment. Although the gallows were situated in many parts of the country the two main sites in London were at Smithfield (appropriately at the meat market) and the Tyburn, the latter being where Marble Arch is now. Hanging took place at Smithfield up to the late 14th Century. It is known that the earliest recorded execution at Tyburn was in 1191 and it is probable that many condemned criminals were strung up on the elm trees which grew alongside the river Tyburn. Eventually, however, a wooden scaffold was erected and from this evolved the famous triple tree of Tyburn, a triangular 3-legged structure. It was 18ft (5.49 metres) high and capable of accommodating eight people on each side of the triangle.

In the 18th Century and earlier a condemned criminal would be executed the day after sentencing unless it happened to be a Sunday. He would be taken from Newgate Prison in an open horse-drawn cart, which was sometimes draped in black, to the Tyburn. His arms would be pinioned to prevent escape. The streets would be crowded with people eager to glimpse sight of some notoriety. The cart would be preceded by a number of mounted officers being led by the City Marshal and the Under-Sheriff. Travelling with the prisoner would be a Chaplain. As the procession passed the spectators the latter would follow hoping to have a good view of the proceedings at the gallows. As they passed the Church of St. Sepulchre's a nosegay would perhaps be given to the condemned criminal.

As the procession continued on its way the condemned man was allowed to stop at a tavern for whatever drink he requested on the proviso that he paid for it on his return from the hanging! Only those who were lucky enough to be granted a reprieve at the very last moment ever kept their promise. The

journey from the prison to the execution site would take about three hours. depending on the financial state of the criminal he would perhaps pay for some official mourners to follow the procession or travel with him in the cart. He might also make arrangements for his earthly goods to be given to his friends after his death. If he was wise he would also pay the Hangman to do a good quick job.

If the condemned person was well known, crowds of many thousands would be present at the execution and seats would be erected around the scaffold to ensure that people were comfortable as well as entertained. When Courvoisier was hanged for the murder of 72 year old Lord William Russell a crowd of 20,000 attended. When Dr. Hensey was to be hanged for treason in 1758 spectators were charged either 2/- (10p) or 2/5 (12½p) depending on how close one wanted to be to the scaffold. On this occasion, however, the Doctor was reprieved at the last minute, and the subsequent riot left most of the seats destroyed.

In 1759 the triangular scaffold was demolished and replaced by a moveable gallows.

There are even reports of up to 50,000 people being present at some executions and it was these vast numbers which eventually led to the discontinuation of public executions. The crowds regarded the whole affair as virtually a public holiday or carnival instead of the public hanging acting as a deterrent. As a result in 1783 the place of execution transferred to outside Newgate Prison. The last person to be hanged at the Tyburn was John Austin in that year.

This change of scene did little to curb the vast crowds. When John Holloway and Owen Haggerty were hanged for murder in 1807 such were the numbers of spectators that nearly 100 people were killed in the crush.

It was not until 1868, however, that public executions were abolished and hanging took place in the privacy of a Prison. The last person to be publicly hanged in England was Michael Barrett outside Newgate Prison on 26th May, 1868.

The earlier figure of 222 hanging offences of the 1830's gradually reduced until in 1861 the Criminal Law Consolidation Act left only four offences punishable by death: murder, treason, piracy with violence and setting fire to arsenals and dockyards. In 1908 convicted persons under the age of 16 years were exempted from capital punishment as also pregnant women in 1931.

All prisoners on conviction of murder, would have heard the Judge pronounce sentence having performed the ritual of donning a black cap:-

"John ....., you have been convicted of murder. I therefore pass upon you the sentence of the law. That sentence is that you be taken hence to the place whence you came, that you be there hanged by the neck until you are dead, and your body shall be buried within the precincts of the prison in which you shall have been last confined after your convictions, and may God have mercy on your soul."

The Chaplain would answer "Amen."

If no appeal was lodged, execution would usually be timed to allow three Sundays to elapse following the day when the condemned man was sentenced to death.

The last persons to be hanged in England were Peter Allen and Gwynne Evans on 13th August, 1964. They murdered a 53 year old van driver named John West with a knife. Allen was hanged at Liverpool Prison and Evans at Manchester Prison.

Although hanging was abolished in England in 1964 the death penalty is still retained for treason, piracy and setting fire to arsenals and dockyards.

The author has taken the reader very basically through the various methods of capital punishment. It is hard to believe that society could have been so barbaric in its dealings with the criminal. Boiling, pressing,

breaking, burning, etc., seem unbelievable today. All were appalling punishments. Yet the fate of W. Cundell and his six colleagues who were convicted of treason in 1812 seems the hardest to comprehend. The words of the Judge adequately sum up the punishment at that time:

"That you and each of you, be taken to the place from whence you came, and from thence be drawn on a hurdle to the place of execution, where you shall be hanged by the necks, not till you are dead, that you be severally taken down, while yet alive, and your bowels be taken out and burnt before your faces - that your heads be then cut off, and your bodies cut into four quarters, to be at the King's disposal. And God Almighty have mercy on your souls."

To revert to his opening paragraph, the author considers that those who would refer to 'the good old days' might do well to think again.

## PAPER PURSUIT

### A Brief Account of the History of the Police Gazette

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#### Origins

The Police Gazette of today originates from the work of Henry and John Fielding in the 18th century.

Henry Fielding set up his office in Bow Street as a Justice of the Peace for Westminster and Justice for Middlesex in 1748. Within a relatively short time as he started to develop his ideas Henry Fielding realised the potential benefits to law enforcement of; (a) Public advertising and; (b) Communication with other Justices elsewhere in the country.

In 1752 in his own publication, the Covent Garden Journal, Henry Fielding regularly advertised the activities of his court at Bow Street inviting the victims of crime to contact him with their complaints. When he ceased publishing the Covent Garden Journal, similar advertisements appeared regularly in one of the most popular newspapers of the day, the Public Advertiser.

Henry's half brother, John Fielding, became a Magistrate for Westminster in 1751. Henry's health started to fade during 1753 and by April 1754 John Fielding had taken over Henry Fielding's work at Bow Street. The following is the detail of an advertisement which regularly appeared in the Public Advertiser from October 17th, 1754 and which set the scene for the foundation of the Police Gazette.

"Whereas many thieves and robbers daily escape justice for want of immediate pursuit, it is therefore recommended to all persons, who shall henceforth be robbed on the highway or in the streets, or whose shops or houses shall be broken open, that they give immediate notice thereof, together with as accurate description of the offenders as possible, to

JOHN FIELDING, Esq., at his house in Bow Street, Covent Garden: By which means, joined to an advertisement, containing an account of the things lost (which is also taken in there) thieves and robbers will seldom escape; as most of the principal pawnbrokers taking this paper, and by the intelligence they get from it assist daily in discovering and apprehending rogues.

And if they would send a special messenger on these occasions, Mr. Fielding would not only pay that messenger for his trouble, but would immediately despatch a set of brave fellows in pursuit, who have been long engaged for such purposes, and are always ready to set out to any part of this town or kingdom, on a quarter of an hours notice.

It is to be hoped that the late success of this plan will make all persons for the future industrious to give the earliest notice possible of all robberies and robbers whatever."

#### Sir John Fielding's Plan

In his "Plan of Police" Sir John Fielding (as he then was) during the period 1761-1763 proposed

"that a paper be established by law in which everything relative to the discovery of the offenders should be advertised and that all persons be bound to take notice of whatever is advertised therein; and if they have purchased or taken into pawn any stolen goods therein described to give information thereof to one of the commissioners, otherwise to be liable to be prosecuted as the receiver of them: and that all persons who knowingly harbour or assist the offenders to escape should be liable to a penalty to be levied by any two of the said Commissioners and, if a publican, to forfeit his licence for three years."

John Fielding's "Plan of Police" was not adopted but nevertheless he continued to exploit the medium of advertising for the purposes of justice. In 1771 John Fielding was involved in one notorious case which demonstrated the value of advertising. A robbery and murder had taken place in the Kings Road, Chelsea and a gang of several Jews were suspected of the crime.

The crime aroused strong public feelings at the time and John Fielding was in charge of the enquiry and promptly issued and circulated a hand bill seeking information to trace the offenders and setting out the rewards available to an informant. After this circulation and advertisements in the London Gazette, one member of the gang turned King's Evidence and gave Fielding a description of the remaining offenders. Fielding then promptly circulated the description of the remainder of the gang to Post Office Officials and Officers of Custom and Excise throughout the country distributing great numbers of printed advertisements to be prominently displayed. This action obviously fueled anti-semitic prejudices of the time and suspicious looking Jews were arrested in a number of towns. However, the desired result was also achieved and four principal members of the gang were arrested in Birmingham and brought back to London by "Mr. Fielding's people." Subsequently six of the gang were tried at the Old Bailey and four were condemned to death and executed in front of a crowd "greater than at any execution within the memory of man."

