



# The Journal of the Police History Society

Number 23 - 2008

**THE INSPECTOR**

By George Hallam

**THE 'B' SPECIALS**

Peter Williams

**FASTEN MY GARTER**

A strange Story of The Mets Badges  
By Chris Forester

**THE UNSUNG HEROES**

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**MERE MILITARY COLOUR**

The State Police & Martial Law  
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**GUILDFORDS 1st POLICEMAN**

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**THE DEATH OF A CHIEF**

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**Lt Col. PULTENEY MALCOLM**

Cheshires Hero

**JOSEPH BRIGGS**

Leicester Military Policeman  
By Peter Spooner

**THE OTHER GALLANT 600**

The Mets last contribution to the 1st War  
Paul Rason





Huddersfield Police, our featured cover Force.

### THE NEW PHS JOURNAL

Welcome to the Journal. As you may see the format is slightly different. This is as a result of my attempting to reduce the costs of production for our magazine. The product is not as slick as I would like however this is in the main due to the restrictions on the sort of paper that can be used in this particular production process. The good bit however are the costs which are a lot less.

I would welcome comments and if the readership feels that a higher quality magazine is required then I will go back to the previous process.

Chris Forester, Editor.



# The Journal of the Police History Society

Number 23

2008

The Police History Society publishes the Journal of the Police History Society annually. Contributions are welcome from both members and non members. Please send material double spaced and typed on A4 paper preferably copied on to disc to save retyping. The editor produces the Journal on Microsoft Word in Microsoft Office Enterprise 2007

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**COVER PICTURE**  
**HUDDERSFIELDS FINEST**  
Date and name unknown



## THE INSPECTOR

*George Hallam*

A few years ago, one of my father's younger brothers, handed over a large stiff envelope, saying - somewhat apologetically, "as the eldest, this is rightfully yours". My father had been the family's black-sheep for many years and had been treated as persona-non-grata. He took little interest in the envelopes content; he'd been born during the depression of the twenties and into a culture in which children were told nothing about who they were. Especially where their parent's outlook did not compare to that of their more salubrious forebears. It is highly likely that this is the cause of many lost or distorted family histories, wherein a lowly ancestry may have been 'bigged-up' (as it were, in the vernacular), whilst those of a more substantial standing, are not spoken of because they were probably 'above themselves'. I can personally vouch for the latter being the case. Since being handed that envelope into my keeping, I have often wondered if there is something in a policeman's genes that I might have inherited, because a detective I soon became. The envelope contained certain documents and papers kept by my great grandfather and which were personal to him. These were not particularly extensive, comprising: his original 1881 Indenture of Apprenticeship to a Nottinghamshire Builder, his marriage certificate, an Indenture of Probate for his sister, neither had I. Though I mean it no offence, it is a dot on my road atlas. The 1851 census has them both under 21 and working as servants at the homes of farmers. and the receipts for her 1916 funeral. However, the items started me on a journey into a policing past that I'd known nothing about. The first alert

came on the Apprentice Indenture - itself a piece of employment history with rules and regulations imposed that could never occur today. However, as such a document was as much a contract with the boy's father as it was with the boy, my great, great grandfather's identity and indeed his signature, adorn. He is described as George Hallam Sergeant of Police as opposed to a Police Sergeant. I was curious. It seemed to infer a greater authority than merely stating a rank within the force. But I let it pass until I was later



*George Hallam*

given a school exercise book relating also to the boy. It is undated but bears the boy's name and was from Tuxford Grammar School. It occurred to me that these two tit-bits inferred a certain affluence that one would not apply to a modern policeman. The next alert came in the form of those 1916 funeral receipts for Sarah Hallam, his spinster sister of Sherwood. The fact that we were in the midst of WW1 and that the receipts described a funeral cortège of some finery, made me wonder why. Her policeman father had died in 1891 ranked Inspector. Though her Probate document determined the apportioning of £200 to her brother, and whilst this was a

healthy sum for the time, it hardly warranted what today would equate to a civic funeral which - rather oddly, had not been paid for by her brother, but by someone named William Harrop..?? The answer came thanks to Nottingham's Central Library who produced her newspaper obituary. Though nothing special, it pointed to the place of death as The Judges Lodgings - the home of her sister and brother-in-law Superintendent William Harrop, Deputy Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire. My imagination was already running riot when - out-of-the-blue, came another snippet, a newspaper cutting about a Royal Medal Investiture at Buckingham Palace in 1906. It was for the then Nottinghamshire Chief Constable. Whilst he himself was not one of my ancestors, he was then twice decorated by Royalty, and went on to receive a CBE followed by a Knighthood. The reporting article gave posthumous mention of a Superintendent Thomas Hallam - the previous Deputy Chief Constable, and his older brother Inspector George Hallam whose daughter married the then current Deputy Chief. It occurred to me that this celebrated Chief Constable must have had equally capable Officers which was why they'd received mention. I was stunned. Suddenly I had a direct bloodline to people who mixed with the Victorian elite of their day. After all, the policing then would largely have been at the behest of the local gentry and Civic Governors.

### *The Internet*

I decided to join the Internet and see what more I could discover about them, but as far as Nottingham online is concerned, it came to nought. But by searching the national census collection through Ancestry UK, I managed to bring my two Hallam ancestors back to



life, and take me back in time. Yes, one's imagination does have certain conceptual limitations, but by using one's known timelines, it is not impossible to conjure up visions. These two Hallam boys were born in 1834 (George), and 1836 (Thomas), in a little place called Gamston in Nottingham

shire. Never heard of it? Well, being born and bred in Leeds, neither had I. Though I mean it no offence, it is a dot on my road atlas. The 1851 census has them both under 21 and working as servants at the homes of farmers.

But by 1861 George was a County Police Officer based in Blyth. I cannot place younger brother Thomas at this specific time but suspect that his police career had indeed commenced. 1871 and both are Sergeants but in separate locations. George is at Tuxford, Notts. Thomas is living at the Police Station in Sutton in Ashfield, and has two constables as lodgers. 1881 for George was as I'd already discovered – still a Sergeant, but then at Ollerton. However, as an aside, for some reason his youngest daughter Ada Bush Hallam who should have been aged around 13 years, had gone missing. Not in itself of particular note until ... the 1881 census for Thomas shows her living with him and his wife. They are at the County Police Station, High Pavement, Nottingham, where Thomas is now a Superintendent. 1891 shows that George is now ranked Inspector and living somewhere in East Retford. This was also the year of his death - aged 57. The 1891 census for Superintendent Thomas Hallam is most revealing. He is aged 54, is still at the High Pavement Police Station and County Prison, and is described as Head of County Police. As we now know, this meant Deputy Chief Constable. There is also an inference that his wife Celia was employed as the station's housekeeper. Two men described as 'prisoners' were also listed ... as still, was 'Ada Bush Hallam' his niece, who – it would appear, had lived with her Aunt and Uncle for many years. The significance of this apparent adoption – they had no children of their own, became all too apparent with another revelation appearing on the very same census enumerator form.

