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The National Association of Retired Police Officers
page 37

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This edition of the *Journal* is, believe it or not, the Thirtieth (or Pearl Anniversary, to those who know about these things). To mark this, lest they are forgotten, the list of all the articles from *Journal* 1 to *Journal* 29 is given, and these show a remarkable breadth of topics and scholarship.

This accurate research is essential, as is also the dissemination of this scholarship, by publishing faithfully what happened in the past. 'Most people's idea of history comes basically through television and film' said the historian Antony Beevor at a Festival of Literature in Dubai in March 2016. 'Hollywood has latched on to the idea of trying to sell fiction as fact...this is extremely dangerous'. (*The Daily Telegraph*, Saturday 12 March 2016)

So the accurate recording of police history is essential, because such programmes as *Foyle's War*, *Grantchester*, *Holmes and Doyle* and so on, are still continuing to be made. And, (concurring with Antony Beevor), because they appear on television, people tend to believe that what they see is the truth - but actors and scriptwriters can make their characters do any ludicrous thing they want - reality is nowhere to be found. But anyone with the merest sprinkling of police history knowledge or knowledge of police procedures, cringes at the schoolboy howlers and jaw-dropping gaffes which continually pervade these programmes.

Admittedly, these programmes are made for entertainment, and not as lectures on police history, but nevertheless, at least a nod towards some sort of historical accuracy and authenticity would be nice.

So, to avoid these disasters, as police historians, it is up to us to provide that

accuracy of published history which would provide future scriptwriters with a basis for accurate, faithful and - above all - correct, settings, characters, procedures and plots.

Original contributions are thus invited on any aspect of historical policing or police officers. They can be sent, preferably by e-mail or on CD in Microsoft Word (please do not, DO NOT, format any submissions, plain text only please), or by Royal Mail in typescript.

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POLICE HISTORY SOCIETY

Patron :
The Lord Stevens of Kirkwhelpington, Kt QPM DL LLD

Registered Charity 295540

The aim of the Society is to promote interest in police history and to act as a focal point and network for anyone interested in the subject.

The Society publishes Monographs from time to time and is prepared to consider applications for grants.

If you would like to join the Police History Society please contact the Membership Secretary :

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4 Glenlea Close
West End
Southampton
Hampshire SO30 3FD

www.policehistorysociety.co.uk

LORD STEVENS OF KIRKWHELPINGTON, Kt QPM DL LLD



The Patron of the Police History Society

Lord Stevens of Kirkwhelpington is stated to be the most respected Metropolitan Police Commissioner in modern times and has succeeded in making profound changes and garnered support from all sections of the community.

During his career with the Police, he led the inquiry into the alleged collusion between the Security Forces and Paramilitaries in Northern Ireland; and he continues to advise the 'Historical Enquiries Team' of the Police Service of Northern Ireland. He later headed the Metropolitan Police investigation into the allegation of conspiracy to murder Diana, Princess of Wales and Dodi Al-Fayed.

Lord Stevens has been commended on twenty-seven occasions for outstanding detective ability and courage. In 1991, he was awarded the Queen's Police Medal for

distinguished service, and in 2001 was made Deputy Lieutenant of London, and in 2005 also for Northumberland. He is a Knight of the Order of Saint John, and was awarded the Freedom of the City of London in 2002. He was then awarded a Life Peerage on his final day with the Police in 2005, and sits as an Independent peer in the House of Lords.

In April 2007 Lord Stevens became Honorary Air Commodore of No 3 (Royal Auxiliary) Air Force Police Squadron. He is Honorary Colonel of the Northumbria Army cadets.

From June 2007 until May 2010, having become one of the UK's leading security experts, Lord Stevens was appointed by the then Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, to the position of Senior Advisor on International Security Issues. David Cameron also appointed him as Chair of the Borders Policing Committee in 2007, focussing on the re-organisation and policing of the UK's borders. He still continues as an advisor.

Lord Stevens has advised Romania, South Africa, Malaysia, Jamaica and others on policy. For three years he chaired the Strategy Advisory Panel at Interpol.

In 2011 Lord Stevens was appointed by Yvette Cooper of the opposition government to Chair the Policing Commission to conduct an inquiry into the future of policing in England and Wales. The final report *Policing for a Better Britain* was published in November 2013 to widespread praise.

Lord Stevens is Chairman of Quest Global Limited, a global specialist risk, sport integrity and security consultancy. In this role, he led the Inquiry for the Premier League into alleged irregular payments in football player transfers and chairs the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) Equestrian Community Integrity Unit. Lord Stevens is also a Non-Executive Director of a number of companies and regularly speaks at international events.

The Society wishes Lord Stevens many happy years as its Patron.

MR SIMON EDENS, QGM QPM BA

The Chairman of the Police History Society

Chief Constable of Northamptonshire Police since July 2015, Simon Edens has had a distinguished career in the police service, with experience in four previous forces. A native of Belfast, he attended the Belfast Royal Academy, taking both 'O' and 'A' Levels, before joining the Royal Ulster Constabulary in June 1981. A Higher National Certificate in Police Studies from the University of Ulster soon followed, together with promotion to Sergeant.

It was whilst a Sergeant that, together with five colleagues, he was awarded The Queen's Gallantry Medal, 'For Bravery in Northern Ireland' (*London Gazette* 25 May 1989 p6218). Two years later, in March 1991, he transferred to the Cambridgeshire Constabulary where in September 1998, he was promoted to Inspector, at the same time enrolling with the Open University, from which he gained a Bachelor of Arts degree with honours (2:1) in sociology and criminology.

Whilst with Cambridgeshire, he trained as a search co-ordinator, and led the force's search for Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman in Soham in 2002. When his teams found the first evidence that they had both been murdered, the strategy was changed to focus on the search for evidence.

In June 2008, with the rank by then of Chief Superintendent, he transferred to the West Mercia Police as Assistant Chief Constable (Territorial Operations).



A change of role followed in November 2011, when he was placed in charge of Local Policing in the West Mercia/Warwickshire Strategic Alliance. And in May 2012, he was promoted again to be Deputy Chief Constable in the Leicestershire Police, where he stopped for three years.

As Deputy Chief Constable of Leicestershire, he was awarded the dignity of the Queen's Police Medal for Distinguished Service in the New Year's Honours List of 2015 (*London Gazette* 31 December 2014 pN35). He also holds the Royal Ulster Constabulary Service Medal, the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, and the Diamond Jubilee Medal.

He lists his interests as 'spending my free time with my family, and I enjoy walking, reading, history, Ireland and Scandinavia'. His interest in the Police History Society is welcomed, and the Society wishes him many happy years in his role.

THE LEADERSHIP CONTRIBUTION OF THE (ROYAL) IRISH CONSTABULARY

The origins of policing in Ireland, and of its suggested influences on the eventual policing of mainland Britain are already well known. And quite obviously, this early evolution of the method of policing in Ireland strongly imbued those men who were a part of it, and who made it work. And because it appeared to work to a reasonable standard, when the mainland forces were coming into being in the 1830s to 1850s, and then subsequently, Ireland was the obvious recruiting ground to obtain experienced policemen to be influential leaders of these mainland forces, thus further spreading the Irish policing ethos. Eventually, the Irish Constabulary (granted the title 'Royal' in 1867) provided no less than the following twenty-two Chief Constables and Commissioners, and countless Deputies and Assistants as well.

ALLBUTT, Henry *born* 1857, Aston Manor, Warwickshire

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY Third District Inspector 15 November 1882 to 17 October 1886

LIVERPOOL CITY Deputy Chief Constable 1886 to 11 September 1894

BRISTOL CITY Chief Constable 11 September 1894 to 19 September 1906

died 1922, Hampstead, London??

BAYLY, Henry Lambart *born* 1808, Ballyarthur, County Wicklow

IRISH CONSTABULARY Third Sub-Inspector 31 January 1840 to 1 May 1849

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CONSTABULARY Chief Constable 12 May 1849 to July 1874

died 1905, Ryde, Isle of Wight

BROWNE, Philip Theodore Briarly *born* 1890, Iron Acton, Gloucestershire

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY Third Sub-Inspector 11 January 1914 to 1 October 1920

BOOTLE BOROUGH Chief Constable 7 October 1920 to March 1926

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND Chief Constable 4 March 1926 to 3 December 1951

died whilst holding office

COLERIDGE, Francis Randolph Cyril *born* 1852, Ottery Saint Mary, Devon

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY Third Sub-Inspector 28 April 1871 to 1 January 1892

DEVON CONSTABULARY Chief Constable 1 January 1892 to 31 March 1907

died 1932, Tregadock Saint Mabyn, Cornwall

DAVIES, Walter Stocks *born* 1859, Nottingham

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY Third District Inspector 14 November 1883 to 30 April 1898

BIRKENHEAD BOROUGH Chief Constable 30 April 1898 to December 1912

died 1913, Llandudno, Caernarfonshire

DUNNING, Leonard *born* 1860, London

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY Third District Inspector 4 December 1882 to 20 October 1895

LIVERPOOL CITY Assistant Chief Constable 27 December 1895 to 1902

Chief Constable 1902 to January 1912

HM INSPECTOR OF CONSTABULARY 1912 to 1930

died 1941, Horsham, Sussex

EGAN, Michael Joseph *born* 1884, County Limerick

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY Third District Inspector 11 August 1908 to 31 August 1920

SOUTHPORT BOROUGH Chief Constable 1 September 1920 to 31 August 1942

HM INSPECTOR OF CONSTABULARY 1942 to 18 April 1950

died whilst holding office

FOX, Willoughby George *born* 1826, County Tyrone

IRISH CONSTABULARY Third Sub-Inspector 19 September 1845 to 6 February 1857

DERBYSHIRE CONSTABULARY Chief Constable 1857 to 1873

died 1885, Fulham, London

GARDINER, Nicholson Roche *born* 1867, Drogheda, County Louth

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY Third District Inspector 2 September 1889 to 18 May 1900

WALSALL BOROUGH Chief Constable May 1900 to December 1901

died 1944, Willesden, London

GOOLD, Valentine Edmund *born* 1814, Leeds, Yorkshire

IRISH CONSTABULARY Third Sub-Inspector 12 April 1844 to June 1856

SOMERSET CONSTABULARY Chief Constable 1 July 1856 to 30 June 1884

died 1892, Bath, Somerset

LEES, Thomas Orde Hastings *born* 1846, Ballymacward, County Galway

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY Third District Inspector 30 January 1869

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CONSTABULARY Chief Constable 25 November 1875 to 22 June 1881

ISLE OF WIGHT CONSTABULARY Chief Constable 10 April 1890 to 1 March 1899

died 1924, Petersfield, Hampshire

LEFROY, Anthony Thomas *born* 1802, Warkworth, Northumberland

IRISH CONSTABULARY Third Sub-Inspector 1 February 1824 to 1 December 1839

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CONSTABULARY Chief Constable 1 December 1839 to 1 July 1865

died 1880, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

MORIARTY, Cecil Charles Hudson *born* 1877, Tralee, County Kerry

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY Third District Inspector 16 April 1902 to 1 March 1906

Second District Inspector 1 March 1906 to 1 February 1914

District Inspector 1 February 1914 to 6 July 1918

BIRMINGHAM CITY Assistant Chief Constable 7 July 1918 to 1 September 1935

Chief Constable 1 September 1935 to 4 September 1941

died 1958, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire



Arguably the best known of the RIC 'alumni', Cecil Moriarty will forever be associated with generations of police officers by his book *Police Law*, an easy précis of the law which every police officer *should* know, all 316 pages of it in the first edition of 1929! It ran to well over twenty editions before ceasing in the 1980s. Not only that, but Moriarty also wrote *Police Procedures and Administration* (1930 and subsequent editions); *Questions and Answers on Police Duties* (1935); *Further Questions and Answers on Police Duties* (1938); *Emergency Police Law* (1940, with J. Whiteside, describing the great welter of necessary law in the early months of the war); and *Questions and Answers on Police Duties, Third Series* (1946).

MORLEY, George *born* 1873, Bradford, Yorkshire

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY Third District Inspector 18 October 1898 to 29 September 1910

HULL CITY Chief Constable 29 September 1910 to 1 October 1922

DURHAM CONSTABULARY Chief Constable 1 October 1922 to 13 October 1942

died whilst holding office

NOTT-BOWER, John William *born* 1849, York

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY Third Sub-Inspector 18 January 1873 to 30 June 1878

LEEDS CITY Chief Constable July 1878 to August 1881

LIVERPOOL CITY Chief Constable 30 August 1881 to 21 March 1902

CITY OF LONDON Commissioner 21 March 1902 to September 1925

died 1939, London

PEARCE, William Henry *born* 1793, Sussex

IRISH CONSTABULARY Third Sub-Inspector 1 May 1822 to 1 March 1839

County Inspector 1 March 1839 to April 1847

GLASGOW CITY Chief Constable 5 April 1847 to 10 April 1848

died 1874, Staines, Middlesex??

RAFTER, Charles Haughton *born* 1856, County Antrim

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY Cadet 5 September 1882 to 16 October 1882

Third District Inspector 16 October 1882 to 16 July 1899

BIRMINGHAM CITY Chief Constable 6 August 1899 to 23 August 1935

died whilst holding office

ROBERTSON-GLASGOW, Colin Campbell *born* 1874, Kilwinning, Ayrshire

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY Third District Inspector 1 September 1899 to 30 April 1911

AYRSHIRE COUNTY Chief Constable 1 May 1911 to March 1919

died 1942, Newton Stewart, Ayrshire

STEVENSON, John Verdier *born* 1858, Athlone, County Meath

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY Third District Inspector 1 December 1885 to 2 April 1902

GLASGOW CITY Chief Constable 2 April 1902 to 1 April 1922

died 1933, Herne Bay, Kent

TURNBULL, Hugh Stephenson *born* 1882, Poona, India

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY Third District Inspector 15 October 1908 to 31 May 1913

ARGYLLSHIRE COUNTY Chief Constable 31 May 1913 to 31 July 1920

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND Chief Constable 1 August 1920 to August 1925

CITY OF LONDON Commissioner September 1925 to 1950

died 1973, Grantown-on-Spey, Morayshire

WRIGHT, James Browne *born* 1861, Newbliss, County Monaghan

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY Third District Inspector 1 January 1888 to 2 February 1899

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE CITY Chief Constable February 1899 to June 1925

died 1926, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

YATES, Lionel Westropp Peel *born* 1888, Kanturk, County Cork

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY Third Sub-Inspector 6 February 1909 to 30 October 1914

Temporary County Inspector 19 November 1920 to 13 July 1922

DORSET CONSTABULARY Chief Constable 19 April 1924 to 28 February 1955

died 1963, Exeter

But it was not all one way. Robert Bruce, after an army career, was appointed as Chief Constable of Lancashire, before being appointed to the Royal Irish Constabulary :

BRUCE, Robert *born* 1825, Downhill, County Derry

LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY Chief Constable 6 February 1868 to 30 December 1876

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY Deputy Inspector-General 1 January 1877 to 12 May 1882

Inspector-General 12 May 1882 to 21 September 1885

died 1899, Farnborough, Hampshire

All the Irish information is from that wondrous tome compiled by the inimitable Jim Herlihy *Royal Irish Constabulary Officers : A Biographical Dictionary and Genealogical Guide, 1816-1922*. (ISBN 1-85182-826-5)



ATHELSTAN POPKESS, CBE, OStJ, KPM

The Twenty-First Century's Greatest Chief Constable?

by

Tom Andrews

Athelstan Horn Popkess was born in the tiny settlement of Kynsna, near to Bedford in Cape Colony (now the Eastern Cape of South Africa) approximately 125 miles north east of Port Elizabeth on Thursday 23 November 1893, and grew up in the midst of the Second Boer War. Brother of Edmund, Ethelbert, Gilbert, Rosamund and Muriel, he was later quoted as saying that his 'father favoured Saxon names'.^[1]

From the age of thirty-seven he led the Nottingham City Police remaining at the helm for nearly thirty years (barring a short period of suspension that will be covered later) retiring at sixty-six. Popkess was one of the most influential and pioneering figures of the age in terms of policing, and it is possible to speculate that no other one person since Sir Robert Peel himself has had such a lasting and key impact on the landscape and methods of policing in Great Britain. It would perhaps amaze people to know that Popkess was primarily responsible for, or heavily involved in, among other things, the introduction of 'radio cars', personal issue radios, forensic science, Air Raid Precautions, roads policing and burglar alarms.

Yet he is a largely forgotten figure in history, even the history of policing, but what he *is* remembered for is the controversy that resulted in his suspension (after he had caused the Nottingham City Council to be criminally investigated) and then his refusal to bow to political pressure from the Nottingham Watch Committee, in what became known as 'The Popkess Affair'. It is hoped that this article will go some way to realising Athelstan Popkess's greatness, and place him in his rightful position at the forefront of British policing history, a subject which Popkess himself was fascinated by.

Popkess spent his childhood growing up quickly on the plains of South Africa, living a life akin to something from a Rudyard Kipling novel. Frequently going hunting and adventuring with the other local boys, Popkess quickly experienced the harsh realities of bush life. In one incident, he was out dynamite fishing with some other boys, when one of them neglected to throw the stick of dynamite into the lake in time, and so blew his hand off, bleeding to death in minutes, and blinding another boy. In another incident, Popkess narrowly cheated death when playing in a quiet stream with some friends, he got out to get some mud to throw at them, when a freak surge, as a result of a flash flood further upriver, carried the other two boys away and drowned them.^[2]

It is during this formative time that Popkess appears to have had his first encounter with 'the law' when bathing in a local pond - forbidden at the time because of drought. A policeman came along and Popkess narrowly avoided arrest by fleeing from the officer naked from the waist down - much to the amusement of the local villagers. He was to be re-united with this officer many years later during the First World War on a troop ship, when a Sergeant approached him, and asked (Lieutenant) Popkess if he recognised him, When informed that he didn't, the Sergeant replied 'It was when you were a lad. Perhaps I shouldn't remind you of it now, sir, you see, you were only in your shirt at the time, I was the policeman who chased you'.[3]

In 1914, Popkess was out hunting lions with a friend (appropriately named Simba) when a party of white men came across them, and told them there was a war on.[4] He immediately went to the nearest population centre, and from there headed to Salisbury, Rhodesia where they were forming the Rhodesia Regiment for service in German South West Africa.

Under the command of General Louis Botha, he fought in the first major infantry engagement at Trekkopjes, where he was shot in the leg, and sent to hospital for a period. Whilst in hospital, the fighting in South-West Africa ended, so he caught the next mail steamer to England, where he was commissioned into the First Battalion, the North Staffordshire Regiment. He spent three months training and five months in the reserve battalion on Guernsey, 'interspersed with badminton, bridge in the Mess and dances and concerts in the gymnasium'.[5] This bored Popkess who apparently wrote so often to the War Office to get away, that he received orders to head back to German South East Africa with the Legion of Frontiersmen.

He fought with this unit for three hard years before it was 'so depleted and fever-stricken that...they ceased to be an effective unit'.[6] They were evacuated to Cape Town to recuperate, but Popkess, not one for idling, transferred to the King's African Rifles. He later contracted malaria and was put on morphine which resulted in violent hallucinations and resulted in him being put in a straight jacket.

When discharged, he caught Blackwater Fever (from which at that time, seventy per-cent of sufferers died) and was given six months paid leave by the Army to be spent back in England. There he reported to the Colonial Office doctor and was reported as being 'unfit to return to the tropics' and was sent back to the North Staffordshire Regiment, his six months leave being cancelled.[7]

After the War, Popkess, still with the North Staffordshires, served in Ireland during 'possibly the worst two years in Irish history, against the Sinn Fein'. Relief from this came with a secondment to the Palestine Gendarmerie in 1921, but he rejoined the Second Battalion of the North Staffordshires in 1924. On Thursday 8 March 1928, he was promoted to the rank of Captain and on Tuesday 15 May 1928 was appointed as Assistant Provost Marshall, Aldershot Command.[8]

In 1930, aged thirty-seven, he was appointed the Chief Constable of Nottingham City Police. His appointment was to be his first run-in with the Nottingham City Council, who strongly opposed the Watch Committee's choice. It was a somewhat controversial decision, with his lack of police experience and having been on the short list against three existing chief constables of smaller forces, combined with Regulation Nine of the Police Regulations 1920, which stated that no chief constable should be appointed who had no prior police experience.[9] The rationale for this choice, and the circumstances leading to it, remain shrouded in mystery,[10] but his appointment by the Watch Committee was however ratified by the Home Secretary, John Clynes.

Popkess's military service, as well as his aversion to idling, was to shape and guide his tenure as a police chief, influencing many of his policies and decisions. Most notable of these was his preference of employing former soldiers, and the most foreboding of those

at that. The average height of the Nottingham City Police was a staggering 6'2½", with the two tallest officers standing 6'8½" (thus with helmet, well over seven feet tall), one of whom, Dennis 'Tug' Wilson is a Nottingham legend in his own right. These two imposing figures were both ex-Grenadier Guardsmen who had served as pallbearers at the funeral of King George VI in 1952.

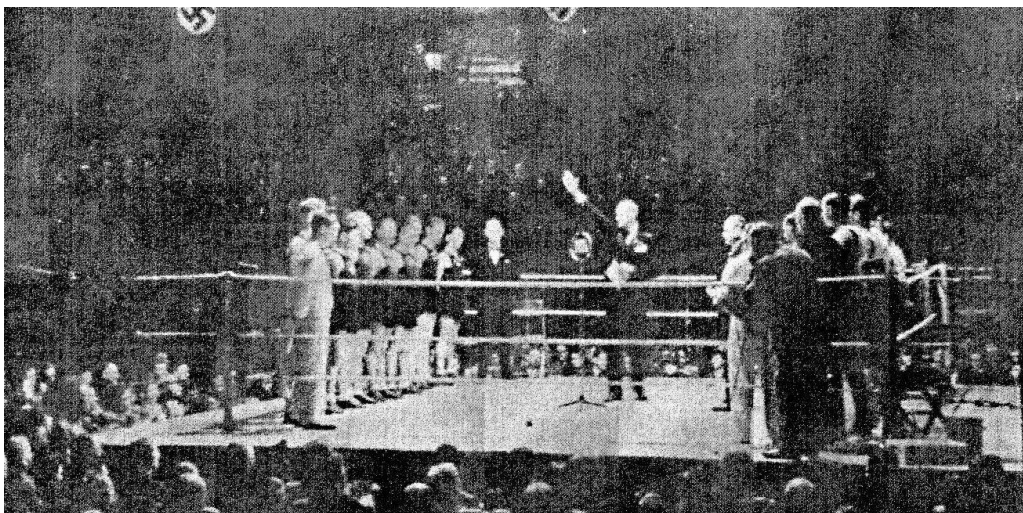


Popkess was also keenly encouraging his men in the field of sporting prowess, most notably boxing. The Nottingham City Police Boxing Team in the 1930s 'was considered to be the best amateur boxing team in Europe...producing several international and ABA champions at various weights'.[11]

The Nottingham City Police team had an annual contest against police teams from Stuttgart in Germany. Despite tensions between these two nations increasing throughout the 1930s, both forces did their utmost to preserve their friendship and those of their nations.

