



Journal of the Police History Society

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Editorial note

Following our first Conference north of the border last year, this issue of the *Journal* has a distinctly Scottish flavour. The *Journal* is published annually by the Society. Contributions are welcome from both members and non-members. If possible, please send them in Microsoft Word by e-mail or by post on a disc, which saves re-typing. However, we do accept them double-spaced on A4 paper. Illustrations should preferably be sent as 300dpi .jpeg images. Any sent as originals will be scanned and returned

We hope to appoint a new Editor at the 2014 AGM. In the meantime, please send any contributions and enquiries to the Secretary/Acting Editor at the address on the front cover

Photos of Elena Ananyeva and Ken Scott courtesy of Michael Haunschild

Suspect device at Salisbury

by John Tompkins

On the evening of Tuesday 18 April 1883, Police Constable S11 James Tompkins of the Salisbury City Police was patrolling his beat around The Close at Salisbury Cathedral. Salisbury Cathedral was built between 1220 and 1258 and is a magnificent example of English Gothic architecture. The iconic tower and spire are the tallest of any cathedral in Britain

It is not certain whether PC Tompkins was carrying out a routine check of the Cathedral, or he had received information when parading for duty, but earlier that day the Bishop of Salisbury had received a threatening letter¹. Although the exact contents had not been disclosed, it was signed “A Free Thinking Invincible” and warning of an attack

In the 1880s, there were terrorists operating in Great Britain, The Irish potato famine of 1846-1851 had caused huge resentment to British rule in Ireland. As a result the IRB (Irish Republican Brotherhood) had been formed. There had been several “Fenian” assassination attempts, including attempts on the life of H M Queen Victoria

One of the groups associated with the IRB were the “Irish National Invincibles”, more frequently simply called “Invincibles”². They had a policy of assassination and on 6 May 1882, several members had murdered Frederick Cavendish (Chief Secretary of Ireland) and Henry Burke (Under Secretary of Ireland) in Phoenix Park, Dublin, using surgical knives. The men responsible had been captured and, having been tried, were awaiting execution. As a result of all this terrorist activity, the Metropolitan Police had formed the “Special Irish Branch” (Special Branch) a month earlier in March 1883. The threat was real!

According to the Census taken in 1881, James Tompkins was a Police Constable serving with Salisbury City Police, his collar number being S11. He was recently married, the ceremony taking place on 18 January 1881, to Eliza Burden at Bradford Peverell, Dorset. It is highly likely that James had previously served in the Metropolitan Police³ starting his career about 1876 at Bow Street, C Division, before transferring to Salisbury City Police. His brother Charles Tompkins⁴ aged 24 years, was also a Police Officer, serving on A Division, having joined in 1882. There was a third brother Henry Tompkins⁵ who probably also started in the Metropolitan Police. He is shown as joining the Chard Borough Police (now Avon and Somerset) in March 1886 aged 34 years, a late age for a raw recruit

By the time of this incident, James was aged 30 years with a young son, Frederick, aged about 15 months, whilst his wife was 4 months pregnant carrying my grandfather William. The family were living in police lodgings situated at 22 College Street, Salisbury. This street is still standing (although the houses have been re-numbered) and consists of neat red-brick terraced houses

According to the newspapers⁶, PC Tompkins discovered the *package* some time between 10pm and 11pm, whilst making a careful examination of the exterior of the Cathedral. He was checking the area of the Lady Chapel located on the North side of the Cathedral, almost directly under the spire, when he *kicked against a wooden box with a suspicious appearance*

¹ *Devizes and Wiltshire gazette*, 19 April 1883

² Wikipedia

³ Information supplied by the late Maggie Bird (PHS member) at Metropolitan Police Archives

⁴ Maggie Bird

⁵ Service record of Henry Tompkins, Chard Police

⁶ *Devizes and Wiltshire gazette*, 19 April, 1883

The box was about 14 inches by 10½ inches in size, secured by both a length of string and metal bands, the weight being about 25lb. Cut into the box was a small slot and protruding from this slot was a paper fuse that appeared to have been soaked in an unknown fluid

There was very little direction or policy at the time regarding actions to be carried out upon discovering a suspect package. (The *Four Cs* - *Confirm, Clear, Cordon, Control* were not in place). The package was moved to the Police Station for further examination by Superintendent Matthews and Inspector Ainsworth. There was found to be a bag of white powder connected to the paper fuse. A few grains of this white powder were tested by placing them onto the hearth of the fire and when a naked flame was applied, they exploded

Subsequently, the suspect package was moved to the military magazine in the City and Scotland Yard were informed. It appears that Inspector Lansdowne of the Yard was appointed as the Investigating Officer. It is not known if he was part of the newly formed Special Branch. Along with several other detectives, he travelled to Salisbury to assist local Police

Meanwhile a thorough search of the Cathedral was carried out to look for other suspect packages and enquiries were made regarding any suspects. The results were negative: *No stranger had been seen in the Close to attract peculiar attention*. The box was dismantled and, according to the local newspaper, was found to contain a bottle marked *Nitro-glycerine - to be kept in a cool place and do not take out the cork* and a larger bag of powder

The same newspaper finally concludes the report as being a *gigantic hoax*. It states that the bottle contained nothing but gum, whilst the large bag of powder was earth and sawdust. Now, 130 years later and with a more cynical attitude towards government and its dis-information to the public, it would be interesting to know the real truth. Was it an elaborate hoax with no purpose? Or, was the incident reported as a hoax to reduce panic? We will never know

Postscript

Between May and June 1883, five members of the Invincibles who were involved in the murders in Phoenix Park were hanged

PC Tompkins continued to serve with Salisbury City Police, retiring between 1901 and 1911. He moved to the village of Gomeldon on the outskirts of Salisbury until his death in 1926, aged 74 years. He had a third son, Alfred⁷, who joined the Metropolitan Police in 1913. James Tompkins is buried at St Nicholas Church in Porton, Wiltshire. His grave has a Policeman's helmet carved into it

John Tompkins is a retired Police Officer who served in both the Metropolitan and Greater Manchester Police. He researches his family tree for police connections

⁷ Maggie Bird

The Great Glasgow Bank Robbery of 1811

by Alastair Dinsmor

Much has been written in recent years about the Great Train Robbery (1963) and the Brinks Mat Robbery (1983), but one of the largest bank robberies in British criminal history was the theft of £19,753 from the Paisley Union Bank during the night of the 13 - 14 July 1811. Certainly, at that time, a sum of money of this magnitude was indeed a *king's ransom* and is the equivalent of £13 million today

The Paisley Union Bank was established in 1788 and quickly set up branches in towns all over Scotland. One of the principal branches was at 49-51 Ingram Street, Glasgow. It was a busy branch, handling business from all parts of the City and surrounding countryside. The bank premises were bordered by beautiful gardens which accentuated the importance of the building, in direct contrast to some of the older buildings in the street. Munn's Tavern was directly opposite the bank and the low wall adjoining it was later said to be ideal from which to take observations on the bank at any time of the day or night

Every Saturday morning the bank agents, Messrs Forbes & Co of Edinburgh, would send a large consignment of bank notes, gold guineas and silver coins, to augment the bank's stock of currency. The supply of money was contained in a strong iron box and transported by the Edinburgh mail coach which arrived at the Black Bull Inn, on Argyle Street at Glassford Street, every Saturday afternoon

The afternoon of Saturday 13 July 1811 was no exception and the box duly arrived. That day the box was unusually heavy but the bank porter managed to carry the well-chained box to the bank premises in Ingram Street where he lodged it in its large iron safe. He then locked up the bank for the weekend and the door and safe keys were taken to the house of the Chief Manager of the Bank, Mr Andrew Templeton, in St Enoch Square. As it was also Glasgow Fair Saturday, the porter and his wife, who had apartments adjacent to the bank, decided to walk to Glasgow Green to *sniff the calder air and see the shows*

On the morning of Monday 15 July, when the porter obtained the keys from Mr Templeton's house to open the door and sweep out the offices, everything was found to be in order. However, about 10am, when the Manager himself opened the iron safe, he saw that the inner safe drawers had been ransacked and were completely empty. Even the iron box had been opened and the bank was left without a shilling in its coffers. By Tuesday 16 July, a reward of 500 guineas (£525) was being offered for information leading to the conviction of the culprits and recovery of the money

Before the reward was announced, a local tradesman, David Clacher, told officials in the bank that about 3 or 4 o'clock on the morning of Sunday 14 July, he was looking out of a window of his house in Taylor Street which overlooked the wall adjacent to Munn's Tavern, opposite the bank. He saw three men jump over the wall from Ingram Street and conceal themselves behind it. The three men got busy *arranging parcels of paper, tying them up and placing them in bags*. They then exchanged some of their clothes before they made off towards the old coach yard in High Street, where he lost sight of them

In 1811, the Glasgow Police were not the investigative organization they were later to become: their duties were restricted to guarding the bank and assisting to search suspects and places. It was not until 1819 that Britain's first Criminal Officer, Lieutenant Peter McKinlay, was appointed by Glasgow Police and two years later the Glasgow Criminal Department was established, twenty-three years before Scotland Yard detectives were appointed

In those early days, the Procurator Fiscal personally investigated serious crimes and so Mr Bennet, the Procurator Fiscal for Glasgow in 1811, was in charge of the investigation into the bank robbery assisted by Sheriff Officers and Messengers-at-Arms. On hearing the information given by Mr Clacher, he went immediately to the coach yard in George Street operated by Mr Sandy Leith. Mr Leith and his assistant remembered distinctly that about 6am on Sunday 14 July, they were wakened by three Englishmen wishing to hire a post chaise (a small coach) to take them to Edinburgh. Mr Leith was reluctant to do business on the Sabbath, but relented when one of the men told them that a relative had taken ill suddenly in Edinburgh. The coach left Glasgow without delay, heading for Airdrie then Mid Calder, Uphall and onward to Edinburgh. It was later reported that at each of the stops, the three men ordered the best food and wine, paying for all their expenses with £20 Paisley Union Bank notes

On hearing this, Mr Bennet lost no time in informing the Edinburgh authorities and requesting that every likely place be searched for the three Englishmen who were obviously the main suspects. The Edinburgh Police searched every hotel, lodging house, departing mail and stage coaches and even the boats in Leith Dock but without success. Trace of the three men was eventually found in a back street tavern where, about 2pm on Sunday 14 July, they had paid for a hurried lunch with a £20 Paisley Union Bank note, but the trail was cold

As it appeared likely that the three robbers were heading for London, Mr Likely, Head Manager of the bank in Paisley, after consultation with his legal adviser, Mr Walkinshaw of Glasgow, decided that both men should travel to London by the next mail coach to get the Bow Street Runners involved in the investigation. (Bow Street Runners were privately employed court officers who investigated crimes within the jurisdiction of Bow Street Magistrates' Court). Whilst en route to London, both men came upon a trail of Paisley Union Bank notes used by the three Englishmen to pay for their food and drink at various taverns along the way

While Likely and Walkinshaw were heading for London, James McCrone, a Messenger-at-Arms, was busy carrying out enquiries in Glasgow. He established that the three Englishmen had lodged for three weeks prior to the robbery at the lodging house run by a Mrs Stewart in the Broomielaw near Carrick Street. Mrs Stewart told him that the three men were quiet and polite and gave her no trouble. She did, however, remember them handling skeleton keys, plans and drawings and, over a period of two months, returning at two or three in the morning. She said that she had been asked to take a parcel to a local carrier for carriage to London. It was later established that the three robbers had entered the bank during a number of nights preceding the robbery to get measurements and wax impressions of the locks. They also tested the skeleton keys and returned them to London for adjustment, so that everything was ready for the night of the robbery

This information was sent to Likely and Walkinshaw who, by this time, had made contact with two of the most famous Bow Street Runners, Stephen Lavender and John Vickery. On receiving the information about the parcel from Glasgow, Lavender and Vickery went immediately to the Glasgow Waggoners' Carriers Office in London and soon had the details of the parcel and what they read raised their hopes. The parcel was addressed to a Mr John Scoltcock, Blacksmith, Tower Street, London, whom they knew was a notorious character who made false and skeleton keys for London's underworld. The parcel had been sent by a Mr Little, which they knew was an alias used by one of London's greatest robbers, Huffy White. A few months before, White had escaped from the prison hulks in Portsmouth and a widespread search for him had been in vain. They knew that he would come out of hiding to take part in another daring robbery and the Glasgow case seemed to carry his hallmark. On re-examining the descriptions of the three suspects, Lavender and Vickery were of the opinion that Huffy White fitted one of the descriptions, while his

main associate, James Moffat alias Mackoull, fitted another. The third man they reckoned to be Harry French, an expert lock-picker. White, Mackoull and French were now wanted men, so Lavender and Vickery decided to search Scoltcock's blacksmith shop for evidence of their whereabouts