### *The end in sight*

On this form are eight other Police Officers resident in the same street ... seven are constables, but the eighth Officer is none other than a certain 'Sergeant William Harrop' aged 28. In case I've lost you along the way, he married Ada Bush Hallam, and succeeded her Uncle Thomas as Deputy Chief Constable of the County. And in 1916, arranged her sister's funeral. As I understand it, there were only

four ranks in the police at that time: Constable, Sergeant, Inspector, and Superintendent. Knowing that the said Supt. Harrop had been Deputy Chief for some time by the 1906 Royal Investiture of his boss, his rise through the ranks seemed to be either meritorious, or nepotistic. Either way, my detective work had gone full circle. As satisfactory as it goes, the timelines nevertheless encompass a host of imponderables with regard to policing in the nineteenth century. Despite the eventual formalisation of the forces nationwide, which took many, many years to establish, most of the century saw the forces doing their own thing. Imagine the reality of that lowly copper in The Hound of The Baskervilles trekking over the moors armed with a truncheon, and a lantern. Then place him in the equally dark outlying rural areas around Nottingham, or anywhere you choose. Bear in mind, that that icon of bicycles – ironically, Raleigh of Nottingham – didn't appear until the late 1880's. Not that there were roads as we know them to cycle on. So how did my two young rural constables get about in 1861? What did it take to be a policeman in the mid 1800's? Fairly well educated, yes – they had to be able to read and write, but big, bold, fearsome, and a bit of a bastard to boot, are probably more likely qualifications. Like many people I have seen fantasy films like 'Sleepy Hollow', and Charles Dickens's 'Great Expectations', both of which have largely indeterminable timelines, but do include uniformed policemen. Nevertheless, they conjure up scenes than can have been little different to those with which our two officers would have known. The odd technological introductions such as steam-engines, railways, and the Davey Lamp, would have done little to improve the daily life of a country copper. Sure, I've let my imagination run loose, but we shouldn't forget that a policeman then, was a product of his own time. I know that Inspector George Hallam died in 1891, and am fairly certain that Supt. Thomas Hallam also died before 1900. So one could ask – did either of them ever see a motor vehicle? Take the TV programme 'Heartbeat' which depicts an almost soap-like fictitious time in the 1960's, but one that to anyone of my 1940's generation, is nostalgically extremely accurate. Then try to imagine what my two officers would have made of it should they have had the opportunity to gaze into a crystal ball! No different to us watching Star Trek really. Cars, radios, television, satnav, stun-guns, helicopters – yeah, now pull the other one!



## The Rise and Fall of the 'B' Specials

Peter Williams

In the last edition of *Journal of the Police History Society, Volume 22*, Jim McDonald provided an interesting and in-depth account of the 'Irish Revenue Police' (McDonald, 2007). Ireland is a rich grain of history in respect of policing, of which pages are still being written. The latest, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008 ([www.northernireland.gov.uk/news](http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/news)), sees final agreement in respect of the devolution of policing and justice, between all political parties connected with the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Good Friday Agreement. This prompted a statement by both the First and Deputy First Ministers endorsing the new arrangements and finally signals the direction of policing within the Province to be broadly in line with the recommendations of the 1999 *Patten Report*. However, it has been a long and often tragic journey from partition to peace.

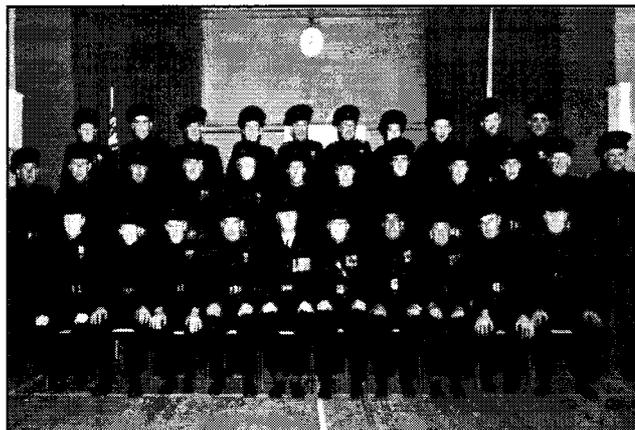
Given that context and following on from the last edition, it seems too good an opportunity to pass over and examine both historically and critically, perhaps in an outline format, one of the most controversial organisations and chapters in Northern Irish policing; the 'B' Specials.

The watershed that signalled the establishment of the 'B' Specials was the proposed partition of Ireland and the creation of the political and administrative area known as Ulster, which consisted of six counties in the north-east of Ireland. Ulster was overwhelmingly Protestant.

Around the time of the Treaty in 1920, there were two major pressing law and order issues in the North; attacks by the IRA disaffected by the Treaty, and sectarian attacks, mainly targeted at Catholics (Hillyard in Darby, 1983, p32). The Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) in the North was clearly struggling to meet this demand and in turn the British Government was unable to supply troops, still fully committed elsewhere in Ireland (Ibid). In reality, the British were in a state of flux and in the midst of a civil war. The proclamation of the Irish Republic occurred in January, 1919, however the Irish Treaty remained unsigned until December, 1921 (Canning, 1985, p4).

The overall security situation was deteriorating and debates raged within Government as to

how this might be reconciled. However, Winston Churchill, Colonial Secretary in a Coalition Government (Ibid, p12), in the context of the ever-worsening security situation, favoured enhanced repression and raised the question of the Protestants in



*(Aghadowey 'B' Specials, circa, 1965, source 'Wikipedia')*

the six counties being given weapons charged with maintaining law and order, in addition to policing. He suggested 30,000 men, allowing regular battalions and the regular RIC to be released for more-pressing matters in the South (Farrell, 1983, p31/2). Not surprisingly, and entirely conducive with the modern politics of Ireland, unanimity was impossible on such a controversial proposal, however it did receive a sympathetic ear in certain powerful quarters.

As a consequence and despite some intense opposition, in July 1920, the Irish sub-committee of the Cabinet, unanimously agreed, under the portentous heading 'Use of Ulster Volunteers' to be established on a Special Constabulary footing (Ibid, p35). But the justification remains the interesting point:- *'In view of the urgent need of concentrating all available troops, advantage ought to be taken of the willingness of the North to protect themselves and steps taken to enlist Volunteers of a Special Constabulary basis; this force should not be used outside Ulster'* (Ibid)

As a consequence the Cabinet Minute effectively became the *raison d'être* and as a contemporary parallel the 'Statement of Common Purpose' for what shortly was to become, the Ulster Special Constabulary (USC). Contentiously, it also became the straightjacket which ultimately would strangle the life from the USC.

However, further central Government procrasti-



nation led to initiatives on a local level, especially following the shooting in Lisburn, Co. Antrim of a D/Inspector Oswald Ross Swanzy, RIC (Ibid), believed to have been killed by the IRA and on the orders of Michael Collins himself, in August 1920, as he left a morning church service ([www.lisburn.com](http://www.lisburn.com)). Swanzy had previously served in the Cork area and had been named at an Inquest as one of the perpetrators in the murder of the Lord Mayor of Cork; as a consequence he was posted well away from the area to Ulster (Farrell, 1980, p30). Hence, the fatal decree by Michael Collins.

The Unionist local authority formed its own special constabulary, led by a recently retired RIC Inspector, the legal precedent being an unused and antiquated statute. About 800 'loyal ex-servicemen were enlisted and overtly at least, restricted to patrolling unarmed, with the RIC and the Army (Farrell, 1983, p35). In the aftermath of the Swanzy shooting, riots occurred in Belfast and the Mayor together with the military commander, General Bainbridge authorised recruitment of a local force, although heated debate surrounded the implementation as to whether it should be armed or not (Ibid). Notwithstanding the proposed function, considerable pressure was growing for the Unionists' rationale for an armed special constabulary (Ibid). The fortuitous advantage they had was that in 1912 the Unionists formulated their own private army, via the Orange Order. 400,000 signed a declaration to resist Home Rule and in 1913 a retired General assumed command of what was to become the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) (Farrell, 1980, p19) and it had reorganised early in 1920 (Hillyard, op. cit, p33).