Popkess (front row, second from right) and the Nottingham City Police Boxing Team visit Stuttgart in 1936

In hindsight, this led to some very surreal historical anomalies. In 1936, for instance, Popkess led his team to Stuttgart, and there gave the capacity crowd a Nazi salute, a picture of which survives. Similarly, on a reciprocal visit to Nottingham, the County Hotel flew a Nazi Swastika flag alongside the Union Flag, possibly one of, if not the only time, such a juxtaposition occurred on the UK mainland. Sadly, the historical importance of this not being realised at the time, no photograph of this exists.[12] Bizarrely however, at the same time, Popkess was a leading figure nationally in the establishment of the Air Raid Precautions network to counter the increasingly imminent threat of German Luftwaffe bombings, with Nottingham's precautions (implemented primarily by Popkess) being hailed as the best in the country.[13]



Popkess performs a 'Nazi Salute' in Stuttgart in 1936

History was a subject of passionate interest to Popkess, and in April 1945 he delivered a paper to the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire belatedly commemorating the centenary of the Nottingham City Police in 1935. This paper was published later that year and contained details of the history of policing in Nottingham, from the pre-Peelian era to the establishment of the city force, and detailing its notable achievement and events.[14] Little was Popkess to know that perhaps the force's greatest achievements were to come under his stewardship. After a mere eight years at the helm of the force, the King recognised Popkess's expertise, by awarding him the King's Police Medal in 1938 'for distinguished service'.[15]

Perhaps his most notable contribution to policing nationwide, was the development of mechanised patrols and the use of wireless communications in deploying officers rapidly to the scene of incidents. Popkess seems to have been the forerunner in recognising the potential for improving policing methods and abilities through utilising cars and wireless two-way communication. He and the Nottingham City force were so instrumental in the development of this area of policing, that the model and methods pioneered there were instigated nationwide.

In his book *Mechanised Police Patrol*, Popkess describes cars being fitted with wireless radio technology, and explains to his readers not only the benefits of this, but amongst other things, discusses at great length how to teach officers in its use, and how to get best reception across areas, as well as 'best practice' in radio etiquette. He also covers in explicit detail how best to deploy 'radio cars' to achieve maximum patrol and response coverage, and also how best to deploy these patrols in various scenarios that today we might recognise as a 'snatch plan' deployment to key junctions and locations. He also details the use of satellite stations and different radio frequencies for various areas.

All these methods resulted from trials he conducted on his own initiative at the expense of the Nottingham City Police, with no central government grant or directive.[16] All this was completely new and at the forefront of policing methods at the time, and large proportions of what today's reader sees in *Mechanised Police Patrol* would still be immediately recognisable as current practice.

A significant proportion of the book is also devoted to good and safe driving, complete with diagrams on where to position a car not only to achieve best safety, but also best speed through corners; how to keep a vehicle travelling at speed as stable as possible; and how to gain the best observations of the road ahead, among other things.[17] Former officers and advanced drivers will recognise these as all being elements of *Roadcraft*, the police drivers' 'Bible'.

'The System of Car Control' (as outlined in *Roadcraft*), was devised by the racing driver Mark Pepys (also the Sixth Earl of Cottenham) in the mid 1930s at the Metropolitan Police Driving School at Hendon, and as such, was already well known in police circles. So although Popkess did not 'invent' 'The System', he was the first to bring it to a wider audience, as *Mechanised Police Patrol* was published in 1949, and it was not until 1954 that the first recognisable edition of *Roadcraft* was released.[18] In company with this, Popkess outlines the requirements of routine maintenance checks and inspections of all vehicles prior to their usage to ensure their roadworthiness - a practice still followed today.

The necessity for driving advice was evidently coming to the fore at the time as motor vehicles reduced in price and became an ever more common feature on British roads. This seemed to be a subject close to Popkess's heart, leading him to write another work entitled *Traffic Control and Road Accident Prevention* aimed at officers dealing with roads policing.[19] Following on from this, in 1954, Popkess, along with John Browne, Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire Constabulary, established the Nottingham Police Driver

Training School for teaching Advanced Driving (*your Editor testifying by personal experience, having passed his Advanced Driving Course there, in Spring 1974*).

Also on Tuesday 28 May 1957 Popkess delivered a paper to the Association of Chief Police Officers entitled *Our Mounting Traffic Problems* on the drastic need to improve road safety, and the policing of the highways.[20] He further appeared at a Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents conference on Wednesday 7 October 1959, speaking about the need for police to focus on reducing the number of road accidents 'which were costing infinitely more in life and property than crime'.[21]

Popkess also recognised the need to regulate car parking as well as driver behaviour, and proposed to the government the idea of 'a body of men, eager for police work, but barred by height or age to deal with trifling motoring offences like illegal parking and obstruction...'.[22] This proposal, despite being praised by the Transport Minister, was shelved. Popkess tried to introduce the idea in Nottingham alone, but the City Council refused on budgetary reasons, unless Popkess reduced the force size by thirty police officers.[23] Traffic wardens were ultimately adopted nationwide under the control of the police in the 1960 Road Traffic Act, based on Popkess's proposal. A drink-drive limit and breath testing of drivers suspected of having consumed too much, was also something proposed by Popkess during his tenure as police chief that was shelved (largely because of public opposition) but later introduced nationally.[24]

Popkess's love for technology and pioneering policing methods did not end at wireless communications and 'radio cars', far from it. In 1947 Nottingham City Police was the pioneer of the direct response burglar alarm system, and a brilliant British Pathé newsreel of this is available online, showing the harmony between this brand new device, and the new mechanised patrols.[25]

Forensic science was also to take a huge leap forward under Popkess's stewardship, again with Nottingham at the fore. In November 1934, Nottingham City Police was the first force in the country to develop its own forensic science laboratory after Popkess had toured the forensic science laboratories of Europe, to see how they did it.[26] Using and pioneering all the very newest advances in that field, work from all over the country was soon being sent to Nottingham for processing.

He also did not rest on his laurels with regards to his preparations for a possible war. Having successfully pioneered Air Raid Precaution measures in the build up to the Second World War (*for which he received the OBE, in the London Gazette Thursday 1 January 1942, p 17, where he is described as Chief Constable and lately ARP Controller, Nottingham. And in the London Gazette of Monday 2 January 1956 p 12, he was promoted to CBE - Editor*), with the coming of the Cold War, Popkess was again at the forefront of national security and public safety. On Monday 14 May 1956, Nottingham City Police ran a hypothetical 'post-nuclear explosion' Civil Defence exercise, in which a police van representing an aid column was directed through the city by two-way radio from a helicopter (containing police dogs) circling above, to test rapid deployment capabilities.[27]

Sadly, it is not for all these incredible achievements which the great Athelstan Popkess is primarily remembered. It is the events of 1959 that were to become his legacy, named, as it was, and subsequently referred to in any policing history now published as 'The Popkess Affair'. It was 'The Popkess Affair' which, it could be argued, led directly to one of the greatest reforms of the police nationally in the twentieth century. It directly resulted in one of only three Royal Commissions into policing during that century, and thus ultimately to the Police Act 1964, which finally resolved many of the vagaries of the various police establishing acts of the mid-nineteenth century, and improved police officers' pay and conditions. Even as recently as 2013, following the introduction of the

Police and Crime Commissioners, it is 'The Popkess Affair', which is held to be a prime example of why there should not be any political interference with policing.[28]

'The Popkess Affair' began in mid 1958 when key members of the Nottingham City Council appeared to accept several gratuities and hospitality from a company wishing to install a planetarium in Nottingham. In January 1959, a politically motivated Nottingham resident made a formal complaint of corruption to the police, meaning they were duty bound to investigate. At the time, legislation suggested that, in the borough forces (but not county ones), police chiefs were accountable to the local councils indirectly via the Watch Committee - although it was very vague in this area.[29]

Popkess, sensing possible frictions that might arise from such an investigation into the body which was, after all, indirectly his employer, requested the Metropolitan Police to conduct the enquiries on his behalf. Detectives from the Metropolitan Police conducted the investigations, even seeking approval from the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) who confirmed that there did not appear to be a case against at least two Councillors under Section 1 of the Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act of 1889. The officers visited Nottingham in late April, which was reported in the local press, significantly, prior to the local elections. It is this that seems to have particularly irked the senior figures in Nottingham City Council, who now strongly suspected a political motive behind the investigation, and accused Popkess of being behind this, although this has now proven to be untrue.

On Wednesday 3 June 1959, based on the investigations by the Metropolitan Police, the DPP informed Popkess that whilst the activities of the Councillors might not be highly reputable, he did not believe them to be criminal in nature. The Councillors and the Town Clerk were duly informed, and that very same day, the Watch Committee passed a Resolution instructing the Chief Constable to submit reports to them on the matter. Popkess did not agree with this, and on Wednesday 8 July at the next meeting of the Watch Committee, Popkess refused to disclose anything, and was summarily suspended. Crucially, both the key Councillors who had been investigated, were serving members of the Watch Committee, and were present at that meeting. Thus they were involved in Popkess's suspension.

By this time the issue was in the national press, and the Home Secretary ('RAB' Butler) became involved, informing the Watch Committee that the police were responsible for criminal investigation and should not be subject to political control. Furthermore, it was also pointed out to them, that had Popkess submitted the requested reports, he would have actually been in breach of his duty.

These instructions, coupled with a staggering 6,000 strong petition by the people of Nottingham, and a rally in the Market Square with a similar number, resulted in Popkess being reluctantly reinstated on Sunday 9 August 1959. His heart was never in it again, though, and on Monday 30 November that same year, he retired, as he had always planned to do.

He left Nottingham for Torquay, never to return, and in retirement wrote children's books under the pen name Bardo Kodogo.[30] He died in Torquay only eight years later on Monday 1 May 1967.

Popkess was ultimately exonerated from any wrong doing whatsoever, with the Affair's main historian describing it as largely stemming from a personality clash between the Chief Constable and the Town Clerk, who believed (incorrectly) that the Chief Constable was head of a council department and therefore subject to his authority.[31]

As can be seen from the overwhelming contribution Athelstan Popkess made to policing in the twentieth century, it could be strongly argued that he represents the single most influential police officer of that epoch. He is likely responsible for more progression in the police service during his tenure, than any other chief officer since the early

Metropolitan Police Commissioners. He was also indirectly responsible for bringing about one of the most important pieces of police legislation during the century, the Police Act 1964, which demarked the powers and responsibilities of the police and politicians once and for all, and which continued as the legal standard for nearly fifty years, until the introduction of the elected Police and Crime Commissioners in 2012.

Athelstan Popkess is sadly not remembered for any of his innovations, and is confined to a footnote in policing history, and possibly would be forgotten to it entirely, except for the use of his name to describe the scandal that highlighted the inadequacy of the Municipal Corporations Act 1835. Instead he should be remembered and highlighted as the innovator, revolutionary idealist and father of modern twenty-first century policing that he is, and given honourable mention as such in any future histories of the police in Britain.

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- 9 Cowley, Richard A *History of the British Police : From its Earliest Beginnings to the Present day* (The History Press, Stroud 2011) p152. The caveat here was that if a candidate 'possesses some exceptional quality...which specifically fits him for the post'. Quite what this special quality was is not documented anywhere
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http://www.bbc.co.uk/nottingham/content/articles/2009/01/20/chief_constable_popkess_feature.shtml as accessed Saturday 21 November 2014
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- 29 Cowley, Richard op.cit. p 39
- 30 Hyndman, David op.cit. p 6
- 31 Bowley, Alfred S. op.cit. passim. I have taken the details and chronology of the entire summary of the Popkess affair from this excellent and comprehensively well researched article and would highly recommend it to anyone with even a passing curiosity into the incident. The article certainly seems to vindicate completely Popkess's course of action with regards to the alleged (although some might say, blatant) corruption

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JOHN SMITH

Durham Constabulary

1855-1883

Taken from a photograph of 1870, after he had just been promoted to Sergeant. He was further promoted to Inspector in 1873.

In 1880, a pit explosion occurred at Seaham Colliery, whereby 175 miners lost their lives. Inspector Smith had the tragic duty of keeping a record of the 175 bodies as they were being recovered, and then making a report of every recovery for the Inquest.



WPC 1 OLIVE KEMP

The first WPC of the Buckinghamshire Constabulary

by

Lisa Edwards

Olive Kemp started in the Buckinghamshire Constabulary in 1945, aged twenty-two. Originally stationed in Slough, and later in Newport Pagnell, she was the first regular female police constable in Buckinghamshire, and as such, her collar number was WPC1.

There had been a Women's Auxiliary Police Corps (WAPC), and women had served in the Police War Reserve in Buckinghamshire during the Second World War, but by 1945, new recruits were needed. A great number of men had enlisted in the armed forces and were still overseas, whilst others had been killed in action. The Police War Reserve (personnel who had signed to serve for the duration only) was being released and men were retiring, leaving the constabulary understaffed. Alfred Hailstone writes that the then Chief Constable of Buckinghamshire, Thomas Warren*, was being called upon by the Management Association of the Slough Trading Estate to provide extra officers to combat the rise in theft and factory breaking. He was unable to do this and suggested they employ their own security.[1]

Olive Kemp became one of the Constabulary's badly needed new recruits and joined Slough police station in 1945. She is reported as being 5'3" in height, and was said to have been the smallest serving police officer in the Buckinghamshire Constabulary.

In September 1976, she retired after thirty years in the force, during which time she received several commendations, including the Alfred Rothschild Challenge Cup for 1955. The cup was given for 'performing the most gallant and outstanding act of the county force in 1955'.[2] John Cheney**, Chief Constable at the time, stated that Olive Kemp was the first woman to receive such an award in the history of the British Police.[3]

There are two documents in the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies in Aylesbury, detailing the award. The first is the **Buckinghamshire Constabulary Force Bulletin** (Centre catalogue reference BC/6/1). Edition 1/56, Friday 6 January 1956, under the heading of General Orders, explains how Olive came to win the Cup. On Thursday 3 March 1955, she attended the Slough Community Centre in order to watch for thieves after a handbag was stolen. To remain unseen she hid in a cupboard. It was from here that she caught sight of the two youths suspected of the theft, and in trying to arrest them, a fight ensued. Olive was attacked, and received a punch in the stomach and other

cuts. She managed to contain one of the offenders until other officers arrived. Her actions led to both youths being convicted at Slough Juvenile Court after which they were sent to an approved school for three years.

COMMENDATION

19. The Rothschild Cup for 1955 is awarded to W.P.C. 1 Olive KEMP, (Slough).
20. On 3rd March, 1955, W.P.C. Kemp visited the Community Centre, Slough, to keep observation following a complaint of the theft of a handbag. She concealed herself in a cupboard, and later detected two youths who were responsible for the larceny of a handbag. After arresting the youths, she was assaulted, hit in the stomach, and received various lacerations. However she was able to hold on to one offender until help arrived.

Both offenders were convicted at Slough Juvenile Court.

The second report is the **Report Book of the Chief Constable of the Buckinghamshire Constabulary** (Reference BC/2/6). Dated Wednesday 29 June 1955, the account is not as detailed as that in BC/6/1, but it does state that Olive had been commended in General Orders for using her initiative, keen observation and her smart work that resulted in the arrest of two youths.

(3) COMMENDATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE FORCE

The undermentioned has been commended in General Orders since the last meeting:-

W.P.C. 1 O. Kemp (Slough) for smart work, keen observation and initiative which resulted in the arrest of two youths for larceny of handbags.

Olive's exploits seem to have caught the imagination of the press, and local headlines in the Slough are included 'Cupboard girl is commended'[4]; and 'Hiding in the cupboard was -guess who?'[5] Her tiny stature, including the phrase 'half pint' is commented on in most of the newspapers.

This was not the first time that she had been congratulated within BC/2/6. On Thursday 11 February 1954, she was praised by the Chief Constable for her good work in dealing with a girl missing from home. The Windsor Borough Juvenile Court also praised her for the same case.

Olive went on to gain many more commendations and her exploits continued to be reported in the press. It could be suggested that she was a trail blazer for future generations of police women in the county. She would have witnessed a great deal of change in her thirty years service, including the formation of the Thames Valley Constabulary on Monday 1 April 1968, when the county forces of Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire, together with the forces of Reading County Borough and Oxford City amalgamated.

The Police Authority's website [7], of the now renamed Thames Valley Police, states the following : 'Today, Thames Valley Police has 4534 police officers, and of those 1460 are women. There are 1773 women police staff, 229 female PCSOs, 154 Special Constables are women and there are 239 female volunteers.'

I wonder if the young and ground breaking Olive could have imagined such numbers when she joined the force as WPC1 in 1945.

Olive Kemp passed away on Thursday 2 October 2014.

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- [1] HAILSTONE, Alfred *One hundred Years of Law-Enforcement in Buckinghamshire* (Dimbleby and Sons Limited) p47
- [2] *Slough Observer* 1956
- [3] *ibid*
- [4] *Slough Observer* Friday 1 July 1955
- [5] *Slough Observer* Friday 25 March 1955
- [6] *ibid*
- [7] <http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/aboutus/aboutus-museum/aboutus-museum-women-in-policing.htm> (Accessed Friday 5 February 2016)

*** (Sir) Thomas Richard Pennefather WARREN (Bart)**

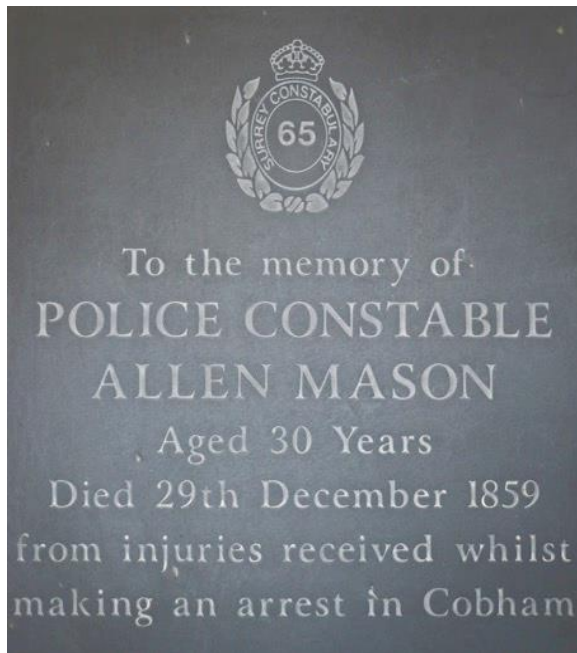


- [1] Chief Constable Buckinghamshire 1928-1953
Awarded KPFSM LG 5 June 1952 p3041
Educated Burney's School, Gosport; RMC Sandhurst
Career Army service 1905/1928 (Army Service Corps; AMIMechE; Capt; WW1-Gallipoli, MiD twice, CBE Military 1919; in Ireland as Resident Magistrate 1919-1920; Maj 1924; QMG Wessex Area; LtCol 1928) - Plymouth City Police 1927/1928 (in office of Chief Constable whilst 'learning the ropes') - [1] (Barrister; recalled to Army 1941-1945 Lt, Irish Guards) - Retirement (succeeded as 8th Baronet in 1958)
b. Saturday 12 Sep 1885, Tipperary(?)
m. Ada Hely, 1s2d
d. Friday 8 Dec 1961, Ireland

**** John Norman CHENEY**



- [1] Chief Constable East Riding of Yorkshire 1946-1953
- [2] Chief Constable Buckinghamshire 1953-1967
Awarded (i) QPM LG 8 June 1963 p4823
(ii) CVO LG 1 January 1968 p5
(iii) Order of Saint John
Educated Eton; RMC Sandhurst
Career Army service 1914/1935 (60th Rifles; WW1, MiD, wia; Adj, Queen Victoria Rifles 1930) - War Department Constabulary 1935/1940 (ACC 1935) - Army service 1940/1946 (Dep Provost Marshall, N. Ireland 1940; LtCol 1941; OBE 1943; 21st Army Group, BAOR 1945; Brigdr 1945; French CdeG; MiD) - [1] - [2] - Retirement (Hon Corps of Gentlemen at Arms)
b. Thursday 25 November 1897, Ipswich
m. 1929 Muriel Haig, 2s1d
d. 1970, Amersham, Buckinghamshire



THE MEMORIAL TO PC 65 ALLEN MASON SURREY CONSTABULARY

by

Robert Bartlett, MA



No known image exists of PC Mason, but this is the style of uniform worn by members of the Surrey Constabulary in 1857



Allen Mason was badly beaten in July 1859 whilst trying to arrest a deserter in Cobham. He lingered on, dying in December 1859, leaving a young widow and two small children. In Surrey Police Headquarters there were memorials to Inspector Donaldson and to John Schofield, both killed on duty by criminal attacks, but for some reason, PC Mason had been forgotten by history.

The chairman of the Surrey Police Retired Comrades Association with the full agreement of the then Chief Constable, Mark Rowley, decided this failure should be rectified, and to provide a memorial within Headquarters on the understanding that there could be no cost to the Surrey Police, given the dire financial pressures they were under. Therefore sufficient money was raised privately for the memorial and reception to be held at Mount Browne.

The memorial design was drafted by Kevin Morris (Retired Comrades Association) and sent to ornamental masons by Funeral Partners, Knaphill who refined the design and carved it. Many people made donations but it would not have been possible without the

support, including financial, from Barry Pritchard of Funeral Partners and Tony Croucher, of Woking Funerals, who made the arrangements to have the memorial carved, delivered and mounted, and in addition, provided name plaques to be placed in three conference rooms at Mount Browne, to be known as the Mason Room, Donaldson Room and Schofield Room.

The dedication of the memorial to PC Mason took place on Tuesday 14 February 2012 at 10.30am, with the Master of Ceremonies being Tony Forward, Life Vice President of the Surrey Retired Comrades Association and former President of the National Association of Toastmasters. After a welcome from the Chief Constable, Lynne Owens, QPM (President of the Surrey Police Retired Comrades Association, and incidentally her very first day of service in Surrey), Robert Bartlett MA (Cantab), Chairman and Life Vice President of the Surrey Police Retired Comrades Association, gave a talk on Policing Surrey in 1859.

This was followed by Christopher Atkins, QPM BA, Life Vice President of the Surrey Police Retired Comrades Association, who gave a talk on the specific details of the life and death of PC Mason, which he had extensively researched. The Dedication of the Memorial was then performed by the Reverend Robert Jenkins, Rector of Saint Andrew's Church, Cobham. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Mr Gordon Lee-Steere, gave an Address, after which Robert Bartlett concluded the ceremony with an expression of gratitude.

So who was PC Mason? Allen Mason was a Surrey man, born at Chertsey in 1830. He lived in Eastworth Road with his parents, Francis and Sarah, brother Henry and sister Eliza, and worked as a labourer. He obviously had ambitions for more, and joined the Metropolitan Police in March 1851 but left after only a month. He returned to Chertsey, labouring for the well-known Locke-King family.

Eighteen months later, on Sunday 3 October 1852, he married Ann Turner at Saint Paul's Church, Addlestone. They were both single, he twenty-two, she twenty-four. Allen had lived at Addlestone Moor and Ann's home was in Addlestone village, although she was in service to the Liberty family who ran the nearby Ham Moor Saw Mills. He had married the girl next door, for the 1841 census shows the Turners and the Masons as neighbours, including Allen Mason, then eleven, and Ann Turner, thirteen.