Meanwhile, all three robbers had returned, as expected, to London and met up with White's wife and Scoltcock. They had the money which was under the control of the scholar of the trio, James Mackoull. White and French planned to sail to America to make a new life. Mackoull said that he would probably find a remote place to stay in England and live like a gentleman on his share of the money. They all agreed to stay at the Scoltcock's house and plans for a good meal that evening were made as a precursor to the sharing out of the money. As the meal was ready, White and his wife sat with the Scoltcock family waiting for Mackoull and French to arrive, when there was a knock on the door and Officers Lavender and Vickery entered with their assistants. Huffey White was immediately recognized and tried to escape through a window, but he was arrested and handcuffed. A search of White and the house exposed ample evidence of the crime. The box which had been used by the gang to mail the sketches, skeleton keys and other letters between Mackoull and the blacksmith were found. All the occupants were arrested. It was later established that Mackoull had inexplicably changed their plans and decided to lodge elsewhere that night, thus escaping arrest

It is at this point in the case that English legal procedures of the time appear somewhat bizarre compared to what we recognize as justice today and exhibit some of the characteristics of the *rotten borough* system that pervaded the English establishment in the 18th -19th centuries

Soon after the arrests by Vickery and Lavender, negotiations were opened up by Mackoull with the Bow Street Runners and the Paisley Union Bank delegation. It was proposed that if the bank would grant a free pardon to Huffey White and the others, the bank would receive £12,000 of the stolen money. Likely and Walkinshaw accepted the offer and set off for Glasgow with the £12,000, rejoicing in their success. It is not surprising that Huffey White was again in trouble soon after his release. He had been caught robbing the London to Leeds mail coach. He was tried, found guilty and executed at Northampton. French was never heard of again

After a few months, James Mackoull was finally arrested by Lavender and Vickery but Mackoull denied everything, so witnesses were brought from Glasgow to identify him. Several witnesses had no hesitation in recognizing Mackoull and proceedings were commenced to transport him to Glasgow. He arrived at Glasgow in chains and in the custody of an Edinburgh Sheriff Officer, Archibald Campbell, on 10 April 1812, and locked up in the Tolbooth at Glasgow Cross. He engaged a lawyer who found a flaw in the original warrant and he was liberated by the Lords of Justiciary in Edinburgh on 2 July 1812

After three years, thinking that everything would be forgotten, Mackoull, now in the company of a young woman, returned to Scotland, and rented a grand house in Portobello with servants and a carriage. He used £20 notes to pay for the comforts they both enjoyed and had no trouble in passing the banknotes, especially as none of them were from Paisley Union Bank at this time. However, his luck ran out when he tried to lodge £800 of Paisley Union Bank notes at the bank of the Paisley Bank's Edinburgh agent, Sir William Forbes & Co. The Master of the Leith Police (a former Bow Street Runner), F O Denovan, arrived at the bank. Mackoull quickly regained his composure and appeared indignant at the suggestion that the money was stolen. He was so convincing that he was allowed to leave the bank with the promise that he would make enquiries and return. He never returned to the bank and quickly set off for London

On his arrival in London, he quickly took legal advice and convinced his lawyer to raise civil actions at the Court of Session in Edinburgh against the Paisley Union Bank for the £800 and against Sir William Forbes & Co. for £1800. He also demanded compensation from the Paisley Union Bank for his incarceration in the Glasgow Tolbooth! Five years elapsed with actions and counter-actions between the parties, but they were finally brought before the Edinburgh Lord Chief Commissioner and a jury on 11 May 1820. It was decided that the Paisley Union Bank's action against Mackoull should be heard first. The bank produced as many of the original witnesses as they could, although a few of them had since died, including Mrs Stewart, the robbers' landlady at the time of the robbery. In her place, the *star witness* was Mrs Stewart's niece, Margaret McAulay. As she approached the witness box, Mackoull tried to leave the court unnoticed, but was brought back to hear her damning evidence. After the closing speeches, the Jury found in favour of the bank. Due to the evidence obtained by the court, the Lord Advocate instructed that Mackoull be kept under observation in the court and, a few hours later, issued a warrant committing Mackoull to prison to await being indicted to stand trial in Edinburgh for the capital crime of the 1811 robbery

On 19 June 1820, Mackoull again arrogantly faced his accusers and his lawyer put forward a number of legal arguments to try to gain his release, but to no avail. The evidence led was the same as that of the previous civil action but on this occasion Mackoull was on trial for his life. The most important witness against him was the London blacksmith, John Scoltcock, who admitted making the skeleton keys and other implements for Mackoull and his friends. He had also received drawings of safes and plans of the Paisley Union Bank. Another of Mackoull's *friends* deserted him in his time of need. This time it was the money changer who had been asked by Mackoull to change around £15,000 Paisley Union Bank notes. Finally, Lavender and Vickery described details of their investigation and searches they carried out. By midnight, the closing speeches had been heard and at day-break the jury, without retiring, gave their verdict of *Guilty*. The court had continued through the night with only a break of a few minutes

The Lord Justice Clerk, with great solemnity, pronounced that Mackoull would be executed at Edinburgh on Wednesday 26 July 1820, between 8am and 10am. Mackoull was visibly shaken and later received three postponements to the execution date from King George IV. However, the Secretary of State received a command to carry out the execution on 22 December, but Mackoull cheated the hangman two or three days before, by taking poison which had been smuggled to him in prison

So ended the career of an audacious and intelligent criminal who, but for his greed and arrogance in raising the civil actions against the banks, would probably have remained free to enjoy his new-found riches

Stories and artifacts from the 175 years of the Glasgow Police can be seen at the Glasgow Police Museum. Admission is free. During the Summer Season (1 April to 31 October) the Museum is open 7 days a week (10am-4.30pm, Sun 12noon-4.30pm). During the Winter Season (1 November to 31 March), it is open only 2 days each week (Tuesdays 10am-4.30pm: Sundays 12noon-4.30pm). You can also read more of the people, the stories and the history of Glasgow Police by visiting the Glasgow Police Heritage Society website www.policemuseum.org.uk



Our thanks to the Glasgow Police Museum for permission to reproduce this article

Alastair Dinsmor is a retired Strathclyde officer and founder of the Glasgow Police Museum

The Quaker and the doctor: the cases of John Tawell and James Cockburn Belany

by Len Woodley

The morning of Friday 28 March 1845 was, by all accounts, bitingly cold. There was a brisk wind and until 7.30am, light rain had fallen against the upturned faces of the crowd in Aylesbury Market Square. A few minutes after it had stopped John Tawell stepped out onto the scaffold that had been erected just for him. Estimates vary as to the exact number of spectators thronging the square but it is believed that there were several thousand people waiting for this *event*. After praying for a short time, Tawell had the noose placed around his neck, the bolt was then drawn and Tawell's body fell a short distance, the length of the rope, where he struggled for some time before expiring. His lifeless body was buffeted by the wind until it was eventually taken down to be buried within the gaol he had just come from

Tawell, who had been convicted just days previously for the murder of his former mistress, had escaped the hangman's noose once before when in 1814 he had been arrested and charged with passing a forged banknote. That offence then carried the death sentence, however the charge had been reduced to possession, a non-capital offence to which he had pleaded guilty and he had been sentenced to transportation to Australia, leaving his wife and two sons behind in this country. On his arrival in that distant land, Tawell had been employed in the prison hospital, as he had knowledge of medicines and poisons gained when he had been employed trying to sell those potions. For his work in the hospital, he had been granted an emancipation ticket by the Governor of New South Wales which released him from his servitude. He had set himself up in business in Sydney and he had prospered. Mrs Tawell heard of his good fortune and with their two sons made the long journey to Sydney to be re-united with her husband. Eventually, Tawell decided to return to England and the family duly sailed back to live in London

Mrs Tawell then became ill and Tawell employed a nurse called Sarah Hart to look after her. Sarah not only looked after Mrs Tawell but John as well, for she bore him two children. When Mrs Tawell died John re-married, not Sarah, but a Quaker lady from Berkhamstead. Sarah now became an embarrassment and Tawell eventually installed her and their children in a cottage just outside Slough at a place called Salt Hill. He agreed to pay Sarah £1 a week and he visited her every quarter with the money. After a while, Tawell thought she might embarrass him by revealing all and it was possible that he did not wish to pay her any more money. He therefore decided to do away with Sarah

When he called on her on 1 January 1845, Sarah was pleased to see her former master and when Tawell suggested that she should go to a local inn and buy some stout, she readily agreed. Somehow, without Sarah's knowledge, Tawell managed to pour some Prussic acid into the glass that she was using and when she drank the liquid, it burned her throat and stomach. Sarah screamed out in agony and Tawell hastily left the cottage, picking up the money he had just handed to her. But Tawell's sudden departure was observed by a neighbour alerted by the screaming that she had heard coming from Sarah's cottage

This inquisitive woman then entered Sarah's abode where she found her writhing in agony on the floor. A doctor was summoned but he could do nothing to save Sarah. The neighbour said she had seen a man *dressed as a cleric* leaving the cottage and the local

vicar who had been called to the scene went in pursuit of the suspect⁸. Tawell was traced to Slough Railway Station where he was seen boarding a train bound for London. It left before the vicar could apprehend him and it was thought initially that Tawell had escaped. All was not lost, however, and by using the recently installed electric telegraph, a message was sent to Paddington Railway Station. Tawell was seen leaving the train at that terminus by a railway policeman, Sergeant Williams. He followed Tawell for some time until he was seen to enter a lodging house. Sergeant Williams, believing he had carried out his duty, returned to Paddington. The next day, after receiving further instructions, Williams, accompanied by Inspector Wiggins of the Metropolitan Police, traced Tawell to a coffee house in the City of London. Inspector Wiggins promptly arrested Tawell and took him back to Slough to appear before the coroner's inquest, where he was committed for trial on a charge of murder. Some two months later, despite an ingenious defence put forward by his counsel at Buckinghamshire Assizes, that the poison came from the consumption of apple pips, Tawell was found guilty and sentenced to death

It was a murder that became a footnote in the history of killing by poisoning but it attained a certain notoriety because the murderer had been traced and eventually caught by the use of a marvellous new invention and Tawell, the so-called *Quaker killer* because of his affiliation to that religious society, became known as the first murderer to have been caught by the electric telegraph

Tawell's motive for murdering Sarah Hart may well have been because of his straitened circumstances but did he finally decide to commit this terrible crime by reading about the trial at the Old Bailey in August 1844, just a few months beforehand, of James Cockburn Belany for the murder of his wife by poisoning her also with Prussic acid?

In the early 1840s, Belany, a doctor practising in North Sunderland, Northumberland, met Rachel Skelly, who lived with her widowed mother. Rachel was young, by all accounts very attractive and she stood to inherit a large sum of money and property in the event of her mother dying. All matters to encourage suitors. Belany was the man who won her heart, however, and in February 1843 he married the fair Rachel. They lived with her mother and Belany ceased practising as a doctor and took more interest in his mother-in-law's business

Mrs Skelly decided to change her will to make Belany and Rachel joint inheritors of her property. Belany drove his mother-in-law to the solicitor to make the amendment and on the way back he managed to tip over the trap, injuring both himself and Mrs Skelly. Shortly after this the old lady died and Belany signed her death certificate giving her cause of death as *bilious fever*. Then another tragedy occurred. Rachel, who had been expecting a child, miscarried

In early 1844, Belany suggested to his wife that they visit London. He had lived in Stepney for a while and he proposed that they travel to the capital and stay there for some days. Belany also wanted to go on to the continent and Rachel, who was pregnant again, could stay with some friends of his while he did so. Rachel, who had never been to London, was eager to undertake the journey. The day before they left Northumberland, they both made wills. These stated that if Belany died first, his wife should inherit all his property and if Mrs Belany died before her husband, he would gain all her property. Belany would appear to have been the instigator of this, his explanation being that travel was a dangerous undertaking

⁸ Buckinghamshire at this time relied upon superintending and parish constables and did not have a county-wide constabulary. It would not have one until 1857. However, it is believed that it was a matter of haste to catch the murderer that no policeman was initially called

The Belanys reached London safely enough in June and stayed initially at the Euston Hotel before Belany moved them both to two rooms in a lodging house in Stepney, an area where he had some acquaintances. Belany now began to send some very curious letters to his friends in North Sunderland. In one, he said that Rachel was very ill: she was certainly tired from her long journey south, bearing in mind that she was almost eight months pregnant and Belany had taken her on an exhausting tour of several places in London. He further wrote that Rachel was being attended by two medical practitioners: that was not true, and he stated that he believed that Rachel had a diseased heart just like her mother. This also was untrue

Whilst at Stepney, Belany visited a chemist he knew and asked him to obtain some Prussic acid as he needed it for his stomach problem. He had been known to take this poison off and on for some years

On Saturday 8 June just before 8am, Belany called for Mrs Heppingstall, the landlady of the house where he and his wife were staying. When Mrs Heppingstall entered the bedroom, she saw Mrs Belany lying in bed on her back, insensible, with some foam-like liquid, she said, coming from her mouth. Mrs Heppingstall, whilst comforting Rachel, implored Belany to do something for his wife. Belany replied that Rachel suffered from a disease of the heart which had killed her mother the previous year. He also told the astounded landlady that his wife would not recover. She begged him to send for a doctor. Belany said that he was a doctor, but he did little to try and resuscitate his wife. Eventually, Mrs Heppingstall sent her servant for a Dr Garrett but by the time that he arrived Mrs Belany had died