Following the Swanzy killing rioting and looting broke out in Belfast; the London-based *Daily News* commented that there were some 180 fires in a six-day period. On the 30<sup>th</sup> August, the military imposed a curfew from 10.30pm to 5.00am for Belfast, which remained in place until 1924 (Farrell, 1980, p31). As a consequence of this civil disorder and as a result of increasing political pressure, on the 6<sup>th</sup> September, 1920 the Cabinet authorised the RIC to recruit for the USC (Farrell, 1983, p39) and recruitment began on the 1<sup>st</sup> November, (Ibid, p47).

The USC was made up of three classes:-  
Class 'A' – Full-time force, engaged for six

months at a time and would receive the same weekly pay as the RIC, plus a bounty on discharge

Class 'B' – Part-time force; their compulsory one night a week duty was unpaid, although they did receive annual expenses. For extra operational duties they were to be paid 2s 6d per night and the envisaged duties involved, manning road-blocks, routine patrolling and guarding key installations at night. They were available primarily for an emergency, available for mobilisation

Class 'C' – Reserve force with no regular duties apart from routine drill and training sessions – purely recruited as an emergency resource. (Ibid, p44).

Rather than being a 'Constabulary' for the whole community, it was clear from the outset that the USC was there to protect the interests of the State and its loyal supporters, and not surprisingly, the leadership of the UVF actively encouraged their members to enlist in the newly-formed USC (Ibid, p46). In fact, enrolment forms were forwarded in bulk to individual battalion headquarters of the UVF (Ibid). This certainly appeared to have the desired effect, especially when the appointment of USC senior officers was announced. Four of the County Commandants held commissions in the UVF (Ibid), who eventually, were being replaced in terms of their duties, by the USC (Ibid, p48). In terms of recruitment, by July, 1921 over 15,000 'B' Specials had been enrolled from an authorised establishment of 19,000 (Ibid, p54). In terms of the religious background of the new recruits, the USC was effectively and not surprisingly, a Protestant force (Ibid, p50). Very few Catholics applied to join; in fact there is substantial evidence to indicate that one County Commandant, Colonel McClintock in Tyrone, refused to enrol Catholics (Ibid). The British Government were keen to resource the USC, by supplying over 26,000 rifles and providing WW1 uniforms, dyed black for the newly-formulated, and armed, force (Farrell, 1980, op. cit. p47).

The long-awaited political settlement, or perhaps compromise, what is also known as the partition, in time began to have the desired effect and as both countries began to settle down and live together almost as unfriendly neighbours, as the Irish Free State and Ulster or Northern Ireland. The security situation



slowly abated and became less acute and the RIC became the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC). Accordingly, the 'A' and 'C' Classes of the USC were disbanded at the end of 1925; but the 'B' Specials were ominously retained (Farrell, 1983, p279) and paid for by the British until 1926 (Ibid, p287).

The major function of the 'B' Specials, and perhaps congruently with the original Cabinet Minute, was to ensure the IRA never again became a problem and in order to achieve that objective, the Government had passed the Special Powers Act (SPA), which empowered police with wide-ranging and sweeping powers, targeted at the IRA and the Catholic community in general (Taylor, 1997, p19). So, in order to summarise the overall situation surrounding the 'B' Specials in the immediate years post-partition, it looked something like this. Operating in a part-time function supporting the RUC, an almost exclusively Protestant armed and uniformed force, enjoying full police powers and able to call upon statutes like the SPA. In terms of accountability, or more poignantly, lack of it, they were operating in a policing environment without a Police Authority or Complaints procedure. Those latter elements were almost fifty years away.

The 'interests of the State' have been directly referred to and it would be prudent to actually examine what they actually were. It is irrefutable that the British interests mirrored those of the Protestant majority in Northern Ireland. They emanated from the economy, not surprisingly. The remaining twenty-six counties of Ireland at this stage were predominately rural and agricultural in total contrast to industrial Belfast, with heavy industries such as ship-building. In that context Belfast formed an industrial triangle with Glasgow and Merseyside which gave Ulster access to the Empire in terms of trade. An axiom of this economic scenario was that Belfast workers in heavy industry and the shipyards were almost exclusively Protestant (Farrell, 1980, p19).

Protestants also retained the exclusivity in respect of policing, which was completely sectarian. By 1961, only 12 per cent of the RUC was Catholic and the 'B' Specials completely so (Darby, 1983, op. cit, p21). However, sporadic IRA campaigns, 1938/9 and 1956/62, since the disbandment of the 'A' and 'C' Classes of the USC had justified their retention (Hillyard,

op. cit, p34). Of course later on in that decade, the first civil disturbances which ultimately led to what we now know as 'The Troubles' were witnessed. Among the complaints of the Nationalist community, which included, discrimination against Catholics in employment, housing, gerrymandering of boundaries was the sectarian nature of policing. If the RUC were feeling the effects of the storm of complaints from Catholics over their methods, the 'B' Specials were in the eye of it. There is also evidence to support allegations that off-duty 'B' Specials were involved in an organised ambush on the People's Democracy march from Belfast to Londonderry (Boyle, Hadden and Hillyard, 1975, p29). Further evidence regarding common purpose between the RUC, 'B' Specials and Protestant militants was apparent following incidents in August, 1969, a watershed that led directly to the involvement of the British military (Ibid).

The proliferation of vociferous complaints regarding grievances from the Nationalist community, civil disorder and the inability of the RUC to maintain order coalesced and on the 26<sup>th</sup> August, 1969, the Government order an Enquiry into policing – which was to prove the death knell for the 'B' Specials.

The Hunt Report recommended *inter alia*, that a Police Authority be established for Northern Ireland, that the RUC become more akin to a police force in Great Britain and as a consequence the title of the Chief Officer was re-named 'Chief Constable' from 'Inspector-General' – a legacy of the RIC. Also, two new separate forces to be established in order to assist the below-strength RUC (Hunt, 1969). They in turn became the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) and the RUC Reserve. Accordingly, the 'B' Specials were disbanded; they had existed for almost fifty years, but their role/function was a complete legacy to the turbulent and indeterminate period that pertained at that time and times had changed in relation to civil rights.

Consequently, the November 2008 announcement in relation to policing should be the final element in modernisation and could witness the end of sectarian policing in Northern Ireland. It has been a long, tragic and often bloody road, from partition to peace.

Peter Williams,  
Senior Lecturer in Policing,  
University of Teesside.

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**PICTURES FROM THE PAST**



**An Unknown Constable**



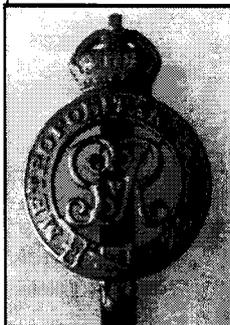
**Ready for anything!  
SUSSEX POLICE?**



**A POLICE FUNERAL**

**Where and when?**

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### FASTEN MY GARTER THE STRANGE STORY OF THE METS BADGES

Chris Forester

Many years ago I was involved in the setting up of the Mounted Branch Museum. One of my tasks was to identify and locate possible exhibits. One of the more obvious places to plunder was, or so I thought, the Receivers stores, then at Lambeth. In

those days the prevailing intention of all police store persons appeared to be to make it as difficult as possible for any officer to prise any items of equipment from that bastion. The process started at ones station where the necessary documentation had to be obtained. First you had to get past the stores clerk who's sole aim in life was to find some reason not to issue anything, after all stores are for storing, if they were for issuing they would be called ISSUE. If it was an item that the local scrooge carried in his personal safe he might, (but usually not) issue you with a replacement on exchange of the old item. This was usually after a minute examination that could end with the worn out article being thrown back with the remark, 'There's plenty of life in that yet'. If the item was clothing or other more exotic equipment he would begrudgingly fill out the necessary forms. You then had to travel to the main stores at Lambeth. Here one would appear with the correct forms only to find that there was at least one T not crossed or an i not dotted. This extreme omission was quite enough for a peremptory shake of the head and with a wry smile the forms would be handed back. No issue on THAT day.