Perhaps spurred on by his new responsibilities, he again applied to join the police, this time to the Surrey Constabulary. The force had been formed only in 1851 and offered opportunities for the ambitious, and a way of life for Allen very different from that of a labourer in a country town.

His application was successful and he was appointed on Monday 21 February 1853, when he was twenty-four years old, 5'9" tall, and allocated collar number 65. The collar number was so called because in the days of high 'choke collars' that is where officers' numbers were worn. But the term is still used today even though these numbers have long since migrated to the shoulders. Allen was sworn in by the Guildford Bench of Magistrates, just as in modern times when recruits stood in Number One Court (the old Quarter Sessions Court) in Guildford High Street, 'under the clock'.

He was appointed as a Fourth Class Constable on sixteen shillings a week and posted to Merstham. All new entrants were enrolled at this level, and there were four grades of Constable, with Inspector being the next rank up, there being no Sergeant rank. He was advanced to Third Class Constable, but in 1853 (only ten months after appointment) he was disciplined, lost his Third Class status and was fined five shillings (a third of his weekly wage) for failing to make a Conference Point. This apparently trivial offence was not so innocuous as it might appear.

Missing a Point immediately aroused fears for the officer's safety and, in addition, he could not be given work or messages, nor be met by his Inspector or Superintendent. Discipline in the force was enforced rigidly and few officers escaped a disciplinary hearing. In addition to the fine, Allen was moved to Nutfield – of all days on Christmas Day 1853. He now had to restore his reputation and make progress through the grades.

His postings were extraordinary, but certainly not unusual. After Merstham and Nutfield he was moved to Wrecclesham, Farnham, Millbridge, Egham and Cobham, sometimes only three or four months between moves, although on his later postings he stayed two years at Egham and Cobham. It was policy to make these changes because the Chief Constable was keen to ensure officers did not get too close to their communities, which must certainly have been the case.

Throughout this whirlwind of moves Allen's progress was restored. He regained his Third Class, went on to Second Class, and finally attained the status of First Class Constable in 1856, the highest rank below Inspector. In November of that year he took up his final posting in Cobham, described variously as Church Cobham or Fairmile.

We are able to see something of his family life. Police records show that he had two children when he joined, who we know to be Ann and Allen – named after their parents. In addition they later had Alice, born at Farnham in 1855 (but christened at Chertsey where her grandparents still lived) and finally Agnes, born at Cobham in 1858.

Sadly, little Alice died in 1859, not then four. A few months later further tragedy followed when Allen was badly assaulted in July while arresting a deserter. Nothing is known of the arrest, the injuries Allen sustained, nor what happened to the deserter. But what *is* known, is that Allen died later that year on Thursday 29 December 1859. The cause of death was a ruptured blood vessel in his lungs, the result, it was concluded, of the violent assault he had suffered.

He was buried in Cobham churchyard in the New Year, on Saturday 7 January 1860, beside his daughter Alice. An inscription on a headboard, now lost, recorded that :

'Allan Mason, police constable of the Surrey Constabulary, died 29 December 1859, aged 30, borne to his grave by his brother constables. Near this spot lies Alice Mason, his daughter, died 11 March 1859, aged 3 years and 11 months'.

No newspaper reports about the attack have been found, but the *Surrey Comet* did report his death in the edition of Saturday 7 January 1860 :

'Death of a Policeman – A policeman of the Surrey Constabulary Allan Mason, who had been stationed at Cobham for some years, and was greatly respected both by the inhabitants and the members of the force, died on December 29th, having broken a blood vessel in his lungs some short period before. In July last he was violently assaulted by a deserter, and this is presumed to have brought on the illness. He was interred this day, Saturday, and followed to his grave by a number of his late brother officers whose feelings evidenced they had lost a friend and a brother to whom they were sincerely attached.'

Allen's death was reported to the next Epiphany sitting of the Surrey Quarter Sessions. The Sessions were told that he had died of a ruptured blood vessel a few weeks before, and that his previous reduced state of health was attributed to a violent assault committed upon him by a deserter in July.

The terrible loss, of course, left Ann a widow to care for her three children, Ann, aged eight, Allan seven, and Agnes one year, and Ann needed urgent help. The Quarter Sessions had the power to grant her up to two thirds (£35) of Allen's annual pay and the

Chief Constable at the Epiphany sitting on Saturday 7 January 1860 proposed that they did so. He added that Police Constable Mason had six years service, and 'died in consequence of injuries he had received in the performance of his duties in July 1859. He had been very steady while in the force and had left a widow and three children unprovided for.'

On Thursday 26 January the Police Committee, with commendable swiftness and less than a month after Allen's funeral, agreed that Ann be given £35 as a grant. It was not a pension because widows' pensions for officers killed on duty would not to be introduced for another thirty years.

Ann Mason later married a Cobham man, James Johnson. He, too, subsequently joined the police, serving as a Constable in both Kent and London until he retired on pension. He and Ann had a further four children, and she died in the early 1900s.

Some cases uncovered that were dealt with by PC Mason :

TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER 1856 at the Surrey Michaelmas Quarter Sessions.

Thomas Holmes, labourer, was charged with stealing a watch at Farnham, the property of Robert Howlett. The prosecutor (*in other words, the injured person*) was in the *Princess Royal* public house at Farnham on Tuesday 23 September when he went to sleep, with his watch in his pocket, and when he woke it was gone. The loss was reported to PC A. Mason, Surrey Constabulary, who accompanied him to the prisoner's lodgings where the watch was found under a pillow on the bed after a violent struggle with the prisoner. The jury immediately found him guilty and he was sentenced to four years penal servitude. [The *Sussex Advertiser* and the *Surrey Gazette*, Tuesday 21 October 1856]

SATURDAY 29 MAY 1858 at the Epsom County Bench.

Sarah Elizabeth May was charged with breaking several windows in the dwelling house of Mr George Brown at Cobham. Mr Brown is the overseer for Cobham and was approached by the defendant and a man for relief, which he refused, and she broke two of his windows. PC 65 Mason was called to the house at half past seven in the evening to remove the prisoner and her two companions. The officer persuaded them to leave but he heard a sound of breaking glass and went and found the prisoner. On the way to the Station house she showed the officer several stones and said she wished she had broken more than she had. She told the court she had done it because she wanted to go to prison. Sent to the House of Correction for two months with hard labour. [The *Surrey Comet*, Saturday 29 May 1858]

SATURDAY 30 JULY 1859 at the Kingston County Bench.

William Miller obtained a hoe under false pretences. The prisoner borrowed some tools then sold them. PC65 Allen Mason, Surrey Constabulary, found the prisoner in the taproom of *The George* at Cobham, and was eventually sent for trial. [The *Surrey Comet*, Saturday 30 July 1859]

This memorial to PC Mason will obviously be well cared for, and remembered, but there may be memorials to police officers dying on duty, not necessarily murdered, which are being forgotten, and maybe neglected. An appeal therefore is made, if any member knows of any memorial or headstone to a police officer dying on duty, especially those within police premises where the public do not normally have access, then please would they send a copy of its wording, a description of it, its locality, and even perhaps a good photograph, to your Editor. A list will be compiled and published in this *Journal*, or, if necessary, even a Police History Society Monograph.

EAST SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY 1863



Friend of
Drill Sergeant Rogers

PS Norman

PC Potter

PC Firmin

PC Barnard

PC Thurkettle

PC Smith

PC Fosdick

PC Pulham

PC Redgrave

PC Alexander

unknown

PC Middleton

PC Woods

PC Noller

PC Edmonds

Drill Sergeant Rogers

PC Calver

It is interesting to note that Sergeant Norman, second from left, has two rows of buttons, rather than arm chevrons. The photograph is not distinct enough to recognise the medals worn by PC Potter and the unknown PC, but in PC Potter's case, they may be the Gwalior campaigns of northern India in the 1840s; and in the case of the unknown PC, may be the Crimean War of the 1850s. This photograph has been supplied by Mr Fred Feather.

'YARNS FROM THE BEAT'

From 'Yarns from the Beat', *Police Review* Friday 18 September 1925

A teacher in one of the schools in a large town was having for her lesson the various trades of our workpeople, such as carpenters, bricklayers and so on, and finally she came to the policeman. 'Now, can anyone tell me what a policeman does?' she asked. Up stood one little fellow, and said 'Please, miss, my daddy is a policeman'. 'Well, Tommy' the teacher said 'if your daddy is a policeman, you'll be able to tell me best what a policeman does.' 'Yes, miss' said the little lad 'when my daddy sees big boys playing footy in the streets, he takes the balls off them, and brings them home to me.'

A FORGOTTEN SOURCE FOR RESEARCH?

The Minutes of the Standing Joint Committees

The Standing Joint Committees were the epitome of good old British compromise. After the passing of the Local Government Act of 1888, county management was taken away from the hereditary magistrates in quarter sessions, and given to the new, politically elected county councils. But the quarter sessions had also been the police authority for the county, which then raised the question, 'who controls the county police?' Was it to remain with the local gentry - the bench of magistrates in quarter sessions? Or was it to be in the hands of the new county councils with their (inexperienced) local politicians of all social classes? It must be remembered that magistrates in quarter sessions were not abolished by the Local Government Act, they still existed, but only with their judicial function, having had their administrative powers stripped from them.

Tempers were heated in Parliament when the question of police supervision was decided. It became obvious that both sides were entrenched : on the one hand those who saw the management of the police as a judicial matter (the magistrates); and on the other hand, those seeing it as an administrative (the county council) affair.

Compromise had to be reached. The proposal that control of the police should be divided equally between the magistrates and the county council met with hostility from both sides. But this proposal was adopted - it had to be, for there was no other solution. The control of a county police force therefore passed into the hands of a committee consisting of equal numbers of magistrates and local politicians, and so, under Section Nine of the 1888 Local Government Act, was known henceforth as the Standing Joint Committee.

It is no doubt that because of the great British genius for compromise, that a body so universally disliked at its birth, should then have continued unchanged for well over a century. However, the concept of equal number of magistrates and local politicians became eroded over the years, as successive governments have pursued their ultimate aim of complete political control of the police, and gradually increased the committee's ratio in favour of local politicians over magistrates. And in 2013, this ultimate aim became inexorably one step nearer, when the Standing Joint Committee (or Police Authority as it was then known) was abolished entirely, being replaced by one elected politician, grandly called the Police and Crime Commissioner.

But be that as it may, whilst they were in existence, the Standing Joint Committees left behind Minutes of their meetings. And these SJC Minutes are like gold dust, recording as they do, not only the momentous decisions of the committee, but also the trivia and minutiae that these bodies must also deal with, complete with all the middling resolutions in between. So comprehensive are these SJC Minutes, that a perusal of them would possibly provide a complete history of its county constabulary, without recourse to any other documents. Yet all these Minutes appear to be largely ignored by police historians. Why this should be so is unknown, perhaps efforts can be made to make more use of them in future.

Consider these Minutes of the Standing Joint Committee of the Somerset Constabulary, held at the Town Hall, Wells on Monday 25 March 1935 : as well as the deliberations of the full committee, reports were received from, the Police Buildings Sub-committee; the Shire Hall Committee; the General Purposes and Finance Sub-committee; the Police Transport Sub-committee; the Police Accounts for the quarter ending 30 June

1935; and also the Chief Constable's* Report containing a complete breakdown of all the crimes committed in the county for the year ending Monday 31 December 1934, the strength and distribution of the force, as well as a full report on an experiment for rural officers to be given motor cycles rather than pedal cycles. These are not boring committee reports - they contain more wheat than chaff.

Consider also the Minutes of the Standing Joint Committee of the Northamptonshire Constabulary, held at County Hall, Northampton on Saturday 8 May 1926, which details all the steps being taken in the county to deal with 'the emergency which had arisen owing to the stoppage of work in the coalfields and by railway and transport workers' (otherwise known to history as The General Strike). This included the possibility of making 'arrangements for Magistrates to attend at villages, remote from places at which Petty Sessional Courts are held, for the purpose of swearing in men desirous of serving as Special Constables'. This is followed in the SJC Minutes of Saturday 3 July when it was reported that '1,514 Special Constables had attested.' The strength of the regular force at the time was a mere 200.

Using the list contained in the excellent Police History Society Monograph, number 2, *A Guide to the Archives of the Police Forces of England and Wales* by Ian Bridgeman and Clive Emsley, Standing Joint Committee Minutes are preserved in the archives of the following county constabularies :

- Cambridgeshire two volumes 1889-1901 and 1901-1921
- Derbyshire two volumes 1889-1911
- Glamorgan six volumes 1843-1892
- Huntingdonshire 1897-1913
- Kent 1856-1922
- Leicestershire twenty-three volumes 1840-1976 (and Index 1974)
- Lincolnshire five volumes 1937-1964
- Northamptonshire 1912-1964
- Northumberland 1913-1914
- Oxfordshire two volumes 1922-1941
- Somerset two volumes 1884-1896 and 1899-1906
- Sussex 1943-1947
- West Riding of Yorkshire three volumes 1889-1896
- Worcestershire 1843-1855

Note : there may also be SJC Minutes preserved in the relevant county record offices.

*** Herbert Charles METCALFE**



[1] Chief Constable West Suffolk Constabulary 1902-1906

[2] Chief Constable West Riding of Yorkshire Constabulary
1906-1908

[3] Chief Constable Somerset Constabulary 1908-1939

Awarded KPM LG 1 January 1931 p 14

Educated St Paul's College, Stony Stratford; RMC Sandhurst

Career Army service 1885/1902 (2nd Bn Northamptonshire Regt; Hong Kong 1886-87; Dep Cmsr of Police, Perak 1892-93; Insp of Musketry, Scotland 1899-1900, Ireland 1900-02) - [1] - [2] - [3] (recalled to Army 1914-19; LtCol; DSO and Bar 1918) - Retirement (DL of Somerset)

b. Monday 9 May 1864, Upwell, Norfolk

m. Dorothea Knight, 1s2d

d. Thursday 18 January 1940, Taunton

OPERATION 'OVERLORD' AND THE WORCESTERSHIRE CONSTABULARY

by

Bob Pooler

We all know of, and gratefully acknowledge, the huge contributions made by British men and women who served in the armed forces during the Second World War. The roles they played, together with members of other allied armies, are widely recorded by historians and family members. Many police officers joined these ranks as reservists, conscripts or volunteers. The effect of the removal of these men from their respective forces put extra pressure on those who remained. There were many new police duties which came about because of the war and it was fortunate that the police authorities were able to turn to the First Police Reserve, of recently retired former policemen; the Police War Reserve of men over thirty who agreed to serve for the duration only; the Women's Auxiliary Police Corps, and the Special Constabulary, some of whom were able to work full time. The adventures and experiences of these officers and those left behind have rarely been recorded. In fact, sources for such research are sadly lacking.

Worcestershire had an establishment of just over 360 officers at the beginning of the war and lost sixty of them in the first call of Reservists to the Colours. As time went on, a further forty-five were removed by the war effort. This was somewhat counterbalanced by the return of some twenty-seven officers to the force over a period of several months. However, the overall loss of men was around seventy-five. Some of the men who remained, specialised in anti-gas training, whilst others gathered information about the 8,864 bombs that dropped throughout the county. Then Dunkirk occurred!

In a 'highly secret' letter, the Home Office instructed the Chief Constable of Worcestershire, James Lloyd-Williams*, to create a department to investigate security matters. This led to a further drain upon experienced manpower.

In October and November 1940, Coventry was targeted by the Luftwaffe and the attacks left death and destruction in their wake. However, on the night of the largest raid, twenty-eight Worcestershire police officers were called from their beds at 2.00am on the morning of Friday 15 November, and sent to Coventry where they remained for three weeks, although relief contingents were sent to replace them throughout the remainder of the year. Thus, the Worcestershire Constabulary was now operating with about thirty per cent fewer regular officers than it had at the start of the war.

By 1944, all thoughts were upon where and when the forthcoming invasion of Europe was going to take place. The operation was called 'Overlord' for the Army, and 'Neptune' for the Royal Navy, but to everyone else it was 'D Day'. Early planning focused on building up allied forces. Camps were set up around the country with a view to streaming the various armies to the coast in rotation as their place in the attack was ordered. As the date of the offensive approached, police forces across the country were required to provide officers from their already depleted numbers to assist the local police at dockland bottlenecks.

On Saturday 11 March, 1944, the Chief Constable circulated a memorandum to each of his Divisional Superintendents. He said :

'It is probable that in the fairly near future this County will be required to provide reinforcements to Forces nearer the scene of operations. The Quota to be supplied by this County is forty seven. The men will probably be sent in batches at intervals. The first batch will consist of one Sergeant and nine men. The second batch will consist of two Sergeants and fifteen men. Subsequent batches, (possibly one Inspector), two Sergeants and eight men. The men for the first batch must be earmarked immediately and should consist of the men who can be made most easily available. Where possible, preference should be given to volunteers and a proportion of the men may be auxiliaries. No man is to be selected who is not likely to be a credit to the County when serving elsewhere. A proportion of the men should be trained Incident Officers and Bomb Reconnaissance Officers.'

Each Division was ordered to provide a quota of officers, and on Monday 13 March, the Assistant Chief Constable advised each Division that their nominated members should take with them the following items :

One patrol jacket; one pair of uniform trousers; one cape; one pair of waterproof leggings; their personal respirator; their steel helmet; two blankets; a one pint cup and a mess tin, and one pair of spare boots. The officers were also told that they should take : a plain jacket, trousers and hat; a change of underclothing; towels, soap and toilet requisites, and a knife, fork, spoon and tin opener. They were provided with emergency rations sufficient for forty-eight hours, which consisted of two tinned meals; one tin of 'Prem' (a tinned ham, imported from America and made by the Swift Meat Company); one tin of sweetened milk, and chocolate, tea and biscuits. Each man was issued with a 'Blue Pack' in which to carry his equipment.



And so, on Friday 28 April, 1944, the Chief Constable received a letter from the Regional Commissioner for Civil Defence, (William Ward, who was actually the third Earl of Dudley), based at 156 Great Charles Street, Birmingham. It was marked 'Top Secret', and directed him to supply one Sergeant and nine Constables.

The men were to assemble on the Stour Valley Platform, New Street Railway Station, Birmingham, on Monday 1 May 1944, at 9.45am.

The Stour Valley Platform, Birmingham New Street Railway Station

In a further letter on the subject of the deployment of police officers, the Chief Constable was instructed that messages were not to be passed by telephone or letter, but only by hand.

It is not clear whether the senior officers at Worcester knew where their men were going. However, the location was not known to the policemen on the ground. It must have been a difficult time for the men and their families. They were given a just a couple of days to organize their affairs. They did not know what might befall them at their unknown destination, and they had no idea how long it would be before they would see

each other again. One thing that had already been put in place, however, was an arrangement to pay the wives of the men directly, whilst their husbands were away. It is interesting to observe the different amounts chosen by the men, irrespective of the number of dependants. Some gave all their wages, whilst others gave varied proportions of their fortnightly income to their wives. Only one, a single man, took the whole of his income.

When the travel day arrived, police transport picked up the men from their various locations and took them to New Street Station. The men were overwhelmed with luggage and equipment and struggled to carry everything with them.

The location where the Worcestershire men had been sent to, can be found in the Worcestershire police records. In a letter to Chief Constable Lloyd-Williams, the Chief Constable of Southampton County Borough Police, Frederick Tarry**, wrote and told him that his men had arrived the previous day and had settled in very well. He invited his Worcestershire colleague to visit his men at any time he wished. The tone of the letter was very friendly and suggested that both men already knew each other. An interesting feature of this and the subsequent exchange of letters between Worcester and Southampton was that nearly every letter was delivered to its destination the day after posting.

The men had hardly had time to settle in to their new location, when one of them discovered that his wife and child were unwell and became rather anxious as a result. In reply to Tarry's letter, Lloyd-Williams mentioned, rather impatiently, that if the officer was becoming a problem he would remove and replace him. Chief Constable Tarry smoothed things over by saying he had spoken to the officer and had been able to settle him down. But it soon became clear that the men were not going to return home any time soon and so Tarry allowed them to accumulate their rest days in order to have a few days in Worcestershire periodically. It was during one of these periods that the officer who was



concerned about his family was replaced.

The Worcestershire contingent was in the charge of Sergeant George Young from Evesham. He wrote to Lloyd-Williams on Tuesday 2 May. In a handwritten letter he told the Chief Constable how they had been over-burdened with equipment and uniform and arranged to send some of the items back home. The men also required flat caps in order to blend in with the local officers.

Along with police officers from other forces, the men were housed in quarters in Archer Road, Southampton, which were described as 'very comfortable billets', with excellent food. The block has since been demolished, being replaced with apartments.

Sergeant George Young (wearing Great War medals)

Initially the men were required to work shifts in 'B' Division of Southampton County Borough Police, although later, some of them worked in an adjoining Division. Their duties were comprised of barrier duty, snap checks, military traffic control, and some work following air raid damage. When not engaged on these duties, they carried out ordinary beat patrol. The Worcestershire men integrated well with the local men and social occasions were held where they competed against each other playing snooker, billiards and darts.



*Archer Road,
Southampton
(since
demolished)*

Sergeant Young exchanged a number of letters with his Chief Constable, keeping him up to date with the events that were occurring at Southampton. As time progressed, the letters became reasonably informal and were very much appreciated by Lloyd-Williams. There is little mention in the correspondence of the embarkation on 'D Day'. From that it may be assumed that the process was largely free from problems other than the weather.

By Monday 10 July 1944, one month after 'D Day', there was some talk of sending the contingents home from Southampton. But a week later, Tarry had to reconsider this plan, as the Borough had come under attack from flying bombs. The Germans had got the range of the port and were firing their weapons from the Pas de Calais. At the same time the weather had improved in Normandy and this was going to lead to an increase in the embarkation of troops.

Eventually however, Tarry decided to return half of the fifty men who had been seconded to him from the midland police forces. They consisted of five Constables each from Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shrewsbury Borough, and a Sergeant and four Constables from Staffordshire and Shropshire.

With this reduction in men, it was possible to close a hostel that housed the Shropshire contingent, and they were duly re-housed at Archer Road. Sergeant Young commented, 'We have as little as possible to do with them as they are such a grumbling crowd.' This view had the potential to bode well for the future amalgamation of the forces in 1967.

The final days of the stay at Southampton were very mundane, and it is possible to detect a reduction in enthusiasm in Sergeant Young's letters. He must have been very pleased to hear that he and his colleagues were to return to Worcestershire on Friday 1 September 1944. They had been away from their homes for four months, albeit with leave. Perhaps the sacrifice was not as great as for many others who were thrust further into harm's way, nevertheless, for those involved there was an element of uncertainty for which they could not prepare.

Although second and third contingents were prepared for dispatch to wherever they were needed, they were never called upon, although if they had been, Lloyd-Williams was determined not to be troubled by homesick policemen in the future. As such, he ordered his Superintendents to ensure that future groups should not include officers who were likely to experience 'domestic trouble' whilst away from home. Fortunately the problem did not arise.