When Dr Garrett made his preliminary examination of the body, he assumed that Mrs Belany had died from heart disease and Belany agreed. When Dr Garrett asked Belany if his wife had taken any medicine, he replied that she had drunk some salts. Dr Garrett then said that in view of the suddenness of Mrs Belany's passing, an inquest would have to be held

That afternoon Belany went with some friends to a local cemetery to arrange for a plot in which to bury his wife. As they walked along, Belany now told his companions something which quite astonished them. He informed them that when he had risen from the marital bed that morning, leaving his wife there, he had gone to take some Prussic acid, which he kept in the bedroom, for his stomach complaint. Whilst trying to remove the stopper from the bottle, he had broken the neck, spilling some of the acid. The remainder he had poured into a glass which he had placed on some drawers at the end of the bedroom. He had then gone in to the other room to fetch another bottle in which to pour the acid. Instead of doing this, he said that he started writing to his friends. He had only been there a few minutes, he continued, when hearing a scream he returned to the bedroom. He said that Rachel cried out, *Oh dear! I have taken some of that hot drink. Give me some cold water!* She then immediately went into convulsions. Belany added that he thought he had caused his wife's death through his negligence. He emphatically denied, though, that he had administered the acid to his wife. His friends told him that he should call on Dr Garrett and tell him what had occurred. This Belany did

At the coroner's inquest, when all the witnesses had been heard, the jury returned a verdict of *wilful murder* and as a result, Belany was committed to stand trial at the Old Bailey for poisoning his wife

His trial began in August 1844 and Belany pleaded *Not guilty*. Many witnesses for the prosecution appeared and gave evidence of the events that had occurred on the morning of Saturday 8 June, as did the doctors who had performed the post-mortem on Mrs Belany. They said they had found traces of Prussic acid in her stomach. Other medical

men related what effect Prussic acid would have adding that the *remedies* performed at the lodging house, such as bathing Mrs Belany's feet and applying a poultice to her chest, would have been ineffective. The letters that Belany had written to people in North Sunderland were read out and these showed that he had lied to them when he had said that his wife had been seen by two *medical attendants*, that she was suffering from the same disease that had caused the death of her mother and that Rachel was seriously ill when in fact she had died!

In his defence Belany, who was not permitted to give evidence, produced several people who said what a loving and considerate husband he had been to his wife and that he had been distraught at his *negligence* in leaving a glass of Prussic acid near to Rachel, then going to another room and writing letters. The judge, in his summing-up, laid great emphasis on the relationship described in court between Belany and his wife. After a short recess, the jury returned with a verdict of *Not guilty* and Belany was discharged

There was a furore in the newspapers over this verdict and the judge and jury were castigated in both the national and local newspapers. When Belany returned to North Sunderland, some of the local people, incensed at the death of a popular young woman of that area, made an effigy of Belany and burned it. They then set fire to the house he was living in. Belany decided to leave the area

This case received wide coverage in the London and provincial newspapers and it is surely possible that John Tawell read the reports of the trial and acquittal of Belany. Did he then come to the conclusion that, with his knowledge of poisons, he could murder Sarah Hart and get away with it, as apparently many people believed that Belany had? Sarah had become an encumbrance and a drain on his money. He was frightened that she might expose him as the father of their two children. It was said at Tawell's trial that he had attempted to poison Sarah the previous September, a month after the acquittal of Belany. If Tawell did think he could escape the consequences of his actions, then he did not realise that the new invention, the electric telegraph, would be his nemesis

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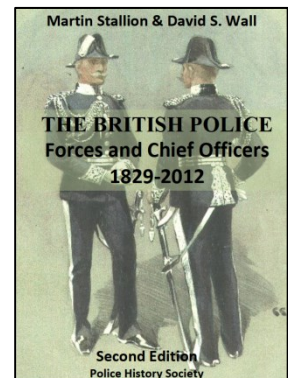


Len Woodley is a retired Thames Valley officer and the author of several books on local murders and forces

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Willoughby George Fox, Chief Constable of Derbyshire, 6 January 1857 – 5 April 1873

by Terrence Johnson and Mike Baker



Willoughby George Fox was born in Co Tyrone, Ireland, in 1826, the son of Rev John James Fox. At the age of nineteen, he joined the *father* of the British Police, the Irish Constabulary, rising from Officer Cadet through the ranks to become a 2nd class Sub-Inspector in April 1850. He trained for one month at Phoenix Park in Dublin before promotion to 3rd class Sub-Inspector, serving in Blessington, Carrick-on-Shannon, Ballina and completing his service at Kildare. Ireland was going through troubled times during this period, with high unemployment and starvation because of the potato famine. It was reported in a local newspaper at the time that Sub-Inspector Fox had dealt with a number of starvation deaths and been in charge of a section of police officers escorting a tax collector who had subsequently been attacked by a rioting mob. Sub-Inspector Fox's career in the Irish Constabulary was not without a couple of unfavourable

records. In February 1848, he was admonished for gross extravagance: it would appear he spent far too much money travelling *in style* in a carriage whilst on duty

In the mid-1850s, police officers in *established* forces who were looking to advance their career were given a great advantage with the creation of a number of county police forces in Great Britain. In 1856, the Derbyshire Standing Joint Committee advertised for a suitably qualified person to command their soon-to-be-created force. Sub-Inspector Fox, who by this time had married Eliza-Anne Jane, the daughter of Capt William John Ottley, and had one child, applied for and obtained this position on 6 January 1857. He was recommended for the post by Sir D McGregor, Inspector General, Irish Constabulary, Dublin, and resigned from his force in February that year *on being appointed to the English Police*. Towards the end of his service in the Irish police, he was, on occasions, in charge of 130 men which helped convince the Magistrates and Committee that he would be capable of controlling an establishment of around 150 officers. Certain members of the Committee had wanted to appoint a military officer to the position, but the majority were of the opinion that if this were to be done, the new police may not be run on civilian lines and certainly would not have the backing of the public



The County had taken over the recently built lock-up at Belper for its headquarters. Willoughby took up residence with his family at Field House. Whilst the lock-up still stands on Matlock Road, Field House, which was located on Bridge Street at its junction with Field Lane, was demolished in the 1950s

Field House, pictured just prior to demolition, believed to be the Chief Constable's first residence in Derbyshire. Photo courtesy of the Belper Historical Society

With his past experience in police duties, Chief Constable Fox helped organize the fledgling Derbyshire Constabulary and one of his first duties was to tour Derbyshire towns with a surgeon recruiting staff. Much to the annoyance of the newly formed Inspectorate of Constabulary, it was perhaps with his influence that the County police officers initially wore rifle-green coloured uniforms, as the Irish Constabulary had used this colour since it was re-organized in 1836. On occasions, the very early Derbyshire Police officers were termed *Our Rural Roberts, the Gentlemen in Rifle-green*

One of the first police officers to be appointed to the Constabulary on the recommendation of the Chief Constable was 21-year-old Constable 68 Barry Fox. Willoughby perhaps wished to help improve his brother's career and living conditions by taking him from Ireland with this appointment. He was promoted to Superintendent in October 1857 but resigned in August 1859 to go into business. A large number of other officers were recruited by Willoughby from the Irish Constabulary, usually being quickly promoted to the higher ranks. There were instances when his father also recommended new applicants

The *New Police Force* was not universally welcomed by the tax-paying public of Derbyshire, as they had to finance a service that was initially overstretched, with officers concentrating on main towns rather than the whole county. Police Divisions didn't exist until a couple of years after the force was established. The poor pay, 17 shillings per week for a 2nd class constable, and severe conditions imposed on officers meant that those recruited were not of the highest calibre and at least 50 of the 156 officers initially recruited in 1857 had resigned within a year. Drunkenness, or at least officers liking to indulge a little too much, was also to plague the force to a large extent until the early 1900s

Whilst Mr Fox had to deal with crime and disorder, he became a victim himself in 1868. He had dismissed a Sergeant James Connor from the force the previous year for disobedience of orders and this 42-year-old man and his family had subsequently fallen on very hard times. With 8 years' service in the Irish Constabulary, James had been one of the first constables to transfer to Derbyshire with Mr Fox. He blamed the Chief Constable for his current predicament and as Mr Fox walked home along Station Street, Derby, one rainy evening in March, Connor approached and fired a gun at point blank range at him. The spray of shot from the pistol wounded the Chief very slightly in his hand and leg. Connor was subsequently arrested and charged with the attempted murder of Mr Fox. The case was heard at the Summer Assizes later that year with the jury finding him guilty of the lesser crime of grievous bodily harm. It was said that if he had intended to kill the Chief Constable, the offender would not have fired so low. Connor was given 10 years' imprisonment

After 28 years as a police officer, Willoughby G Fox ended his career when he was forced to resign from the force on 5 April 1873. A couple of years earlier, rumours had circulated that the Chief Constable had been borrowing money from not only his Superintendents but also alehouse keepers within the area to pay off gambling debts. At least one of his cheques had not been honoured. A very vocal Magistrate, Mr Bateman, took up this matter with the Police Committee, when it was further established that Mr Fox had sold certain articles of police property, namely disinfectants and piping, without authority

It was confirmed that whilst on a visit to the police district in Bakewell, he had put pressure on Superintendent Williams to lend him 20/- . Ignoring his protests that, as he had just buried his wife, he had no money either, the officer had to borrow the money from a retailer. It was ascertained that, like a number of Mr Fox's debts, the money was never repaid

A subsequent enquiry showed that Mr Fox had brought his office into disrepute, although quite surprisingly, it was decided that, as he had resigned his position, he should not be prosecuted

During his Chief Constableship, the population of the county had come to accept the new force which had grown from 156 to over 200 officers and for the vast majority of time he had carried out a remarkable job. This had been commented on by the Police Committee upon his resignation

Willoughby died at Fulham in 1885



Mike Baker is a retired Derbyshire officer, now a civilian employee, with a particular interest in that county's forces

The late Terrence (Wayne) Johnson was also a retired Derbyshire officer and civilian. He had organized a new Police Museum at Derby Old Gaol

Inspector John Soutar Suttie, Arbroath Burgh Police: died on duty 8 March 1914

by Patrick W Anderson

Recently I purchased a publication called *Scottish Police Roll of Honour*, edited by David Acheson but published by the Police Roll of Honour Trust. I found that in the Tayside Police pages, there was an entry:

Inspector John Soutar Suttie, Arbroath Burgh Police - Died 8 March 1914, aged 48

The entry recorded: *Whilst visiting two of his constables he collapsed and died in front of them.* I decided to make further researches on this Police topic and visited the Arbroath library where I was able to find the newspaper report on this sudden death of a serving Officer of the Arbroath Burgh Police

Back in early 1914, there were a number of Police Forces within the County of Forfarshire as it was then called (renamed Angus in 1928): they were Arbroath Burgh Police, Brechin City Police, Dundee City Police, Forfar Burgh Police and Montrose Burgh Police. Kirriemuir Burgh Police and Broughty Ferry Burgh Police had ceased by 1914. The Arbroath Burgh Police had its Headquarters and Police Office in Market Place in Arbroath. The town of Arbroath was covered by the Burgh Police within the Burgh boundary and the County Police covering the landward area. The population of the town in 1911 was just 20,647. The Burgh Police ranks were Constable, Sergeant, Inspector and Chief Constable with one of the Inspectors being the Chief Constable's Deputy. The Burgh Police did not have ranks like Lieutenant such as the City Police of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen had at this time. That Lieutenant rank was replaced in the 1940s by the rank of Chief Inspector. During the years that Inspector Suttie served with the Burgh Police Force, the Chief Constable was Duncan McNeill. He had been its Chief Constable from 1884 and the *Arbroath herald* of 6 December 1913 reported that Mr Duncan McNeill had tendered his resignation as Chief Constable. The report said that he had succeeded John Mime 30 years before

At 9pm on Saturday 7 March 1914, Inspector Suttie commenced his duty of the night shift section of the Burgh Police. Although he had not been feeling well lately, he went on duty anyway. From 9pm until 3am on Sunday 8 March, he attended to his duties within the

Police Office in Market Place in the town. It was his habit to make a round of the town in the early hours of the morning and he left the Office at 3am, went onto the High Street and then to Kirk Square where he met Constables Smith and Lindsay. The newspaper obituary did not report whether this was one of the night shift points or not: I recall in my early policing years making police points and being met by either the Sergeant or the Inspector or even a more senior officer. The newspaper reported that Inspector Suttie spoke to these two constables for several minutes but while talking to them, he complained of having severe chest pains and almost as these words were spoken, he collapsed and fell into the arms of the constables. He was carried into the office of the White Hart Horse Hiring Company close by and Dr J E G Thomson was immediately summoned from his nearby home in Hill Place. The doctor attended immediately and it was seen that there was nothing that he could do for the Inspector. He recorded death at 3.40am on Sunday 8 March 1914 from heart failure