#### The Quarterly and Weekly Pursuit

Sir John Fielding was by this time intent on the publication of a Police advertising periodical and used the success of the Chelsea outrage to attempt to persuade the government to set up such a publication. His efforts met with little immediate success and so it appears that he commenced a limited publication on his own account. In circulars to Mayors and Chief Magistrates in 1772 and 1773 Sir John stated that it was his intention to circulate throughout the country each quarter details of felons who had fled from the Metropolis. It was his hope that these would be republished in each locality and copies given to Constables and copies displayed in prominent public places. Sir John also proposed sending a newspaper gratis every week to the Mayors and Chief Magistrates containing advertisements relating to offences and offenders. Persons connected with law enforcement were invited to ensure that details of offences were properly transmitted to Bow Street. These publications were known as the "Quarterly Pursuit" and the "Weekly Pursuit".

These publications met with some success and in 1773 Sir John was urging Lord Suffolk to put his plan on a proper footing with public funds in the order of £400 per year. Ultimately this had the desired effect and on 26th August, 1773, Sir John Fielding wrote of an audience that day with Lord North who advised him that the general preventive plan had been represented to His Majesty "who had been graciously pleased to afford it his loyal countenance."

### The Public Hue and Cry and Police Gazette

Six years after Sir John Fielding's death in 1786 his successor, Sir Samson Wright converted the Weekly Pursuit into a more newspaper like affair and changed the title to "Public Hue and Cry". By 1795 the title had changed again to "The Hue and Cry and Police Gazette", by this time the periodical was published every Saturday and was publicly available at the price of 3½d.

The Gazette is mentioned in the evidence given to the Committee appointed to enquire into the state of the Police of the Metropolis which reported on 1st July 1816. The then Chief Magistrate at Bow Street, Sir Nathaniel Conant stated that the Gazette was sent to all Magistrates in the Kingdom who desired it and to the Clerks of the Peace of the Counties and Mayors and functionaries of the great towns. The Gazette was under the control of an Editor appointed by the Secretary of State. The Editor at that time was John Stafford, the Chief Clerk at Bow Street. Sir Nathaniel Conant revealed that the Editor had considerable discretion as to the contents of the Gazette which included the acceptance of paid private advertisements. The receipts from this income went towards the printing charges and the Editor received £70 per year as salary for this function. The Gazette was sent free to those official recipients listed above.

### The Police Gazette

In 1828 the name of the periodical was shortened to "The Police Gazette."

On 20th March, 1835 a return was placed before the House of Commons showing the costs in each of the previous five years of printing and circulating the Police Gazette. John Stafford remained the Editor receiving an allowance at that time of £100 per annum. The following table shows the costs in each year for printing and circulating the Gazette and the numbers printed and circulated.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Numbers Printed</u>
	£	
1830	1,365	148,100
1831	1,577	169,750
1832	1,535	167,560
1833	1,596	156,832
1834	1,612	161,200

The return shows that the gazette was then circulated to the "Mayors and Principal Officers of every city and town in the Kingdom, to Justices of the Peace in Petty Sessions assembled or their clerks, Keepers of Jails and Houses of Correction, the Metropolitan Police, the War Office, Horse Patrol, Police Offices, the Commanding Officers of each Regiment and to several military depots in Great Britain and Ireland." There was obviously even at this time some confusion over the title of the publication as the return to the House of Commons includes the footnote that "The Police Gazette and The Hue and Cry are one and the same publication." The return to the House of Commons suggests that circulation was by this time restricted to official agencies of law enforcement. This may not have been strictly the case as an item from the Cambridge Chronicle of the 2nd September 1836 relating to a robbery at Mildenhall in Suffolk commences, "Information was on Monday published in the government Hue and Cry of the following robbery....."

The Gazette continued to be issued by the Chief Clerk at Bow Street long after the establishment of the Metropolitan Police. The Criminal Record Office at Scotland Yard was established in 1880 following from the Commissioner's records kept in accordance with the Prevention of Crimes Act 1871. In 1883 the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police took over

responsibility for the production of the Police Gazette and from this time some illustrations started to appear in the text. By the 1890's occasional illustrated circulars supplemented the Police Gazette and from those sprang various supplements to the Gazette in the 20th Century. By 1914 the Gazette was being issued on a daily rather than a weekly basis.

By 1936 the Commissioner was able to report that the Police Gazette was edited in the Criminal Record Office and "information received in the morning appears in print the same day and is in the hands of the Forces the same evening or by first post the next morning. To make this possible the editorial and printing department are obliged to work at high pressure as items have to be in the hands of the printer before 9.30 a.m. each morning, the first batch of Police Gazettes being despatched to the railway terminal about noon daily." The Commissioner stated that the criminal record office were prepared to supply gratis to all forces sufficient copies to enable every police station or constable's cottage used as a station to receive one. By this time there were six supplements to the Gazette. These were:-

Supplement A - issued fortnightly - details of active travelling criminals.

Supplement B - issued weekly - convicts on licence, etc.

Supplement C - Aliens wanted for crime and alien offences.

Supplement D - Absentees/deserters.

Supplement E - (Commenced 1933) photographs of Active criminals not sufficiently important to be included in Supplement A.

Supplement F - Deaths and re-convictions of criminals previously circulated.

Since 1772, this periodical has contained detailed information relating to crime, criminals and police officers throughout England and Wales. It contains a wealth of information of interest to police and local historians and is a virtually untapped source. No one record office, library or museum contains a complete run of this periodical and the following table gives details of what are believed to be the only survivals outside private collections. It is hoped that this source list will be of value to police historians.

The Committee of the Police History Society recognised the value of the Gazette and currently negotiations are taking place which it is hoped will lead to a republication of Gazettes up to 1900 in Microfiche format. It is hoped that this will ensure that this valuable source of information becomes more readily available in libraries and record offices thus contributing to our knowledge of police history.

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CHECKLIST OF PRE-1900 POLICE GAZETTES AND THEIR LOCATIONS

Key C = Complete Year

P = Partial Year

S = 1 to 5 Single Issues

1790			
1791			
1792			
1793	10S	17S	
1794	19P		
1795	1S	20S	
1796	19S		
1797	19P		
1798	19P		
1799	19C		
1800	19C		
1801	19P	3S	
1802	19P	3S	
1803	19P		
1804	19P		
1805	19P		
1806	19P		
1807	19P		
1808	19P		
1809	19S		
1810	19P		
1811	24C	10S	19S
1812	24C	19P	
1813	24C	19S	
1814	24C	19P	
1815	24C	19P	3S
1816	24C	19P	17S
1817	24C	19P	
1818	24C	3C	19P
1819	24C	3C	19P
1820	24C	3C	19P

1821	24C	3C	19P		
1822	24C	3C	19P		
1823	24C	3C	19P		
1824	24C	3C			
1825	24C	3C			
1826	24C	3C			
1827	24C	3C	19S	28S	
1828	23C	13C	3C	1S	2S
1829	23C	13C	3C		
1830	23C	13C	3C		
1831	23C	13C	3C	17S	
1832	23C	13C	3C	17S	
1833	23C	13C	3C		
1834	23C	3C			
1835	23C	1S			
1836	23C				
1837	23C				
1838	23C	17C	9P		
1839	23C	9P			
1840	23C				
1841	23C				
1842	23C	26P	17S		
1843	23C	26C			
1844	23C	26C			
1845	23C		17S		
1846					
1847					
1848	8C				
1849	8C		2S		
1850	8C				
1851	8C				
1852	8C				
1853	8C				
1854	8C				
1855	8C				
1856	8C				
1857					
1858	1P	3P			

1859			21C				
1860			21C				
1861			21C				
1862			21C				
1863			21C				
1864			21C				
1865			21C				
1866	5C		21C				
1867	5C		21C				
1968	5C		21C				
1869	5C		21C				
1870	5C		21C				
1871	5C		21C	29S			
1872	5C		21C				
1873	5C		21C				
1874	5C						
1875	5C		21C	31S	1S		
1876	5C		21C	29C			
1877	3C	5C		21C			
1878	3C	5C		17S			
1879	3C	5C		2S			
1880	3C	5C		11S	25P		
1881	3C	5C		31C	25P		
1882	3C	5C		21C	25P	27S	30P
1883	3C	5C		21C	25P		
1884	3C	5C		21C	31C	26S	
1885	3C	5C		21C	23S		
1886	3C	5C		29C	31C	16S	
1887	3C	5C		7P	25P	27S	
1888	3C	5C		31C	25P	26S	30S
1889	3C	5C		2P	27S		
1890	3C	5C		31C	26P	1S	
1891	3C	5C		31C	30S		
1892	3C	5C		29C	31C		
1893	3C	5C		31C	25P		
1894	3C	5C	31C	25P			
1895	3C	5C	31C	22S	25S		

1896	3C	15P	7S	25S	30S			
1897	3C	5C	2S	4S	12S	14S	22S	26S
1898	3C	5C						
1899	3C	5C	31C	4S	14S			
1900	3C	5C						

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22. Pembrokeshire Record Office, The Castle, Haverfordwest, Dyfed. SA61 2EF
23. Public Record Office, Kew, Richmond, Surrey. TW9 4DY
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## THE COLLECTOR'S TALE

M.H. Simms

A retired police officer, who now possesses one of the largest private collections of memorabilia in Britain

"Oh my God, not another load of rubbish."