After another long journey back, this time after a checking procedure of the documentation with the fine tooth comb, one would present and sit in anticipation awaiting the item of equipment required only to be told that it was 'On Back Order', whatever that meant. This news would again be delivered with the wry smile that told you that once again the staff had thwarted you. Most articles took at least three visits to the stores, one of which included the staff going on

Tea or Lunch break just as you arrived so that one had a two hour wait. The only officer I ever knew that ever got exemplary service was one Zbigniew Voychek Slawinsky or

Slav from Wandsworth, the Mets only Polish mounted policeman. At that time there was a notorious stores lady, I will call Sybil, who was renowned for her vinegary customer service and reluctance to issue anything. Whatever you wanted, she did not have it in your size, type, colour, material or whatever. If she did have it in stock she would virtually throw it at you in her obvious disappointment at having to issue something that fitted. This then was the lady that we were always at variance with until one day I visited with Slav. On our arrival we walked straight into the fitting room past the three grumpy TraffPoll officers who had been sitting there for two hours. Slav then greeted Sybil with a smile and a hug. The conversation went thus:

**SLAV**, 'How are you today, Sybil my dear'. Here Sybil simpered! Yes it was definitely a simper. **SYBIL**, 'Oh hello Slav Lovey' .....LOVEY!!!

**SLAV**: 'You're looking very lovely today if I may say so, have you had your hair done?'. Another simper, **SYBIL**, 'Oh fancy you noticing that'.

**SLAV**, That blouse really suits your colouring you know. Another simper,

**SYBIL**, 'Oh do you think so?'

**SLAV**, 'Is every thing alright at home',

**SYBIL**, 'Oh yes and how nice of you to ask'.

**SLAV**: 'Is Toby OK'. (Toby was I found out, the Cat). Sybil then launched into a litany of Toby's medical problems that went on for ten minutes.

**SLAV**, 'Well we all have our crosses to bear don't we dear'.

**SYBIL** (*Who is by now wiping a tear from her eye, re Toby's incontinent habits*). 'Thank you my dear you are so sympathetic, now what can I do for you'.

Slav then proceeded to tear the arse out of blagging. He came away with not only his new breeches and tunic that Sybil had got specially tailored for him but several items of kit that were not on the documentation and a promise that he would be first in line for one of the new (*then unobtainable*) riding hats on issue. As an open mouthed hanger on I also got a half smile and more kit than I expected.

I learnt a lot that day, as Slav said 'One gets more with sugar than vinegar'. More like Saccharin I would have thought.

Anyway I digress, on my quest to Lambeth for any outdated equipment I was disappointed to find that the Bow

Street Museum had won everything worth having some years previously. I got this information from George Tibbs, the saddler. (*Later to be awarded the BEM for his 48 years*

*service to the Metropolitan Police and having to put up with grumpy Mounted men*). He then told me a story that illustrated the lengths the job will go to in order to avoid embarrassment. Back in 1938 George was a spotty faced apprentice saddler in the old Receivers stores at Brixton.

At that time the incumbent King was George V. As with all our monarchs his cipher was carried on all identifying badges and crest used within the Metropolitan Police. This particular cipher was to come to some prominence within the service when an irate Garter King of Arms wrote to the Times and the Commissioner, at that time, Sir Phillip Game to complain that the Metropolitan Police were not entitled to wear the monarchs badge with the Garter around as they were had never been awarded this honour. A corporate

gulp and no argument was put up. The edict came down, "**THIS MATTER MUST BE DEALT WITH.....but with some discretion; the public must not be made aware of this humiliation!**"

Young George then found himself on overtime to assist with the re-badging of the whole Force. This included all helmet plates, cap badges, crests and signs as well as all transport logos and apparently took something over a fortnight to accomplish. This left the store with several thousand obsolete badges. My ears pricked up, old badges could be used to trade with other anorak collectors. I had to ask the question, 'What did you do with them'. George smiled and said, 'You wouldn't believe me if I told you'. 'Try me', I said. 'Well', he said, 'Soon after all this happened, one Tuesday night at about 10 o'clock they sent a Copper round to get me. My mum got me out of bed and the policeman said it was urgent so I scrambled into my clothes and walked from Lordship Lane, Dulwich where I lived to Brixton Stores. When I got there I

was told to go and load some sacks into the old delivery lorry we had. They were all the badges and assorted crests,

I knew that because I'd put them in the sacks. My Boss told me that I wasn't to tell anyone what we were doing as



it was all covered by the Official Secrets Act and if I told anyone I would be put in prison. Well the next thing was we pulled up on Blackfriars Bridge. It must have been about three o'clock in the morning by now, we unloaded the sacks and dumped them over the side. I suppose it must have been high tide but it was too dark to see.' He smiled to see my face, 'I said you wouldn't believe me didn't I'.

What a novel way to dispose of ex police equipment!

## The Unsung Heroes,

*(Or don't believe everything you read in the papers!)*

Michael Matsell

On the 5th of June at about 2.00am in the early morning, Sergeant Len Taylor of the Lincolnshire Police, was on night duty at Louth police Station. The telephone rang and Sergeant Taylor answered. "It's the duty officer at Manby Park RAF Station", said the caller, "There is an unidentified aircraft down in your area". He then gave the Police Sergeant a map reference. Sergeant Taylor consulted his map on the office wall and ascertained that the aircraft was in the South Reston locality which is along the present day A157 Road. The village of South Reston is about 5 miles from Manby.

Sergeant Taylor knew the local Bobby for that area was PC Jack Draper so he contacted the officer by telephone, at his Police House. PC Draper told his Sergeant that he had not heard a plane crash but he would go and investigate. The PC had a Harley Davison motor cycle which was supplied under the Lease Lend by the Americans. Sergeant Taylor told Constable Draper he would be in the area as soon as possible to investigate the Manby Officers report and would meet up with Constable Draper

Fortunately War Reserve Police constable Maugham came into Louth Police Station at that very moment with the official police car. The two Police Officers set off in the car heading in the direction of South Reston. After a short drive they came across P.C. Drapers motor cycle parked near a gate leading into a field. Sergeant Taylor alighted from the vehicle and told War Reserve Maugham to drive around and see what he could see.

It was a lovely moonlit morning with a slight chill as the early dew settled on the ground. The Sergeant set off walking across the field, a silvery glow shining off the hedges and the crop of cabbages. As the Sergeant neared the other side of the field he saw P. C. Draper and another person standing by the side of an aircraft. The other person turned out to be a German Pilot that it transpired had landed an Heinkel 111 in the cabbage field.