The *Arbroath herald* reported that Inspector Suttie was born in the district (Inverkeillor in the County of Forfar on 3 May 1865). At the time of his death, he was 48 years of age. He had completed 23 years' police service in the Arbroath Burgh Police, having joined the Force on 26 February, 1891. At the beginning of 1901, he had been promoted to the rank of Sergeant and his abilities were further recognized in March 1902 when he was promoted to the rank of Inspector. He was regarded as a faithful and diligent officer. He was survived by his widow, Helen Braid or Suttie, and their three sons and two daughters. The newspaper reported also that his funeral took place on the Wednesday (11 March 1914) and there were a large number of mourners including members of the Town Council and the Police Force as well. The funeral services were conducted at the family home at 80 St Vigeans Road, Arbroath, by the Rev J S Cuthill BD and the Rev T Meredith MA from Arbroath Parish Church. The coffin was borne from the hearse to the grave by members of the Arbroath Burgh Police night duty section

The death certificate dated 9 March 1914 records that in Arbroath in the County of Forfar. John Soutar Suttie, Inspector of Police, married to Helen Braid, aged 48 years, died at 3.40am on 8 March 1914 at Kirk Square, Arbroath, and death was recorded as being *cerebral haemorrhage (half hour)* as certified by J E G Thomson MB. The death was reported by Andrew Suttie, son residing at 16 Ramsay Street, Montrose, and recorded by Alex Smith, Registrar at Arbroath. There is a correction confirming the information of Dr Thomson but correcting the home address to that of 80 St Vigeans Road, Arbroath, and the correction of the location to be White Hart Hotel, High Street, Arbroath. The death certificate was finally confirmed by the Procurator Fiscal and the Registrar on 14 and 16 March respectively. Dr Thomson later served in the Great War with the RAMC, being awarded the Military Cross for his action in the field. He returned to the town in 1919 to care for his patients

The *Arbroath herald* of 13 March 1914 carried a notice of the death and a short report: *Chief Constable MacDonald took the customary oath of office today. The oath was administered by Provost Thomson.* In fact, Mr MacDonald had come on promotion to Arbroath as he had been a Detective Inspector in Ayr. In the same newspaper, there is a fuller report on the new Chief Constable recording that there was a meeting of the Police Force held in the Police Chambers the previous day, when CC McNeill introduced CC MacDonald. After referring to the death of Inspector Suttie and paying tribute to that officer's work and expressing sympathy with his bereaved relatives, Mr McNeill invited his successor to address the meeting. MacDonald associated himself with what McNeill had said regarding the Inspector. He went on to hope that he would gain the confidence of the Burgh Police as Mr McNeill had done

On 4 August 1914, the Great War broke out. CC MacDonald and nine officers of the force applied to join the Colours, but only the Chief and four officers were granted leave of

absence by the Town Council Watching Committee. Inspector Robert Pyper acted as CC until September 1917 when he retired from the police after 37 years' service and Inspector Wilson acted as CC until MacDonald returned to his duties during January 1919. MacDonald had served in the Boer War in the Scottish Imperial Yeomanry and then during the Great War in the Cameron Highlanders, where he served in France. He was severely wounded requiring seven months in hospital, prior to serving in the South of Ireland in the later stages of that war

There were three casualties from the Arbroath Burgh Police and all during 1918. Gunner Stewart Wilkie Paterson, Royal Marine Artillery, was killed on 10 July 1918. He was having dinner when a shell exploded, killing him instantly. He had joined the Burgh Police in 1907. The second was Lance Corporal Alexander Sturrock, Military Foot Police, who died of pneumonia in France on 27 October 1918. He joined the Burgh Police in 1908, was one of seven Arbroath policemen who joined the Colours and he was the second to die on service. The third constable was Lance Corporal William Lindsay, Military Foot Police, who died at Cambrai on 6 November 1918 of influenza. He had 16 years' police service and he may have been one of the two named constables that were with Inspector Suttie when he collapsed. Also serving in the Royal Marine Artillery were Burgh Police constables D Findlay and William Smith, who survived that war. Constable Smith may have been the other named constable that the inspector met on his fatal night shift back in 1914

James MacDonald commanded the Arbroath Burgh Police until 1946, when he finally retired from the Police. From 1946 until 15 May 1949, Robert R K Ogilvie, CC of Angus Constabulary, took joint command of the County Police and the Arbroath Burgh Police until the burgh merged with Angus Constabulary on that date in 1949. It is sad that Inspector Suttie does not have a headstone at his grave in lair M 357 in the Eastern Cemetery, Arbroath

Sources:

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Patrick W Anderson is a retired Police Sergeant who initially joined the former West Riding Constabulary, moved to Lanarkshire Constabulary (later Strathclyde) then transferred back to West Yorkshire Police for the rest of his 30 years' service

Kincardineshire Constabulary history

by Geoff Marston

It's hard to believe that in its 107-year existence (1841-1949), Kincardineshire Constabulary's three Chiefs shared those years. The first two took on the office as Sergeants and the third as Inspector

Kincardineshire's County town since 1600 was Stonehaven. Its three Burghs were Banchory, Inverbervie and Laurencekirk. Kincardineshire (often referred to as The Mearns, which means The Stewartry) was a County on the North East coast, which was bordered by Angus in the south and Aberdeenshire or the River Dee in the north, a total of 380 square miles

Alexander Weir



Sergeant Alexander Weir became the first Kincardineshire Superintendent of Police in December 1841. He applied for the post whilst serving as Aberdeen City's *Day Patrol* Sergeant and Deputy to Superintendent Robert Barclay. Born in Banffshire in 1810, on his father's farm in Boharm (near Craigellachie), he left home in his late teens to seek a more adventurous life in the Army. After six years, he left with the rank of Sergeant and commenced his police career with the Dundee Harbour Police. Here again, he reached Sergeant and served until his Aberdeen appointment in early 1840. Whilst in office there, he was resident with his wife Elspet in our renowned Queen Street. On taking up his new Superintendentship at Stonehaven, he became resident at Bath Lodge, Fetteresso

His new Force consisted of 20 men, three of whom policed Stonehaven, the remainder being resident in the three Burghs and remaining 10 villages of Auchenblae, Drumlithie, Durris, Fettercairn, Gourdon, Johnshaven, Marykirk, Portlethen, St Cyrus and Torry. He also had his own horse. Sadly, much of the first four decades of its police documentation have been eradicated in time, apart from one story, which occurred in the early glow of the steam railway era

The line from Montrose to Stonehaven was completed in 1846. The next destination was, of course, Aberdeen and a large number of Irish Navvies were contracted for the job. Their construction ability was admirable but, newly paid and free from labours, they regularly caused fights with the Stonehaven locals, which were often reciprocated. As time went on, ill-feeling escalated into bitterness causing more conflict, but local police officers managed to keep control

However, all this came to a head on the afternoon of Saturday 1 January 1848 when about 200 Navvies gathered in the square. Well fuelled by alcohol, they swarmed through the streets, vandalising property and assaulting all in their path. Superintendent Weir and four Officers met the mob in Allardice Street at the now Queen's Hotel, but being so outnumbered were forced to withdraw to safety. As the afternoon went on, both police and locals re-grouped at the Carron Bridge where a confrontation with the rioters ensued. Over 20 locals were seriously injured and William Murray from Inverbervie later died after being bludgeoned. On hearing of the death, the mob finally dispersed about 9pm. For the next three weeks the 93rd Highland Division, Railway Police and Special Constables reinforced the town and eventually five persons were charged with mobbing and rioting, culpable homicide, malicious mischief and assault. Lord Cockburn sentenced one to 12

months, two got 18 months, and the one who struck Murray received 7 years' transportation. The fifth is still wanted



Superintendent Weir was titled Chief Constable in 1858 and in 1864 occupied the new Police Office within the County buildings shared with Council and Courts. (*Same building as now, but the office was at the opposite end*). During his 44 years in office, he was regarded as a careful and painstaking official known to be exemplary in conduct, considerate in

deed, courteous in manner and totally dedicated to his force. Life was cruel to him when his 29-year-old wife died in 1844, leaving him with his 2-year-old daughter Jane, who died aged only 16. He later remarried and had four sons and five daughters. In his 75th year he finally retired, due mainly to bad health, which made him the oldest police officer in Britain with over 50 years' continuous service. In view of his long and valued service, the County gifted him with £800, valued today at over £59,000. His remaining years were spent in Cameron Street Stonehaven where he died on 4 July 1894, aged 83

Charles George



Charles George - 1897

In November 1869, Charles George joined Elginshire Constabulary, aged 21. After 16 years' service, he was Sergeant clerk and Chief's Assistant, when he became the new Kincardineshire Chief in November 1885. Like his predecessor, he too was the son of a farmer. He was born and grew up in Birnie, south of Elgin, just 14 miles north of Boharm where Chief Weir spent his early years

The Force strength had now totalled 18: one acting Inspector, at Stonehaven, a Sergeant at Banchory, one acting at Laurencekirk, 15 Constables and of course, the horse. At this time, officers wore standard rose-top helmets, eight-buttoned tunics with circled collar numbers and snake buckle belts. Only the Chief and Inspector wore the pill-box style forage cap, that is, until 1896 when the whole force adopted them

In 1891, the Aberdeen City boundary extension crossed the Dee into Kincardineshire to take in Torry. Of the two officers stationed there, one was temporarily housed to cover Nigg and Cove, whilst the other remained for a month to work with city officers before removing to Drumlithie. A new Police Station House was erected at Kirkhill, Nigg, at a cost of £230. Its first occupant in August 1893 was Constable Charles Gauld (later Inspector) but now its remains are well beneath the site of the present Nigg Office

Chief Constable George soon became well-known and respected and, albeit that he held high office, was quite willing to become part of day-to-day police duties. He was County Prosecutor of the Burgh Police Courts and attended there when possible, otherwise a sergeant or constable would deputise. In 1894, the opening of the Burgh Police Courts in Laurencekirk and Inverbervie, not only saved time and money in having to travel to Stonehaven, but also freed up more than half the cases prosecuted there by the police. His other responsibilities included Inspector of Weights and Measures and Contagious Diseases

In May 1893, at New Mains of Ury, Stonehaven, a cattleman shot two farm servants, killing one, George McCondach, aged 22, and seriously wounding the other. Mr George organized an immediate search, resulting in the assailant being traced hiding in the old Cowie churchyard. Tried for murder, the accused was sentenced to death, but on appeal, the charge was reduced to culpable homicide for which he was given penal servitude (*prison with hard labour*) for life. It appears this was the only recorded murder in the history of the Force

A case where the Chief took an active part occurred on 27 November 1907. A gang of six Glasgow pickpockets operating at the Stonehaven Fearing Market lifted a local man's wallet containing £27 (£1600 today) within the Stonehaven Hotel. Once reported, enquiries revealed the crooks were apparently heading south on foot. Realising they would eventually need to catch the train, Mr George telegraphed south-based officers to watch their railway stations, then took the evening train to Arbroath. At 7pm the train stopped at Drumlithie and, true to form, the suspects were awaiting its arrival. Boarding, they took seats in a compartment and were soon detained by Mr George until reaching Fordoun. There, assisted by railway officials and waiting officers, they were arrested and conveyed to Laurencekirk. After being searched, almost all the money was recovered

Heroic deeds



Bill George - 1904

Mr George had one daughter and five sons, three of which followed their father's profession. William Charles (Bill) joined Kincardineshire in 1902, aged 19. In 1910, he was posted to Nigg and the following year involved in the dramatic rescue of an 18-year-old injured girl who had fallen over a 200 feet cliff at Cove. Rescue from the sea being impossible, he volunteered to be pulled up by ropes along with the girl in order to protect her, she being unconscious. The rescue was a total success but sadly the girl died some days later. Due to his great presence of mind, courage and endurance, he was awarded £10 from the Carnegie Hero Trust and a certificate, presented by the HMI, Major Ferguson. Additionally, in 1912 he was awarded the King's Police Medal by King George V at Buckingham Palace for his meritorious and courageous service

In January the following year, he was again involved in a remarkable sea rescue, when the Danish steamship SSG *Koch* was wrecked on rocks at Girdleness in a severe gale. Jumping into the raging surf, he rescued both a Coast Guard and member of the crew imminent danger of drowning and got them ashore. Seven of its 19 crew were drowned. Said to have shown *great pluck and gallantry* in saving life, he was again awarded money and certificates from the Carnegie Trust and Board of Trade. Further recognition was from the Danish Government in the form of an inscribed silver cup and finally by King George V again, adding a bar to his KPM, which must have made the George family exceedingly proud