* James Evan LLOYD-WILLIAMS



[1] Chief Constable Montgomeryshire Constabulary
1927-1931

[2] Chief Constable Worcestershire Constabulary
1931-1958

Awarded KPFSM LG 1 January 1945 p107

CBE LG 8 June 1950 p2786

Educated St Peter's College, Westminster

Career Indian Police service 1907/1914 (Asst Supt 1907, Bengal Province) - Indian Army Reserve of Officers 1914/1919 (2nd Lt, 35th Scinde Horse; Lt, 33rd QVO Light Cavalry; Capt, 32nd Lancers; NW Frontier and Mesopotamia; MC 1918) - Indian Police service 1919/1927 (Supt 1919, Bengal Province) -

[1] - [2] - Retirement (DL Worcestershire)

b. Saturday 7 April 1888 (Oswestry?)

m. 1923 Lilian Brett 2d

d. Saturday 7 May 1960, Pershore

** Frederick Thomas TARRY



[1] Chief Constable Exeter City Police 1930-1940

[2] Chief Constable Southampton County Borough Police
1941-1946

[3] HM Inspector of Constabulary 1946-1962

Awarded OBE LG 1 February 1937 p695

KPFSM LG 12 June 1941 p3301

CBE LG 1 January 1946 p52

CB LG 2 June 1962 p4310

Educated Hartfield School, Sussex

Career Army service 1914/1919 (RWKent Regt; MM and Bar, MiD) - Brighton Borough Police 1919/1930 (PC 1919; PS 1922; Insp 1926) - [1] (First Prize and Gold Medal, Police Essay Competition, 1932) - [2] - [3] - Retirement (numerous industrial appointments)

b. Saturday 19 December 1896, Hartfield, Sussex

m. 1922 Frances Winter 2s

d. Tuesday 5 October 1976, Southampton



Frederick Tarry as HMI inspecting the Worcester City Police, late 1940s, accompanied by the Chief Constable Ernest Tinkler, and members of the Watch Committee.

BRITISH POLICE FORCES WITH NO PUBLISHED HISTORIES

This list of the British police forces which have not yet attracted a historian is given here in the hope that they will. The names of these 'un-historied' forces are given in the excellent Police History Society Monograph Number Seven, *The British Police : Forces and Chief Officers 1829-2012* by Martin Stallion and David S. Wall, but is reproduced here for ease of reference. And it will be seen immediately, that the majority are Scottish forces.

Exhortations are therefore made to our members to rectify these omissions. The result of course need not be a full blown book (although that would be nice), but an article for this *Journal* would be equally acceptable, ideally with photographs as well.

Boroughs, Burghs and Cities

Airdrie 1822-1967
Alloa 1854-1930
Anderston 1824-1846
Andover 1836-1846
Annan 1858?-1881
Arbroath 1836-1949
Ardrossan 1859-1878
Ayr 1845-1968
Banff 1859-1886
Barrow-in-Furness 1881-1969
Basingstoke 1836-1889
Beaumaris 1836-1860
Beccles 1840-1857
Bewdley 1836-1882
Blandford 1835-1889
Bodmin 1836-1865
Bootle 1887-1967
Breachin 1859-1930
Bridport 1836-1858
Calton 1819-1846
Cardiff 1836-1969
Chard 1839-1889
Cheltenham 1831-1839

Chesterfield 1836-1947
Coatbridge 1886-1967
Cromarty 1859-1868
Cullen 1840-1861?
Dalkeith 18??-18??
Denbigh ?-1858
Dingwall 1859-1865
Droitwich 1836-1881
Dunbar 1844?-1869
Evesham 1836-1850
Eye 1840-1857
Falmouth 1836-1889
Forfar 1857-1930
Forres 1858-1866
Fraserburgh 1859-1867
Glastonbury ?-1856
Glossop 1867-1947
Gloucester 1836-1859
Gorbals 1808-1846
Govan 1864-1912
Haddington 1844?-1874
Hamilton 1855-1949/1958-1967
Hedon 1836-1859
Helston 1836-1889
Henley 1838-1856
Inverkeithing ?-1885
Inverness 1847-1968
Jedburgh 1857-1861
Johnstone 1857-1930
Kelso 1854-1881
Kendal 1836-1947
Kidderminster 1835-1947
Kilmarnock 1846-1968
Kilsyth 1840-?
Kington 1841-1850
Kinning Park 1892-1905
Kirriemuir 1859-1891
Langholm 1846-1893
Lerwick 1892-1940
Lichfield 1856-1889
Lincoln 1829-1967
Londonderry 1848-1870
Lyme Regis 1829-1860
Lymington 1846-1852
Macduff 1859-1870
Maryhill 1856-1891
Maxwelltown 1863-1890
Maybole 1859-1861
Mold 1841-?
Monmouth 1836-1881
Montrose 1833-1930

Motherwell and Wishaw
1930-1967
Musselburgh 1835-1841?
Nairn 1859-1866
Newport (IoW) 1837-1889
North Berwick ?-1858
Okehampton 1836-1860
Orford ?-1859
Paisley 1806-1967
Partick 1858-1912
Penryn 1836-1889
Penzance 1836-1943
Poole 1835-1891
Port Glasgow 1857-1895
Portobello 1858-1859
Pulteneytown 1845-1902
Renfrew 1857-1930
Retford 1836-1841
Richmond 1838-1889
Romsey 1836-1865
Ryde 1869-1922
Rye 1836-1889
Saint Helens 1887-1969
South Molton 1836-1877
Southwold 1840-1889
Stafford 1840-1858
Stirling 1857-1938
Stonehouse 1836-1914
Stranraer 1857-1870
Stratford-on-Avon 1835-1889
Tamworth 1840-1857
Tewkesbury 1836-1854
Thurso 1841-1858
Warrington 1847-1969
Wells ?-1856
Welshpool 1835-1857
Wenlock 1836-1841
Weymouth and Melcombe Regis
1846-1921
Whitehaven 1843-?
Wick 1841-1858/1863-1873
Winchester 1832-1943
Wisbech 1835-1889
Wolborough ?-1859?
Wolverhampton 1837-1966
Yeovil ?-1859

Counties and Areas

Angus 1928-1975
Argyllshire 1840-1975
Ayrshire 1839-1975
Bute 1858-1949

Caithness-shire 1841-1969
Clackmannanshire 1850-1949
Cromarty 1859-1889
Cumberland 1857-1963
Derwent Division 1839-1857
Easter Ross 1850-1853
Forfarshire 1840-1928
Gilling West Division 1840-1856?
Inverness(shire) 1840-1975
Isle of Ely 1841-1965
Kirkcudbrightshire 1839-1948
Lanarkshire 1850-1975
Midlothian 1840-1950
Orkney 1858-1969
Renfrewshire (and Bute)
1840-1975
Romney Marsh 1840-1888
Ross (and Cromarty) 1858-1963
Ross and Sutherland 1963-1975
Rothsay 1846-1923
Roxburghshire 1840-1948
Selkirkshire 1842-1948
Stirlingshire (and Clackmannan)
1850-1975
Wester Ross 1850-1853
Zetland 1883-1969

Specialist Police Forces

Aberdeen Harbour ?-1854
Clyde River 1858-1867
Greenock Harbour
1817-1822/1825-1843
Various Airports, Docks and
Railway Police



PS Duncan Gilchrist, Argyllshire County
1920s, Argyllshire is the one of the
Scottish county forces lacking a
published history

Another force lacking a written history is the Forfar Burgh Police, which was established in 1859, and in 1930, together with Montrose Burgh, and Brechin City, was absorbed by Angus County Police. This photograph is the last taken of the whole force before absorption in 1930.



NORTH RIDING CONSTABULARY

'Queen's Crown' Helmet Plates

by

Ralph B. Lindley

I was originally told that there were only twenty-two of these helmet plates made in the mid-1950s for a royal visit to Redcar, which at that time was within the force area. But having spoken to people who were there on that day, I can confirm that all the North Riding Constables and Sergeants did not wear helmets, but wore their normal issue flat caps.

Following some research, I ascertained that these helmet plates were actually issued for the contingent from the force which attended the Royal Review of the Police by Queen Elizabeth on Wednesday 14 July 1954 in Hyde Park, London. The squad, consisting of two Sergeants and twenty male Constables, were issued with brand new helmets fitted with this brand new Queen's Crown Helmet Plate for this occasion, and for this occasion only. They were withdrawn immediately after the Review and the officers involved went back to wearing their flat caps.

The North Riding Constabulary wore flat caps as normal issue from the late 1920s/early 1930s, and helmets were only worn if and when they went on mutual aid duty to another force. This policy was not continued after Queen Elizabeth came to the throne in 1952. As a result, these twenty-two helmet plates are very much in demand by collectors of police insignia. The one in the above photograph is in the Ripon Museum Trust's collection, and is on display in the Police and Prison Museum



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE CONSTABULARY

'Queen's Crown' Helmet Plate

Left Although this Queen refers to Queen Victoria.

Right The 'combed' helmet of the Buckinghamshire Constabulary, worn in the nineteenth century.



Photograph by courtesy of
Mr Len Woodley.

DISTINCTIVE POLICE BADGES



These three force helmet plates are very distinctive, reflecting as they do, the badges associated with their respective counties.

The left hand badge is un-mistakenly the Isle of Man Constabulary, displaying as it does the 'Triskelion', which takes its origin from an old anti-cavalry device of three iron spikes, which always landed with a spike uppermost no matter how it was thrown.

The Kent Police badge displays the 'White Horse of Kent', which has been a badge of Kent for arguably 1,500 years, coupled with the motto 'Invicta' meaning 'undefeated'. This title was given to the county by William the Conqueror when his bodyguard of Norman knights was defeated by some Saxon knights in Kent. William was so impressed that Kent appeared not to be defeated by him, that he gave the county the motto.

The right hand badge of the Staffordshire Police shows the 'Staffordshire Knot', which apparently is a way of hanging two men from the same rope simultaneously, a practice hopefully given up long since.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

To mark thirty years of the *Journal*,
a selection of cuttings from the newspapers of 1986

JANUARY

THE NEED TO BE THERE *The Daily Telegraph* Editorial Tuesday 14 January

'The Metropolitan Police report on the riot in the Broadwater Farm Estate in Tottenham last October makes sombre reading...The realisation that...there was a consistent pattern of attack must lead the police to think again about the softly, softly method of operating...Never again must the police...allow a situation to develop which, in the words of one prominent resident, allowed a lot of people to believe "they could run the Broadwater Farm Estate and treat it as their own kingdom"...But in striking that difficult balance between sensitive and effective policing, one should not forget the right of the law-abiding majority to be protected.'

FEBRUARY

POLICE GIRLS IN FRONT LINE *Daily Mail* Friday 14 February

'Policewomen are to be sent into front-line riot duty for the first time...From May, the volunteers will undergo specialist training in the Metropolitan Police Riot City - a £2 million mock-up of streets and buildings where officers are taught how to cope with frighteningly realistic scenes of mass violence...The Met's experiment will be keenly watched by other forces throughout the country.'

POLICE PLAN ETHNIC JOBS CAMPAIGN *The Daily Telegraph* Friday 21 February

'West Midlands Police plan a door-knocking campaign to encourage people from ethnic groups to apply for jobs with the Force...An officer from New York will visit...to give advice...Mr DG, an assistant chief constable, said a spin-off from the scheme could be the prevention of riots in "racially tense areas".'

MARCH

CRUISE PROTEST POLICING BILL SOARS TO £7m *The Daily Telegraph* Monday 3 March

'The cost of preventing protestors invading the American cruise missile base at Greenham Common, Berkshire now totals £5m, while £2,175,500 has been spent policing the Molesworth, Cambridgeshire, base where 64 missiles are due to be sited in 1988.'

APRIL

BLACK RECRUITMENT SUCCESS FOR 'MET' *The Daily Telegraph* Wednesday 23 April

'The Metropolitan Police said yesterday that its black recruitment drive in Harringey, scene of rioting on the Broadwater Farm estate last year in which one officer died, had been a great success...the force has received 106 career enquiries of which 50 were from West Indians and 19 from Asians.'

MAY

SEARCH RESTRICTIONS HIT CRIME DETECTION *The Daily Telegraph* Tuesday 27 May

'The worst fears of police chiefs over the operation of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act are being confirmed after five months. Crime detection rates are falling as law breakers take advantage of the stop-and-search and questioning restrictions imposed on

police...another police chief said...'It's all very laudable to extend the rights of the individual, but in practice it has given every advantage to the villains who live off crime.'

WE CAN'T COPE, SAY POLICE *The Daily Telegraph* Tuesday 20 May

'The thin blue line is threadbare, and coming apart at the seams. This is the message from the Police Federation which for the first time in its 66-year history has relegated items like pay down the agenda and made manpower shortages the top priority for its annual conference now under way in Scarborough.'

JUNE

PLASTIC BULLET DISPLAY *The Daily Telegraph* Saturday 21 June

'West Midlands Police who last year had to deal with the riots in Handsworth in which two people died, yesterday staged a demonstration by a special squad trained to use plastic bullets...the force were denied [their] use by the now defunct West Midland Police Committee...but the new Police Authority has approved their issue.'

STABBED PC RETURNS TO 'FRIENDLY' UNIFORM *The Daily Telegraph* Wednesday 4 June

'Constable George Hammond who was given 300 pints of blood after being stabbed with a 12 inch butcher's knife during a robbery, is to return to duty on Monday. Pc Hammond said "The uniform feels like an old friend. I want to be available to help the public whenever I can". Pc Hammond was knifed when he tackled a youth committing a petty robbery in a sweet shop in Dulwich 17 months ago. A youth was arrested and given a nine year prison sentence.'

JULY

CRIME : THE GREAT COP-OUT *The Observer* Sunday 13 July

'Police boasts about clearing up unsolved crimes are often deceitful...as serving policeman RW discovered, crimes are routinely passed off as 'solved'...RW fears he has jeopardised his career...[by taking] the ultimate risk of speaking out in public.'

TACTICS WIN PRAISE IN BRIXTON *Daily Telegraph* Saturday 26 July

'Senior police officers last night defended Thursday's Operation Condor raids on Brixton's "front line" and other places in South London which resulted in 55 people being charged. And Chief Superintendent JW said "We have been inundated with phone calls of support for this initiative...[and] Policemen, he added, had been stopped in the street and told "It is about time something like this was done. We have been waiting for this for years".'

AUGUST

RUC ENQUIRY LIKELY TO END SOON *The Daily Telegraph* Saturday 23 August

'The long standing enquiry into the Royal Ulster Constabulary which Mr John Stalker was heading before his suspension is now expected to be swiftly concluded by Mr Colin Sampson the West Yorkshire Chief Constable...

Stalker gets his job back...Greater Manchester Police Authority decided last night...to reinstate their deputy chief constable John Stalker.'

SEPTEMBER

'GO EASY' ADVICE TO POLICE ON TICKET FINES *The Daily Telegraph* Wednesday 10 September

'Fixed penalties applying to nearly 250 motoring offences come into force in England and Wales from Oct 1. But chief constables are warning their officers to be "sensible" about

issuing tickets and to continue to give offending motorists verbal cautions where possible.'

POLICE LAUNCHED BRISTOL RAIDS 'TO MAKE AREA SAFE' *The Daily Telegraph*
Saturday 13 September

'A 600 strong police task force was sent into the racially sensitive St Paul's area in Bristol 'to make it a safer place'...[the Chief Constable] assured 'law-abiding people' that they would not be abandoned...[and] added 'It is a curious logic which suggests that it is the presence of police officers which led to disorder.'

OCTOBER

DEATH PENALTY CALL BY POLICE CHIEF *The Daily Telegraph* Friday 3 October

'A plea for the re-introduction of the death penalty was made yesterday as delegates at the Police Superintendents' Association conference stood in memory of PC Philip Olds who was shot...tackling gunmen.'

POLICE TEST POWERS IN BRISTOL RIOT CASE *The Independent* Tuesday 14 October

'The first test case in the sweeping search and seizure powers in the new Police and Criminal Evidence Act will be heard in Bristol today...the case follows the refusal of local newspapers to hand over unpublished pictures of the rioting in the St Paul's area...the police say they need the pictures to help convict people arrested during the riots.'

PRESS PICTURES OF RIOTS MUST GO TO POLICE *The Daily Telegraph* Friday 24 October

'Two West Country newspaper editors and a news agency were ordered by a High Court judge yesterday to hand over to the police pictures taken by their photographers during riots last month in the St Paul's area of Bristol. In a test case on police powers under the 1984 Police and Criminal Evidence Act to obtain disclosure of possible evidence from journalists, the judge ruled that the public interest in the disclosure outweighed any threat to the independence of the press.'

NOVEMBER

NOW HURD WILL AIM AT THUGS *The Sunday Express* Sunday 9 November

'Home Secretary Douglas Hurd is to lay down the law to...police chiefs - and press them to spend the extra millions made available to them in...the mini-budget on fighting crime at the sharp end...[rather than as] they suspect that some chief constables are devoting far too much of their resources chasing motorists.'

DECEMBER

'SHAMBLES' OVER THE NEW PROSECUTION SYSTEM *The Daily Telegraph* Monday 1 December

'A chorus of criticism from police lawyers and magistrates has greeted the arrival of the Crown Prosecution Service, the Government's much vaunted attempt to create an independent, streamlined and uniform approach to criminal law. Eight months after the new system was launched in six county areas and eight weeks after its extension to cover the whole of England and Wales, serious concern is being expressed about under-staffing, under-funding and damaging administrative bungling.'

POLICE SUCCESS AS HOLIDAY ROAD CRASH FIGURES DROP *The Daily Telegraph*
Tuesday 30 December

'Serious road accidents in Nottinghamshire where police conducted Britain's most stringent drink-drive campaign...were down 38 per cent compared to the rest of the year...and drink-driving offences in Scotland fell by more than 15 per cent.'



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS (NARPO)

Towards a Century of Service

by

Angela Buckley

On Friday 25 July 1919, 500 retired police officers gathered at Essex Hall on the Strand in London. This was the first official meeting of the Association of Retired Police Officers and delegates attended from all over England and Wales, including representation from Middlesbrough, Blackpool, Nottingham and Hastings.

Thus 2019 will be the centenary of NARPO, and I have been commissioned to research their history, in preparation for the celebrations in 2019.

NARPO began in a period of war and unrest. During the First World War, the pay and conditions of police officers had deteriorated considerably. Their wages, which were generally lower than those of industrial workers, did not meet the escalating costs of daily life. After the war, both public and private sector workers took industrial action in protest against pay freezes imposed by the government. There was internal unrest in the police force, as their pay had been frozen and their working conditions were extremely challenging, with a badly organised 'split-shift system'. A shortage of serving officers, in the aftermath of war, had led to additional duties for those who remained on active service.

These difficulties led to the creation of a police union by the Metropolitan Police (National Union of Police and Prison Officers - NUPPO) to campaign against their unfair treatment. Branches were established in other cities, but their action was met with opposition by senior police officers and Home Office officials. However, in 1919, after a police strike called by NUPPO, Prime Minister David Lloyd George, was forced to form the Desborough Committee to inquire into police conditions of service, pay, pensions and allowances. The committee recommended an immediate pay increase and standardisation of pay rates throughout the country. There was no re-assessment of pre-war pensions. The committee also recommended the establishment of an internal representative body for the police, which led to the establishment of the Police Federation. The unofficial trade union was disbanded.

A united stand

Retired police officers had been meeting in London from the autumn of 1918. At the first official meeting in July 1919, the National Executive Committee of the National Association of Retired Police Officers was established. William Turner was formally elected as the first national secretary and George Hodder was appointed as the first president. Both were former police officers of the Metropolitan Police. Richard Harris, editor of *The Police Review*, was the first honorary treasurer.

The Association's objectives were : to seek revision of pensions, which were still based on pre-war pay scales; *and* to seek an amendment to the Police Bill, in order to include all police pensioner widows (widows from before Sunday 1 September 1918 were to be excluded from any changes to rates of pay).

The push for pensions

In keeping with its primary objectives, NARPO engaged in a long battle to bring equality of rights to police pensioners. This struggle would continue for decades.

During the First World War, police pensions were fixed and, as the value of currency depreciated, many suffered considerable poverty. Although police pensions were increased, following the Desborough Committee report, the recommended starting point was Tuesday 1 April 1919. There was no special provision for pre-war pensioners. By the 1920s, some pensioners and police widows were experiencing extreme hardship. The government refused to respond, fearing that any special allowances would set a precedent for other public sector workers. Two decades later, the Association was still campaigning for equality.

The Police Pensions Act 1948 granted pre-war police widows a weekly pension of twenty-six shillings, which was the same as the state pension, but there was no compensation for 'their long years of undeserved poverty'. The following year, NARPO representatives gave evidence to the Oaksey Committee, which was given the task, once again, with inquiring into police pensions and conditions of service. From then on, police widows received their pension under the National Insurance Scheme, with the addition of a small police pension.

In the 1950s, the value of police pensions fell again and NARPO stepped up its support for members. The Pensions Increase Act 1956 awarded further pension increases. However, NARPO still had to ensure that all pensioners received their rightful payment and that the promised changes were implemented. In 1954, they led the initiative to form the Public Service Pensioners' Council, in order to create a more united front.

As the century drew to a close, NARPO was invited to participate in more national events and its status increased. In 1995, the police service held a VE/VJ Commemorative Service at Coventry Cathedral in gratitude to the role played by police officers in the Second World War. The Queen sent a message of thanks and best wishes to the many NARPO members who attended the memorial.

Organisational change

In 1964, NARPO engaged the organisation's first paid secretary, Philip James Smith, a former Inspector in the Somerset Constabulary and chair of the Police Federation. He was awarded the MBE for his work with NARPO in the 1985 New Year's Honours List (*London Gazette* 31 December 1984, p15).

Throughout the decades, NARPO headquarters had moved several times, from London in the 1940s, to Sheffield, Liverpool and Cannock. On Thursday 4 February 1999, the organisation finally moved into its own premises at 38 Bond Street, Wakefield, where it remains today.

The new millennium began well for NARPO with the granting of a coat of arms, adorned in blue and gold to represent the links with the police service. The motto, 'Of Service to Those Who Served', is inscribed in Latin on the scroll.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my research into NARPO's fascinating history and as the Association approaches its centenary, it is still working tirelessly to protect the interests and welfare of retired police officers throughout the country.

There must however, be retired officers who have some fascinating tales to tell, and I ask that if anyone would like them passed to me, would they please contact their local NARPO branch, who will pass them on through Headquarters.

Author :

Angela Buckley is the author of *The Real Sherlock Holmes : The Hidden Story of Jerome Caminada*, and *Amelia Dyer and the Baby Farm Murders*, the first book in a new historical true crime series.

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'KEEP TO THE WEST, PLEASE'

said the Traffic Warden in 1722

by

Paul Dew

The ancient London Bridge with numerous arches and a double run of houses along almost the entire length is quite a well know image. Slightly less well known, is the law about driving carts and wagons on the left of the bridge, which is said to be the origin of the national 'Keep Left' rule. Almost completely forgotten is the detail of that law and how it was enforced. For that, we need to turn to a ruling made in 1722 by the City of London Common Council who were led by Lord Mayor Sir Gerard Conyers. The wording requires *carts, coaches and other carriages entering the City to keep to the west side, and those leaving to keep to the east side of the bridge*. In practice, this meant *keep to the left*, but the original wording is clearly by compass point, presumably because the very concept of keeping to the left was unprecedented.