By good luck Sergeant Taylor had been studying the German language so was quite able to converse with the German Officer. Sergeant Taylor had a form with him, which was used to report on crashed a aircraft, so he recorded details of the plane, the bomb load that it carried and any other crew members. By meticulous questioning the Sergeant found that the pilot, was a member of Geschwader 8/KG4 his name being Ober Leutnant H. Pass and the aircraft code was 5JXFS. The German was dressed in a black leather coat and he told the sergeant that he was the pilot. He also reported that the other crew member's "*Alles Fallschirm ober de Wash*" (all parachuted over the Wash). The German Officer continued in his native language telling the Police Sergeant that the plane was the latest type Heinkel and was laden with a new type of bomb but the bombs were not dangerous. The Sergeant asked

the German if He was armed, and with that the pilot pulled out a Luger Pistol which he handed to PC Draper who in turn handed the weapon to his Sergeant. He placed the gun in his night belt. It was at this moment that Sergeant Taylor began to smell in the air a very strong scent or aviation fuel and also noticed the German was very uneasy and was feeling in his pockets. As the Sergeant had been trained in bomb disposal he realized that the aircraft had a demolition charge which the crew should have operated to destroy the plane. It was obvious this had not worked especially with the smell of fuel in the morning air. The German Officer asked for a match and Sergeant Taylor refused the request. The Police Officer decided to move away from the plane and they moved off in single file.

During the same morning on the 5th June 1941, two youths, D. Woods and C. Goulsbra, members of the Home Guard were fire watching at Authorpe in a chicken hut and equipped with a stirrup pump, one bucket and a coke stove. The two youths saw the Heinkel in the moonlight, pass over their abode and they noticed that the engines had stopped. The plane glided out of sight. The two Home Guard members left their post, donning steel helmets and grabbed their rifles setting off in pursuit. Near the Vicarage at South Reston they met the Vicar also on Fire watching duty and he informed the two youths that the plane had just cleared the rooftops but nn had not heard the plane crash. The two youths carried on their way to look for the plane. Returning to the Police Sergeant, the German, and PC Draper made their way across the field away from the Heinkel. Suddenly a shot rang out from a 303 rifle. Sergeant Taylor pulled the German down onto the ground as the





**“Mere Military Colour”:**  
*The State Police and Martial Law*

by Merle T. Cole

When Governor Ephraim F. Morgan placed Mingo County under martial law in 1921, responsibility for enforcing the proclamation rested primarily on troopers of the West Virginia State Police (WVSP). In a landmark decision, the state supreme court invalidated police enforcement of the proclamation, creating turmoil at the very moment in the state's history when prospects for savage industrial warfare were most threatening.

Three separate gubernatorial martial law proclamations were issued during 1912-1913 before relative calm was restored. Conditions remained sufficiently unsettled to require occupation of some areas by state militia companies until June 1914.

Under the proclamations, the adjutant general was granted wide ranging powers, including authority to try civilians for a variety of crimes as well as for offenses against the proclamations themselves. Hundreds were arrested, tried, and imprisoned, frequently receiving sentences more severe than could have been levied by civil courts under existing statutes.(1) Three cases came before the state supreme court directly challenging the validity of martial law, the actions of military authorities in enforcing the proclamations, and related gubernatorial orders. In deciding each case, the justices relied on the “doctrine of conclusiveness,” which held that the governor alone could determine the necessity for martial law. Further, his determination was not reviewable by the courts, regardless of constitutional questions raised by appellants. So adamant were the justices in refusing to entertain questions of gubernatorial authority that a noted martial law au-

thority labeled their position “the West Virginia doctrine.”(3) Trouble had been brewing in the smokeless coal fields of southern West Virginia since before World War I. When the constraints of wartime labor-management cooperation evaporated, operator associations joined battle with the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) in a final struggle to decide the question of organizing the state's richest coal producing region. Governor John J. Cornwell realized he had no reliable means of maintaining law and order during the impending struggle. The organized state militia (national guard) had ceased to exist in August 1917 when it was drafted into federal service. Due to uncertainties over pending revisions of federal national guard statutes most states, including West Virginia, did not reconstitute their militia units immediately after the war.(4)

The obvious potential for unprecedented industrial violence combined with lack of state military forces, provided a potent rationale to support Cornwell's desire to create a state constabulary. After heated debate, in which organized labor provided the most strident opposition, the legislature passed a state police bill on 29 March 1919, which Cornwell signed into law on the 31st. The law would not take effect, however, until ninety days after passage. For reasons of “political correctness” the new agency's official name was “Department of Public Safety.” Cornwell appointed Jackson Arnold superintendent of the new constabulary, with rank of colonel, on 29 June 1919. Arnold faced serious difficulties in recruiting an adequate number of qualified men to make his command operational. Not until late November, in fact, were enough men assembled to permit activation of the constabulary's two

field companies.(6) In the interim, additional proof of the need for effective law enforcement was provided by the “Miner's March”



*Colonel Jackson Arnold*

of September 1919. Rumors of brutal repression of UMWA organizers and miners by Logan County deputies prompted a gathering of sympathetic miners at Lens Creek, near Marmet in Kanawha County. Disregarding Cornwell's personal plea, some 2,000 miners set out to break into Logan County, a bastion of anti-unionism. Since he had no militia and the constabulary was not yet sufficiently staffed, the governor threatened to call in federal troops to disperse the marchers. This persuaded the state's UMWA leaders to exert their influence, and the march was disbanded shortly after it had reached a point on the Logan-Boone county line.

The UMWA national leadership was frustrated over failure to achieve wage and hour demands. They called a nationwide strike, which was promptly enjoined by a federal judge. Federal troops were dispatched to Charleston, Beckley, and Clothier in November-December 1919 to enforce the injunction.(8) But continued non-unionization of the smokeless fields threatened the



UMWA's very existence, and organizing efforts were not diminished by the prospect of federal intervention.

In 1920 the focus of the unionization dispute shifted to Mingo County. Prounion miners clamored for organization, causing their eviction from company-owned housing. The reaction was predictable. After completing a series of evictions, a group of Baldwin-Felts Detective Agency men were ambushed while waiting for a train at Matewan. Ten men were killed in the famous "Matewan Massacre" of 19 May 1920.<sup>(10)</sup> The UMWA called a strike for recognition in the Mingo field on 1 July, touching off scattered violence over the next several months. At Cornwell's request, federal infantrymen were dispatched to mines throughout Mingo County from late August until early November. Under threat of a statewide strike, the governor acceded to UMWA demands to withdraw the troops.

Violence promptly erupted again, claiming the lives of state trooper Ernest L. Ripley (killed 18 November near Vulcan) and three strikers among its victims. Declaring that "the time for temporizing is past" Governor Cornwell again requested federal troops, to be accompanied this time by a martial law proclamation. Displeased with the president's resistance to the latter action, Cornwell issued his own proclamation, placing Mingo County under martial law effective 27 November 1920. A federal infantry contingent arrived in Williamson, the county seat, the following day. Its commanding officer in turn issued a proclamation of "limited martial law" prohibiting parades, demonstrations, public assembly, and unauthorized possession of firearms and explosives. While the soldiers maintained order, state constabulary strength was grow-

ing. The last federal unit withdrew on 17 January 1921, and martial law was terminated the same day.<sup>(12)</sup>

Responsibility for maintaining law and order in Mingo County was shared by the sheriff and state police Captain James R. Brockus, who had brought 45 troopers with him when he replaced Thomas W. Norton as Company B commander. An uneasy calm prevailed throughout the early months of the new year, but latent violence surfaced dramatically in the "Three Days Battle." Beginning on 12 May 1921 strikers on both shores of the Tug River commenced sniping at houses, trains, automobiles, and persons in the open. Cooperative patrolling by authorities in Mingo and Pike County, Kentucky, was largely ineffective in capturing the gunmen. Ephraim F. Morgan, who had succeeded Cornwell as governor on 4 March, ordered Colonel Arnold to deploy the entire constabulary force to Mingo County. He then joined the Kentucky governor in submitting a joint plea for imposition of federal martial law. President Harding actually signed proclamations for both states, but withheld issuance until additional information on the situation was available. Conditions in Kentucky improved as state forces concentrated in Pike County. Truces were arranged on both sides of the border.<sup>(13)</sup> In West Virginia, despite a similar decline in shootings, tensions remained high. There were reports of weapons being smuggled into Mingo County from state UMWA headquarters in Charleston. This was particularly ominous in view of the approaching anniversary of the "Matewan Massacre"—a day when widespread striker violence was expected. On 16 May, Morgan prevailed upon Kentucky's governor for another joint plea for federal intervention. But he was

informed the next day that "on the representations thus far made, the President is not convinced that West Virginia has exhausted all its own resources...." Troops would be held in readiness but would not be dispatched unless widespread violence recurred.