Bill George was promoted Inverbervie Sergeant in 1916 and over the years carried this rank admirably. However, by 1923 at Banchory, drink appears to have had the upper-hand and two on-duty incidents got him first a written warning followed by a reduction in rank and move to Stonehaven. In the following year, which coincided with his father's retirement, another incident involving drink, coupled with neglect of duty, caused his compulsory resignation. Fortunately for the George family, this was demanded by Mr George's successor. Bill's latter years were spent as the local Inspector with Alexander's Buses and sadly, his death preceded that of his father

At the turn of the century, a senior constable earned about £1.35 per week, which equates to around £100 in today's money. The same constable retiring on a 30-year pension received £35 per annum, now about £2,600

As the years of the Force strolled through the first part of the century, life went by without any particular major incident. In 1902 the force, like others, modernised its uniform. It included the Broderick cap (today's style) with its own St Andrew's Cross badge and a five-buttoned high-necked tunic with two breast pockets. In 1915, 560 persons were apprehended or cited as opposed to 502 in 1914. The increase was apparently due to trouble initiated by Navvies again, now building the Invercanny waterworks at Banchory. Four men fought for King and Country during the 1914-18 war and all returned to force. The only loss during that period was in September 1918, when Constable John Anderson of Gourdon died of appendicitis in Montrose Infirmary



In 1919, Charles George completed his 50 years' police service. In recognition of this, he was awarded the King's Police Medal by the Lord Lieutenant. In 1920, his service was again recognised by a gift in silver along with an illuminated address from the Chief Constables' (Scotland) Club' (forerunner of ACPOS). For 13 years as Secretary, he had contributed much to the improvement of the conditions of service. He retired in his 54th Police year in May 1924, aged 75. During his time in Stonehaven, he became a renowned, esteemed and dependable part of Kincardineshire society. His retirement years were as full as his working ones, involved with Church, community, sporting facility matters and Justice of the Peace. He died at his home, Millbirnie, Evan Street, Stonehaven on 11 September 1937, aged 89. His funeral, one of the largest recalled in Stonehaven, truly reflected his most memorable character

Robert Mitchell

Robert Mitchell was born in Alford in 1883 and after some years as a farm servant, joined Aberdeenshire Constabulary in 1902, aged 19. In 1907, he secured a position on the clerical staff of Ayr Burgh Police and in 1908 was promoted Office Sergeant. Later gaining experience in detective duties, he was promoted uniformed Inspector. In 1924, from a list of 36 applicants, he was elected Chief Constable of Kincardineshire, aged 42



Robert Mitchell - 1924

The first General Order put out by Mr Mitchell was in respect of a County horse census requested by the authorities. Who better, to hand out and collect the relevant forms than the local Bobby! His second was to ensure each officer got one clear rest day at least each fortnight. With his nearest colleague covering his beat, he was allowed to be absent from his station, from 6am to 12 midnight if he so wished

Since the 1890s, the rural officer had been able to cover the more distant areas by wheels and pedals (sometimes in excess of 20 miles a day), but now the new mechanised era had arrived and was summed up in the Chief's 13th GO: *A fairly large proportion of the Force use motor cycles and while it is very gratifying to the CC to know that these progressive and up-to-date methods exist, he would like to make it clear that on no account must the services of a motorcycle be requisitioned by a Constable on ordinary patrol duty throughout his district. It is*

impossible for a police officer to give that careful attention and scrutiny necessary to matters on his beat while flashing past on a motor bicycle. While on patrol duty the ordinary pedal cycle is the proper thing

Progress illuminates the Force

He was quite right in the circumstances and wanted to keep that personal touch with his public. Smartness, too, was his forte and in October 1926 *breeches and puttees* replaced trousers (*see photograph*) and remained standard uniform until May 1939. In no circumstances was he about to allow his small force to become a backwater, far from it. Forward thinking from the start caused him to seize every opportunity he could to progress his force by each year's improved technology



CC Robert Mitchell and officers escort the funeral cortege of Col Davidson along St Fitticks Road, Balnagask, 1932

This started in the late twenties when he purchased both a patrol car and motorcycle with sidecar. Obviously the roads north and south played a major part in becoming wheeled for emergencies. By 1934, the motorcycle was replaced by a 12hp Sports model 4-seater Hillman Minx and in 1937 a General Purpose van was added to the ranks. Both vehicles were fitted with radio receiver sets, this being through Mr Mitchell's professional relationship with Aberdeen's Chief, James McConnach, coupled with Ted Ingram's wizard radio technology on their vehicles.

Any call concerning Kincardineshire could now be transmitted there from Aberdeen

Staying in Aberdeen, remember the removal of Torry from the County in 1891? Well, in 1930, more land was City claimed, causing the loss of the Bridge of Dee and Nigg Stations. In view of this, new County Stations were erected at Ardoe, Charleston, Cammachmore and Fettercairn

Before present-day Welfare Officers, Robert Mitchell paved the way in this respect. Determined to have his men and their families well-housed, he regularly visited the families at their stations, particularly speaking to the wives who cleaned and administered the stations in their husbands' absence. Since the mid-1920s all 12 stations had been fitted with exchange/telephones, but to ease the burden on the wives, public phones were fitted to main road stations for use when the officer was occupied elsewhere

Changes in uniform occurred again when the oval shaped *Semper Vigilo* badge became the new cap badge in 1932. The diced band or *Sillitoe tartan*, however, was not added until May 1935, when first worn at George V's Jubilee Celebrations. Finally in 1944, the shoulder crowns were removed along with the ornate KC and replaced by the word *Kincardine*. Collar crowns for Sergeants were changed to the similar shaped County's coat of arms. That same year, all police badges of ranks were standardised in Scotland

Some Force firsts!

Taking into consideration the advancements of skills within all police forces, a Photographic and Fingerprints department was established in 1938. HQ Sergeant James Robertson became first Detective Sergeant in charge of Special Investigations from May 1942. In January 1947, Sergeant William J. Patterson took charge of the newly-formed Traffic Department, with Traffic Constables Frank McKay and George Dow. Vehicles in use at this time were a Ford V8 saloon, MG Midget 2-seater and Morris van. A new Humber Super Snipe replaced the Ford and a new model MG, the old

Staying with firsts, the HQ Clerkess from 1938, Agnes Fyfe, became Kincardineshire's first and only policewoman in April 1944 and carried out appropriate duties at Stonehaven. Also in 1938 was the first force officer to attend the new compulsory 3-month probationer course, then at the Glasgow Training School. This officer, William Alexander Glennie, was to be more remembered for his heroic rescue attempts of a rock fisher who fell into the sea at Bowden's Point, Stonehaven, in September 1945. Lowered into the water, he made several attempts at rescue. Bruised and bleeding, he finally managed to secure a grappling iron to the fisher's belt. When hauled aloft by rescuers, the fisher was but four feet from helping hands when his belt snapped and finally he became victim to the sea. For his courageous attempts at rescue, he was awarded the Carnegie Hero Trust medal, £25 (£700 today) and the King's Police Medal for Bravery, which he received at Buckingham Palace from King George VI

From 1890-1949, only five Inspectors/Deputy Chiefs held office, namely James Farquharson, James Gibson, James Tait, William F Thorn and Frederick M Shepherd, the post previously being secured by a Sergeant and, latterly, acting Inspector. As the doors of the force closed, the Chief's establishment was Inspector/DCC, four Sergeants, one Detective Sergeant, 20 Constables and a Clerkess, a total of 28. However, I have not mentioned that there were also at hand a total of 127 Special Constables available for duties if required, many of whom had many years of faithful service

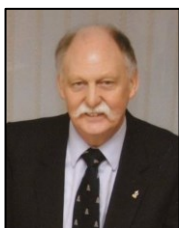


Robert Mitchell - 1949

The Force presented Chief Constable Robert Mitchell with a gold wristwatch, suitably inscribed, before he retired from office on 15 May 1949 (the day before Scottish North East Counties came into being). His last General Order, 94, thanked the members and their wives *for their loyal and efficient service so willingly and ungrudgingly rendered at all times*

Robert Mitchell had two hard acts to follow, but in keeping with his predecessors, he certainly made the Kincardineshire *hat trick*. He, too, retired to Stonehaven and became a JP. He died aged 80 on 27 September 1963

A special thank you to ex-Insp Doug Smith ACP (son of the late Sgt Andrew Smith, Kincardineshire Constabulary), for bringing to light information never before documented



Geoff Marston is a retired Constable of Grampian Police and currently volunteer Curator for Police Scotland at Aberdeen in respect of the old North East Scotland forces

The Russian militia (police) forces, 1917-1920

by Elena Ananyeva

For research focusing on the contemporary history of the police the word *militia* is invariably associated with the new type of law enforcement agencies which first appeared in Russia after the fall of monarchy in 1917. In this article, I trace the evolution of the new force over the 1917-1920 period

On 6 March, the Provisional Government (which came to power in the wake of the February Revolution) published a decree disbanding the tsarist Gendarme Corps. On 10 March, the Police Department itself was abolished. In April 1917, the so-called civil militia was formed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It replaced the old police and was supposed to become the national police force with elective authority and was subordinated to local self-administrative governments. At the same time, different kinds of spontaneous public militia units – workers', factory, student and theatre militias – appeared on the territory of Russia in the period between the two Russian Revolutions

However, the Provisional Government failed to propose and approve a single organization chart and uniform for the new force that would be common for all of Russia. This was due to the facts that local administrations lacked unified structure and that the central power did not enjoy much authority in the main part of the country. *Zemskie*⁹ assemblies of each district had to determine staff registers of the local militia, its sources of financing and salary scales as well as elect the local militia authorities. Consequently, even within the same province different districts of comparable size had a different number of militiamen, which depended on the sum of money which the rural community was able to spend on the upkeep of their police force. As one Russian statesman wrote: *The Ministry of Internal Affairs – which once virtually held in its hands the autocratic power and provoked general hatred – went to the other extreme: it essentially abolished itself*¹⁰

These were rather strong internal factors that undermined the effectiveness of the new law enforcement body. The situation was exacerbated by the fact that a relatively large part of the territory of the country was the theatre of World War I military activities, where a big number of soldiers were concentrated. The Russian Army became a destabilising factor for the country during the revolutionary period, which led to a complete disorganization of the front and the rear. Thus, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in its attempt to provide a liberal base for its law enforcement agencies, had failed to create a reliable organization to ensure policing and security throughout Russia

This problem had to be addressed by the Soviet Government. Following the October Revolution of 1917, the Ministry of Internal Affairs was transformed into the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs (NKVD). However, the first Soviet act *On the Workers' Militia*, which was passed on 28 October, did not specify any organizational details and only emphasised the social class basis for the formation of the Soviet militia. This document talks about the creation of the workers' militia, because at that time experiments on the formation of the peasants' militia had not yet begun. The Soviets of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies were charged with the responsibility of setting up new law enforcement agencies. Initially the workers' militia was established as a temporary

⁹ *Zemstva* were local self-administrative governments established in 1864 as a result of liberal reforms by Russian czar Alexander II. They were based on all-class representation and later became centres of liberal opposition to the government. *Zemstva*'s representatives gathered together for *zemskie* assemblies where they addressed different administrative issues

¹⁰ Denikin, A I, *Essays on the Russian turmoil. The decomposition of the power and army. February-September 1917*. Moscow: Reprint edition, 1991, p200. In English: Denikin, A I, *The Russian Turmoil: Memoirs: Military, Social and Political*. London: Hyperion Press, 1973

organization, which was to be replaced by the universal militia duty for all citizens fit to work

In his articles, the leader of the Soviet Government, Vladimir Lenin, stressed the inevitably temporary character of policing in the new state of peasants and workers, which was why he envisaged across-the-board, unpaid militia duty for all able-bodied citizens (both men and women)

As the act of 28 October did not define exact organizational forms of the workers' militia, different armed units carried out policing functions. They had various names: groups of the Red Guard, guards' teams, peasants' and security units, policing and order squads and so on. In some places the Soviet authorities introduced a general unpaid militia duty. All these formations had some features in common: they were armed units, mostly made up of workers, they did not have a regular structure, their members did not get any extra pay for maintaining order, since the workers' militiamen received their pay packets in their place of employment

The militia of the Provisional Government had to be liquidated by December 1917 but this process was dragged out, because of the plans to establish the general militia duty. The abolition of the old militia went more quickly in 1918. This was due to the deterioration of internal and external situations in the country, which forced the Soviet government to pay more attention to the strengthening of public order in Russia

On 30 July 1918 in Moscow, the First All-Russian Congress of chairmen of provincial Soviets and heads of provincial management departments took place. It approved the resolution on the creation of the Soviet militia and defined its organizational structure, tasks and functions. The Congress noted: *Recognizing the impossibility of arming the entire population at the present moment of extreme aggravation of the class struggle both in the city and in the village and ...an acute need felt locally for a stable organ for the maintenance of revolutionary order, protection of the Soviet power and upholding... of the gains of the revolution, the Congress deems necessary the organization of the Soviet Workers' and Peasants' militia*¹¹

To provide the security of transport communications in the conditions of World War I and foreign military intervention on river arteries, the River Militia was formed on 25 July 1918. To guarantee the safety of tracks and transportation of different goods in February 1919, the Railway Militia was created