Furthermore, to enforce the rule, *three sufficient and able persons* were appointed. These men could be the earliest traffic wardens and were to be present at each end of the bridge every day to prevent *the said inconveniences* (obstruction), and deter anyone from allowing carts to stand across the roadway to load or unload. Carters due to pay a toll had to have the coins ready for the official collector, or faced the prospect of being charged with obstruction. The highest toll then was fourpence (say two 'new' pence) for a wagon with shod wheels, as these were thought to cause the most damage to the road surface.

In 1811, 800 wagons, 2,000 carts and 1,300 coaches crossed the bridge every day, so the toll income was considerable. Added to the rent from the shops and houses along the bridge, an enormous amount of money has built up, and the City's Bridge House Estates Fund is now able to donate about £10 million to charity each year. Not bad from fourpence a wagon with shod wheels!



'WE ALSO SERVE'

*The obverse of The Dickin Medal.
On the reverse are engraved the details of
the recipient.*

We Also Serve' is the inscription on the obverse of The Dickin Medal, which is known as the animals' VC. In the seventy-three years since its introduction in 1943 by Maria Dickin, the founder of the PDSA, the Dickin Medal has only been awarded on sixty-five occasions. The latest recipient *would have been* Police Dog *Diesel*, a Belgian Shepherd of the Paris Municipal Police.

The Paris atrocities of November 2015 had murdered 130 people. On Wednesday 18 November 2015, *Diesel* was involved in the raid on the premises to where the 'mastermind' of the atrocities had been traced. *Diesel* was sent into the flat, and 'did a tour of the first room', said his handler, 'then he went into the second room and dashed forward. I think he'd found someone. Then I lost sight of him and the gunfire started again. His role was to open the way. I had absolute confidence in him'.

It had been believed that *Diesel* was shot by the suspects, and hence why the Medal was being awarded. However, it later emerged that *Diesel* was shot by his own side, the Paris police, and the award of the Medal was deferred for further deliberations. However, at the time of writing (January 2016) it looks as if it may be cancelled altogether.

Diesel would have been the latest of thirty dogs to be awarded the medal - but there have only been three horses who have won the award. And all three were Metropolitan Police horses decorated for service during the 'London Blitz' of the Second World War; and all three survived.

Metropolitan Police Horse 78 *Upstart* was stabled in Hyde Park, close to where there were numerous anti-aircraft batteries. When the stables were damaged by bombs, *Upstart* was moved to stables in the East End, although these also were damaged by flying bombs. On Tuesday 22 August 1944, *Upstart* was being ridden on patrol by District Inspector J. Morley in Bethnal Green. A flying bomb was heard to be falling, and it exploded only seventy-five yards away from horse and rider. Both were showered with debris and broken glass, although neither was hurt. *Upstart* and his rider immediately took charge in controlling the traffic, so as to clear the way for the ambulances and fire engines. They remained on the scene until all casualties were cleared.

Metropolitan Police Horse 195 *Olga* was patrolling in Tooting on Saturday 1 July 1944. Her rider that day was PC J. Thwaites instead of her normal rider PC A. Rayner. Falling less than seventy yards away, a flying bomb completely demolished four houses and damaged many others. *Olga* felt the full force of the blast and when a plate glass window crashed into the roadway immediately in front of her, she bolted for nearly a hundred yards. Her rider managed to pull her up and induced her to return to the incident, where he was the first police officer at the scene. *Olga* remained at the scene and helped the rescue organisations by excluding any sightseers and by maintaining the free flow of traffic.

Metropolitan Police Horse 52 *Regal* won his award for two displays of courage. On Saturday 19 April 1941, a cluster of explosive incendiary bombs fell close to the Muswell Hill Police Station where he was stabled. The forage room was set ablaze and the fire spread to the horse box where *Regal* was standing. Having no rider to guide him, *Regal* stood calmly with the flames creeping ever closer, showing no signs of panic. When help arrived, he allowed himself to be lead away quietly to safety, without exhibiting any of the wild terror usually associated with horses when confronted by flames.

Three years later, on the night of Thursday 20 July 1944, a flying bomb exploded within twenty yards of his stable block. Once more extensive damage occurred, and *Regal* received minor injuries from flying debris and glass. But also, the roof had collapsed half on top of him. Once again, instead of becoming panic-stricken, *Regal* remained calm, and thus reduced the danger to himself and his handlers had he become uncontrollable.

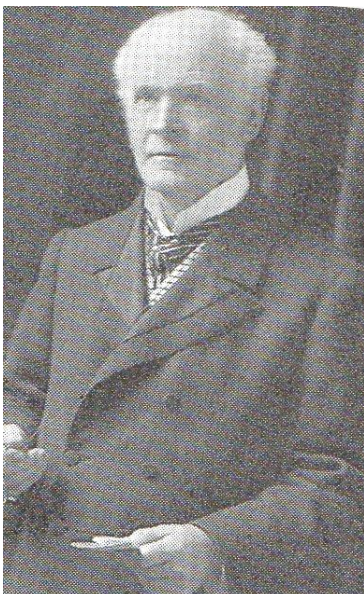
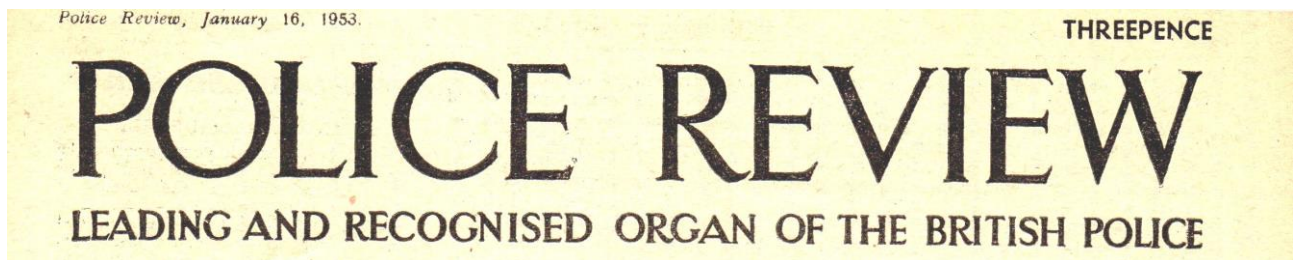


Left to Right : *Olga*, *Regal* and *Upstart*.

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*John Kempster, (1836-1916)
founder of The Police Review and Parade Gossip in 1893*

**JOHN KEMPSTER
AND
THE POLICE REVIEW
1893-1916**

John Kempster founded *The Police Review and Parade Gossip* in 1893. At that time there was no weekly newspaper devoted to the instruction of policemen or to the furthering of their interests, which was surely indicative of the indifference of the government and public of the day. The *Review* was immediately accepted by the Police as their mouthpiece journal.

Born in Congleton, Cheshire in 1836, Kempster had spent his life in journalism, but what encouraged him to establish a police newspaper, at the age of fifty-seven, is unknown. His interview in 1892, with Sir Edward Bradford, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, who assured him that 'the authorities had ample means of communicating with the men', convinced him that exactly the opposite was the case. Thus *The Police Review and Parade Gossip* appeared in January 1893.

John Kempster remained the Editor right up until his death, aged eighty, in 1916. During those twenty-three years, he campaigned continually for police officers of all forces who had no other means of getting their grievances redressed, as by then, the Inspectorate of Constabulary was fast sinking into its post-1890 lethargy; and it would be another twenty-six years before the Police Federation was to be established as a direct consequence of the great police strikes of 1918 and 1919, and the ensuing 'earthquake' of the 1919 Desborough Report.

Much of the developments of the modern police service stem directly from the campaigns of John Kempster, who, it must be remembered, was never a police officer, nor, as far as can be ascertained, did he have any police connection before 1893. Not all of Kempster's campaigns are listed here, lack of space precludes.

1893 Kempster opened a subscription to enable PC Cant to make an appeal to Quarter Sessions. The Cant Case established the right of a police officer to count for pension his previous service on transfer to another police force.

1894 The Great Boot Campaign gave the Metropolitan Police a 'Boot Allowance' to purchase their own boots, rather than being crippled by the issue boots.

Under the heading 'Policemen for Police Appointments' Kempster criticised the Kent Standing Joint Committee for the appointment of an army officer to be Chief Constable of Kent, even though he had had no police experience whatsoever. This referred to the appointment of thirty-nine year old Major Henry Herbert Edwards, on Wednesday 15 August 1894, and who just happened to be the son-in-law of the chairman of the County Council.

Kempster was to pursue vigorously this campaign to stop higher posts in the police service being given to non-police officers, purely because of their social standing or family connections. After his death, the campaign was continued by his successors, although it is perhaps ironic that even into the 1960s, the *Police Review* still called Chief Constables by their army ranks rather than their police ranks.

This campaign did register a small measure of success however, when Regulation Nine of the Police Regulations of 1920 (formulated after the great police administrative upheavals of 1919) stipulated exactly that - policemen for police appointments, but with the proviso : 'unless [the candidate] possesses some exceptional qualification...or there is no candidate from the police service who is considered sufficiently well qualified'. Unfortunately, this get-out clause was used on numerous occasions, and subsequent Home Secretaries rode rough-shod over Regulation Nine whenever it suited them. In October 1925, for instance, the Home Secretary, Joseph Chamberlain, blocked the appointment of Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Bartlett to be Chief Constable of Westmoreland and Cumberland on the grounds of lack of police experience. But just a few months later in 1926, appointed Rear Admiral Charles Royds straight from the Royal Navy to be Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, despite the same lack of police experience.

In the Kemp Case, Kempster drew attention to the lack of accountability of county Chief Constables. Superintendent Kemp had been dismissed from Worcestershire Constabulary on alleged charges of misconduct. At the Birmingham Assizes, Kemp was found not guilty and won a considerable amount of damages. The Chief Constable, (Lieutenant Colonel!) George Carmichael, refused to reinstate Kemp or to reimburse his pension he had lost by being dismissed, and the Worcestershire Standing Joint Committee was powerless to intervene. To add insult, Kemp never received the damages due to him either, and died a broken man a few months later.

1895 In this year, Kempster started agitation for a lighter summer uniform to be issued, instead of winter weight clothing having to be worn the year round. This took two years to come to fruition, but finally in 1897, much lighter jackets were issued.

1898 For the first time, Kempster drew attention to the 'positively cruel condition' in which policemen's widows were left. He cited the case of the widow of a Superintendent who had been in charge of 700 men, and who was reduced to living in one room relying on charity from her neighbours.

1899 The City of London pensioners grievance. The rateable deductions from pay under the 1890 Police Pensions Act was sixpence per week. The City police authority, loathe to deduct this sum from the already low wages, increased the wages by sixpence to cover the deduction. But the pension authority deducted the sixpence, and calculated the pensions on this lower sum. *The Police Review* took up the cause, and eventually the city fathers granted the pension on the full amount, plus arrears.

The Upperton Appeal case was assisted by a fund from *The Police Review*, and was fought right up to the House of Lords. For some reason unknown, police pensions had been granted on 364 days instead of 365 days per year. PC Upperton won his case, and henceforth pensions were to be paid on 365 days per year.

1900 At the General Election of this year, Parliamentary candidates were approached and asked to champion police grievances such as the provision of a system of appeal in all cases of pensions disputes; the provision of a general system of promotion rather than private patronage; previous police service as a compulsory qualification for appointment as a chief constable; and the provision of one day's rest in seven. It is perhaps this last recommendation that would prove to be Kempster's lasting legacy.

1901 The Metropolitan Police were given a lodging allowance, but only for the men living in the inner city. *The Police Review* started a campaign to extend this to all of London, and eventually in 1904, this was granted.

1905 John Kempster took up the case of PC Austin of Brighton Borough Police. Brighton Watch Committee had quite arbitrarily made deductions from his approved service of periods of five years and three years for 'misconduct'. Consequently, when PC Austin came to retire, his pension was based on twenty years service, instead of the actual twenty-eight years he had served, and paid. With the backing of *The Police Review*, PC Austin appealed to Quarter Sessions, but lost. An appeal was made to Parliament, with the effect that a year later, The Police Act 1906 was passed, Section Seven of which stated that deductions of service should not exceed the actual periods of misconduct or sickness.

1906 Similar to the 1900 General Election, Parliamentary candidates were approached. James Remnant, the MP for Holborn (later Baron Remnant), stepped up to the mark, and urged on by John Kempster, within one month of the new Parliament, was asking the Home Secretary, Herbert Gladstone, about the desirability of giving the Metropolitan Police one day off in seven. The Home Secretary naturally deferred, giving as his excuse the cost, especially as it would inevitably follow, that it would have had to be introduced for the whole country.

1908 This did not deter Kempster and Remnant, who introduced into Parliament a Bill to give one day's rest in seven. The Bill was allowed to drop when a Select Committee was established to look into the question. Kempster immediately conducted a poll of the readers of *The Police Review* and received 6,000 replies. He appeared twice before the Select Committee.

1909 The report of the Select Committee was published in May, and recommended that one day's rest in seven be granted. A Bill was placed before Parliament, and on Saturday 10 July, the Police (Weekly Rest Day) Act was passed. However, it recommended a period of four years for the implementation of the Act in County Boroughs and in other forces, at a date to be fixed by an Order in Council.

1910 Not satisfied with this, Kempster began a campaign to get the Act implemented straight away. He continually published the names of those backsliding forces not introducing the weekly rest day. Eventually by 1913, a Home Office return was presented to Parliament, and the matter was then resolved fully.

1913 The question of a Police Union had been raised, and the Home Secretary, Reginald McKenna, stated that under no circumstances would this be granted, and any officer joining any such organisation would be dismissed. *The Police Review* insisted however, that the police had 'a right to confer', and suggested an alternative to a union, the National Police Federation.

1914 *The Police Review* outlined a scheme for setting up Representative Committees in the Metropolitan Police. The Home Secretary again rejected the idea, but in order to ameliorate the situation, granted a pay rise to the Metropolitan Police, which fortuitously was granted just before the outbreak of The Great War.

1915 Kempster drew attention to a police authority who had refused to pay over to the dependents of a police officer killed on active service, the rateable deductions which had been taken from his pay.

1916 Kempster succeeded in getting an amendment to the Police (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act which *did* force police authorities to return to the dependents of police officers killed on active service, all the rateable deductions taken from their pay.

This was to be the last 'triumph' of John Kempster, as he died on Wednesday 13 December 1916, and was buried in Hendon churchyard. He would never live to see the 'right to confer' bestowed upon the police service by the establishment of the Police Federation in 1919, which he had agitated for six years earlier. And he would never see the culmination of his campaign for 'policemen for police appointments' enshrined in Regulation Nine of the Police Regulations of 1920 - but he would also never see the continual ignoring of it, even as late as the 1940s.

After John Kempster's death, *The Police Review and Parade Gossip* passed to his son-in-law, David Harris, who injected capital and fresh ideas. In the late 1920s, the '*and Parade Gossip*' was dropped from the title, and in 1934, the '*The*' was also dropped, and the magazine became *Police Review*, with a much simplified title page. Latterly, *Police Review* had been taken over by the Janes Information Group, but in 2011, the magazine was discontinued. Today there is no magazine which gives anywhere near the same information as *Police Review* did throughout its 118 years of being the voice of the officers actually on the street, 'down at the sharp end'.

THIRTY YEARS OF THE *JOURNAL*

The Contents as arranged per year

A glance through all the articles which have been published in the *Journal* over the past thirty years, reveals an immense range of subjects. Many articles are the result of original research, and contain information which will not be available elsewhere. The Society should be proud of this achievement, and would hope that this will inspire members to write up their own researches for publication. Many (though not all) of these back numbers are still available and can be obtained from the Treasurer of the Society.

1 (1986)

A Brief History of Fingerprint Identification G. LAMBOURNE
A Watershed in Policing A. REINER
Capital Punishment P. R. L. WILLIAMS
Paper Pursuit L. WATERS
A Collector M. H. SIMS
The Policeman Died one February Night *SUNDAY MERCURY* REPRINT
Police Duty - 50 Years Ago *POLICE REVIEW* REPRINT
Conditions of Service A. REYNOLDS
Establishment of Devon County Police A. REYNOLDS
Miscellany

2 (1987)

The Military and popular disorder in England 1790-1801 CLIVE EMSLEY
Collecting police force histories MARTIN STALLION
Towards an oral history of the police B. WEINBERGER
Choosing the Chief Constable of Buckinghamshire, 1896 JOHN WILSON
The Bideford Potato Riots, 1816 PAUL MUSKETT
Captain 'Swing' and the West Sussex Disturbances L. JOAN GREENHILL
Commonwealth police forces REGINALD A. HALE
The Croydon Police 1829-1840 DORIS C. H. HOBBS
The Dover Borough Police 1836-1943 J. G. HARMAN
The Origin of Walsall Borough Police DAVID C. WOODS
A Rural Police Force in the 19th Century, Leicestershire-Oadby BERNARD ELLIOTT
King's Police Medal for Gallantry NORTH WALES POLICE
Stimulating environmental commitment in the inner city ROGER SMITH
The murder of a Godsall Constable BOB TAYLOR
History of the Police Surgeon. Part One RALPH D. SUMMERS

3 (1988)

History of the Police Surgeon. Part Two RALPH D. SUMMERS
The Thames Police MAURICE BUCK
The North Eastern Rhodesia Constabulary T. B. WRIGHT
Patrick Colquhoun (1745-1820) 'A Being Clothed with Divinity' MARGARET E. AVERY
Kings Cross : A police connection BERNARD BROWN
'Juliet Bravo' BERNARD BROWN

A short story of the New Zealand Police REGINALD HALE
The murder of PC Couchman at Dover 8th September 1844 J. G. HARMAN
Frederick J. Crawley,
Chief Constable of Sunderland Borough Police 1915-1925 JOHN YEARNSHIRE
The recollections of a provincial policeman : Arthur Ernest Almond CLIVE EMSLEY
Introducing Blyth T. R. SALMON
Murder Most Foul - from a selection of poems collected by Gerry Moore
The Newcastle upon Tyne City Police 1836-1969 JOHN EVANS
The Burwell Enclosure Riots in 1851
Leicestershire's first Chief Constable - Frederick Goodyer (1839-1876) BERNARD BROWN
Sergeant Harry Wells, VC GREGORY BLAXLAND

4 (1989)

The North West Mounted Police R. F. BARTLETT
Incorporating Maoris into the New Zealand Police RICHARD HILL
Policing in Nottinghamshire NICHOLAS CLARK
Mob rule in the streets of Brighouse C. D. HELME
Waltham Abbey Police - The early years BRYN ELLIOTT
Police Raison d'etre - the history of fear of crime PETER BENNETT
More things than dreams JEAN SCHMAAL
Police firemen RICHARD FORD
Finding a marble and breaking a window ERIC JENKINS
Crime as entertainment - and should it be? MICHAEL ROBSON
The Reigate Police BERNARD BROWN
Policemen and the Charge of the Light Brigade M. D. W. JONES
The Killing of Constable Smith LEN WOODLEY
Some interesting items
Force histories MARTIN STALLION
Developments in the office of Chief Constable DAVID WALL

5 (1990)

The establishment and development of the
Worcestershire County Constabulary 1839-1843 D. J. SMITH
Buckingham Borough Police 1836-1889 LEN WOODLEY
The Police and Mount Saint Bernard's Reformatory BERNARD ELLIOTT
Living In MICHAEL FORD
Disturbance at the Docks and other stories A. T. BAZZONE
The Special Constabulary - an historical view CLARE LEON
A Murderous attack at Cwm Cillie Farm JEREMY GLENN
The Barotse Native Police T. B. WRIGHT
The luckiest man alive BERNARD BROWN
Martha Tabram - the forgotten Ripper victim JON OGAN
The Indian Police 1861-1947 BASIL LA BOUCHARDIERE
The Tardis R. HOWARD

6 (1991)

Arms and the policeman J. BLUM
'Who was First?' GLYNN JONES
Memories of a Wireless Man : Thomas George Cole JOHN BUNKER
The first years of the Northern Rhodesia Police T. B. WRIGHT

'Superhuman Special' JOHN E. JONES

'Local Men and Strangers' :

Prospective Chief Constables of Grimsby Borough 1930-1936 JOHN WILSON

A Gallant Soldier/Police Officer RICHARD FORD

Joseph Lane aka Joseph Francis

The shooting of Sheriff Keen ROBERT. M. SNELL

The killing of PC Snow LEN WOODLEY

Test your knowledge - would you have been recruited?

Inspector John Pearman R. GODFREY

Robert Patterson, Sergeant, Glasgow City Police.