That is my wife Jean, from the kitchen as I struggle from the car with a load of "Police Gazettes", circa 1910, "Police Reviews", (1875) and the pocket books of a Camarthen constable of the 1870's. I've got to admit that they do look a bit scruffy, having just been rescued from a coalshed in the wilds of Gwent! I can't blame my wife for her thoughts; after all, they were the thoughts of most Chief Constables and senior officers of the police force in the past, hence the disappearance of a large chunk of police history into the yard fire at headquarters stores.

Who am I? I consider myself as a police officer (albeit retired) who is interested, nay, passionate, about police history and about collecting those items which will be the police history of the future. I have been more fortunate than most, inasmuch as I have been able to open my own Police Historical and Modern History Museum. It started many years ago - (is it really thirty-two?) - with an exchange of a Leicester City helmet plate and like the proverbial Topsy, it "just grew and grew." When I married in 1969 the Metropolitan Force Newspaper, "The Job", ran the lead line in half-inch letters - "Marry me, marry my uniforms." I was known as a bit of a nut-case collector in those days; a cry from a contact in Bradford City, or some other town, "Better be quick - they're burning all the old uniforms." - sent me North, poste-haste, in the hope of rescuing another bit of history.

A lot of our history has been destroyed in this way and I now get weekly calls: "Can you help us with our exhibition - we've got nothing left, and we want to put on some kind of show." This gives me hope that the most humble P.C. and the most senior officer are beginning to take an interest in police history; after all, what better public relations exercise is there, than having an "open day" at the police station, with a few old uniforms, belts, handcuffs, etc., scattered about the place? The public,

especially children, start asking questions of the P.C. on duty. They have never spoken to a policeman before, and when he gets into his stride they find him quite human.

My collection, now partially housed in the Winchcombe Police Museum, is estimated to have raised over £38,000 for charities since its inception, and it has travelled throughout Europe, America, Japan and Australia, as well as to many functions in this country; it normally returns a little worse for wear, and has to be cleaned, repaired, etc. The postman calls regularly at my home, or at the museum, with another parcel - the chap who visited the collection last month from Los Angeles, (or Germany, or New Zealand, etc.) has sent his uniform! My store room at home (a converted cow-byre) is once again starting to look like the Quartermaster's store; the question is, has anyone got a spare museum going free?

It is surprising how many Townswomens' Guilds, Womens' Institutes and schools are now requesting evening lectures and talks about the police and police history, because they have visited the museum, and want to know a bit more. This always brings forth the call, "My grandfather had a police truncheon (whistle, pocket book, etc.), I'll dig it out and drop it in at the museum." It does, however, also achieve the object that a member of the public has spoken to an (albeit retired) member of the police force and has come away with the impression that "they are just like us after all" having heard a few stories of the horrors of night duties when the cat knocked off that dustbin lid, or your first sudden death, and THAT post-mortem.

"So what's this all about?" I hear you say. Remember that holiday/conference/trip you had to Germany/France/Italy a few years ago and you had a few drinks with the local constabulary and they later gave you a badge or cap? What have you done with it? It's on the top of the wardrobe, isn't it? Why do you keep it? Just for memory's sake? So YOU are a historian/collector too. Remember, I started just the same way all those years ago!

## KILLED IN THE EXECUTION OF DUTY

### THE SILEBY MURDER

**Bernard Elliott**

A retired Police Officer who researched this article from the Leicester Journal

The death of W.P.C. Yvonne Fletcher at the Libyan People's Bureau in May 1984, is a pertinent reminder of the fact that in this 20th century some 75 police officers have been killed in the execution of their duty, two of which have come from Leicestershire. The unglamorous village of Sileby in that county does not very often attract the headlines of the national press but it did so on Monday, 25th May, 1903, for on that fine summer evening in the peaceful days of King Edward VII a young constable met his death. He was P.C. William Wilkinson, aged 31, a native of Glooston in Leicestershire, who had served five years at Sileby and was greatly liked by the people there.

Two villagers, however, disliked him greatly and they were shoehands, Thomas Preston and Thomas Porter. Like many countrymen throughout the county at this time, Preston and Porter were inveterate poachers and had actually been caught in their misdeeds by P.C. Wilkinson and the other Sileby policeman, P.C. Hall, and had consequently been fined. Hence they were at daggers drawn with the two Sileby policemen and were not afraid to proclaim their resentment of the constables in the many inns that Sileby boasted of at this time.

On this particular evening their enmity towards the local constables had been increased by constant tipping in several pubs so that towards 11 o'clock both men were raging with spite and indignation against P.C.'s Wilkinson and Hall. It seems that they were determined on revenge that evening. So, they took up a position in Sileby churchyard not far from its entrance to the road and awaited the arrival of the constables who always met at this point. The first to arrive was the junior policeman, P.C. Wilkinson, who as usual waited for his senior colleague just outside the churchyard. While Wilkinson was standing there, a local builder, John Middleton, came along and engaged the constable in conversation. After a few minutes a slight noise was heard from the direction of one of the gravestones and so flashing his torch into the graveyard, P.C. Wilkinson shouted out, "Who's there?" He then looked over

the gate and began to walk in the direction of the sound. But he did not get very far, for at that moment one of the two murderers jumped onto a tombstone and let fire at the approaching constable with a double-barrelled shotgun. At once the constable was halted in his steps, for he was badly wounded by the firing of the shot, since only a few yards separated the assailant from the victim. The constable now cried out, "I'm shot" and staggered some distance down the road until he dropped down dead.

Middleton, who had witnessed the shooting, at once gave the alarm and the finger of suspicion pointed immediately to Porter and Preston, whose hatred of the policemen was well-known. So, as soon as P.C. Hall learnt of the event, he made for Porter's house in Swan Street only to find that the two murderers had locked themselves in. Nevertheless, P.C. Hall managed to burst open the door, only to be met by Porter holding the double-barrelled gun and threatening to blow the constable to bits if he did not get out. So P.C. Hall, wisely, beat a retreat, whereupon Porter and Preston retreated to a bedroom and locked themselves in. P.C. Hall now thought that it was best to summon up reserves; so he telegraphed the Chief Constable of Leicestershire and Inspector Agar of Loughborough to acquaint them with the facts of the horrible affair. They made at once for Sileby and as more policeman arrived they surrounded the house. Throughout the night, Porter and Preston kept the police at bay and every time the police approached the house Porter pointed the loaded gun at them. But as the night wore on and the crowd around the house grew in numbers, their spirits drooped so that with one last final desperate fling of defiance Porter fired the gun and then threw it down to the waiting policemen. At once, Inspector Agar and other officers went up to the bedroom and arrested the two men.

Amid the excitement of the villagers, most of whom had stayed up all night, the two prisoners were taken away in a trap to Loughborough, where they were lodged in cells in the police station. On the following Wednesday at the Plough Inn, Sileby, a coroner's jury returned a verdict of Wilful murder and sent the two men for trial at the next assizes. On 3rd July, 1903, Porter and Preston appeared at Leicester Castle before Mr. Justice Ridley and after a two days' trial the jury returned a verdict of wilful murder, whereupon the judge sentenced them to death. The date of the execution

was fixed for 25th July and on that day the two criminals were hanged in Welford Road gaol at 8 a.m. A petition for a reprieve met with little success, the murder of a policeman was regarded with particular horror and revulsion in early 20th century Britain.

## THE POLICEMAN DIED ONE FEBRUARY NIGHT

Reprinted from the Sunday Mercury, 19th February, 1961 having been submitted by Mr. A. Trevener.

If you follow the footsteps of the Romans down the Icknield Street from the Peacock Inn at Forhill (seven miles to the south of Birmingham) you pass the Coach and Horses at the foot of Weatheroak Hill. In a further half-mile you come to a gate on the right marked 'Alcott'.

Immediately ahead the Roman road rises sharply uphill between steep grass banks. In the hedge on the right stands a holly bush and beyond it an oak. Search low on the left immediately opposite this tree and you find a stone inscribed "J.D. 1885."

In that year, at 2.15 on the dark morning of Saturday, 28th February, Police Constable James Davies, of Beoley, a married man of 33 with four small children and Police Constable Whitehouse of Wythall, making a routine contact on their beats, compared watches and parted. Said Whitehouse, "Take care of yourself, chappie. I shall see you tomorrow night."