For the protection of revolutionary order and fight against criminals and criminal offences, on 5 October 1918, the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs of the RSFSR accepted the instruction *On the organization of the Criminal Investigation Department*, which became part of the Soviet militia. The Central Criminal Investigation Directorate (*Tsentrrorozysk*), which was in charge of the work of all provincial and city departments, now formed part of the Main Militia Directorate. Although formally one of the law enforcement agencies, the Criminal Investigation Department enjoyed a certain degree of independence in its activities, which was connected with the specific nature of crime investigation

On 12 October 1918, the instruction of the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs and the People's Commissariat for Justice *On the organization of the Workers' and Peasants' Militia* was accepted, which established a uniform organizational structure and determined the main directions of its activities throughout the Soviet Republic. In

¹¹ Goldman, V S, *V I Lenin and the formation of the Soviet Militia*. Moscow: The higher school of the Ministry of Internal Affairs SSSR, 1970, p20

particular, it stated that the militia was an executive body of the central authority's local offices. The Main Directorate of the Soviet Workers' and Peasants' Militia was responsible for the whole law-enforcement system. The Main Directorate set the standard regular number at one militiaman per 400-500 city dwellers or 3,000-4,000 district inhabitants. Provincial and district management departments of the militia as well as militia sectors were the main law enforcement agencies at the local level. Provincial management departments of the militia had a double subordination: on the one hand, they were local bodies of the NKVD, on the other hand, they were part of Provincial Executive Committees of Workers', Peasants' and Soldiers' Deputies (*Gubispolkom*)¹² as their sections. The main source of funding was the local budget which could be supplemented with sums allocated by the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs

The name *Workers' and Peasants' Militia* was to underline its class character as it guarded the interests of the working classes. Only those citizens of Soviet Russia who reached 21 years of age and had electoral rights could join the militia. To solve the problem of high staff turnover in law enforcement agencies, the minimum 6-month period of service was established. In November 1918, the People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs approved a single militia uniform standard on all territory of Soviet Russia

By the end of 1918, the Soviet Workers' and Peasants' Militia was gradually being transformed into a regular staff organ for the protection of public order. The principles of revolutionary legality and democratic centralism were intended to form the basis of its operation



Chief of a militia city station Procofyev with a group of militiamen 1918 (The Central State Archive of Documentary, Photographic and Audio Materials of St Petersburg – TsGAKFFD SPb)

In 1919, the Soviet power was under the threat of destruction because the Civil War in Russia continued and the White Guard's troops were approaching Moscow (the capital of Soviet Russia) and Petrograd (St Petersburg). In these conditions on 3 April 1919, the Soviet government issued the decree *On the Soviet Workers' and Peasants' Militia*, in accordance with which military discipline and compulsory military training were introduced in the militia. From that moment on, the Soviet law enforcement agencies not

¹² *Gubispolkom* was a local provincial Soviet authority

only had to maintain order but also protected the rear of the Red Army and took an active part in military activities on the fronts of the Civil War. Many militiamen were mobilized for the army, so the Soviet government had to create the women's militia. The first women's unit was formed in Petrograd in summer 1919. The total number of militia women in the city reached 600 people. To join the militia ranks, women were obliged to undergo a specialized three-week training course. There were some differences between the working conditions for militiamen and female militia. The latter had an 8-hour working day and a few privileges in taking leave and voluntary resignation. Besides sentry duty, women carried out special functions, namely: fight against prostitution, prevention of juvenile crime and homelessness, guarding female prisoners and orphanages. This experiment was proliferated throughout Russia

The attack of Poland on Soviet Russia in April 1920 led to a military threat on its western border and to the beginning of a new period of the national economy mobilization for military needs. From now on, the Soviet Militia became an armed executive body of the Soviet power. On 10 June 1920, the All-Russian Central Executive Committee (VTsIK) and the Council of People's Commissars (SNK) approved *The regulation on the Workers' and Peasants' Militia*, in which all militia divisions were considered to be special operation armed forces - the action connected with the specific situation of the wartime and the need to involve militia detachments in military operations on war fronts. In the situation of Polish-Soviet War, about 21 provinces of the Soviet Republic were declared to be in the state of martial law



Group of militia women with the chief, 1919. (TsGAKFFD SPb)

In February 1920, the Main Militia Directorate established the general operating procedure for the militia activities in various regions. Every district was divided into sub-districts whose boundaries were determined by the size of the population (50,000 people). Each sub-district consisted of sectors and was supposed to have five senior mounted militiamen. Other law enforcement officers were recruited depending on the population size and reported to the sub-district militia chief (one militiaman per 3,000-4,000 district inhabitants)

In autumn 1920, in view of the deteriorating military situation at the front, the Main Militia Directorate issued an order concerning further militarization of all law enforcement

agencies in Russia, which thus became part of the Red Army as its fighting reserve. In the conditions of wartime, the Soviet government pursued the aim of creating semi-military detachments which could concentrate quickly in any part of the province. The Soviet Republic's militia now acquired the military organization structure and began to be divided into sections, platoons, companies, squadrons, battalions, regiments and brigades

The Soviet government could not supply its militiamen with a new uniform in that period of time for the reason of economic collapse in the country: the necessary number of new uniform sets had not been manufactured yet. Therefore during the Civil War, militiamen wore a military uniform: a soldier's blouse, belt, *budenovka*¹³, overcoat and boots with puttees. The Soviet militia was armed with different kinds of old and faulty guns which local authorities could get hold of after dispatching all serviceable weapons to the front



Group of militiamen in front of a sub-district militia management department after receiving patrol badges, 1919. (TsGAKFFD SPb)

Thus in the period from 1917 to 1920, the Soviet power merely got down to the process of creating the Soviet militia's organizational structure and developing the main directions of its activities and rank duties. The Civil War and foreign military intervention slowed down this work and the Soviet law enforcement agencies had acquired their final shape only by the middle of the 1920s



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¹³ *Budenovka* was a military cap of the Red Army which looked like a peaked helmet with folded earflaps

The Police Service of Scotland: some reflections on the past, present and future

by Professor Kenneth Scott

1 April 2013 was a historic date in the development of policing in Scotland – Day One of operations for the new Police Service of Scotland or Police Scotland, as it has branded itself. It was the start of a new single police force for Scotland, replacing the eight territorial forces and two national police organizations - the Scottish Police Services Authority (SPSA) and the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency (SCDEA) - and employing 17,436 police officers and 5,637 police support staff, making it the second largest police organization in the UK after the Met

Firstly, looking to the past, why has Scottish policing moved in the direction of a single force? It was certainly not inevitable that Scotland would follow the path of merger into a single police force, especially in the light of events south of the Border and the turning away from mergers in England and Wales. In retrospect, the process of police reform through creating a national police service in Scotland appears to have progressed slowly through a series of stages towards merger

Over the years, there have been a few *straws in the wind*, a number of instances where the possibility of a single force was raised. As early as 1962, the Royal Commission on the Police considered the issue and came down on the side of the tripartite system of partnership between central government, local authorities and the chief constable to run local police forces. The Commission was not opposed to a national police service for Scotland, or indeed for England and Wales. The *Final report* commented that there was a robust argument for central control of the police and discounted *any suggestion that a unified police service would endanger liberty or facilitate the overthrow of lawful government*. The Commission simply believed that a national set-up was inappropriate at that particular time

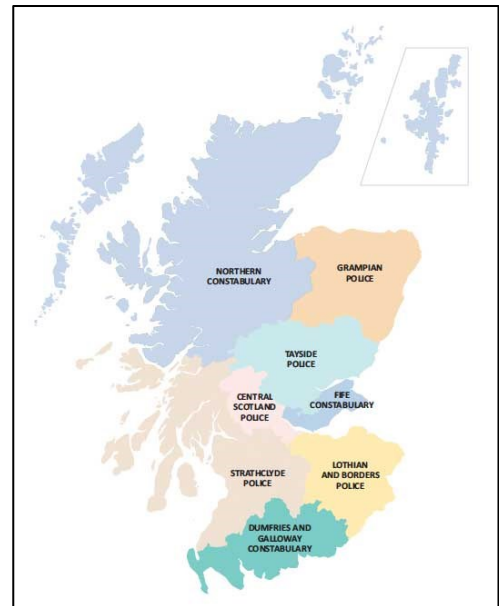
Over the years a number of individual senior officers and academic observers lent their support to the idea of a single Scottish police force or, at least, to some form of police force restructuring. In 1995 Sir Leslie Sharp, then Chief Constable (CC) of Strathclyde Police, did so in a *Police review* article, but appeared to be out of step with his fellow chief constables in favouring a single Scottish force. In 2004 Paddy Tomkins, then CC of Lothian and Borders Police, appealed for an open and wide-ranging debate on Scottish policing, centred on the idea of a *Scottish national police service*. His argument was that increasingly there were issues of national policing which local forces, even one the size of his own, were not resourced to tackle. In 2005, two police academics, Donnelly and Scott, laid out the first comprehensive set of arguments in favour of a single Scottish force

The second stage in the process came with a much wider debate about police reform, and with people beginning to *pin their colours to the mast* on one side or other of the issue. While the official position of the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS) was one of neutrality, the views of chief constables did become increasingly public, and divided. Some, often from smaller forces or forces outside the more populous areas, clearly stated their opposition to such a national force. Others were not averse to reform or restructuring, for example through sharing of backroom services, but found it difficult to go public due to sensitivities with their local police boards. However, increasingly a number of senior officers spoke out in favour of a single force. These included the CC of Scotland's largest force, Strathclyde Police. In a series of public statements, Stephen House argued that a national force would help protect police numbers because of the savings that would be made on infrastructure and would also allow better access to specialist expertise across Scotland

Importantly, having moved on to become Scotland's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Tomkins now continued to press for consideration of certain high-level policing be strategically directed at a national level. His *Independent review of policing* in 2009 recommended that Scottish Ministers bring forward draft legislation to impose a *statutory duty* on chief constables and police authorities to take into account in all decision-making Scotland's national policing capacity and capability

The arguments at this stage stemmed largely from the *three Es* of the in-vogue New Public Sector Management, namely *Efficiency, Economy and Effectiveness*. However, there was also a fourth *E* which cropped up, equality of delivery, referring to the right of citizens in all parts of Scotland to receive the same quality of policing

This aspect of the argument particularly related to force boundaries, hangovers from reform of local government back in the 1970s which had since become out of alignment with the boundaries of local councils and with the boundaries of crime and disorder, which were now more likely to be national and international. The problem with the eight-force structure of Scottish policing was not that it had one police force, Strathclyde, covering half the country, but that it had no fewer than seven forces covering the other half. Several of these had fewer police officers in total than were contained within a single Strathclyde division. The structural issue was complicated further by the existence of the SCDEA, an all-Scotland organization staffed by seconded officers from the eight forces, and a national support organization, SPSA. The argument was that a single force could provide a national framework into which both local and national policing would fit in a more balanced way to tackle problems that went beyond existing territorial boundaries



In addition, and contrary to the official descriptions, the existing model of policing in Scotland was not merely eight separate forces, but rather eight forces delivering policing at a local level, in co-operation with, and strongly constrained by, a multi-level and wide-ranging series of national influences and arrangements. These included: a Scottish policing performance framework which laid out national objectives and outcomes; a national crime recording standard for compiling criminal statistics; a Scottish Strategic Assessment listing the main priorities for Scottish policing; as well as the central services relating to training, criminal records and forensic services. On the basis of this, Donnelly and Scott argued that *what Scotland has, to all intents and purposes, is a national police service in embryo* and it made sense to recognise this by developing a single national structure. The final step in the reform process came with a series of events, emanating from the wider social, political and economic context of policing, but which acted as a catalyst for change within policing

Originally, the Scottish National Party, which formed a minority Scottish Government in the Scottish Parliament in 2007, not only did not have police mergers on its agenda, but the Cabinet Secretary for Justice made clear on a number of occasions that there were no plans to merge Scottish police forces to create a national police service. Indeed, it was the main opposition party, Scottish Labour, which was first to publicly announce its policy commitment to a single force

Within a relatively short time, however, the message from the Scottish Government had changed: a combination of the economic crisis of 2008 and the resulting cuts in public

spending meant that the police would need to share the burden of these cuts with significant reductions in funding over many years. The SNP Government was won over instantly to the idea of reform by its potential for financial savings

In September 2011, the Justice Secretary stood up in the Scottish Parliament and announced that he would now introduce legislation to create a national police force. In the final debate on the *Police reform Bill* in the Scottish Parliament, the Cabinet Secretary claimed that the measure would save the Scottish taxpayer £1.66bn over 15 years. Despite some scepticism about these figures from opponents, the business case for a single force was, and remains, its prime official driver

So what exactly is it that police reform in Scotland has produced so far, in the present?