Faced with the president's refusal to intervene and under tremendous pressure from coal operators, county officials passed responsibility on to the state police. On 18 May, Sheriff A. C. Pinson issued a warrant commanding Captain Brockus to assume responsibility for law enforcement in Mingo County, citing the imminent threat of riot and circumstances beyond the control of county agencies. The warrant was delivered to Colonel Arnold, who immediately directed Brockus to comply.

Pinson's warrant invoked a section of the WVSP creative act which specifically vested all constabulary members with posse comitatus authority:

*When called by the sheriff of any county or when the governor by proclamation directs, [members] shall have full power and authority... to direct and command absolutely the assistance of any sheriff, deputy sheriff, constable, chief of police, policeman, town marshal, game and fish warden, deputy prohibition officer and any and every peace officer of the State... or of any able-bodied citizen of the United States to assist and aid in accomplishing the purposes of this act. [Any persons so commanded become] for all purposes, members of the department of public safety and subject to all provisions of this act.<sup>(16)</sup>*

In view of his new responsibility, Captain Brockus keenly felt the need to strengthen his existing force of state troopers, deputies, and other peace officers. Seeing no alternative, he



called a meeting, to solicit men for a civilian volunteer reserve. A New York Times correspondent described the atmosphere of the meeting.

*"In this city and other points in the danger zone, groups of quiet determined men, all armed, are gathering tonight and entering their names on the roll of Mingo County's first Vigilance Committee. All are pledged to remain within easy call from tonight until tomorrow's sun has set and to lay aside all ordinary pursuits to maintain law and order. Judging from the character of the men who met at the Mingo County court house here, the new law and order organization will be composed of the most substantial citizens of the county—businessmen, lawyers, physicians, and some officials connected with the business and engineering parts of the mining industry. At the meeting here tonight, 250 Vigilantes were sworn in from this city alone. All the clergymen of the city attended to declare their willingness to carry arms for the protection of the homes of Mingo County's peaceful and law abiding folk, who at last appear to have had more than enough of guerrilla warfare."*

While the meeting was in progress announcement was made that Gov. Morgan... had issued an order at Charleston directing the State Police and the 500 citizen deputies who were sworn in tonight in different localities throughout Mingo County to proceed under the [martial law] proclamation of last November [1920] when military control was in force and wholesale seizure of arms was undertaken by the sheriff and the State Constabulary, in that instance backed by federal troops. This, with any defensive measure that has been undertaken so far, is expected to prove effective in restoring order and public security.(17) The commander of

Kentucky militia in Pike County gave assurance of full cooperation, following which the assembled vigilantes sang "My County Tis of Thee." As the meeting was breaking up, Captain Brockus arrived, having just returned from

#### Captain Brockus



an inspection of Matewan. He addressed the assembly. He then challenged, "*I would like to have everyone who is willing to shoulder a rifle tomorrow and go out and do his bit arise.*" Everyone in the court room sprang to his feet and raised his right hand. 'It seems to be unanimous,' said Captain Brockus." Committees were then formed to "fix up the details" of organizing the reserve force. Eventually nearly 800 men from Williamson and mines scattered throughout Mingo County were enrolled, the latter supervised by two state troopers detailed to each mine. Not being familiar with county residents, Brockus established a seven-man screening committee "*to pass on the names submitted and to cross off those they were not absolutely sure of, that is, that they could be relied upon to be issued a rifle and ammunition and go out in the interest of law and order.*" The selection process has been criti-

cized because it was controlled by the Williamson business community, which had suffered loss of trade from the UMWA strike. Both the committee and the force it selected conspicuously lacked union, farmer, working class, and non-white membership. As if to mock the frenzied preparations to meet it, or perhaps in view of the obvious willingness for headlong confrontation, "Matewan Day" passed virtually without violence. Certainly there was no widespread outbreak of shooting or dynamiting as had been feared. One ominous portent occurred when a mine superintendent's car was fired upon and forced off the road. The incident "fan[ned] into a white heat the determination of the newly formed Vigilance Committee to maintain law and order at any cost..." Several vigilantes urged Brockus to "clean out the Lick Creek tent colony," the largest concentration of evicted strikers in the county. "But for the firm stand he took against any hasty action, there is little doubt that the spirit of anger and resentment would have been translated into vigorous action with consequences that might have made the day one long to remember."

#### Capt. Brockus on horseback



Governor Morgan seized on the anniversary of "Matewan Day" to issue his own martial law proclamation on 19 May 1921, declaring "a state of war, riot, and insurrection" to exist in Mingo County. The governor desig-



nated Major Thomas B. Davis, acting adjutant general of West Virginia, as his agent in Mingo County. Davis had served as provost marshal of military tribunals during the 1912-1913 martial law periods. Morgan granted him full authority to enforce the proclamation, although offenses cognizable by civil courts (which were kept open) were excluded from his jurisdiction. All state and county officers were ordered to assist Major Davis, who was also commissioned "commanding officer of the militia... of said Mingo County." Davis thus commanded Brockus' troopers, Pinson's deputies, and the reserve vigilance committee, who were officially designated "volunteer state policemen." Davis arrived in Williamson on 20 May and immediately began organizing his forces to implement the governor's decree. He met with Arnold, Brockus, and Pinson, and coordinated operations with the Kentucky militia. The "new order" imposed by Davis resulted in a significant upsurge of activity in Williamson. Businessmen were pleased as sales spurted along city streets patrolled by armed vigilantes, identifiable by blue and white brassards. Davis met with state UMWA officials to establish ground rules for union activity in Mingo County. He authorized continued distribution of relief to strikers (under constabulary supervision) but forbade meetings. Captain Brockus commanded virtually the entire state constabulary field force. Governor Morgan had ordered about 90 per cent of the WVSP's 113 men to Mingo County, practically denuding the rest of the state. Colonel Arnold reported to Morgan in June 1922, "Owing to the existence of martial law under the Governor's Proclamation, there were 91 men in Mingo County for the major part of the fiscal year, kept there to maintain law and

*order. These men were not under the control of the State Police Department and could not be transferred to any other county as men in the other companies were transferred, because of the military law."*

The new martial law regime was only five days old when Captain Brockus committed the fateful act which would spell its demise. On the afternoon of 23 May he led a detail of troopers to arrest A. D. Lavinder, a UMWA organizer sent in from Virginia. The officers found Lavinder in an ice cream parlor and charged him with carrying a pistol in violation of the proclamation. When he protested that he had a statewide permit to carry the weapon he was informed that martial law automatically invalidated such permits. When asked by the troopers to accompany them to Major Davis' office, Lavinder unwisely retorted, "If the adjutant general wants to see me, he can come to [union headquarters]." At this point the troopers grabbed Lavinder, took his pistol, and hustled him off to the county jail, where he arrived allegedly showing signs of having been "somewhat roughly handled." He was held "practically incommunicado" although Davis did permit a UMWA attorney to visit the prisoner. Due to crowded conditions in the county jail, Lavinder was later transferred to the McDowell County lockup.