But though Whitehouse was not to know, that was his last nocturnal rendezvous with his colleague. At 8.30 a.m. John Twigg of Rowney Green on his way to work at a Weatheroak Hill farm, found Davies lying face down in a pool of blood, foully murdered, with many terrible knife wounds.

The exact spot on that narrow hill in Icknield Street, known locally as Eagle Street Lane is marked by that stone with the unfortunate policeman's initials and the year - "J.D. 1885."

### Discovery Delayed

Twigg notified the police of his discovery, and in the afternoon the corpse was conveyed to a wheelwright's shed nearby to await the inquest. Superintendent Jeffrey of Bromsgrove notified all local police officers of murder and the investigation was afoot.

When Davies left Whitehouse he was making for Stecham Farm, his 4 a.m. checkpoint with P.C. Shepherd of Alvechurch. But Shepherd was at home ill so Davies was not missed as early as normally he would have been.

During the fatal night a fowlhouse in a farm nearby had been entered and six fowls stolen. It was thought that Davies had come upon the thief as he was making for Redditch station. As the constable's whistle and oak stick were found 200 yards from the body, and as his handcuffs were still in his pocket, it was assumed that the thief had gone quietly for 200 yards before turning on his captor with a knife.

### A Notorious Poacher

Davies' hands were severely cut as he defended himself, but he had finally succumbed to a gash across the throat. No cries were heard at Newbold's Farm, the nearest dwelling, though the dog had barked furiously between 3.30 and 4 a.m.

Among the police notified of the crime, Superintendent Tyler of Kings Heath at once suspected a notorious poacher, one Moses Shrimpton, the terror of East Worcestershire despite his 65 years, who had already committed a brutal assault on a gamekeeper and done seven years' penal servitude for attacking a policeman.

Recently released from gaol, Shrimpton was co-habiting with a woman named Mary Morton, at 9 Bartholomew Street, Birmingham. and here, on Saturday night Tyler found him in bed with cuts on his face and asked him, "Moses, how did you get those scars on your forehead?"

"I got them a week ago, falling down drunk in Ludgate Hill" was Shrimpton's reply.

His woman friend was ordered to dress, each garment being searched beforehand - and in her skirt pocket was found a large knife with two blades sharply pointed. It had been newly washed and cleaned in earth but still it bore traces of blood, as did Shrimpton's clothing. Inquiries proved him to have been out all the previous night.

Shrimpton and Mary Morton were taken to Moore Street police station, where he was charged on suspicion of murdering Davies and she as an accessory after the fact. They were then taken respectively to Kings' Heath and Balsall Heath police stations, which in those days were both in Worcestershire.

### Semi-Military Funeral

The pair came up before the magistrates at Kings Heath and were ultimately committed for trial at Worcester Assizes. Meanwhile Davies had been buried - on Thursday, 5th March - in Beoley churchyard, on a hillside overlooking the countryside he had tramped on his beat.

In the fine rounded prose of those days, the 'Birmingham Daily Post' reported: "The funeral was made the occasion of a demonstration highly creditable to the force to which the deceased belonged, and the semi-military pomp with which the absequies were conducted was not unbecoming in the case of a man who fell while bravely doing his duty."

Birmingham Police Band led the cortege from the wheelwright's shop at Beoley to the church three-quarters of a mile away. Eighty members of the Worcestershire Constabulary and many from Birmingham were in the sad procession. Crowds flocked in from far afield, many brewers' drays having been chartered by parties.

Shrimpton and Mary Morton were tried before Baron Huddleston at Worcester Assizes on 6th and 7th May. His lordship grumbled that his slumbers in Worcester were disturbed by the crowing of a bantam cock.

Mary Morton was acquitted and discharged, but the case against Shrimpton was incontrovertible. His boots corresponded with footprints beside Davies' body; the policeman's watch was traced to him: George Parsons, a carter, of Summer Lane, Birmingham, deposed that Shrimpton told him on 27th February, "I'm going round Beoley tonight."

### An Alleged Threat

John Whitehouse, of Hay Mills, licensee of the White Lion, Portway, from 1879 to 1883, gave evidence that Shrimpton, a frequent customer there, once said as Davies passed: "There goes that ----- teetotal ----- If ever I was to meet him I'd be a match for him."

Shrimpton stoutly protested his innocence - but he was sentenced to death, and was hanged at Worcester Jail on Whit Monday, 25th May. The last execution at Worcester previously had been years before; there have not been any since. A story goes that a confession was found in Shrimpton's snuffbox.

Davies' widow was granted the maximum gratuity allowed by law - £60.18s. 8d, but the public were more generous and subscribed £1,408.1s.8d to a fund for the murdered constable's dependants.

## POLICE DUTY FIFTY YEARS AGO AND AFTER

### A Few Reminiscences by an old Metropolitan 'A'

Reprinted from Police Review, 28th December, 1906.

The great comet referred to in 1858 was Donati's which apparently was the most spectacular ever seen

Police duty at the present time is very different in many respects from what it was 50 years ago, about which time the writer joined the 'A' Division of the Metropolitan Police.

At that time, three Commissioners, one of whom was Chief, controlled the Force.

#### The Old Uniform

The uniform was a swallow-tail coat, with bright buttons, and embroidered with white letters and numbers on the collar. In the tail of the coat was a pocket in which the truncheon, on which was painted the Royal Coat of Arms, was carried. The overcoat had a turndown collar, also embroidered with letters and numbers, which were kept clean with pipeclay. There was no whistle, but a rattle was carried in the pocket of the overcoat. A very stiff leather stock with brass clasp at the back was also worn, but it was very uncomfortable. The headgear was a tall hat with a thick patent-leather top and side stays of cane covered also with patent leather. The belts were paid for by the men themselves, and bought at a shop in Holborn. There was not, I believe, any ordinary uniform for Inspectors, some of them obtained their coats second-hand from the warders of prisons.

#### Bad Old Hats

It was, I believe, in 1858 that the contractor for Policemen's hats was late in the delivery of the new issue. The consequence was that the old ones, which were of an inferior quality became very shabby, and many of them considerably out of shape. At the Ascot race meeting that year, general remarks were made about the hats, and the men were chaffed. Since then the helmet and the tunic have been introduced.

### The Old Rate of Pay

The pay of Sergeants was 24s. per week, only one class. There were two classes of Constables. Pay in the first class was 21s., and in the second 19s., per week. The bestowal of the first class was very unsatisfactory, for each Division had a certain number of first-class and when a vacancy occurred in any Division it was filled by a Constable of that Division, so that it often happened that a much younger P.C. got his class years before a P.C. in a neighbouring Division got his.

In June 1857, Queen Victoria distributed in Hyde Park the Victoria Crosses to the soldiers entitled, who had returned from the Crimean War. There was a large stand erected for the occasion, reaching from the Achilles statue across the park nearly to the Marble Arch, capable of seating thousands of people.

### Hours of Duty

The ordinary Police duty at this time was performed as follows. - The night duty was then, as now, from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. The day duty in two reliefs, one from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.; the second from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at which time the first relief came on again till 10 p.m. The second relief that went off duty at 3 p.m. came on again at either 7 or 8 p.m. according to the season, going off again at 10 p.m. By this means a double relief was on during the late evening. The men who formed the first relief one day became second the next, thereby changing their hours of duty on alternate days. Frequently in the London season the relief which came off at 9 a.m. had to turn out to attend on Her Majesty and Prince Albert when those Royal personages arrived or departed at or from a railway station, or attended any London function.

### Sundays and Leave

Sunday and weekdays were alike, as no leave or little indeed was granted. Supposing a man during the few hours off duty wished to attend a place of worship, he had to make application in writing to be allowed to wear plain clothes. At no time was a man allowed out in plain clothes without first obtaining permission on a written application. There was then no annual leave, but in case of death or very special circumstances a few days were granted.

## Old Landmarks Gone

The houses in Parliament Street reached up to opposite Richmond Terrace. Between that and St. James's Park was King Street, in which was the Police Station of the 'A' Division. Running from King Street towards the park were several other streets, among them being Charles Street, at that time the recruiting depot for the Army, also the Section House for Police recruits. At the end of Charles Street was a vacant piece of ground which was used for Police and recruits' drill and for the Commissioner's inspections. Just inside the Park stood the old Record Office, but Government buildings now cover nearly all this locality.

Many changes in Westminster have occurred since 1857. At that time old Westminster Bridge was standing, the width of which was only half of the present one, and a row of houses reached from the bridge to the corner of Bridge Street opposite Parliament Street, Parliament Square, although railed in, was then in a disgraceful condition.

The original Big Ben was swinging at the foot of the Clock Tower and was tolled every Saturday at noon till by some chance it got cracked, then it was broken up and removed and the present bell was substituted.