The *Police and fire reform (Scotland) Act 2012* is, without doubt, the most significant piece of police legislation in Scotland in over 40 years, replacing the *Police (Scotland) Act 1967* as the bedrock of Scottish policing

The Act contains a number of important clauses

- It establishes a national police force called the Police Service of Scotland under the direction and control of a single CC. The chief's overarching responsibility is to develop a national strategic plan for the service and to publish annual policing plans. The aim is specifically to secure continuous improvement in policing
- Governance of the PSS lies with a new body called the Scottish Police Authority (SPA). Its main functions include resourcing the Police Service, promoting and supporting continuous improvement in policing, and holding the chief constable to account. The Authority consists of an independent chair appointed by Scottish Ministers and a membership of *not fewer than 10 nor more than 14 other members*. So far, 12 members have been appointed through the standard public appointments system
- Local policing becomes a statutory requirement and is to be organized at the level of Scotland's 32 local authorities. For each council there must be a local commander with responsibility for the policing of the area and for the preparation of a local policing plan. This will set out the main priorities and objectives for the policing of the local area, along with the reasons for selecting these, the arrangements for achieving these objectives, and the outcomes by which these priorities and objectives may be measured. The local council must be consulted in the preparation of the plan and must approve it, although the local commander may also consult with others, as deemed appropriate
- The Act includes a set of *policing principles* which state that *the main purpose of policing is to improve the safety and well-being of persons, localities and communities in Scotland*. The Police Service is required to work in collaboration with others, as appropriate, by policing in a way *which (i) is accessible to, and engaged with, local communities, and (ii) promotes measures to prevent crime, harm and disorder*
- There is a fuller statement of the duties of a police officer which goes well beyond the traditional *guard, patrol and watch* of the 1967 Act. These duties include: preventing and detecting crime; maintaining order; and protecting life and property. Within the new declaration sworn by constables on entering office, there is an explicit requirement to act with fairness, integrity and impartiality, as well as upholding fundamental human rights and according *equal respect to all people, according to the law*

In its internal organization, Police Scotland has attempted both to balance the local and national requirements laid upon it, as well as focusing on key areas of priority in terms of its policing principles and strategic objectives

- The senior command structure consists of one CC and four Deputies. The Designated Deputy's responsibilities relate primarily to the strategic and corporate development of the service, including reform. There is a Deputy for Territorial Policing, another for Crime and Operational Support and the fourth is for the Commonwealth Games and Major Events
- At Assistant Chief Constable level, there are three ACCs for Territorial Policing, distributed geographically between North, East and West Scotland, and there are three for Crime, with responsibilities for Major Crime and Public Protection, Organized Crime and Counter-Terrorism and for Operational Support
- In addition, there are senior police staff directors of Human Resources, and Finance and Resources, and an Executive Lead for Transformation
- In relation to an important area of local policing, there are 14 divisions, each headed by a chief superintendent. Several of these are co-terminous with the previous force areas. The divisional commanders are also the local police commanders in terms of the Act. For each local council within a division there is an area commander, a total of 32 chief inspectors across Scotland. Then for each of the 353 multi-member council wards in the country, there are local policing teams led by an inspector. Priorities are set and performance monitored at all of these levels and feed into national planning
- Operational Support tends to be organized on a regional basis with a number of specified locations - for example, marine and underwater policing, air support, dog and mounted branches - with the idea that these specialisms can be deployed anywhere in Scotland. There are six full-time Operational Support Units which are responsible for ground search, public order, and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) response. As well as divisional roads policing units, there is also a national Trunk Road Patrol Group (TRPG) which polices the motorway system
- A Specialist Crime Division has been established and operates primarily at national level, although there are the necessary linkages with local divisions, especially for local volume crime and public protection. Major investigation teams now deal with all murders and large-scale/complex investigations across Scotland. There are regional syndicates which focus on serious crime and counter-terrorism. There is a national intelligence bureau and three regional sub-bureaux. A number of specialist units have been established, many in response to key areas of crime priority. These include: a Rape Taskforce; a Human Trafficking Unit; a Borders Police Command (for security at all ports of entry and VIP security); a Fugitive Unit (for enquiries re persons who have fled justice in Scotland); and a Public Sector Corruption Unit

These new structures are already demonstrating the potential for a number of key areas of policing to be organized at a level beyond the old force boundaries. Some of them are totally new and are only possible within a national service. At the same time local policing has been firmly consolidated on existing lines, and in many cases with existing personnel

If the creation of a national police force is truly conceived of as a process of reform, then there are going to be continuing issues which arise as Police Scotland moves forward. There are five areas that deserve brief mention in this regard

1. The cost reduction imperative

As indicated earlier, the pre-eminent reason for creating the Police Service of Scotland was to save money. At least initially and above all else, how successful Police Scotland becomes is going to be judged, at least by the Scottish Government, by how effective it is in reducing the costs of policing. The consequence is that virtually every decision about the structure, organization and operations of the new policing order is viewed in the light of cost-reduction

There was, of course, an easy win in this sense with merger itself. At a single stroke, the 35 or so chiefs, deputies and ACCs have been reduced to 11, representing a significant saving. High cost items such as buildings, vehicles and communication systems have benefitted from the legacy of previous forces

The circle that has to be squared in financial terms is the problem of police officer numbers. At a time when forces south of the border were appointing community support officers, in Scotland the emphasis was on recruiting more police officers. The SNP Scottish Government was held to its election manifesto commitment to increase the number of police officers by 1,000, a target which was quite speedily reached. As a result, on the eve of merger, police strength in Scotland was at its highest point ever (17,436). This commitment by the Scottish Government remains intact, which means that cost savings cannot be made by reducing the number of police officers, even with retirements or voluntary severance

The consequence of this is that cuts have fallen disproportionately on civilian support staff, and this at a time when the integration of officers and police staff has become much more important to the effective delivery of policing. Consequently, stories of police officers doing paperwork in offices instead of out patrolling the streets, although denied, are beginning to increase

With crime statistics at a 35-year low in Scotland and increasing pressure to reduce costs, it remains to be seen whether or not the present level of police numbers can sensibly be maintained

2. Governance

Police governance in the pre-reform era was, to say the least, decidedly dodgy. The tripartite system was increasingly in difficulty as the balance of influence between its three legs changed dramatically. Since Devolution, the central government leg represented now by the Scottish government became increasingly influential, although its formal powers changed little. The role of the CC continued to be underpinned by the doctrine of constabulary independence and the quasi-constitutional right to complete authority in all matters deemed to be operational – although even this was beginning to fray about the edges. That left the local government leg, in the form of Joint Police Boards – in Scotland, consisting entirely of local councillors – as the weakest link, increasingly seen as mere rubber stamps, with a lack of input to strategic direction, complete reliance on the police for scrutiny information and with members frequently unclear of their own role

The Scottish Police Authority is now charged with governance of the police service and already has had a fraught start. The possibility of political influence on board members appointed by a Scottish Government was seen as bad enough, but even before 1 April both the CC and the Authority Chair were consulting, separately, with their lawyers. The dispute was over the powers given to the Authority by the *Reform Act* on the one hand and the operational independence of the Chief Constable on the other. It was a disagreement which became very public, both in the Scottish Parliament and in the media. In short, as a result of the intervention of the Justice Secretary, victory went to the CC, with virtually all support staff, other than those directly servicing the Authority, coming under his control and direction

The question, therefore, is whether or not there is any independent governance of the new policing system. Whilst recognising the proper sensitivities around operational independence, Police Scotland is a major public service with a large budget. In Scotland, there is still an issue to be resolved about where the line is drawn between proper democratic governance of the police and appropriate independence in operational decision-making by the CC

3. Local accountability

Policing in Scotland has always been closely associated with local government. As we have seen, local councils have traditionally been involved in police governance; partnership working is primarily about police collaboration with local statutory and voluntary organizations; and in most areas community policing teams have been defined in terms of local council wards and local councillors were seen as important contacts. It is no surprise, therefore, that the Confederation of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) was one of the strongest opponents of a national force

The *Police reform Act* leaves local authorities to an extent in limbo in their relationship with the police. As we have seen, there has to be a commander for each council area, although some councillors have been disappointed that this role is undertaken by chief inspectors rather than superintendents. The local council can provide feedback to the local commander, ask for reports on the policing of the area and be consulted in the preparation of the local policing plan which the local commander must submit to the local council for approval. The local commander is required to provide reports on the carrying out of police functions, statistical information on complaints about the police, and other information about the policing of its area *as the local authority may reasonably require*

On what, if anything, councils can do about this information or how exactly they carry out these functions, the Act, as they say, is silent. The key issue is what happens when there is a divergence of opinion between what the local commander thinks are local priorities and what councillors think, especially if there are resource implications

Behind this lies a more fundamental principle. How is a national police service, with a statutory duty to provide policing at the local level, to be held to account at that local level? In the answer to that question lies whether or not Police Scotland can retain public confidence and can be assured of the consent of local communities to what it does

4. 'Strathclyde-ification'

During the debates on the Reform Act one of the recurring concerns was that a national force would inevitably be geared more to the needs of the more populous areas of Scotland, to the urban areas with the highest crime rates, rather than to the rural areas. In particular, this was seen in terms of a possible drain of resources away from areas such as the Highlands and Borders and into the Central Belt

However, there was another dimension to this, perhaps less frequently recognised, namely the tendency within a single police organization for the *style* of policing to become more uniform. This is especially the case where judgements of performance are based on the same indicators across the country

It was not a surprise that the first CC of Scotland would be the previous CC of Strathclyde, given that he was already in charge of policing half of Scotland and dealing with about 65% of its crime. What seems to have come as a surprise in some quarters is that the policing strategies and approaches used in Strathclyde would now be used in Scotland as a whole. It is this tendency which has been described as the *Strathclyde-ification* of Scottish policing

Ironically, the two main examples of this trend which have hit the headlines illustrate differences not between North and South, but between West and East. The first example was a controversial crackdown on sex in Edinburgh's saunas and related premises in raids involving 150 officers. This was despite the fact that these establishments were licensed by Edinburgh City Council. Edinburgh's approach to prostitution has been to turn a blind eye to sex for sale in licensed premises, while, in contrast, Glasgow City Council has traditionally taken a zero-tolerance approach to controlling prostitution. Some commentators have been quick to identify these raids as evidence of a Strathclyde

style of policing being extended, unacceptably, to a different part of the country. Police Scotland's view is that it will tackle criminality wherever it is found

The second example relates to the use of stop and search powers, again particularly in Edinburgh, and interestingly as a result of the matter being raised by a member of the Police Authority. Stop and search has been much less contentious in Scotland than in England and Wales, mainly because it has been more targeted and because it was generally believed to happen much less frequently. Up until now that is. According to Police Scotland's own statistics, over 186,000 stop and searches were carried out during April to June 2013 across Scotland, and in Edinburgh alone stop and searches increased by over 75% over the same period on the previous year. According to *The Scotsman* newspaper, there are *growing fears among politicians that the new force is being too heavily influenced by "Strathclyde-style" policing*

In this instance, it is not denied that the success of the Strathclyde force in using stop and search is the prime motive behind its use. Strathclyde saw a 49% fall in violent crime in the last five years of its existence and the targeting of knife crime was especially successful. The debate, however, has moved on as to whether or not the increase in stop and searches is a result of performance targets set for officers, which is denied, or are indeed intelligence-led

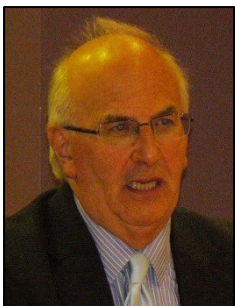
Scotland is a small but diverse country, and policing traditions and styles in different areas can be quite distinctive. In the future, that might well change, with a more uniform approach to particular policing issues being adopted

5. An example to us all!

Police Scotland emerged officially as a result of a financial crisis and the need to reduce public expenditure, but of course it is not the only public service facing the same challenges. It is too often overlooked that the *Police and fire reform Act* also merged Scotland's fire and rescue services into a single organization. Throughout the country local authorities are increasingly looking at ways to avoid duplication of services. So, within Scotland, Police Scotland is seen as something of a pioneering effort in providing a national service and as an exemplar of things to come for other areas of the public sector

Nor is this limited to Scotland. While it is true that England and Wales have followed a radically different trajectory by going down a more local route with Police and Crime Commissioners, one senses that the previously unsuccessful moves towards regional forces is not completely dead. There is particular interest in Wales, where there is a desire on the part of the Welsh Assembly to take over responsibility for crime and justice in the Principality. If this does happen, there may be a strong possibility of a move towards merging the four forces there into a national police service

It is clear that over the months that lie ahead there are going to be many eyes focused on what is happening in Scottish policing, and on how the Police Service of Scotland develops in the light of both its past and its present



Ken Scott is Professor of Police Studies at the University of the West of Scotland and an associate director of the Scottish Institute for Policing Research. He is joint editor of the two editions of Policing Scotland

The forgotten fallen: British Palestine Police graves in Israel

by Anthony Rae

Most will be aware that ongoing conflicts in the former Middle East region of Palestine since its formation as the State of Israel in 1948 are, sadly, nothing new; many will know of British rule in that land before such conflicts forced them out; but not widely known is the high cost paid by British police officers while endeavouring to keep the peace there