London Gazette of 17th May 1955 PATRICK ANDERSON

Social Structure and Law in the 18th Century

and the emergence of a new Police HARRY TEMPLETON

7 (1992)

Special Constables in the First and Second World Wars CLARE LEON

Constabulary in the Crimea T. B. WRIGHT

The last Parish Constable to be Murdered LEN WOODLEY

Mr Superintendent James Bent R. DOBSON

The Northern Rhodesia Police

and the defence of Northern Rhodesia 1914-1916 T. B. WRIGHT

A Miscellany RICHARD FORD

Romford Police - the Anniversary of a Change BERNARD BROWN

Sergeant Robert Patterson of the Glasgow City Police PATRICK ANDERSON

The *Fort Stikine* Disaster R. HOWARD

Desperate Riot in Seven Dials C. F. CLARK

8 (1993)

A photographer recalls the Great Train Robbery LEN WOODLEY

The Northern Rhodesia Police and the conquest of German East Africa T. B. WRIGHT

Captain P. B. Bicknell - 45 years a Chief Constable S. C. PEARSON

Responsibility without authority :

the experience of Nigeria Police force officers in the management of Native

Administration Police forces in northern Nigeria KEMI ROTIMI

The Middlesex Constabulary BERNARD BROWN

The speedy dispatch of Patrick Herbert Mahon JOHN DIBLEY

Obituary - RN List for 1905

The Special Constabulary in Walthamstowe 1940-1943 PETER J. E. PLEYDELL

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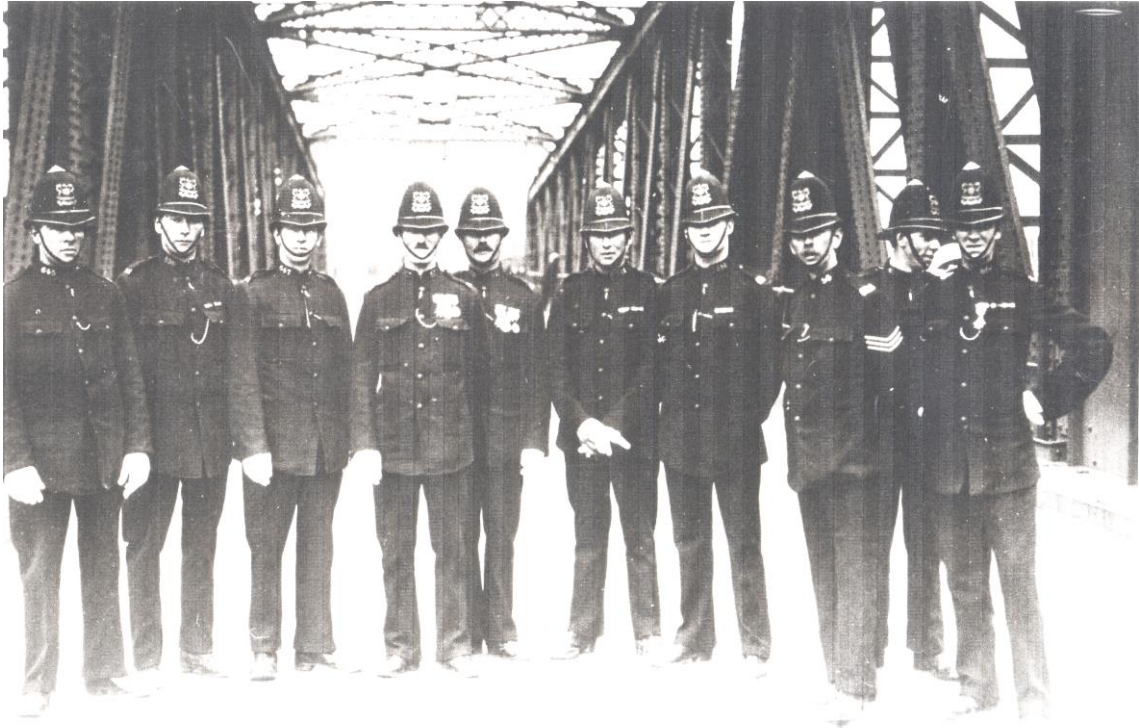
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THE PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY POLICE 1909-1992

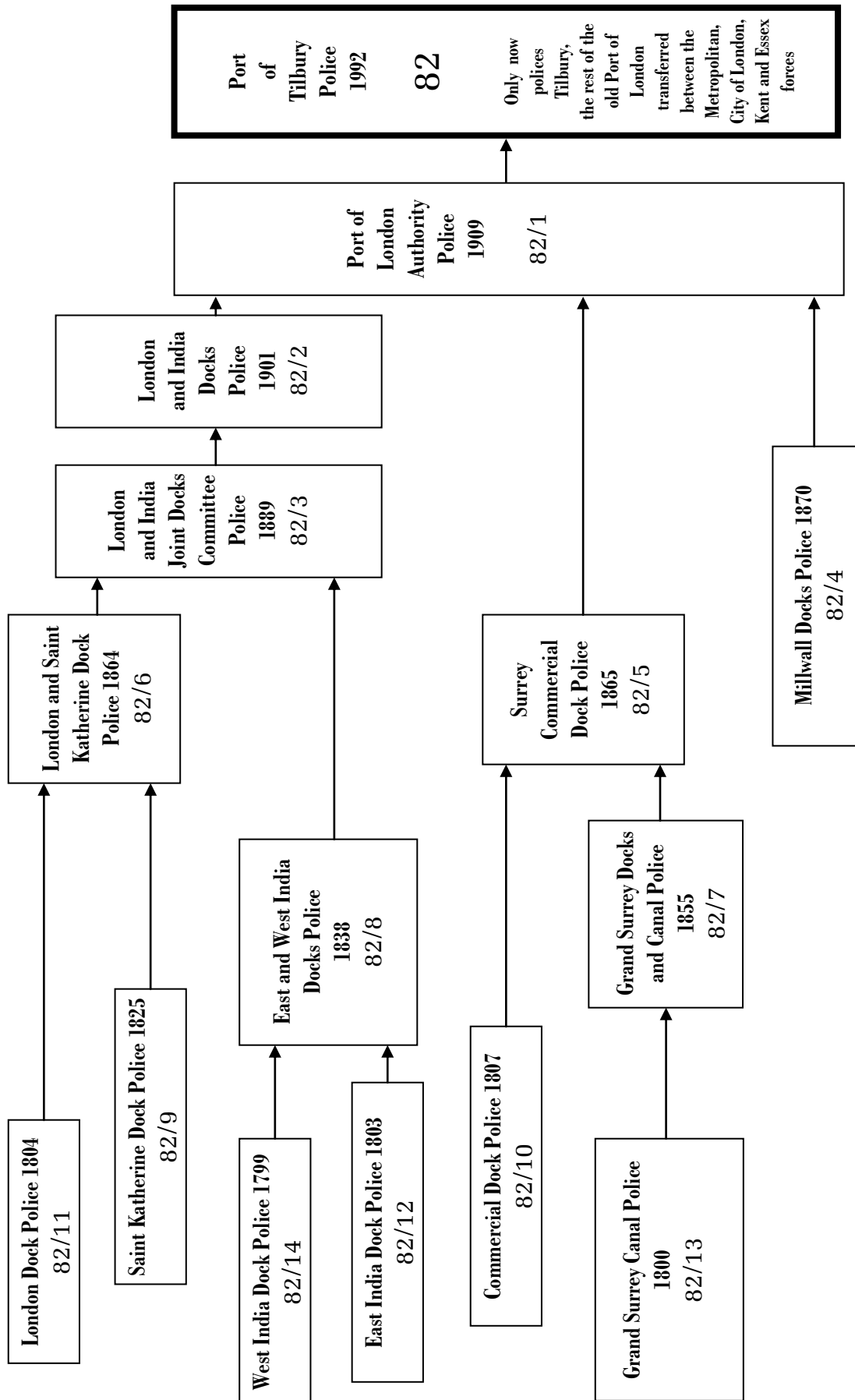


A group of Port of London Authority police officers, early 1920s

As can be seen from the following Antecedents diagram, the Port of London Authority Police was an amalgam of several docks and canal police forces. The Port of London Authority was constituted in March 1909. In 1992, the Port of Tilbury was privatised, and formed its own police force. The Port of London Authority Police ceased to exist, and the Port of London is now policed by the Metropolitan Police, City of London Police, Essex Police and the Kent Police.

CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS (DESIGNATED CHIEF CONSTABLE AFTER 1967)

1909-1911	Joseph Zouche CAHILL
1911-1924	Edward Charles Stuart BAKER
1924-1926	Robert Scarth Farquhar MACRAE
1926-1944	William Henry Albert WEBSTER
1944-1950	William Henry SIMMONS
1950-1958	Sidney Francis COX
1958-1972	Thomas James OLIVER
1972-1975	Douglas Peter GANNON
1975-19??	Eric Frank ELLEN
19?? -19??	James Edward TUPLIN
19??-(1992)	D SEBIRE (<i>becoming the Chief Constable of the new Port of Tilbury Police</i>)



THE NATIONAL GUILD OF POLICE RINGERS

by

Richard Cowley

'Ring out the false, ring in the true, whether in mufti or in blue'

Because only Metropolitan Police officers could, by definition, join the Metropolitan Police Guild of Ringers, it was thought that a *National* Guild of Police Ringers should be established so as to cater for those provincial police officers who enjoyed the wonderful art of change ringing as a hobby. However, the National Guild was not set up in opposition to the Metropolitan Guild, but as a 'sister' society, often sharing the same society officers, and with many ringers belonging to both.

The initiative for the National Guild seems to have come from Inspector William Bottrill, 'Y' Division, Metropolitan Police, and the Ringing Master of the Metropolitan Police Guild. A Ringing Master is the ringer in overall charge of the standard of ringing during any meeting of the Guild.

Such it was, that on Saturday 24 January 1931, a large meeting of police ringers took place at Leicester, chosen for its central geographical position, and also because the Leicester Cathedral band was amongst the best bands of ringers in the country at the time. It was also fortuitous that the Ringing Master of the Cathedral band was Harold Poole, a Detective Constable of the Leicester City Police. Thus on that day, the National Guild of Police Ringers was formed, and had William Bottrill unanimously elected as the first President, with Harold Poole as Treasurer and Secretary. Harold Poole was eventually promoted to Inspector, and remained the General Secretary until 1945, when he was elected President.



THE FIRST MEMBERS
OF THE
NATIONAL GUILD.

The first members of the National Guild of Police Ringers, taken on the formation day, Saturday 24 January 1931, Saint Margaret's, Leicester.

DC Harold Poole, and Mrs Poole are front row, fourth and fifth from the left. Inspector William Bottrill is front row, sixth from the left.

Police Review, Friday 20 February 1931

The whole object of church bell ringing is the call to worship, which takes priority. However, such is the nature of change ringing, that the enjoyment of 'peal ringing' is also practised (*see* Glossary below), and every ringing society or guild likes to have its members ring peals, which are then recorded by the guild.

Consequently, the first peal for the National Guild was rung in Manchester, and was rung on hand-bells and not tower bells. Handbell ringing is difficult, as each ringer has a bell in each hand, and thus has to split his mind into two so as to follow the course of both of his bells at the same time.

From the *Ringling World* Friday 13 March 1931, p165

MANCHESTER

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION and THE NATIONAL GUILD OF POLICE RINGERS

On Tuesday March 3, 1931, in Two Hours and Nine Minutes

At The Town Hall

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES

*PC William Pye 1-2 PC Frederick Page 5-6

*PC Donald Brown 3-4 *PC Joseph Wilson 7-8

Conducted by PC Frederick Page

* First Peal on handbells. First Handbell Peal rung by members of the police force. Rung as a Compliment to Mr F. H. Williams of Manchester on his recent promotion to the rank of Superintendent. He is a member of the committee of the National Police Guild.

The first attempt to ring a peal on tower bells took place in London on Saint George's Day, Saturday 23 April 1931, with ringers from the Metropolitan Police, Hertfordshire Constabulary and Reigate Borough Police. Because the ringing broke down, the essential stipulations necessary for ringing a peal (*see* Glossary) were not met, and so the peal was not recorded.

However, the first *successful* attempt to record a peal on tower bells for the Guild was not long in following :

From the *Ringling World* Friday 22 May 1931, p324, and perhaps a touch ironic that all the ringers were from the Metropolitan Police, with nobody from a provincial force, but be that as it may, this *was* the first tower bell peal for the newly established National Guild.

LONDON THE NATIONAL GUILD OF POLICE RINGERS

On Saturday May 16 1931 in Three hours and Three Minutes

At the Church of Saint George the Martyr, Southwark

A PEAL OF PLAIN BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES

Tenor 15 cwt

Treble Fred Porter (Inspector, 'L' Division)

2 William Bottrill (Inspector, 'Y' Division)

3 Charles Davis (PC 'R' Division)

4 Norman Bagworth (PC 'A' Division)

5 Thomas Bannister (PC 'S' Division)

6 Ernest Gwilliam (PC 'J' Division)

7 Fred Digby (Retired PC 'L' Division)

Tenor Ernest Brett (Retired PC 'E' Division)

Composed by C. W. Roberts Conducted by William Bottrill

First Tower Peal for the National Police Guild. Rung as a compliment to Fred Digby on his retirement from the police service after 25 years. PC Digby was the first hon. secretary of the Metropolitan Police Guild of which all the above band are members. This composition is now rung for the first time.

The National Police Guild is still going strong, and has members from the majority of the British forces, and visits are made to many areas of the country. The Guild now has one sad duty which it undertakes. Over the past twenty years, the Guild has rung a half-muffled Quarter Peal for the funerals of all those officers being murdered in the execution of their duty.

GLOSSARY :

Bell Ringing has its own unique vocabulary, so, a brief explanation :

Each bell is known by a number, starting with 1 (but can be called the 'Treble') which is the bell with the highest note of the musical scale, and always rings first. This is followed by bell 2, the next bell going down the scale; followed by bell 3, and so on until the deepest noted bell (can be called the 'Tenor') which always rings last; followed immediately by 1 again, and so on. This is called 'rounds' and thus can be represented by the numbers 12345678.

A 'change' is when the bells are rung in a different order from 'rounds'. There are 40,320 different ways in which the numbers 12345678 can be arranged (for the mathematicians, Reciprocal $8 - 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times 5 \times 6 \times 7 \times 8$) without repeating any row (or 'change'). But 40,320 changes would take nearly twenty-four hours to ring (although it has been done twice - but only once under the modern rigid provisos - *see below*), which is obviously unacceptable.

So it has been decided that a **PEAL** is any number of changes above 5,000, starting and ending in rounds, without repeating any change in between, and rung continuously by the same ringers without breaks. By means of altering bells in different ways (called 'bobs' and 'singles') at times during the ringing (which is done by the 'conductor' according to a pre-ordained 'composition') it is possible to choose 5,000 or more changes from the 40,320.

In some circumstances, because a peal would be too long a time to ring, a **QUARTER PEAL** may be rung under the same provisos, but this time, only having no less than 1,250 changes. 'Half-muffled' is a mark of respect, and means that a leather pad is placed over one side of the bell's clapper, so that it gives an 'echo' effect.

There are lots of different ways to produce the different changes, and each different way is called a 'Method'. **PLAIN BOB** is the simplest method, but more complicated methods of producing changes exist, which are known by other names such as **GRANDSIRE**, Stedman, Kent, Cambridge, and Double Norwich to name but a few.

MAJOR means the changes are on eight bells.

TRIPLES means changes on seven bells, and so has the eighth bell (or Tenor) striking in eighths place throughout the peal. A Triples peal is always 5,040 changes (Reciprocal $7 - 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times 5 \times 6 \times 7$, the maximum number of changes available using seven numbers).

And by the way, ringers call themselves ringers and NOT campanologists - campanologists is a word used to describe ringers by people who are not ringers.

(I am extremely grateful for the assistance given to me by Richard White, present Guild Secretary, and to Alan Glover, Bill Dowse and Kate Flavell - Editor)



The original lapel badge



The 75th Anniversary badge



The present day badge



A NARROW ESCAPE

The tale of PC Harry Hunter
at the
Bombardment of Scarborough,
December 1914

by

Ralph B. Lindley

The time is 8.00am on Wednesday 16 December 1914, and the unsuspecting residents of Scarborough are breakfasting, but not one of them has any notion of what is about to happen. Henry Crossland, of Queen's Parade, Scarborough, is looking out to sea from his window, when he sees three ships. He thought they were British ships, but in fact they were ships of the Imperial German Navy, SMS *Van der Tann*, SMS *Derfflinger* and SMS *Kolberg*, which were part of the Cruiser Squadron commanded by Admiral Franz Hipper. He was under the impression that the spits of fire he could see coming from *Van der Tann* and *Derfflinger* were signals. In fact it was the start of the bombardment of Scarborough. He recalled later that 'a shell came hurtling through the roof of the house. The room was left in intolerable confusion and holes were torn in walls and articles in all directions.'

The bombardment lasted until 9.30am, leaving eighteen people dead, and 200 injured. The first target of the German ships, was the signal station on Castle Hill. Guarding the signal station was a detachment consisting of seven men of the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve; a Trooper of the Yorkshire Yeomanry - and PC 27 Harry William Hunter of the Scarborough Borough Police.

As soon as the signal station came under fire, PC Hunter dived into the vaults of the Lady's Well, leaving his cape on the railings. Not a moment too soon, as a near miss from a shell immediately exploded nearby, showering the railings with shrapnel. After the bombardment had stopped, PC Hunter went to retrieve his cape, but found it total unserviceable. However, had he been wearing it, the consequences would have been far more serious.



PC Hunter (with long service chevrons denoting over twenty years service) displaying his cape. A narrow escape indeed. PC Hunter continued on to pension, and died in 1946 in Scarborough, at the grand old age of 78



CHIEF CONSTABLE J. D. SOWERBY.

From a Photo. by Kelley, Old Town Street, Plymouth.

‘AN ENGLISH GENTLEMAN’

Joseph Davidson Sowerby

**Chief Constable
of
Plymouth
1892-1917**

by

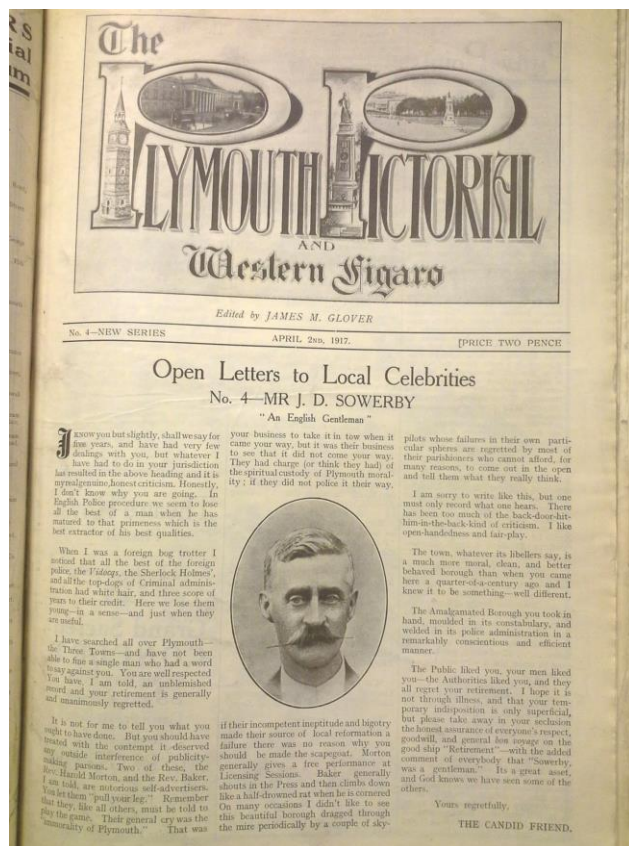
Kim Stevenson

Following on from the item in issue twenty-nine of the *Journal* ‘Who was the Youngest Chief Constable?’ Plymouth’s Joseph Sowerby is certainly a contender for one of the youngest; appointed Chief Constable of the Plymouth County Borough Police and Superintendent of the Fire Brigade on Wednesday 13 July 1892 aged twenty-nine years. For twenty-five years he retained the confidence of the Watch Committee and town council, as well as the respect of his men, and was well regarded by the local press. He died in 1919 just two years after retiring, having overseen the 1914 amalgamation of the Three Towns’ police forces : Plymouth, Devonport and Stonehouse.

A temperance advocate and moral campaigner, he made it abundantly clear on taking up his post that his mission was to tackle drunkenness, prostitution and gambling. In 1906, concerned about the presence of young girls and women in local brothels, Sowerby was one of the first to recruit women into the Special Constabulary to look after the morals of young girls found wandering the streets at night. As Chief Constable of Plymouth Dock – then the equivalent of Heathrow as the main gateway for the reception of visitors and travellers to the UK - he helped receive the survivors of the *Titanic* and, on her return from New York, famously arrested Mrs Emmeline Pankhurst in 1913 on board the *MS Majestic* in Plymouth Sound.

On his retirement in 1917, the *Plymouth Pictorial* published an Open Letter on the front page entitled ‘An English Gentleman’ eulogising Sowerby’s leadership. ‘I have searched all over Plymouth’ it said ‘and have not been able to find a single man who had a word to say against you...your retirement is generally and unanimously regretted.’ Sowerby’s initiatives and moral campaign to clean up the town and tackle everyday offending are acknowledged : ‘The town, whatever its libellers say, is a much more moral, clean and better behaved Borough than when you came here a quarter-of-a-century ago –

and I knew it to be something – well different.’ (*Plymouth Pictorial*, Monday 2 April 1917). Sowerby was most definitely ‘somebody different’: a ruthlessly effective law enforcer, he was also a remarkable diplomatic and politically astute evangelist and temperance supporter who genuinely believed in social change and equal justice for all.



The Open Letter in the Plymouth Pictorial, Monday 2 April 1917

Plymouth's Youngest Chief Constable Ever

Born in 1863 in Everton, Liverpool, (later naming his house in Lipson Road, Plymouth ‘Everton’), Sowerby moved to Leeds in 1881 when his father, a currier, became a publican. He joined the Leeds City Police that year as an eighteen year old Clerk, and was promoted three years later to Chief Clerk with the rank of First Class Inspector. That same year, he married Frances Stringer. Described in the *Leeds City Police Applicants Book* as ‘5 feet 10 inches tall, grey eyes, brown hair, fresh complexion, born Everton, recommended by Percy Middleton Esq. of Leeds’, Sowerby cut a dashing figure. He was promoted again in 1886 to Chief Inspector, the Leeds Watch Committee ‘selected [him] in preference to

others with much longer service’ enhancing his salary ‘in testimony of his ability and devotion to his duties’ (*Plymouth Comet*, Saturday 1 July 1893).

In 1891 he proved that he had warranted such confidence when he secured the conviction of Walter Lewis Turner, aged thirty-two years, who was executed for cutting the throat of six year old Barbera Waterhouse at Horsforth near Leeds. And during his time in Leeds, Sowerby attended some 400 fires, but in January 1892, he nearly died, in the worst fire ever seen in Leeds, which engulfed the Dark Arches underneath the railway station, causing £200,000 of damage to buildings, bridges and carriages.

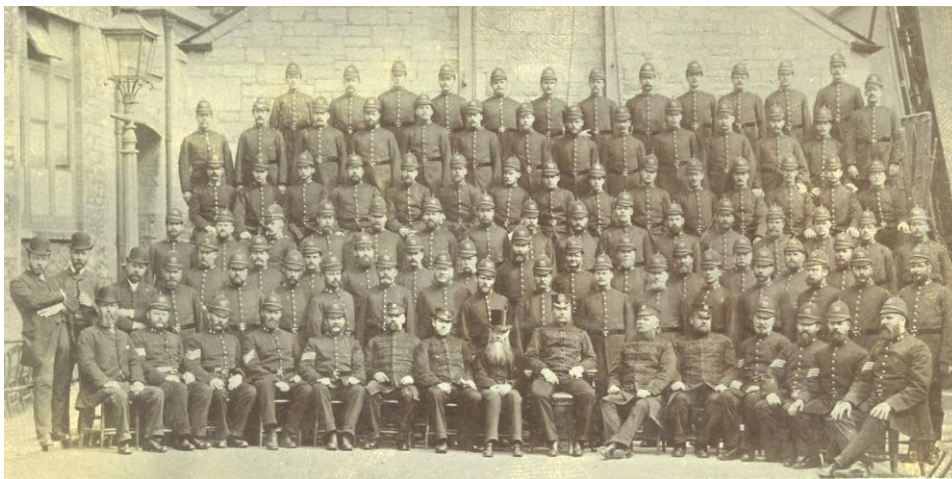
According to *The Leeds Times* headlined ‘IN CONSIDERABLE PERIL’ (Saturday 16 January 1892), as the fire raged, Sowerby and a colleague were forced to dive into the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. Fortunately Sowerby ‘being an expert swimmer, managed to keep afloat, in spite of the fact that the conflagration raged all around him, and that the water had somewhat the consistency of ink.’ Hauled out, and with a quick change of clothes, he is portrayed as a hero, returning immediately to manage the disaster and the numerous fire brigades which had responded from all over the North of England, while his less heroic colleague is reported to have remained at the Infirmary to rest.

Sowerby was keenly ambitious, refusing further promotion to Superintendent at Leeds when he was short listed for the post of Chief Constable of Worcester. Although not selected for Worcester, when the previous Chief Constable of Plymouth, Arthur Wreford, unexpectedly died in 1892, Sowerby was offered the position on a salary of £300 with £10 annual increments for the first five years. On hearing of his appointment, the Chief

Constable of Leeds commented that 'he will be greatly missed' acknowledging that although Sowerby was relatively young with an unusually short length of service, 'he had gone through all the requisite grades' (*Yorkshire Evening Post*, Wednesday 13 July 1892).