## Sanitary Improvements

The main drainage was at this time under construction, and the Thames water was in a filthy state. I have been on duty on old Westminster Bridge on a hot summer night and morning, and when the tide was down the mud banks, on which the beautiful embankment is now seen, were reeking with filth and the stench was sickening. It was at this time that the ornamental lake in St. James's Park was cleaned out and levelled, and the bottom covered with concrete, thereby making it shallower and consequently less dangerous, especially in the winter season, if anyone fell through the ice.

## Lord Mayor's Show

The first Lord Mayor's Show by land took place in 1857, and the procession then, and for several years afterwards, proceeded by way of Charing Cross and Whitehall to the old Law Courts at Westminster returning by the same route. There was no Northumberland Avenue as the old mansion

was still standing, and of course no Embankment. At this time, also, there were no Bronze Lions on the pedestal of Nelson's Column.

Before Charing Cross Hotel was built, Hungerford Market stood on the site, and the old suspension footbridge for which payment was made to cross, the passengers passing through turnstiles, spanned the Thames.

### Cumbrous Communication

Referring again to Police matters, at this time there was no telegraphic communication, and no printing of Police Orders and informations. For the former, the Divisional Clerks attended Scotland Yard each evening and copied them; the latter, called routes, were all written and forwarded by hand from one Division to another, and as they arrived at a Station the Sergeant on Station duty, together with one Constable or more, copied them, and a reserve man carried them to the next Station, bringing back others from there.

When printing was introduced, a large bag with patent lock was made for each Division, and hung up in the back Hall at Scotland Yard in charge of the Sergeant on duty. The Sergeant on duty arranged all matters connected with the dispatch of the aforesaid bags about four times a day.

Four Constables were on duty to carry these bags, one to C, Vine Street, one to F, Bow Street, one to L, Lambeth and one to A, King Street. From these Divisions they were forwarded by other Constables to the outer Divisions.

These P.C.'s had long straps over their shoulders, to which the bags were attached. It was no easy matter for a P.C. with three or more bags, often very bulky, slung on each side of him to make his way along crowded streets.

At that time the Dockyards had not then come under the Metropolitan Police control, neither were they any W, X and Y Divisions.

## The Old C.I.D.

The Detective Force consisted of two Inspectors and about seven Sergeants one of whom was a Frenchman, as at that time the Orsini plot was causing trouble, and Dr. Simon Bernard was apprehended for complicity by the late Mr. Williamson and another P.S. who spoke French.

Mr. Williamson, with the writer, occupied together a room in Scotland Yard, and frequently visited various places of public resort during the evenings, notably old Vauxhall, Cremorne Gardens, and Highbury Barn. Places in Town were also visited, among them the Cider Cellars in Maiden Lane, where we sometimes sat on Baron Nicholson's jury. The night houses in the Haymarket were in full swing, and the Argyle Rooms were well known. At the Argyle no lady was admitted if she was wearing a hat, she must wear a bonnet. The modern monstrosities of headgear had not come into fashion. The fighting fraternity in the neighbourhood were much in evidence, including Sayers and Heenan.

The wedding of the Princess Royal took place early in 1858 at St. James Palace and several State visits were made to the Opera at H.M. Theatre. The Royal couple went away one day in a snowstorm. The Police then, and at all State functions, had to parade in blue uniform and white gloves, no matter how cold the weather.

## Modern Improvements

Many changes for the better have taken place, especially in pay, duty, uniform and leave. One day in seven was at one time authorised, but was found unworkable, and one day in 14 or rather two days a month, one being Sunday, was substituted, with a small increase of pay.

There was no educational examination for promotion, no beards and moustaches, and when bands were first introduced they were subscribed for by the Police themselves.

It was in 1858 that the great comet was a conspicuous object in the N.W. sky.

The first tramline in London was made in the Bayswater Road, from the Marble Arch westward. Bronze oval-shaped tickets were used, of which the writer has two. All streets were paved with large stones, and the wheels of all vehicles had iron tyres, so that the noise was greater than now.

In the early 'sixties the brass badges of the drivers and conductors of public carriages, owing to the numerous losses and illegal uses, were called in to Scotland Yard, and a new issue of enamelled iron, white and round with black letters for drivers, and yellow and oval for conductors, were supplied by the late Mr. Willing.

There were no district Superintendents (now Chief Constables) but all defaulters, except those dealt with by the Superintendent, together with all reports, were brought to Scotland Yard each day, either by the Superintendent or by an Inspector, for the sitting Commissioner to deal with.

#### Snubbing a Stipendiary

At one time the Constables of the 'B' Division for a long time were subjected to continual snubbing and fault finding by an old and irritable Magistrate, Mr. Arnold, so much so that the Constables declined to take any case before him if it could be avoided. The matter became so acute that by order of the Commissioner the Superintendent addressed the Magistrate plainly in open Court and told him plainly that the Police had no confidence in him and would not bring charges before him. The matter was reported in the press. The result I forget.

The foregoing notes are from memory and subsequently may contain small errors.

The writer served in various departments in old Scotland Yard, and in Divisions under ten Superintendents, holding himself the rank of Inspector for twenty-two years, altogether in different ranks, thirty-three years.

#### Filling Up Vacancies

In the 'sixties at one time, when the Force was much less numerous than now, there were many vacancies, and to fill them circulars were sent to various constabularies inviting them to recommend suitable candidates.

There were attached to the 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' Divisions respectively one Inspector, one Sergeant and 50 Constables. The "A Reserve" received no extra pay, but were the first to be called upon for any special duty, such as Royal functions, race meetings, or London pageants. Superintendents of other Divisions, when short of men, made application on proper forms for the number of Reserves required. The form was brought to Scotland Yard for the approval of the sitting Commissioner and then forwarded to one of the Superintendents of the above Divisions who supplied the men required, generally for night duty.

One of the Reserve Inspectors would sometimes be ordered to patrol, in plain clothes, one of the outer Divisions, and report next day any neglect of duty which came under his notice.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE 1935

Arnold E. Reynolds  
Retired Police Officer

I joined the Leamington Spa Borough Police in April 1935, at the age of 24 years. I never applied to join this particular Force, but they knew that I was interested as I had been to the Headquarters several times to be measured and weighed to complete Application Forms for other Police Forces, so when a vacancy arose they sent for me.

I commenced Night Duty, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. without any training whatsoever. For two weeks, accompanied by a regular Police Constable, I learnt the route of some twelve Beats. These were 'timed' and meant being at a certain place at a certain time. I worked continuous 'nights' for four months, unaccompanied, except for those first two weeks. I can honestly say there was no street in the town that was not seen at least once during the night, and possibly no door knob on shop premises that was not tried.

The conditions for taking your 'Coffee Break' were primitive. Your coffee was brought to you by the man on the adjoining beat, he having received it from the man on the 'Main Street' beat (thank goodness for thermos flasks). You provided your own sandwiches and sat on a public seat bench to partake of this refreshment. If you heard some person of the public approaching you immediately stood up. In wet weather we were allowed to enter the Greenhouse in one of the Town Councillor's gardens nearby. Eventually we were allowed to go into the hallway of a disused Sub-Police Station and sit on the floor! The man on the H.Q. Beat had his refreshment sitting on a shop doorstep, looking into the H.Q. Office, it did not matter the weather, he still sat there.

For a period of thirteen weeks, starting in September, I was sent to the Police Training School, Digbeth, Birmingham, a large upper room over an operational Police Station. The class consisted of thirty men from twenty-seven different Police Forces, including one from Hong Kong. The staff consisted of a Chief Inspector, two Sergeants from Birmingham City Police, a P/T Instructor, a former Circus acrobat, and a Police Constable for Foot

Drill. On arrival you had your hair cropped. You were then given a Police Diary from which you copied some one hundred and one 'definitions' (larceny, false pretenses, housebreaking, etc.) into a small note book. These had to be learnt at the rate of five per night. On completion you were given a ledger type book into which you again copied the definitions with a larger description of their meaning. It was necessary to purchase the book 'Moriarty's Police Law'. We received instruction on Police Procedures, Duties and Powers over the weeks, having a Test each Saturday morning.

We also attended the Law Courts, the Swimming Baths (a must, no dodging this, just the thing to cure a cold) and you were expected to swim two lengths of the baths at the end of the thirteen weeks. After the Test on Saturday mornings it was P/T and Boxing, and the instructor expected to see blood.

I was stationed at a Sub-Station some two miles from school, and travelled in each day. Three times a week after finishing school, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. you worked a beat with a City Policeman, alternating weekly from the City Centre to where you were stationed. You bought your own meals and made a contribution to the Sub-Station for your accommodation and meals. You were not allowed to leave Birmingham during your training. Nearing the end of the course everyone had his hair back to normal, only to be told to get it cropped again. I remember the class booking a row in the Birmingham Hippodrome and each time the light came up we had to put our hats back on. We were like the 'skinheads'.

I returned to my force, much fitter and wiser. Conditions were the same, a months night duty, a month day duty, the latter being split shifts (6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.) which were worked alternately. One day off per week and only posted a month at a time.