Historic background

Towards the end of the First World War in 1918, British Allied Forces conquered Palestine after 400 years of domination by the Turkish Ottoman Empire. In this they were aided by an Arab revolt, led by British Major T E Lawrence (*Lawrence of Arabia*), which came with an expectation of Arab independence in the region, whilst, at the same time, British policy favoured the establishment in Palestine of a *national home* for the Jewish people

After a period of military rule, in July 1920 a civil administration was set up under a British High Commissioner. In 1921, following inter-communal disturbances, a British-led but locally recruited police force, the Palestine Gendarmerie, was formed from both Arabs and Jews but struggled to maintain law and order. In 1922, the government and security of the region was formally entrusted to the United Kingdom under League of Nations (now United Nations) Mandate until such time as it could be self-governing

Into this contradictory and often both politically and naturally hostile environment came hundreds of British police officers. In May 1922, the Palestine Gendarmerie was reinforced by a 760-strong British Section known as the British Gendarmerie, recruited mainly from the ranks of the Royal Irish Constabulary following the Irish War of Independence. In 1926, this merged into the British Section of the Palestine Police, becoming a very efficient force lasting until the end of the Mandate and formation of the State of Israel in May 1948

By then, thousands had served in the Palestine Police, acting as a non-partisan force to help keep the peace alongside their Arab and Jewish colleagues and with their colleagues they fell, in their hundreds, in a foreign land from where so many did not return. The first to die, on 15 April 1922, was Captain James Wesley Mackenzie, 27, District Commandant of Police for Nazareth and Galilee, who drowned in a gallant attempt to rescue an Arab Inspector who fell into the River Jordan whilst on a mounted patrol near Lake Tiberias. He jumped in after him but tragically both were swept away and perished



Mackenzie's death as a lone British officer who was prepared to sacrifice his life for his men removed any remaining doubts among the Palestine police about serving alongside the British

Memorials were erected in the Mount Zion Cemetery and Jerusalem's Cathedral



Ambush and murder of three British Constables

In 1923, British Gendarmerie Constables Davies, Loydall and Purvis became the first to be murdered in the execution of their duty, when their mobile patrol was ambushed by

bandits. They were buried in the small Protestant Cemetery in Nazareth, but after the British withdrawal in 1948 their burial place became abandoned, forgotten and lost

Between 10 and 14 June 1923, the British High Commissioner of Palestine, His Excellency Sir Herbert Samuel, was scheduled to visit Metullah, the northern-most Jewish colony, and Banyas (Dan) prior to the transfer of the area from French Lebanon to British Palestine control. On the afternoon of Sunday 10 June, 12 members of N° 6 Company, British Gendarmerie, stationed at Nazareth, comprising a Sergeant and ten Constables under the command of Lieutenant R B Parker, in two police vehicles, were detailed to escort the High Commissioner's party from Rosh Pina to Metullah

At 1435 hours, the BG escort patrol was joined by the HC's party in one car with an outrider (a second car having been delayed) and the whole group moved to Metullah arriving at 1700, when the HC's security was handed over to the Palestine Gendarmerie. At 1745 the BG Escort left Metullah and waited at Jahalah for the HC's cars to inform them to await the HC on 14 June at Nebi Yusha. Constable McCormick then travelled with the HC's cars, whilst the main BG Escort took a different route to return to Rosh Pina. The Escort now consisted of two Gendarmerie vehicles: a Ford Touring Car containing Lt Parker and Constables Golden (driver), Davies and Loydall, and a Ford Tender containing Sergeant McMahon and Constables Boland, Bunkall, Croy, Pope, Purvis and Silverwood

About 1900 hours at Wadi Hindush (or Hindaj), near Ain-el Mellahah, North West of Lake Huleh, Lt Parker, who was in the leading car followed behind by the tender, saw eight men in front acting suspiciously. He ordered his driver to stop and got out, revolver drawn, to see what was happening, when they were immediately fired on from their front and side. Lt Parker returned fire but the three constables in his car were all hit, Loydall was killed outright and Parker then ordered the two wounded constables to fall back to the Tender about 50 yards behind but as they did so, Davies was hit again and mortally wounded

Meanwhile, the tender had also come under fire from both sides. Croy had been wounded and then became cut off from his colleagues and got lost in the confusion. Purvis had been hit twice and was fatally wounded. The remaining officers continued to engage their attackers for some 20 minutes when it began to get dark and fire slackened. Golden volunteered to retrieve the car which he did and all, except Croy who could not be found, left the scene in the two vehicles. During the exchange of fire, their two police vehicles had been hit by no less than 28 shots and five constables were wounded, three fatally

They drove to the village of Yesod Hamaala to seek medical assistance but two of the wounded Constables, Davies and Loydall, were already dead and a third, Purvis, died from his wounds there the following morning before an ambulance could arrive to evacuate them. Croy made his way back to Jahalah village and sent for police and the next day all returned to Nazareth. The HC's visit was terminated early, his party returning on 12 June

The Escort thought there were as many as 20 or more attackers at the ambush, Parker stated he saw eight in the road ahead and they were also fired on from the flanks. The Touring Car was found to have 16 bullet holes, the Tender 12, and their occupants received eight gunshot wounds. Four of the assailants were arrested on 12 June by French authorities near the Lebanon border in possession of Loydall's rifle and under interrogation implicated a fifth man but denied more were involved. They were identified as members of a notorious gang of Arab bandits responsible for several attacks and murders on the Lebanon roads in recent months and had entered Palestine to escape the Lebanon police

The dead Constables

Constable 790 **Edward Davies**, aged 20 years, was killed at the scene and buried in Nazareth Cemetery with military honours on 11 June. He was appointed to the Force on 28 April 1923. Edward, originally from Warwickshire, England, had been secretly married on joining (the Force only taking single men) and was survived by his wife and baby son, who received a police pension and child allowance; he was also survived by his mother and younger brother



Constable 466 **John Albert Loydall**, aged 35, was killed at the scene and buried in Nazareth Cemetery on 11 June with Constable Davies. He was appointed 30 March 1922. John was a single man from Kent, England, his next of kin being his sister; he was a former labourer, soldier and permanent Constable in the Royal Irish Constabulary during the Irish War of Independence from 1920 to 1922

Constable 539 **Joseph Edward Purvis**, aged 23, died from his wounds about 12 noon 11 June in Yesod Hamaala village and was buried alongside his colleagues on 12 June. He was appointed 31 March 1922. Joseph was a single man from Northumberland, England, his next of kin being his mother. He was a former surveyor, soldier and permanent Constable in the Royal Irish Constabulary during the Irish War of Independence 1920 to 1922, during which he had been awarded the Constabulary Medal for gallantry



Whilst most British Mandate police were buried in larger war cemeteries, the few graves at Nazareth became abandoned and long forgotten, but the fallen were remembered by their comrades and their comrades' children, even to this day....

Lost graves found after 89 years

Among comrades at the Nazareth funerals was Michael Higgins, who had joined the Gendarmerie in 1922 and retired as a Palestine Police Inspector in 1947. In 2011 his son, Martin Higgins, an associate member of the Palestine Police Old Comrades Association (PPOCA), found a photo in his father's albums of an unknown Gendarmerie funeral. He sent this to two friends in Israel, Michael Gottschalk and Dr Norbert Schwake, local historians who have been voluntarily caring for British graves in the smaller cemeteries

They thought it may be at Nazareth and checks with the Reverend Emad Daibes of the Anglican Christ Church there found the names of Davies, Loydall and Purvis in their burial records. A search in the cemetery found the three graves, headstones abandoned, broken and sunk into the soil. With funding from the PPOCA and hard work from Mr Gottschalk and Dr Schwake, the site was cleared and the headstones renewed (together with those of two other Constables, Grieve and Goodright, who had both died while off duty in 1935)

On 17 October 2012, there was a ceremony of re-dedication at the cemetery, organised by Michael Gottschalk, in the presence of the Mayor of Nazareth Mr Ramiz Jaraisy, the Reverend Emad Diabes, Mr Paul Price, head of the Commonwealth War Graves

Commission in Israel, and representatives from the British Embassy, Israeli Police, local historians and others. With most ex-PP members now in their 90s, the PPOCA was represented by associate member Anthony Rae, a retired British Police Sergeant and creator of the National Police Officers Roll of Honour, travelling from the UK. Although retired, he had been asked to wear his old uniform by the local police chief. This he did with pride, afterwards donating it to the Israeli Police museum where it went on display



The stones on page 37 are remains of the original headstones which had sunk into the ground, seen here after partial excavation. They were left in situ but the damaged crosses were replaced by new inscribed headstones behind them

Thus after 89 years, thanks to this international brotherhood, there was a second ceremony in the Nazareth graveyard to honour the fallen British Policemen who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of two countries and who lie in Israel - so far from home - but not now forgotten. Yet, sadly, others remain forgotten, their graves abandoned or lost



BG Michael Higgins



British Gendarmerie funeral at Nazareth

Remembering the fallen – the graves of British Police Officers in Israel

Between 1922 and 1948, over 350 British Palestine Police officers lost their lives and were buried there. Of these, some 200 died during the Second World War and up to 31

December 1947, a period falling within the remit of the UK's Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The CWGC officially cares for these graves, but not the graves of those who died between the wars or after 1947. Most of the other 150 British police dead also lie in the War Cemeteries or the larger civil cemeteries of Jerusalem, Haifa and Ramleh, where they are watched over by the CWGC. Unfortunately, this is not always the case for the smaller graveyards, like Nazareth, where some graves remain abandoned or still lost

In the past, the smaller Palestine Police graveyards in Israel were much neglected and it is only in recent years that things have begun to change, thanks to volunteers like Michael Gottschalk, who care for their country's history and keep an eye on things, cleaning up graveyards and replacing headstones to improve matters felt too important to overlook



Anthony Rae's visit to Israel was not only to attend the ceremony but to research and record the graves of British Police Officers. This was only made possible by the generous assistance of Michael Gottschalk and grants received from the PPOCA and the Police History Society. Anthony spent seven days there visiting six cemeteries and identifying and photographing 340 graves, the remainder are unmarked or yet to be found. The research continues in liaison with the CWGC to locate lost graves and renew missing headstones. The PPOCA closed in 2013 but any outside the CWGC's remit will be financed by its successor, the British Palestine Police Association (BPPA), of which Anthony is a Committee Member responsible for the Roll of Honour, graves and CWGC liaison



Anthony Rae is a retired Metropolitan constable and Lancashire sergeant and creator of the National Police Officers Roll of Honour - www.policerollofhonour.org.uk

The Kray Twins and Joe Louis

by Maurice Elvyn Oakes

In 1966, I was working as a Detective Sergeant in the Cheshire Constabulary, attached to the N° 1 Regional Crime Squad based at Longsight, Manchester. There were about 250 clubs in Manchester at that time. I worked with a Detective Constable and a part of our evening duties was to visit nine designated night clubs

In the winter of 1966, the London gangsters, Ronnie and Reggie Kray, known as the Kray Twins, decided to set in motion a plan to take over the Manchester club scene. They had their men beat up Benny, the doorman at the Portland Lodge Club (one of mine). They indicated that this is what would happen if all the clubs in Manchester did not pay protection money. To give some semblance of legality, they made the excuse that they would bring Joe Louis, "The Brown Bomber" boxing legend, to each club to bring in the punters. I never believed that Joe Louis was aware of or party to the scam

My bosses were not very happy when they heard of the plan. They quickly called a meeting of all the club owners at the Grand Hotel in the centre of Manchester and told them that the Regional Crime Squad would run the Krays out of town (just like the good guys in a western film). When the Twins arrived in Manchester with their entourage and Joe Louis, they were informed that there was no deal and to leave town. Next morning, our entire staff of over 30 officers were present at Piccadilly Railway Station, London Road, Manchester. The Krays obviously saw no profit in staying and left on the London train. To my knowledge, they never tried to come back up north

When the train pulled out of the station, my two Detective Constables, Ron Aston and Ken Brierley (both standing 6' 5"), and I were left talking to my hero, Joe Louis. He had finished boxing but even at 52 years of age, he was a very impressive man. He was 6' 2", with a head and upper body like a bison - tapering down to his waist. This was apparent even though he was wearing an immaculate overcoat

He was quite articulate and I remember being thrilled at meeting and talking to the man who had been the boxing hero of both my father, my two older brothers and myself. Joe Louis was the first African American to play golf and paved the way for Tiger Woods and others who followed. He died in 1981 and Max Schmelling, the giant German boxer whom Joe beat, paid towards his funeral

Many years later, I read a book on the Krays and this event was described fully - BUT - the misguided writer stated that it all happened in LEEDS. You can't win



Elvyn Oakes is a retired Greater Manchester Superintendent and an early member of the PHS



Badges of the Palestine Gendarmerie and Palestine Police (dated)



Anthony Rae at the re-dedication ceremony for the graves of three British Palestine Gendarmerie constables