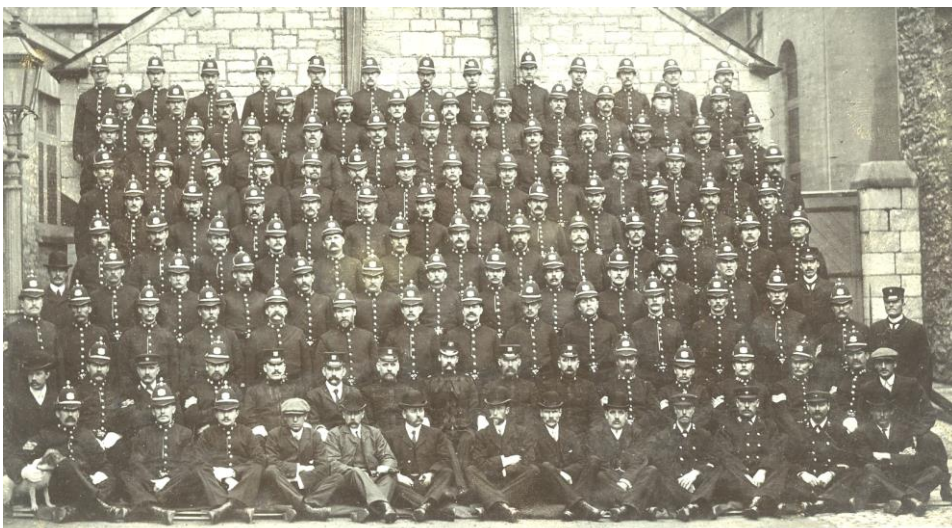
The *Plymouth Comet* noted that 'his testimonials were of the highest possible character, and his appearance and general behaviour told much in his favour'. Sowerby quickly earned the respect of his men. On the day he was appointed he removed the common practice of taking back one shilling from the nineteen shillings constables were paid a week for the first forty weeks of their service, in case they ran away with their uniform, reportedly re-distributing £500 amongst his men. [3 and 8]

On finding that handcuffs were not issued, and there were insufficient lamps, he also ensured his constables were properly equipped to carry out their duties. He also encouraged the Watch Committee to provide some entitlement to leave securing their generous support to introduce a form of rotary leave in 1903. In 1910 he visited the Home Office with the Mayor and a deputation of constables to lobby for the Police (Weekly Rest Day) Bill. The Watch Committee eventually agreed to a weekly rest day in 1911, but it was not implemented until amalgamation in 1914. [1/54]



*Plymouth Police with
former Chief
Constable Wreford
front centre*

Plymouth Police Force. 1890.



*Plymouth Police with
Chief Constable
Sowerby centre
second row from
front*

Plymouth Police Force. 1907.

A Moral Crusader

Operationally, Sowerby quickly made his presence felt in the town, instigating an early form of zero tolerance policing. Living in a public house in Leeds clearly influenced his strategy to curb drunkenness and prostitution, as did his association with the Leeds City Police which had a reputation of employing a zero tolerance approach to drunkenness, initiated by one its former Chief Constables, James Wetherell. [7/288] Sowerby ordered his constables to fill the magistrates' courts and petty sessions with charges of alcohol related and licensing offences, including drunk and disorderly, drunk and incapable, unlawfully permitting drunkenness and harbouring thieves and prostitutes. He personally visited over 300 licensed traders (notably entering forty premises on the same day) because, as he later informed the Royal Commission on Liquor Licensing Laws, licensees were supplying liquor to his constables while on duty : 'I do not entirely trust to the men I have the honour to command, to get my information'. [5/215] Unsurprisingly, the local licensees were not happy about themselves and their customers being continually prosecuted. In August 1892 arguments raged at town council meetings between teetotallers, temperancers and the Licensed Victuallers' Protection Association who claimed its members were suffering financial loss. Sowerby openly confirmed his sympathies - and bias - when he joined the Plymouth Methodist Temperance League. Of the seventy-nine licensees he prosecuted, the magistrates immediately closed sixty public houses, but he informed the Commission that there were still too many pubs in the town.

Plymouth's elite welcomed Sowerby's strong leadership. On Saturday 1 July 1893 to mark his first twelve months in office, the *Plymouth Comet* reported that 'In connection with the suppression of immorality in Plymouth, and in other ways where law breakers are concerned, our Chief Constable has shown himself equal to any emergency'. The editorial confirmed that 'the local papers have on several occasions highly eulogised Mr Sowerby for his zeal and discretion' with the Mayor of Plymouth predicting a

'most successful regime; this, up to the present, has been thoroughly fulfilled for Mr Sowerby has made himself thoroughly conversant with local affairs. He is on the best terms with the police force, and he has the thorough confidence of the magistrates and the watch Committee.'

As a temperance advocate, Sowerby, was as equally concerned about the causes of alcohol as its effects, and made no distinctions across class boundaries. After securing a ten day prison sentence for Thomas Connelly, an old lag with eighteen previous convictions for being drunk and disorderly, Sowerby asked the magistrates to impose a custodial sentence on Caroline Falcon, the respectable wife of a retired Captain, found drunk and disorderly, and the subject of many complaints in Greenbank, 'one of the better class streets'. The magistrates refused, and fined her £1 (*Exeter Flying Post*, Saturday 2 December 1893).

Sowerby was also astute enough to realise that on occasion a less heavy handed approach was more likely to achieve results. Later that month he asked the magistrates to release on bail all the 'ordinary Saturday and Sunday "drunks"' arrested the weekend before Christmas Day so 'they might spend Christmas "out"', or more likely to ensure they could attend Church (*Exeter Flying Post*, Saturday 30 December 1893). But his main aim was to reduce the consumption of alcohol believing this would in turn diminish the problems associated with immorality and sexual impropriety.

In 1903 Sowerby published an extensive survey and audit of all 347 fully licensed premises providing evidence to support his claim that 'that during the year 1902 drunkenness has considerably decreased in the Borough' [6/1] despite the fact that nationally the number of convictions for drunkenness between 1885-1905 was generally increasing. [2/162] The number of public houses in the town had reduced by fifty-nine since 1875, the conviction rate for drunkenness was now one of the lowest nationally,

although the average population per licensed premises was one of the highest. Sowerby modestly informed the Royal Commission when he was summoned to appear as a witness, that he attributed these successes to the 'improved social condition of the people' brought about by the police supervision of the public houses and 'enlightened attitudes of the young'. [5/217] Licensees were now more co-operative in managing their houses and responsive to police advice - in 1893 Sowerby had prosecuted twenty-eight publicans, but in 1897 just nine.

He continued to introduce innovative ideas, and as a keen photographer, after the Licensing Act 1903 gave the police more powers to deal with intoxication, personally took photographs of all habitual drunkards (those convicted more than three times a year) which he then confidentially distributed amongst the licensed victuallers. However, even Sowerby struggled to manage Plymouth's notorious Union Street; its eighteen public houses, twenty-two beer-houses, six off-licences and numerous brothels being an irresistible magnet for sailors and marines on shore leave, describing it as 'the most difficult street in Plymouth to manage' (*The Western Times*, Wednesday 6 April 1904), a reputation it is only just starting to recover from today.



Union Street, Plymouth in 1896

Sowerby was deeply troubled by the social problems he found when visiting licensed lodging houses, particularly the practice of 'Rack-renting' where licensees rented out one or two rooms to whole families not as lodgers but as permanent residents, some housing between twenty and thirty adults and children. Licensees argued they were compelled to sub-let any rooms or living space to pay the exorbitant rates of their brewery masters and with the town's growing population there was insufficient affordable accommodation. In this unhygienic and overcrowded environment the police were unable to monitor the populace or distinguish the poorer respectable classes - sailors, fisherman and artisans - from the drunkards, prostitutes and petty offenders. Sowerby was concerned about the children he found living in these cramped conditions and that to access their rooms they had to enter and pass through the bar and could peer into the 'snugs' where men and women engaged in sexual activities beyond the gaze of the landlord. There had been attempts to prosecute beer-house and brothel keepers in the past but many 'unfortunate' and 'immoral' women had lost their husbands at sea and had no other means of financial support.

Sowerby started a campaign prosecuting the keepers and owners of such disorderly houses by-lined in the local press as 'The Sowerby Crusade', the 'Plymouth Purity Crusade', and 'a Policy of Worrying' and 'the Plymouth Agitation'. [4] This was associated with the National Social Purity Crusade 1901 and the new moral activists - middle-class

Liberals and Conservatives - who invoked the concept of the Christian crusades to fight immorality, indecency and intoxication, to turn the tide of 'degeneration' at the end of the nineteenth century. In one such 'crusade' Sowerby and the Mayor visited his home town Liverpool, his former workplace Leeds, and Cardiff, Manchester and Portsmouth to see how other forces dealt with the suppression of vice. For example, in Liverpool, Sowerby found that sixty-four plain clothes constables were employed to watch houses of accommodation, with the result that no brothels were visibly evident and any prostitute who simply accosted three or more men was immediately convicted by the stipendiary magistrate. Sowerby did not have such manpower, and in Plymouth a conviction required proof that a prostitute had made an invitation of an improper character, this not only required the police to enter a house to obtain evidence to show it was a place resorted to by known prostitutes, but witness statements to confirm the solicitation. In Cardiff, for the past fifteen years, the police had exercised strict vigilance and prosecuted every case they could. 'Localities that were hotbeds of vice and crime have been entirely cleared of both', Sowerby informed the Watch Committee and suggested that Plymouth should adopt similar strategies, but that the current force was inadequate and needed to be strengthened in order to do so. [4]

Reformer or Spoilsport?

With drunkenness and prostitution now largely under control the next target in Sowerby's sights to make licensed houses less attractive to the public, was betting and gaming. He invoked the Suppression of Betting Houses Act 1853, which had not been used for over thirty years, to conduct a number of raids to arrest licensees and punters and seize racing chronicles, guides and sporting papers as evidence of 'illicit' activity. These raids were widely reported, enhancing Sowerby's reputation nationally. In April 1894 he led sixty plain clothes officers to raid twelve premises, including a chemist, tobacconist and bowling alley. All the proprietors and fifty men who had laid bets were arrested (*Nottingham Evening Post*, Thursday 19 April 1894). The following week a further eighteen men were arrested after Sowerby gave two undercover agents money to place bets in public houses to secure evidence on which to prosecute. In court the defence accused him of using 'underhand' tactics especially when Sowerby acknowledged that he had allowed one of the men to keep his winnings in lieu of wages.

Those arrested were not the usual criminal types, but ordinary respectable people whose confidence Sowerby needed to retain. The defence lawyer of Philip Curzon, landlord of the *Spirit Vaults*, convinced the magistrate that no citizen of Plymouth was now safe from indiscriminate arrest. The magistrates agreed and dismissed the case amidst much applause. Sowerby also offered an apology to a man called Brock who was handcuffed by one of his officers when he tried to destroy some gambling papers during a raid on his tobacconist shop :

'It was not my wish that violence of any kind should have been used to anybody, but from what I have heard, you have been greatly to blame in this matter. The matter, however, shall be inquired into, and you shall have an opportunity of being present at the inquiry. I am sorry that the handcuffs have been used at all' (*Western Morning News*, Wednesday 9 May 1894).

The Watch Committee accounts also note that Sowerby's campaign against betting was a significant financial drain on the prosecution purse. In 1894 the costs were £50 but by 1895 had increased to £490 18s 10d. [1/48] Betting and gambling have of course always attracted concern - but whist drives? In the early twentieth century, winter whist drives were enormously popular, with many societies hosting them to raise money for charitable causes. Sowerby even tried to ban these, announcing that he would prosecute

anyone who organised a whist drive where there was a fee for entry or participation, saying he had no choice but to enforce the law and apply it literally.

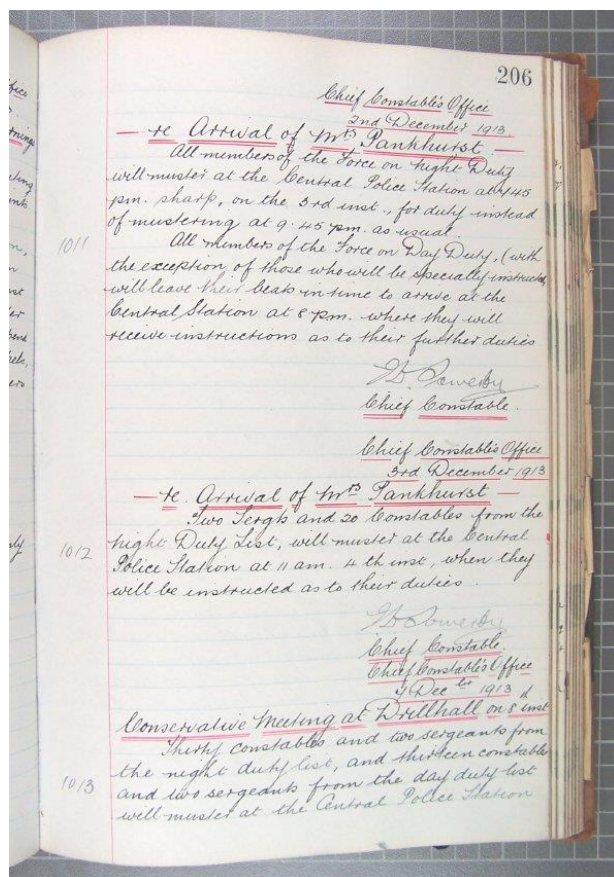
Sowerby's 'Clever' Arrest

Arguably one of the highlights of Sowerby's illustrious career was his 'clever' arrest of Mrs Emmeline Pankhurst in December 1913. As portrayed in the 2015 film *Suffragette*, Mrs Pankhurst had been arrested, released and re-arrested four times under the 'Cat and Mouse Act' for inciting her followers to set fire to Lloyd-George's golf-villa at Walton-on-the-Hill. She had then gone on campaign to America, raising funds on a lecture tour, which broke the conditions of her licence. She returned to England travelling with an American friend, Mrs Rheta Child-Orr, on the MS *Majestic* which was due to dock at Plymouth. News of the impending arrival had attracted thousands of suffragistes and their more militant sisters, the suffragettes, to Plymouth, and they gathered at various embarkation points around the town to welcome the suffragette leader. The potential for public disorder and protest was high. The Home Office had warned Sowerby of Mrs Pankhurst's arrival and officers from the Metropolitan Police had been sent down to assist the Plymouth force in her arrest.

On Thursday 4 December 1913, the ship dropped anchor in Plymouth Sound. Rather than wait to arrest Mrs Pankhurst as she stepped ashore, Sowerby's plan was to sail out to meet the *Majestic*. He requisitioned a pilot boat from Bulls Point further up the Tamar estuary and accompanied by Metropolitan Police Detective Inspector Hitchcock, two police officers and a wardress, they set sail. Once in the Sound they were followed by a motorboat commissioned by the Women's Social and Political Union whose occupants shouted to Mrs Pankhurst who was leaning on the railing on the upper deck of the *Majestic* warning her 'The cats are here!' According to newspaper reports two

dreadnoughts quickly manoeuvred into position (though it is questionable whether they were actually responding to this incident) and members of the press were informed that they would not be allowed into the vicinity.

Sowerby boarded the ship and approached Mrs Pankhurst who demanded 'Who are you? Have you got a Warrant?' to which Sowerby replied 'We do not require one for arresting you, you know that.' She asked if Mrs Child-Orr, who had sewed \$20,000 (approximately £1 million today) raised by supporters in the United States into her gown to prevent its confiscation by the police, could accompany her. Sowerby agreed and the two women were taken to a quiet point up the River Tamar from where Mrs Pankhurst was taken by motor car to Exeter Gaol, accompanied by the Scotland Yard detectives. Sowerby's handwritten orders in respect of 'The Arrest of Mrs Pankhurst' dated Tuesday 2 December 1913 mustering all night and day duty officers, can be viewed in his General Orders



available at the [South West Police Heritage Trust Archive](#), the former Devon and Cornwall Police archive which is currently being re-launched as a new charitable organization.

Local press headlines immediately praised Sowerby for his actions in frustrating Mrs Pankhurst's supporters, and denying them the opportunity of seeing her and causing trouble in the town. 'How Police Tricked her Bodyguard' and 'All Plymouth is laughing' (*Bristol and Exeter Journal*, Wednesday 10 December 1913); 'The "Clever" arrest at Plymouth' (*Western Times*, Friday 5 December 1913); 'Suffragettes Eluded at Plymouth' (*Devon and Exeter Gazette*, Friday 5 December 1913); 'Mrs Pankhurst at Plymouth: Arrested on Arrival' (*Derby Telegraph*, Thursday 4 December 1913).

However, a few days later the Suffragettes wreaked their revenge on Sowerby. On Friday 19 December, a timber yard on Richmond Walk, Devonport, which had been under surveillance since the arrest, was set alight. The fire caused £12,000 damage (£600,000 today) destroying the yard and adjacent Hancock's pleasure fair. Incendiary devices were found at the site and a witness remembered seeing two women wearing nurse's uniform walk by. A copy of the *Suffragette* was found tied to nearby railings with posters, 'To the Government : How Dare you Arrest Mrs Pankhurst'; 'Votes for Women : An answer to the cowardly arrest of Mrs Pankhurst here'; and 'Revenge on the Government for the arrest of Mrs Pankhurst' (*Somerset and West England Advertiser*, Friday 19 December 1913). As a result, Mrs Pankhurst, who was visiting her daughter in Paris, was re-arrested on her return to London.

Sowerby was now more than ready to retire and spend some time with his wife and family. In 1903 he had managed to secure a salary increase from the Watch Committee to £512 but on condition that he remain in post for another seven years. In 1910 he negotiated his pension and was also relieved of the need to attend all fires personally, other than those of a 'serious nature', such as the suffragettes' arson. However, having served for thirty years, he found the Committee less than receptive in terms of accepting his retirement proposal and future remuneration if he did stay. In 1914 both parties agreed that he would be appointed as Chief Constable for the newly amalgamated Plymouth force from Monday 9 November 1914, with his period of tenure terminating on Saturday 31 March 1917.

He eventually retired having devoted twenty-five years of his life to the people of Plymouth, but was somewhat indisposed and died two years later on Saturday 5 July 1919 leaving his widow Frances. A recent photograph of his gravestone at Ford Park Cemetery hardly reflects his exemplary service to the City and devotion to duty.

Sowerby's broad police experience and qualification, as administrator, firefighter, manager and prosecuting officer in court, is very different to that of his modern day counterparts. As a case study, Sowerby offers a useful comparator in respect of the contemporary and ongoing debate about whether it is necessary and/or desirable that ACPO ranks be required to work their way up from the 'uniform copper on the beat' or directly parachuted in at senior levels from other internal departments and external organisations.



Sowerby's final Resting Place, Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth

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Plymouth Pictorial and Figaro extract © British Library Board

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4

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5

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6

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7

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8

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TORQUAY DISTRICT POLICE 1835-1870

DEVON CONSTABULARY 1857-1966

The 2016 Police History Society Conference is being held in Torquay in Devonshire. Because Torquay did not receive borough status until 1872, it was not therefore affected by the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835. This Act gave the powers to every borough in England and Wales to hold elections, and thus create a democratically elected Town Council to replace the previous system of commissioners. The Act also stated that from this new Town Council, a sub-committee was to be formed, called the Watch Committee, and into the hands of the Watch Committee was placed fairly and squarely the onus of establishing a full-time, professional police force, along the lines of the Metropolitan Police, to replace the previous system of watch keepers.

So not being a borough, Torquay was not obliged to conform with the 1835 Act, But, it *did* form a police force in 1835, obviously because it was growing in size and popularity as a genteel society resort, and felt that it needed a better policing system than the previous one. And because it was not a borough, the fledgling force had to be called the Torquay District Police, rather than the Torquay Borough Police.

The Torquay District Police was established on Monday 3 August 1835, and consisted of five Constables, under its first Chief Officer, Charles Kilby, who was called the Superintendent in the 1851 Census. Charles Kilby left office sometime in the 1850s, because in the 1861 Census, he was described as a water bailiff.

His replacement as Chief Officer appears to be Patrick Hogan, an Irishman from County Cork, who in the 1861 Census is described as Sergeant of Police. Also from the 1861 Census, the strength of the Torquay District Police appears to be seven more Constables - Joseph Buckingham, William Clappitt, Richard Edwards, William Ford, William Jeffrey, Stephan Henryson and Michael Wildermott. Also living in the town at that time, were three Railway Constables (Richard Babbage, Francis Bibbings and William Pike) who were possibly members of the South Devon Railway Police.

Patrick Hogan continued as Chief Officer until 1870, when the Torquay District Police was absorbed into the Devon Constabulary. This seemed to be inevitable, as in October of that year, the Torrington Borough Police, which had been established in 1836 under the 1835 Municipal Corporations Act, was brought under the control of the county constabulary, because of chronic inefficiency. And to have a separate police force in a town which had not even obtained borough status, was looked upon as unacceptable - hence the demise also of the Torquay District Police.

The first act of the Devon Constabulary was to build a new police station in Torquay, and after a false start, it was eventually opened in 1876. The second step was to appoint Patrick Hogan as a Sergeant in the Devon Constabulary. He was sent to Stoke Fleming, where he stopped for the rest of his career, being reported in the 1891 Census as a retired Police Sergeant.

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TORQUAY DISTRICT POLICE 1835-1870

THE CHIEF OFFICERS

1. KILBY, Charles

No
photograph
available

[1] Chief Officer Torquay District Police 1835 - 1850s

Education
unknown

Career
Previous career unknown - [1] - Water Bailiff
1850s/1863 - died whilst holding office?

baptized Sunday 18 July 1802, Leamington Spa
m. Mary Ann (Barker?)
d. Wednesday 25 February 1863, Torquay

2. HOGAN, Patrick

No
photograph
available

[1] Chief Officer Torquay District Police 1850s-1870

Education
unknown

Career
Previous career unknown - [1] - Devon Constabulary
1870/1880s (PS 1870) - Retirement

b. 1827, Larmouth (?), County Cork
m. Ellen (McDonnell, 1856?)
d. 1895, Stoke Fleming, Devon

DEVON CONSTABULARY 1857-1966

The Select Committee on Police was established in 1853 by Lord Palmerston when he was the Home Secretary. Its Report was published in late 1854, but there were many to-ings and fro-ings, before its recommendations finally got to the statute book. But they eventually did, and the County and Borough Police Act 1856 (19 and 20 Victoria, cap 19) received Royal Assent in July of that year.

The 1853 Select Committee had found that only thirty-one of the fifty-six counties of England and Wales had formed voluntary forces under the 'permissive' 1839 County Police Act. Devon was not amongst them. And now, in the autumn of 1856, Devon was forced into action, as the 1856 Act now made full-time professional police forces compulsory for every county and borough without one.