Come 1938 things did improve. In ten years we had six Chief Constables and each one brought improvements. Rotary leave was introduced so we had a weekend off every six weeks. The three shift system, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.; 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. and 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. so that we had twice the day duty

to that of nights. Times Beats were abolished, Police Pillars installed about the town giving better communications between the man on the beat and Headquarters.

To finish, I did attend the first two week course held at the Ryton-on-Dunsmore Police College, also a C.I.D. course, and later made Sergeant.

ESTABLISHMENT OF DEVON COUNTY POLICE

Arnold E. Reynolds  
Retired Police Officer

The first question referred to by the Devonshire Police Committee on the 16th September, 1856, was whether there should be one or two Chiefs of Police, and the committee unanimously resolved that there should be one Police Chief for the whole of Devon County. Another duty entrusted to the committee was to report the best way of organising the Force. The committee reported, "For this purpose we have referred to some other counties in which the Police has already been established, and we find in the county of Bedford, there is one Constable for every 1849 persons at a cost of 4,912 pounds, Gloucester, one to every 1240 at a cost of 16,334 pounds, Hampshire, one for every 1200 at a cost of 14,917 pounds, Norfolk, one to every 1674 at a cost of 16,861 pounds, Wiltshire, one to every 1206 at a cost of 12,661 pounds, Somerset, one to every 1429 at a cost of 16,467 pounds (proposed). The following tables have been formed for the purpose of ascertaining the expense to the County of Devon and the extent of duty required from Police Officers. If Magistrates should resolve to appoint one Constable to every 1500 persons, or one to every 1300. The population of the Boroughs not contributing to the County is 160,504, leaving 406,594. In the County, exclusive of the Boroughs there are 77,190 inhabited houses to 1,621,235 acres.

To provide one Constable for every 1500 persons there must be 271 officers. To provide one Constable for every 1300 persons about 310 officers. On the first scale there would be one Constable to every 6,005 acres (not quite 10 sq. miles). One Constable to every 285 inhabited houses. On the second scale there would be one Constable for every 5230 acres (rather more than 8 sq. miles) and one Constable to every 250 inhabited houses.

These tables are submitted according to the plan adopted in the Parliament return, and it will be obvious as there are some superior Officers involved in the gross number, the extent of the duties of the common Constable will exceed the above calculation. The Committee submit that if the first

scale of 271 officers be adopted the Staff and pay should be as follows:-

1. Chief Constable - 400 pounds per annum, expenses 20 pounds, including keep of horse, 200 pounds - Total 600 pounds.
2. 10 Superintendents at 80 pounds per annum, expenses 20 pounds - Total 100 pounds.
3. 20 Sergeants - 25/- per week - Total 1,300 pounds.
4. 80 Constables - 20/- per week - Total 4,160 pounds.
5. 160 Constables - 17/- per week - Total 7071 pounds.

TOTAL: 14,132 pounds.

6. Clothing at 7 pounds per man, about 2,000 pounds.

TOTAL: 16,132 pounds

If the second scale be adopted - viz. 310 officers, expenses would be 2,000 pounds a year more.

**APPENDIX 'A'** - The Secretary of State issued the following rules respecting the Chief Constable. His age must not exceed 45 years. He must be certified by a Medical Practitioner to be in good health and of sound constitution and fitted to perform the duties of the office. He must not had been a bankrupt nor have taken the benefits of the Insolvency Act. He must be recommended to the Secretary of State by the Magistrates in whom the appointment is invested as a person of general good character and conduct.

**APPENDIX 'B'** - By the rules of the Secretary of State, weekly pay of the Sergeants is not to be less than 19/- or more than 25/-.

Devon County Constabulary were given the Royal Warrant on 25th November 1856.

## MISCELLANY

A compilation of items and letters from members of the Police History Society

A regular correspondent to the Editor forwarded the following letter which he had published in 'Beacon', the magazine of the West Midlands Police, in April 1981.

### Enjoying "Anecdotalage"

I joined the Birmingham City Police in October 1929 at the age of 19. By the end of that first day four of us were installed in Victoria Road Police Station at Aston. Of the very many things to be done in our new surroundings the most important was to start to memorise Legal Definitions. So it is after midnight when I am mentally absorbing the fact that "Law is defined by Blackstone as a rule of action prescribed by some superior which an inferior is bound to obey."

We soon found we had to find inspiration while on the top deck of a 3X tram into City. We made progress in the training school till the end of the year. The last period was taken up in the study of local bylaws. Putting theory into practice on the beat became interesting. Byelaw No. 5 of the Good Rule and Government, 1918, made it a punishable offence in Birmingham to commit a disorderly act. But what was a disorderly act? We found it useful to use this byelaw to deal with oafs who liked to give the raspberry after a young policeman on the beat had just passed him. We soon found ways to trap the oaf. Followed shortly after by a summons which read "For that he to the annoyance of passengers did commit a disorderly act by placing his hand to his mouth and making a loud noise as of wind passing." They usually got fined five or ten shillings. They always asked for time to pay!

Always on a Saturday night the policeman on the beat was peacemaker as the proletariat engaged in their fracas. A few got summoned for using indecent or obscene language. In court we could not use those wicked words

We had to write it down and hand the note to the Bench then it was passed to the defendant. Those words are all in any good class dictionary now. You must know them! In our day it cost an oaf five or ten shillings if caught. Maybe it really was good rule and government.

My hardest task in the Police School was teaching the teachers how to say my ancient Cornish name correctly. The lad from Tre Pol and Pen would not allow the "trev" factor to creep in. Never did. Never will. Of the instructors the best remembered must be Sgt. Blackburn (progenitor of Dr. Blackburn M.P.); always so knowledgeable, helpful and understanding of young recruits problems.

After four years it was time to take the examination for promotion to earn a two shilling rise in pay. In fact one could get to top rate of 90/- a week in eight years instead of ten years by passing the examinations, I still have the tome Harris' Criminal Law with the signature (not a facsimile) of Sir Charles Haughton Rafter KBE therein. He wished me well. That was over 50 years ago.

In the Police school the roll call (however many times a day) was always the same routine - Seddon, Done, Robbins, Ireland, Ashman, Madden and so through B and C to D Andrews, Ellis Havard, Crocker where I came in. Followed by Baldwin, Davies, Pumffrey and E Division.

How many are still up and about? There's just got to be some who ought to 'get fell in' at Tally Ho! Generally the first Friday in the month. There is always some loot to be won at bingo.

As I mentioned at the start, so I end. It is all Anecdotage!

Alfred Trevener,  
Erdington.

## Straw Boaters

It is hard to believe this was only 20 years ago.

Letter from Wellingborough School to Mr. Gott, Chief Constable, dated 29th September, 1965.

"I hope you will not think I am troubling you with a trivial matter, but I should appreciate your advice about straw boaters. They are part of the uniform here but Day Boys have previously been excused wearing them. I have now said that those living in or very near Wellingborough must do so, even if they are bicycling.

This has caused some parents to write and complain; their main argument is that if the wind blows the boater off it will probably cause an accident either to the cyclist or to someone following behind. I have suggested that they attach some elastic to both sides of the boater to form a chin strap.

The points which I should much appreciate your advice about are:-

1. From a Police angle, do boys bicycling at proper speeds - but wearing a boater - constitute a hazard?
2. Are there many other Schools in the County which wear boaters while walking or bicycling in a built up area?

With kind regards.

P.S. Did we bicycle with boaters at Radley? I can't remember."

### Minute from Assistant Chief Constable to the Chief Constable:

"I have spoken to Superintendent Roche and he does not remember any accidents being caused through a boater being blown off - he has not, however, checked the records.

Only the rowing blues at Oundle wear boaters and then with a blazer.

I do not know of any other school in the County where boys are required to wear boaters.

In my early days boaters had a cord attached to the back of the rim which led to the jacket button-hole. I would think that boys would prefer this to an elastic chin-strap.

In answer to the specific question of Mr. Sugden, I think boys in boaters may well be a traffic hazard."

Letter from Mr. Gott to Wellingborough School:

"Your letter of 29th September poses rather a tricky question and it is easier to answer the postscript first. I think that cycling with boaters at Radley largely depended upon whether you were a 'wet' or 'dry' bob. As the former, I certainly cycled for miles with a boater and I can't remember either others or myself having accidents on account of it.

We have no record here of accidents from this cause in Northamptonshire either. To be fair, however, if they were only minor ones, the Police might well not be called in.

As far as we know the only other School in the County where boaters are worn in public is at Oundle, but then only by Rowing Blues wearing blazers.

Theoretically, of course, boys wearing insecure boaters could be a hazard in windy weather. This is a little remote, however, and could certainly be overcome by an elastic 'chin-strap' or even by the old-fashioned rim-cord attached to the button-hole in the jacket lapel."