On 25 May the constabulary suffered its second fatality attributable to strike violence in Mingo County, and the first since martial law. A state police detachment was sent to investigate shooting near the Big Splint Colliery situated between Borderland and Nolan. The troopers linked up with a Kentucky militia patrol just before encountering a large group of drunken, boisterous men. The authorities had begun a

search when two suspects opened fire, killing Private Charles M. Kackley and a militiaman. One member of the group was wounded in the ensuing gun battle, one escaped to Kentucky, and two others were arrested for possession of firearms. Captain Brockus dispatched a posse into Pike County after the escapee, who was captured and returned to West Virginia without the nicety of extradition proceedings.(26)

The Big Splint incident generated a new wave of hostility toward the tent colony residents, as one journalist observed:

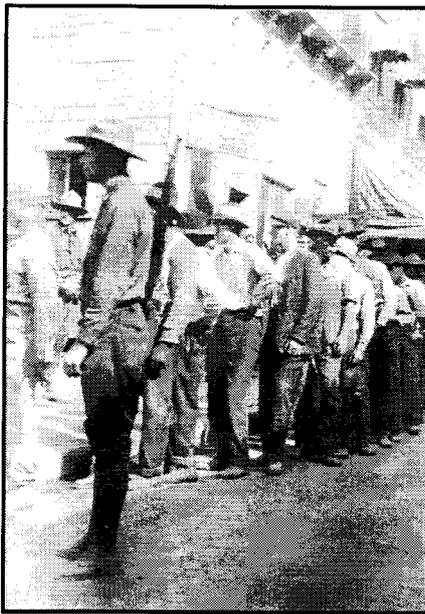
*The question of what to do with these colonies, now regarded as perhaps the chief obstacles in the maintenance of peace in the Mingo coal fields, is one of the most difficult confronting the authorities. The colonies are presently free from close surveillance that many persons think they should be subjected to. The Lick Creek and Nolan colonies are on the shore of the Tug, making escape into Kentucky for tent dwellers a comparatively easy step.(27)*

Major Davis allegedly wanted a "tightening of reigns by military authorities" because martial law measures to date had been "too gentle" in his opinion. There was talk of forcibly evacuating the colonies, commandeering the tents, and establishing de facto concentration camps administered by the military, to keep potential "troublemakers" under close scrutiny. The proposed camps would be situated in the interior, at a distance from the strike zone and the state border. (28) Conditions remained generally calm in Mingo County for the rest of May. On the 30th, Captain Brockus led Company B in a Decoration (Memorial) Day parade through Williamson. Members of the vigilance committee and American Legionnaires also



participated. The Lick Creek question came to a head in June due to colonists' practice of sniping at automobiles travelling on the public road which bisected the colony. Following another such incident on 5 June, Major Davis sternly warned, "If there is any more shooting... you can just line up in the road, because we are going out and bring everybody in." Ignoring this, tent dwellers fired on another automobile on Monday, 13 June. The next morning Davis, Brockus, and Pinson, accompanied by three state troopers, drove out to Lick Creek to arrest the offenders. As they alighted from their automobile they were taken under fire from a hillside. Major Davis ordered a state police sergeant to "sprinkle" the hillside with his submachine gun, then the party returned to Williamson. The more combative vigilantes were finally to get their wish. Approximately 70 of their number were

#### Arrested strikers



summoned to the court house, loaded aboard a caravan of vehicles, and driven up Sycamore Creek, which flows parallel to Lick Creek. Brockus had already alerted other

state police detachments to seal off the northern and eastern exits from the colony. He planned to use the vigilantes in a sweep to channel strikers back into the camp to facilitate arrests.

#### Private James Bowles



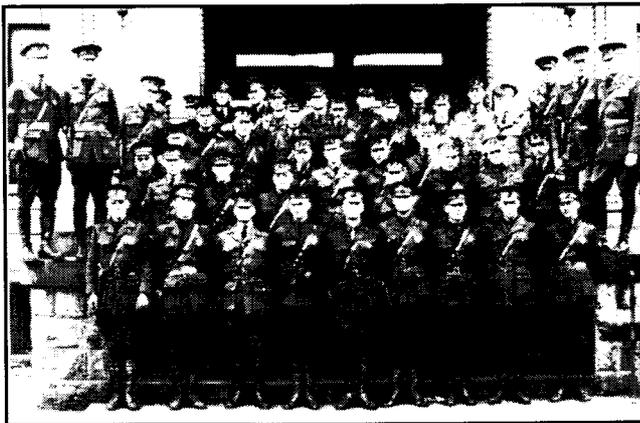
As Brockus led the main group across a ridge, it was fired on near a fence line.

Private James A. Bowles killed a striker and was almost immediately wounded himself by vigilante Victor Blackburn's poorly aimed shot, which permanently paralyzed Bowles' right arm. One other striker was wounded as the sweep progressed. The authorities assembled male colonists under guard in the public road then began searching tents to locate any skulkers. What happened next was the subject of conflicting testimony. Brockus asserted that his men obeyed orders by entering only open tents and respecting colonists' property. The strikers, however, charged that police broke locks, slashed tents, stole property, rifled supplies, used abusive language, threatened and assaulted women and children, and tore down the colony's American flag and stomped it in the dirt. Such disparate testimony is cer-

tainly understandable considering the vigilante's hatred of the strikers and the striker's hostility toward the police, whom they dubbed "Mr. Morgan's West Virginia Cossacks." Whatever the truth, 47 strikers were arrested, marched down the railroad tracks, and locked in the Williamson jail around 3:30 p.m. (31) Tuesday, 14 June 1921, proved to be a "red letter day" in another respect. Major Davis and the civil authorities were placed in a quandary over who should investigate the shooting incidents which prompted the "Lick Creek raid" by a state supreme court decision invalidating the martial law proclamation. A. D. Lavinder (from McDowell County jail), and Mount Woolford and Frank Ingram (held by Sheriff Pinson), all jailed for proclamation infractions, had filed writs of habeas corpus. They averred that the proclamation exceeded the requirements of common and statute law, and probably violated the United States constitution as well. In granting discharge to the petitioners the justices shrank dramatically from their previous policy of upholding gubernatorial prerogatives, and declared the 19 May proclamation fatally defective. The justices held that while Mingo County was officially declared to be in a state of war, no actual military forces were in occupation. The only military man present was, in fact, Major Davis. The governor's attempt to inaugurate martial law through civil agencies "constituted no more than mere military color." Morgan could not "by a mere order convert the civil officers into an army and clothe them with military powers." There being no troops in the field martial law did not exist in Mingo County and the arrests were invalid. Accordingly, the petitioners were ordered released from custody. Weiner



noted that, "While the earlier precedents were not in terms overruled, the tone of the opinions marks a distinct backtrack from the extreme utterances of 1912-1913. The present status of the West Virginia doctrine therefore appears to be doubtful even in West Virginia." Governor Morgan was caught in a perplexing dilemma. The national guard reorganization act could not be implemented before 27 July and in view of the court's ruling the state police expansion scheduled for 14 July would be of no comfort. Taking a hint from the phrasing of the Lavinder decision itself, the governor issued a "supplemental" martial law proclamation on 27 June 1921, invoking the state's antiquated enrolled militia statute. The sheriff was ordered to call up 130 male residents of Mingo County whom Major Davis mustered in as "Company A and Company B, West Virginia Enrolled Militia" for a 60-day term of state service. The proclamation continued Davis in his previous roles as martial law administrator and commander of the (newly raised) militia. Men of the two companies were later used to cadre the first national guard unit reactivated, Company I of the 150th Infantry. The enrolled militiamen assumed responsibility for enforcing martial law, the vigilante reserve was disbanded, and civil officers (including state constabulary) resumed their normal policing functions. All but 50 state troopers were pulled out of Mingo County in late October and deployed to Boone County.