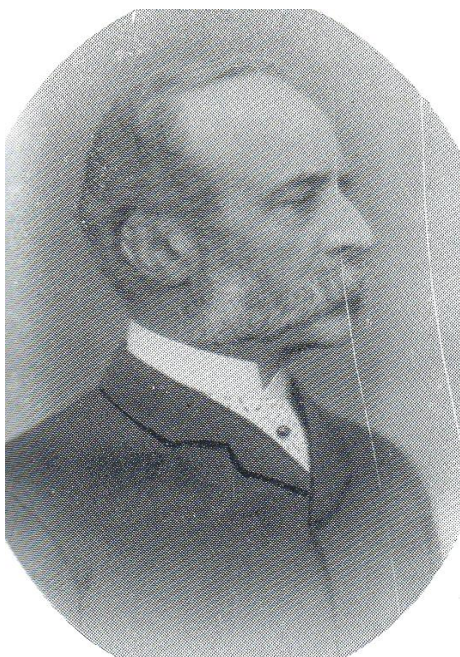
However, dues must be given, because as early as the September Quarter Sessions of 1855, the necessity for a county police force had been muted. But be that as it may, after discussions and reports, the Devon Magistrates met in November 1856 to chose their first Chief Constable, Gerald Hamilton. And on Tuesday 6 January 1857, the Quarter Sessions met and formally established the Devon Constabulary.

Along with the other county constabularies, the Devon Constabulary doggedly pursued its purpose over the years, despite being affected by the usual political interference, public indifference or animosity - but occasionally, even garnering public esteem! It had to absorb the separate borough forces within its borders, the last of which, Exeter City, in 1966 brought about by the all-powerful Police Act 1964, effectively brought the separate Devon Constabulary to its close, as it was then known as the Devon and Exeter Constabulary.

The last great amalgamation took place just one year later, as it joined forces with the Cornwall Constabulary and Plymouth City Police, to form the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary that we all know and love today.

THE CHIEF CONSTABLES

1. HAMILTON, Gerald deCourcy



[1] Chief Constable Devon Constabulary 1857-1891

Education

Florence, Cheltenham,
Trinity College, Cambridge (BA 1851)

Career

Gold Mounted Police, Australia 1851/1856 (Lieutenant and Adjutant 1851; OIC Ballarat District; Crimean War 1854-1856 with the 'Turkish Contingent' of the 'military' personnel of western Australia) - [1] - Retirement

b. Friday 10 October 1828, Florence, Italy

m. 1. 1859 Henrietta Buchanan née Saville (d?) 1s

2. 1908 Fanny Rusbridger

d. Thursday 20 November 1913, Chelsea

2. COLERIDGE, Francis Randolph Cyril



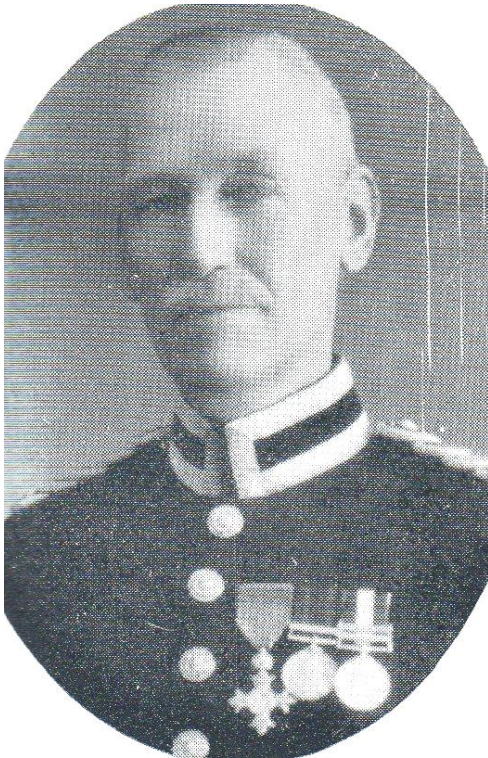
[1] Chief Constable Devon Constabulary 1892-1907

Education
unknown

Career
Royal Irish Constabulary 1871/1892 (Third Sub-Inspector 1871; Musketry Instructor 1887-1892) - [1] - Retirement

b. 1852, Ottery Saint Mary, Devon
m. 1903 Alice Hayhurst-france
d. Sunday 3 January 1932, Saint Mabyn, Cornwall

3. VYVYAN, Herbert Reginald



[1] Chief Constable Devon Constabulary 1907-1931

Awarded
OBE LG 4 June 1928 p3855

Education
unknown

Career
Army service 1882/1883 (Lt., Cornwall Rangers; 3rd Bn Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry) - In America 1883/1885 - Army service 1885/1905 (Devonshire Regt; Capt; Boer War and Reparation Committee, South Africa) - Devon Constabulary 1905/1931 (Supt 1905; [1]) - Retirement

b. 1862, Hastings
m. Caroline - (America?)
d. Monday 19 December 1949, Worthing
bur. Withiel, Cornwall

4. MORRIS, Lyndon Henry



[1] Chief Constable Devon Constabulary 1931-1946

Awarded

- (i) KPM LG 2 January 1939 p22
- (ii) CBE LG 8 June 1944 p2587
- (iii) OOSTJ

Education

unknown

Career

Qualified Solicitor 1913/1914 - Army service 1914/1921 (TA to Maj; LtCol; MC) - In America 1921/1923 (Farming in Florida) - HM Prison Service 1923/1932 (DepGov Brixton and Dartmoor; Govr Birmingham, Brixton, Camp Hill and Dartmoor) - [1] died whilst holding office.

b. Sunday 20 January 1889, Bakewell, Derbyshire

m. 1914 Phyllis Hawkins (Milton, Kent?)

d. Thursday 7 November 1946 whilst holding office

5. BACON, (Sir) Ranulph Robert Maunsell



[1] Chief Constable Devon Constabulary 1947-1961

[2] Deputy Commissioner Metropolitan Police 1966-1968

Awarded (i) KPFSM LG 1 January 1953 p34

(ii) CSTJ 1964

(iii) Knighthood LG 1 January 1966 p1

Education Tonbridge School;

Queens College, Cambridge (BA History and Law 1928)

Career Metropolitan Police 1928/1940 (PC 1928; DC 1930; Trenchard Scheme, Metropolitan Police College Baton of Honour 1935) - Army service 1940/1943 (Provost Service; Capt 1940; Maj 1941; LtCol 1941) - British Colonial Police 1943/1947 (Ceylon Police; Deputy Inspector-General 1943; Inspector-General 1944) - [1] - Metropolitan Police 1961/1968 (Assistant Commissioner 1961; [2]) - Retirement (Gaming Board 1968-1971 etc).

b. Monday 6 Aug 1906 Westgate on Sea

m. 1932 Alfreda Annett, 1d

d. Wednesday 30 Mar 1988, Hove

6. GREENWOOD, Ronald Berry



- [1] Chief Constable Dorset Constabulary 1955-1961
- [2] Chief Constable Devon Constabulary 1961-1966
- [3] Chief Constable Devon and Exeter Constabulary 1966-1967
- [4] Chief Constable Devon and Cornwall Constabulary 1967-1973

Awarded (i) KPFSM LG 1 January 1953 p34
(ii) OBE LG 1 June 1953 p2958 'for services in the recent floods in the eastern counties'
(iii) CBE LG 14 June 1969 p5969

Education Nottingham University

Career Lincolnshire Constabulary 1931/1944
(PC 1931>ChSupt) - Control Commission, Germany 1944/1946 (LtCol) - Lincolnshire Constabulary 1946/1955
(ChSupt, ACC 1948) - [1] - [2] - [3] - [4] - Retirement

b. Wednesday 30 November 1910, Nottingham
m. 1935 (Grimsby) Carrie Wilkinson 1s
d. November 1991, Honiton, Devon

HONOURS AND AWARDS OF THE DEVON CONSTABULARY

LG	Date of entry in the <i>London Gazette</i> , and page number
K/QPM	King's/Queen's Police Medal for Meritorious Service
KPFSM	King's Police and Fire Services Medal (<i>the alternative name of the King's/Queen's Police Medal between 1941 and 1954</i>)
CBE	Commander of the Order of the British Empire
OBE	Officer of the Order of the British Empire
MBE	Member of the Order of the British Empire
BEM	British Empire Medal for Meritorious Services

BACON, Ranulph Robert Maunsell **KPFSM** LG 1 January 1953 p34 as Chief Constable
BEYNON, Benjamin Mervyn **KPFSM** LG 10 June 1948 p3395 as Superintendent
(*Mervyn Beynon had been the last Chief Constable of Tiverton Borough Police 1925-1942, and had been appointed Superintendent when Tiverton Borough was absorbed into the Devon Constabulary under war-time regulations*)
BRIDGE, Bertrand **QUEEN'S COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**
LG 28 September 1954 p5509 as Constable (Exmouth) *together with*
GRIFFITHS, Alfred Redvers as General Foreman Exmouth UDC
STUART, Arthur Thomas as Lorry Driver, Exmouth UDC;
'For services when a man was overcome by fumes in a sewer.'

BROWN, Charles Young KING'S POLICE MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY

LG 2 January 1928 p7 as Constable

'On Friday 3 June 1927 a fire broke out in a refreshment room in Queen Street Railway Station in Exeter. PC Brown was told that a man was trapped in an upstairs room. He immediately ran upstairs and searched the room, which was particularly difficult as it was divided into sleeping cubicles. Finding the room empty, he made his way out, but when he reached the top of the staircase, he collapsed because of the heat and fell down the stairs, and had to be dragged out into the street by people from below. It was later found that there *had* been a man in the room, but that he had escaped over the roof. PC Brown was severely burned and was close to death for several days.'

EARLE, James Hudson

(see HARPER, Derek Raymond Alan and PAVEY, Stanley Harold James)

FORD, William Henry BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY

LG 20 June 1961 p4575 as Sergeant (Crediton)

'For courage, initiative and devotion to duty during the recent floods in Southern England. The low lying town of Crediton was severely affected by floods and many small houses were rendered uninhabitable. PS Ford was in charge of the flooded area and oversaw many rescues.'

(Included in the same citation were six non-police officers who also performed gallant rescues in other stricken areas during the same floods)

HARPER, Derek Raymond Alan THE GEORGE MEDAL

LG 30 December 1952 p6827 as Constable (Lynton) *together with*

EARLE, James Hudson **BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY** as Constable
PAVEY, Stanley Harold James **BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY** as Constable

'For courage, leadership and devotion to duty in extremely hazardous conditions on the occasion of the floods in Devonshire and Somerset during August 1952'.
(These awards resulted from the tragic Lynmouth Flood Disaster of Friday 15 August 1952. It had rained incessantly for the previous twenty-four hours, and nine inches of water had fallen on Exmoor, causing its many streams to burst their banks. All this water cascaded down the West Lyn and East Lyn Rivers which converge in the village of Lynmouth. Because of the narrow and precipitous valley of the River Lyn, by the time the water reached Lynmouth, it had been compressed into a 'tsunami' with an estimated height of between thirty and forty feet, which tore through the centre of the village ripping down buildings as it went. Thirty-four people lost their lives that night, and fourteen rescuers were decorated for gallantry)

HARVEY, William Charles MBE LG 1 January 1957 p18 as Assistant Chief Constable

HUTCHINGS, Frederick Robert

(i) **KPM LG 1 March 1929 p1445 as Superintendent/Chief Clerk**

(ii) **OBE LG 9 June 1938 p3698 as Assistant Chief Constable**

LANGMAN, Henry Wonnacott QPM LG 12 June 1958 p3546 as Chief Superintendent

MARTIN, Arthur Edward (i) KPM LG 1 January 1934 p15 as Assistant Chief Constable

(ii) **MBE LG 1 January 1947 p16 as Assistant Chief Constable**

MELHUIISH, Percy **KPFSM** LG 1 January 1945 p107 as Superintendent
MORRIS, Lyndon Henry **KPM** LG 2 January 1939 p22 as Chief Constable

PAVEY, Stanley Harold James as Constable (*see also HARPER, Derek Raymond Alan*)

(i) **ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY PARCHMENT TESTIMONIAL**
together with

EARLE, James Hudson as Constable
March 1952, for the rescue of a woman from cliff tops at Countisbury.

(ii) **ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY BRONZE MEDAL**

August 1952, for the rescue of two people from cliffs at Lynton

STADDON, George **BEM** LG 9 January 1946 p334 as War Reserve Constable
'For services to Civil Defence'

STONE, Ernest James **KPFSM** LG 5 June 1952 p3041 as Superintendent

TROTT, Clarke Edmund **QUEEN'S COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**
LG 6 October 1953 p5308 as Sergeant (Sidmouth);
'For rescuing a youth trapped on a cliff'

UNDERWOOD, Robson **QUEEN'S COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**
LG 3 December 1963 p9899 as Constable (Plympton)
'For services when arresting a man armed with a shotgun'.

VYVYAN, Herbert Reginald **OBE** LG 4 June 1928 p3855 as Chief Constable

WARREN, John Samuel **KING'S POLICE MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY**

LG 1 January 1935 p17 as Sergeant

'On Thursday 12 October 1934, two convicts who had escaped from an outside working party from Dartmoor Prison, stopped a motor van, attacked the driver with an iron bar, knocked him unconscious, and then stole the van, driving away towards Exeter. As PS Warren was getting into his car to join in the search for the convicts, a van drove past him, which appeared identical to that reported stolen by the convicts. The van stopped and PS Warren challenged the men, who denied they were the convicts. Entirely alone, and armed only with his truncheon, PS Warren succeeded in stopping the two men from driving away, and detained them until assistance arrived.'

WEST, Archibald Eli **QPM** LG 1 January 1955 p36 as Superintendent

The 'Family Tree' of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, showing how the Torquay District Police and the Devon Constabulary have been integrated into the present day force.

(Taken from the Police History Society Monograph

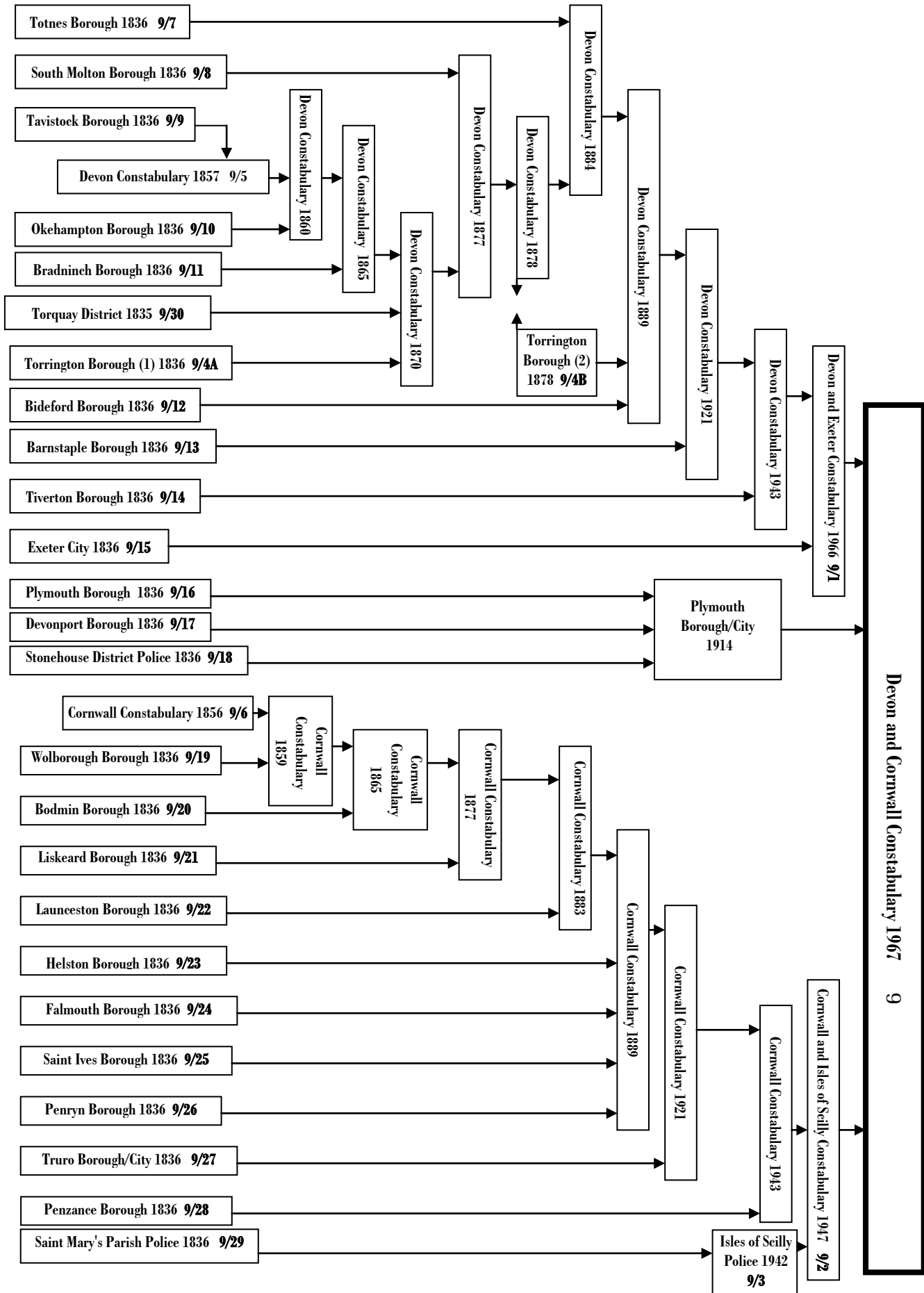
Police Amalgamations : Antecedent forces of the British Police - and a suggested system of numerical Classification)

9

DEVON AND CORNWALL CONSTABULARY

Historical constituent Police Forces and suggested Numerical Identification :

- 9 DEVON AND CORNWALL CONSTABULARY [1967-]
- 9/1 DEVON AND EXETER CONSTABULARY [1966-1967]
- 9/2 CORNWALL AND
 ISLES OF SCILLY CONSTABULARY [1947-1967]
- 9/3 ISLES OF SCILLY POLICE [1942-1947]
- 9/4A TORRINGTON BOROUGH POLICE (1) [1836-1870]
- 9/4B TORRINGTON BOROUGH POLICE (2) [1878-1889]
- 9/5 DEVON CONSTABULARY [1857-1966]
- 9/6 CORNWALL CONSTABULARY [1856-1947]
- 9/7 TOTNES BOROUGH POLICE [1936-1884]
- 9/8 SOUTH MOLTON BOROUGH POLICE [1836-1877]
- 9/9 TAVISTOCK BOROUGH POLICE [1836-1856]
- 9/10 OKEHAMPTON BOROUGH POLICE [1836-1860]
- 9/11 BRADNINCH BOROUGH POLICE [1836-1865]
- 9/12 BIDEFORD BOROUGH POLICE [1836-1889]
- 9/13 BARNSTAPLE BOROUGH POLICE [1836-1921]
- 9/14 TIVERTON BOROUGH POLICE [1836-1943]
- 9/15 EXETER CITY POLICE [1836-1966]
- 9/16 PLYMOUTH BOROUGH POLICE (CITY 1928) [1836-1967]
- 9/17 DEVONPORT BOROUGH POLICE [1836-1914]
- 9/18 STONEHOUSE DISTRICT POLICE [1836-1914]
- 9/19 WOLBOROUGH BOROUGH POLICE [1836-1859]
- 9/20 BODMIN BOROUGH POLICE [1836-1865]
- 9/21 LISKEARD BOROUGH POLICE [1836-1877]
- 9/22 LAUNCESTON BOROUGH POLICE [1836-1883]
- 9/23 HELSTON BOROUGH POLICE [1836-1889]
- 9/24 FALMOUTH BOROUGH POLICE [1836-1889]
- 9/25 SAINT IVES BOROUGH POLICE [1836-1889]
- 9/26 PENRYN BOROUGH POLICE [1836-1889]
- 9/27 TRURO BOROUGH POLICE (CITY 1887) [1836-1921]
- 9/28 PENZANCE BOROUGH POLICE [1836-1943]
- 9/29 SAINT MARY'S PARISH POLICE [1836-1942]
- 9/30 TORQUAY DISTRICT POLICE [1835-1870]



POSTSCRIPT...

Addenda to the 2015 Journal

From Mr John Jones - 'The Coventry Blitz, November 1940', page 62

If I may, I just wish to comment. It was not the raid on Coventry on Thursday/Friday 14/15 November 1940 in which Brandon Moss won his George Cross, but the night of an earlier raid on Sunday 20 October 1940 (as confirmed by the Watch Committee minutes at the time). This is explained in the 'Note' to my article on Brandon Moss entitled 'Superhuman Special' in Police History Society *Journal* Number 6 (1991).



(Yes, Mr Jones is quite right, and he also directed me to this drawing of Brandon Moss performing his rescues, which is ©, and taken from a Second World War book, with the necessary arrangements from the author to be made - Editor)

From Mrs Rose Weston - 'The British Police Memorial, Cyprus', page 63



Mrs Weston is the sister of PS Leonard Demmon QPM, of the UKU, who lost his life in Cyprus on Friday 31 August 1956. She sent these two photographs. In the right-hand photograph, PC Demmon (of the Metropolitan Police) is the officer on the extreme left, attending an unknown award ceremony.



(Also, I acknowledge a letter from Police History Society Member, Mrs Stella Bond, who was with her husband, PS Maurice Eden GM, in Cyprus in 1956. Because Mrs Bond requests confidentiality, I willingly comply - Editor)

From Mr Peter B. H. Clark - 'Who was the youngest Chief Constable?', page 61

On the subject, 'Who was the youngest Chief Constable?', here are a couple of even younger contenders :

Peter Valentine Hatton became the Chief Constable of the Nottinghamshire Constabulary, aged twenty-two years, in 1842. He had been given a 'leg up' by being appointed a Superintendent and Deputy Chief Constable of the East Suffolk Constabulary (aged twenty) by his father, (John Hayes Hatton) the then Chief Constable of East Suffolk.

Another contender could be **John Hatton**, the brother of Peter Valentine Hatton, who succeeded his father as Chief Constable of the East Suffolk Constabulary on Tuesday 24 January 1843, no doubt with similar nepotism from his father.

(As all three, father and two sons, were born in Wicklow in Ireland [from Census Returns], to get exact dates of birth/baptism is very difficult, but from the Census Returns, it can be surmised that Peter Hatton was born in 1820, thus tending to confirm Mr Clark's assertion; and John Hatton was born in 1818, thus making him twenty-four or twenty-five in January 1843. Either way, both Peter and John Hatton appear to be younger by far than the previously thought youngest, Richard Reader Harris, appointed Chief Constable of Worcestershire at an estimated twenty-five years and nine months. Surely, nobody can beat this - can they? - Editor)

From your Journal Editor - 'John Henry Hayes', page 25

An extract from an article in the *Daily Telegraph* of Friday 17 December 1993 :

'The Police Federation has appointed a Labour MP as its Parliamentary adviser for the first time in nearly 20 years. This will be widely interpreted as a warning to the Government not to take police support for granted. Mr Mike O'Brien, MP for Warwickshire North, has accepted the £18,000-a-year post, which was once held by Lord Callaghan, former Labour Prime Minister. He will work alongside Mr Michael Shersby (C. Uxbridge), who has held the post exclusively for four years. Mr O'Brien's appointment marks the first time that the federation has felt the need to have more than one adviser in the Commons...Lord Callaghan held the post from 1955 to 1964. He was followed by another Labour MP, Mr Alf Morris. Since 1974 the job has been held by a Tory, first Sir Eldon Griffiths and then Mr Shersby.'

(This rectifies the mistakes over Police Federation Parliamentary advisers found in my article - I am not Superman, I do make mistakes - Editor)