Letter from Wellingborough School to Mr. Gott:

"Many thanks indeed for your letter about boys wearing boaters while bicycling. It was kind of you to take so much trouble and your advice is very helpful.

I had already warned them to attach elastic chin-straps so I hope they will be sensible enough to do so. Best wishes."

## Speeding on the M.1

Reply from a Chief Constable to a letter of mitigation. An unusual style not seen any more.

9.5.1972

"Further to my letter of 24th April, I have now seen the Police reports from which it appears that Constable Edwards quite properly verbally warned both the other driver and yourself for the way in which you drove on the motorway on 15th April.

Whilst you may well have felt that the other driver was 'hogging' the right-hand lane, two wrongs do not make a right. You certainly had not the slightest excuse for passing on the centre lane which, as I pointed out in my letter, is quite contrary to the Highway Code and your action could very well have resulted in a prosecution being taken against you, as it has been against many other drivers who have performed exactly the same manoeuvre. Police Constable Edwards reports, however, that your action did not cause any obvious danger and therefore quite properly dealt with your thoughtlessness by means of a verbal caution on the spot. I do not therefore propose to authorise any further action as far as you are concerned.

I notice, however, that you were apparently driving a V.12 E-type Jaguar. As one who has driven sports cars for nearly 45 years, including cars of superior maximum performance and certainly better handling than a V.12 E-type Jaguar, I feel it is most unfortunate that a sports car driver should indulge in this type of driving. Such cars have powers of acceleration that there is really no need for the driver to take any risks whatsoever and to do so on a Motorway merely gives other members of the public a very poor impression of sports car drivers in general.

In these circumstances, the catch phrase about - Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely - may perhaps have a ring of truth and I hope that you will not again pass on the inside on British Motorways in the future."

## Brutal Police Assaults

Reprinted Police Review, 28.12.1906.

CLAY CROSS - Finding that a drunken collier named Woodhouse was behaving in a disorderly manner, P.C. Millward advised him to go home, but he refused. On being taken into custody he became very violent and kicked the Constable on the legs. When the case was heard, Superintendent McLarty told the Magistrate that the prisoner had been up 33 times and at the April Quarter Sessions in 1905 he received 15 months for malicious injury to a Constable. For the assault, prisoner was sent to gaol for six weeks and for being drunk and disorderly for 14 days, the sentences to run consecutively.

COLEBY - The attention of P.C. Adlard was directed to three drunken men who were walking arm in arm and making use of very bad language. The Constable spoke to them respecting their conduct and with some difficulty obtained the name and address of one of the party, who was taken away. The other two men then came up to him and struck him across the head with a stick, felling him to the ground. The Constable managed to get up but was knocked down a second time and the men got on the top of him and struck and kicked him several times about the head and body. He became semi-unconscious and the men left him. On recovering somewhat he followed them to Duston Pillar where he apprehended them and then brought them to Lincoln. When he arrived there he was covered with blood and in an almost exhausted condition, and was covered with bruises from head to foot. The Bench considered the prisoners had been guilty of a very serious assault on the Constable. They were determined to protect the Police and for being drunk and disorderly the accused would have to go to prison for seven days' h.l., and for the assault on the Police they would have to undergo one month's h.l., the sentence to run consecutively.

DERBY - When arrested for being drunk and disorderly, a man behaved like a madman, and P.C. Orme had great difficulty in getting the handcuffs on. The man had to be carried to the lock-up and on the way he kicked the Officer severely on the legs several times. P.C.'s Calladine and McKimmie eventually came to his assistance. Fined 10s and costs or 14 days for being drunk and disorderly, and sent for 21 days' h.l. for the assault.

ILKESTON - A man, on being ejected from a house, set upon P.C. Campbell who was compelled to use his staff. In the struggle with the man both he and P.C. Froggatt who came to his assistance were kicked. They had to strap the prisoner's legs and get assistance to carry him to the lock-up. Sent for six weeks.

KELSALE - P.C. Grey was riding from Saxmundham to Kelsale when his attention was drawn to something lying by the side of the road. The Constable got out of the cart and found it was a man. Failing to rouse him, P.C. Grey pulled him on to his feet, and advised him to go home. The man thereupon deliberately struck the Constable across the face with a stick, stunning him for a moment. On recovering, P.C. Grey closed with the man, who tried to repeat the blows, but the Constable warded them off. The wound inflicted on the Officer was found to be two inches long. Sent for three weeks' h.l.

PADDINGTON - Hearing a woman screaming "Murder" at midnight, P.C. Rolfe was attracted to the spot. Being told by the woman who was in night attire that her husband had been knocking her and the children about, he went up the stairs to the husband. He met him on the landing and the man at once ran at him and butting him with his head, tried to hurl him down the stairs. This he repeated three times. Then the man ran up the stairs and taking up a jam jar full of water threw both at the constable. Ultimately the Officer got the man into the street, and with assistance conveyed him to the Police Station. Sent for six weeks.

RAMSGATE - In consequence of several complaints about begging, P.C. Harnett kept a man under observation. On being taken into custody the man became very violent, struck the Constable several times about the body and then rushed away. He was eventually caught and taken to the Police Station. Sent for three months h.l.

## Torquay Bread Riots 1847 - Arnold E. Reynolds

A minute of the meeting of Quarter Sessions dated the 19th October, 1847, refers to the approval of the sum of £60-7s.-9p. being paid for the conveyance of prisoners from Torquay to the County Goal, charged with riot.

In May 1847, there were Bread Riots throughout Devon, beginning in Exeter and the course of a few days trouble occurred at Exmouth, Dawlish, Okehampton, Collompton, Crediton and Tiverton. On Monday, 17th May, 1847, disturbances broke out in Torquay. Rumours were current several days previously that a riot was meditated, but so little was the danger that no provision was made to guard against it. At 7.30 in the evening a mob collected in Lower Union Street and made an attack on Bakers shops, the contents being carried off by women in their aprons. The rioters worked under cover of a dark night and owing to the economy of the Commissioners, no street lamps were permitted to be lit during the summer months and even the burners of the lamps were removed.

With a view to identifying the ring leaders, it was determined to turn on the gas. When this was done and the lamps lit, each emitted a flame about a foot high. By this time several thousand persons were in the streets, but when the orderly disposed attempted to seize the rioters, they were rescued by their companions.

The mob hurried down Fleet Street and attacked a shop, but one of the defenders armed with a crowbar, dealt the leader a terrific blow on the head, which felled him to the ground. Several shops in the Strand area were attacked and as the bread was thrown out to them, the mob refrained from inflicting any damage.

The rioters then made their way up Torre and commenced to attack Bakers shops on the opposite side of the road to where the Torquay Police Station now stands. They were overtaken by a party of tradesmen under the command of a Magistrate, and following some fighting the Riot Act was read and the men who had been captured were taken to the local 'lock up'. The Magistrates returned to the Town Hall at midnight and commenced examination of the

prisoners, till' three in the morning. Three prisoners were committed for trial and dispersed to Exeter, the others being remanded.

At noon on the 18th May whilst the Magistrates were disposing of the men in custody a body of 60 navvies employed on the rail works above Torre marched into Torquay equipped with pick axes, crowbars and shovels with the avid purpose of pulling down the Town Hall, unless their fellow workers were released. Here one of the Magistrates named H.C.M. Phillips met them. A man named Hart stepped forward and demanded the prisoners. He was told the party he was in search of was probably at that time in Exeter. The men then advanced towards the door of the Town Hall and the position critical. They made a sudden rush and Mr. Phillips seized the ring leader and held him fast. The Constables and Coast Guards coming up at that moment. Hart, with several of his companions, were arrested. Seventeen prisoners were lodged in the Watch House at one time. As further violence was expected a messenger was sent to Exeter and by evening 40 men of the 5th Fusiliers accompanied by County Magistrates arrived and were quartered in the Union Hall. In addition the 'ADELAIDE' a Revenue Cutter and the Government steamer 'VULCAN' brought detachments of Coast Guards. 300 Special Constables were also sworn in. Seeing these preparations the rioters made no further attempt to disturb the peace.

### Torquay's Second Bread Riots

On the 5th November, 1867, there was another Bread Riot. Much property was destroyed by the mob, the women bringing supplies of heavy stones from Ellacombe, which were thrown at the Constables, some of whom were severely wounded.

In April a contingent of two Sergeants and twenty-nine Constables, under the Superintendent Shutler left for duty in South Wales, in connection with the Coal Strike.

From "Out of the Blue" by Hutchings and published by the Devon Publishing Company.

Letter from Lieutenant Colonel T.B. Wright, A.L.C., to the Editor.

"I was interested to learn through the Victorian Military Society of the formation of the Police History Society. I was formerly a chief inspector in the Northern Rhodesia, later Zambia Police, and now spend most of what free time I have in trying to write a history of the Northern Rhodesia Police and its forerunners from 1890 to 1964. We hope to have it ready and published while there are still enough of us around to read it! I do not know whether your Society covers the old Colonial Police Service but I would be interested in hearing more about it.

The first direct link between the Northern Rhodesia Police and the home police service appears to have been in 1912 when Colonel A.H.M. Edwards, C.B., M.V.O., came out to Rhodesia as Chief Commandant of Police and Volunteers after serving as a Chief Constable in the Metropolitan Police since 1906. Edwards fostered the development of the Civil Police and C.I.D in Northern Rhodesia and recruited some ten constables of the Metropolitan force to come out to Northern Rhodesia as sergeants. I would be most interested in learning something about these men, two of whom were serving under Lieutenant Sillitoe at Lusaka in 1914.

Sillitoe, of course, left Africa in 1922 and in 1923 became Chief Constable of Chesterfield from where he moved to the East Riding, Sheffield Glasgow and finally, Kent, before becoming Director General of M.I.5 as Sir Percy Sillitoe in 1946."

PUB REVIEW

We have a member who is a publican.

The King's Head at Gosfield, Nr. Halstead in Essex boasts "The Copper Grill" and the Garfield Police Collection which contains an enormous amount of police memorabilia.

Everything is in view at the pub during licensing hours - some 1700 items varying from full uniform to tip-staifs, from badges to helmets and caps.

Should anyone require more information about this vast collection, they can ring Georgie Roy-Clarke on Halstead 472803.

## FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The first Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Society held at Churchill College, Cambridge on Saturday, 7th September, 1985, was a resounding success. Members who were unable to attend the Conference may, even at this late hour, share something of the flavour of the day by purchasing a sound recording of the whole event. The recording is completely unexpurgated and is on four C90 tapes. Included are the three presentations made to the Conference:-

A Revisionist View of the Parish Constable by Dr. Jim Sharpe.

Vive La Difference by Clive Emsley.

Police Perceptions of Labour in the Interwar Period - The Case of the Unemployed and of the Miners on Strike by Dr. Barbara Weinberger.

All this can be obtained at the amazing price, including postage, of £7.00. Tapes can be obtained from Superintendent Les Waters, Cambridgeshire Constabulary Headquarters, Hinchingsbrooke Park, Huntingdon, Cambs. Cheques should be made payable to "The Police History Society" and members are asked to allow four weeks for delivery.

## WHERE DID THE RANKS COME FROM

### Superintendent Les WATERS

The trouble with being interested in Police History is that a glimmering of interest is mistaken by one's colleagues for an indicator of encyclopedic knowledge. Those who show such interest find their desks cluttered with demanding letters from family historians requiring intimate and comprehensive details of the careers of their illustrious ancestors believed to have been in the Police Service in the 1850's. Other such unsolicited mail includes requests from local Clubs and Societies looking to add one's name to their list of free speakers and letters from Bob Bartlett alternatively begging and demanding copy for his journal. All these are as nothing compared to the avalanch of semi-literate letters from bona fide collectors of items of police uniform from around the globe.

The latest in a string of little ancillary tasks connected with Police History which landed on my lap was a seemingly innocent request from a County Council employee for the date of the introduction of Chief Superintendent and Chief Inspector ranks in the Police Service. After reaching for my 'Critchley' I appreciated that this simple enquiry could not be simply answered. A few days later I attended a Carousel Course at the Police Staff College and was prepared to devote an hour to solving this little conundrum. After spending considerably more time than I had anticipated I reached two conclusions. The first was that the Police Staff College Library was the lonliest place in Hampshire each evening. The second was that I was not going to find the answer to the question.

Neither rank seems to have had a place in Rowan and Mayne's Organisation in 1829 nor do they appear to have originated from the structures set up under the Municipal Corporations Act.

By 1859 the Police and Constabulary Almanac was showing a Chief Superintendent in some Forces such as Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Dorsetshire Huntingdonshire, Somersetshire, Staffordshire and East Suffolk. It appears that there was literally one Chief Superintendent, or Chief of the Superintendents in each of these Forces and in some locations such as

Cornwall, the Chief Superintendent was also the Deputy Chief Constable. In fact the 1839 County Police Act required a Chief Constable to appoint one of his Superintendents to act as his Deputy in his absence.

While the rank of Chief Superintendent appears to have originated during the 1850's there appears to be no comparable early development of Chief Inspector rank. A study of Police and Constabulary almanacs for the 1850's and 1860's reveals no officers designated as Chief Inspectors.

That Chief Inspector rank was slower to develop is also apparent from the report of the Committee on the Police Service of England and Wales and Scotland, the Desborough Committee, which reported in 1919. Appendix I of the report samples 12 County Forces and 8 Borough Forces. Of those sampled only one County, Lancashire, and 2 boroughs, Birmingham and Worcester had officers of the rank of Chief Inspector on a higher scale of pay than Inspectors. The Committee also noted that in Glasgow there was a rank of 'Lieutenant' corresponding to that of Chief Inspector. The same report also revealed that 4 of the 12 counties sampled had Chief Superintendents as did 3 of the 8 boroughs. It would appear that the Desborough Committee set the scene for the more universal introduction of both Chief Inspector and Chief Superintendent rank which were included in the recommendations of the report as part of a proper national rank structure.

I still remain uncertain of the precise origins of both of these ranks and look forward to the next issue of this journal where I am sure at least a dozen fellow members will have a proper answer to this seemingly innocuous question.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### The Policeman's Lot

This really is a super book which will soon become the standard work for all those interested in the Artefacts of Police History. The first definitive book on the subject of antique British Police Equipment, there are chapters on Truncheons, Tip Staffs, Uniforms, Helmets, General Memorabilia and the Colonial period.

For the ardent enthusiast the final part of the book contains a detailed list of all Police Museums, their location, hours of opening and the type of material on display.

A well illustrated book with 80 colour photographs and 73 black and white, ensures an attractive and informative layout suitable for both the expert and interested amateur.

Copies of this worthwhile and highly recommended book can be purchased from the author direct, Mr. M.A. MITTON, 32 Cleveland Road, Bournemouth, BH1 40G by sending £12.50p, plus £1.50p for post and packaging. For P.H.S. members postage will not be charged.

(The Policemen's Lot Antique British Police Equipment including Truncheons and Tip Staffs by Mervyn MITTON published by Quillo Press at £12.50p).

### Policing the Raj by Leslie Robins

The privately published autobiography of L.C.F. Robins, O.B.E., I.P.M., who joined the Indian Imperial Police Service in 1928 and served in the United Provinces until Independence, apart from a five year period in Indore on deputation to the Indian Political Department.

An exiting account of the murder investigations, trials and riots with which he was involved, including the court intrigues surrounding the case against the Maharaja of Rewa.

The illustrations include reproductions of superb paintings of policemen in uniform by Mark Haddon and Ena Robins.

Size A5; 120 pages; 14 illustrations; price £5.00

Published by author, September 1985 - ISBN 0 9509916 0 0. Distributed by British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia.

Peacock Dreams by Bill Tydd

The reminiscences of a police officer in Burma from 1929 until it was shattered by the Japanese invasion in 1942.

As Sir William Gladstone says in the Foreword:-

"He paints the scene and tells his story; and there are many small things to entertain and delight the reader; yet what emerges is a very subtle and indeed profound understanding of a complex and fascinating interaction of societies and systems in 'British' Burma.

... it will be of absorbing interest to anyone who does recall British Burma or, indeed, British India, or who found himself involved in that part of the world during or after the second world war."

Size A5; c.250 pages; 15 illustrations and a map

Published by British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia: ISBN 0 907799 14 0. Date of publication March 1986; price £7.50.

On Honourable Terms - The Memoirs of some Indian Police Officers

Edited by Martin Wynne

These memoirs record the incidents and activities in the career of Indian (Imperial) Police Officers in the various Provinces of India, including Burma, between 1915 and 1948. Each chapter is a theme in that career - Training; The first sub-division; The District Superintendent, etc., - with the experiences and thoughts of the contributors woven into a mosaic of distinct parts, yet forming a coherent pattern.

A number of opinions are expressed, some controversial. They are important as evidence of what individual officers in these situations thought and felt. This is an account of men (and not forgetting their wives) in the circumstances of their time; the routine and ordinary, the exciting and desperate moments.

What becomes apparent to the reader is the awesome responsibility that fell on the shoulders of these officers. And linked with this, the remarkable loyalty of their men, drawn from different races and creeds, owing allegiance to a foreign crown that their kith and kin were challenging yet welded together through high qualities of leadership.

The memoirs were compiled and edited by the late Martin Wynne under the aegis of the Indian Police (U.K.) Association with more than twenty contributors who served between them in the nine main Provinces of the Sub-continent.

Size A5; 248 pages; 21 illustrations and 5 maps.

Published by British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia, ISBN 0 907799 13 2. Date of publication August 1985; price £7.50

These books are available from B.A.C.S.A., 76 Chartfield, London Sw15 6HQ.