14 Company 'B' 1921

Morgan placed a high priority on reactivating the national guard so that eleven companies were activated within four months. Some observers noted an evident intention to use the guard for strike suppression.

Mingo County remained under martial law until 26 September 1922. Exactly one month later the UMWA conceded defeat and cancelled its strike order.

Enforcing martial law in "Bloody Mingo" had cost the West Virginia State Police four men killed and one permanently disabled. In addition to casualties previously mentioned, Private William L. McMillion had been shot from ambush near Lynn on 28 June 1921 and died six hours later in Williamson. A state police honor roll published in 1924 underscored the fact that all constabulary deaths in 1919-1921 were directly attributable to the violence in Mingo County. By 1926, Colonel Robert E. O'Connor, Arnold's successor as superintendent, reported the extent to which industrial warfare had diminished in West Virginia:

*"More attention is devoted to police work in the rural sections than in the past. The condition of the state, as regards law and order, is the best it has been for several years. Industrial disturbances have subsided and violations are confined to individual and personal in character..."*

#### **The Author**

**Merle T. Cole is head of the USDA Agricultural Research Service's Research Position Evaluation Staff in Beltsville, Maryland. By avocation, he is a military, naval, and police historian by avocation, and has published numerous articles and monographs in state, national, and international refereed history journals. He is a Research Associate (Military History) with the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, Maryland.**

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#### SOURCES

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### NOTES FROM YOUR EDITOR

I am always looking for new material and very much appreciate your contributions to the Journal. If you are considering contributing an article the following will assist me greatly:

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## Charles Mandeville: Guildford's First Policeman

by Peter H Scholes



The exploration of the Mandeville branch of my wife's family tree has been - over several years - a fascinating journey which led back to Henry Mandeville or Mandefeild who died in 1600. Henry was a wheelwright in the village of Dunsfold in Surrey. His descendants remained in the area until the 19th century before migrating to other villages and towns in Surrey, and to London. Along this journey we met Charles Mandeville who was the first policeman in Guildford. Charles Mandeville was the youngest child of John and Rose Mandeville or Manvell. There were six sons and three daughters all baptised at the Church of St Nicholas in Guildford. John and Rose lived in Guildford, in Park Street. John Mandeville was an agricultural labourer - when he could find employment. The family was destitute for much of the time and in receipt of parish relief. The St Nicholas Parish Rate Book shows that John was ill during 1793 and 1794, and received a number of small sums from the parish. One entry records 3s 6d paid out for "a new hat" for one of the children. John died in 1825 and his wife, Rose, in 1842 at the age of 83, a pauper in

the Union Workhouse in Guildford. Charles Mandeville, who was born in 1805, married Catherine Holt at St Nicholas in 1825. There were nine children and twenty-three grandchildren. Catherine died in 1854. Some few years later, Charles married Mary from Shere in Surrey; there was one child of this second marriage. At the age of 14, Charles Mandeville was apprenticed by officers of the Parish of St Nicholas (church warden and overseer of the poor) as a plasterer to William Smith of Guildford. Charles was a pauper apprentice. The Poor Law Act of 1601 allowed the parish to place children of destitute parents with a master who would teach them a trade, and ensure that they could earn a living and not become a drain on parish resources. The indenture of apprenticeship would have stipulated that Charles "should not commit fornication, nor play at cards or dice, tables or any other unlawful games, and should not haunt taverns or play houses". The master would provide working tools and allow the apprentice "sufficient meat and drink". The apprenticeship would have been completed in 1826 with Charles a journeyman plasterer although as Charles married in 1825 it is possible that he was released by his master before that date. As a journeyman he would have been able to seek employment as a skilled workman and eventually set up business himself as a master plasterer.

### The Night Watchman

Charles appears to have given up his trade as a plasterer sometime in the 1820s in favour of employment as a night watchman, Night watchmen, known in earlier times as bellmen, were paid for by property owners to supplement the system of Parochial Constables in towns such as Guildford. The Surrey Police website refers to a watchman, James Barrat in

Godalming, who in 1820 received a salary of £15 2s 6d per year. The sum of £2 15s was paid out for a watchman's hat and 4s 3d for a 'lanthorn', a candle-lit lantern with a horn window. In 1833, the employment of night watchmen in towns was regulated by the passing of the Lighting and Watching Act. Inspectors were appointed and a rate was levied on property owners to pay for the service.

### The Borough Constable

Modern policing dates from Sir Robert Peel's Police Act of 1829 when the Metropolitan Police Force in London was formed although long before that date there were rudimentary police forces; in fact, "the ubiquitous Parish Constable was to be found everywhere". The creation of a Borough Police Force in Guildford in 1835 resulted from the passing of the Municipal Corporations Act. In the Minutes of the Council Watch Committee of 18th January 1836, it "was ordered that Charles Mandeville and James Wilkins be continued watchmen and appointed night constables of this borough at the salary of 18s in summer and 21s in winter". On the following day they were sworn in as constables before the Mayor, John Smallpiece, Gentleman. On 1st February, six pairs of handcuffs were ordered for the night constables. Some Watch Committee proceedings are reported in the publication, Surrey Police - A Pictorial History 1851-2001. At another meeting in January 1836, it was resolved to appoint nine constables for the borough. Three days later the appointments were made and the officers became operational shortly afterwards. Richard Jarlett was appointed superintendent at £15 per year; he was only part-time and was in fact a baker in the High Street. The Minutes also record the



appointment on 14th July of a day policeman, Phillip Clarke, at a salary of 17s 6d. The Watch Committee later decreed "that a newly appointed constable in addition to his salary.... be provided with clothes of the same description as the London police provided the expense thereof does not exceed five guineas". The clothes provided were the so-called Peeler uniform consisting of a top hat representing authority, and an eight-button, blue swallow tailed jacket representing servitude because, according to David Cross writing in the BBC British History website "although the police were considered public servants, they were also the public's masters". A leather stock, 10 cm deep, was worn around the neck as protection against attempts at strangulation with a piece of rope - a favourite trick of footpads. The uniform was completed by a broad belt with a large buckle bearing the Borough insignia, and a pair of heavy Wellington boots. The hat was 15 cm tall with a 5 cm wide brim and reinforced. The upper part was of leather overlapping a beaver skin body; it was reinforced inside with cane. Supposedly a symbol of authority, it has been suggested that the top hat was used for peering over stone walls in 'covert surveillance' operations. Whilst the uniform would have been very suitable for cold nights in winter, one can only imagine the level of discomfort in summer. Constables in some forces were allowed to purchase light-weight trousers for summer wear. The constable's 'appointments' were a truncheon, handcuffs, rattle to raise 'a hue and cry', and at night an oil lamp suspended from his belt. The truncheon was hidden in a long pocket in the coat tails. In some areas of town the constable would have carried a cutlass. Borough policeman were on duty

seven days a week without a break throughout the year. After one year's service they received ten days annual leave. According to David Cross "the Victorian policeman was very lucky to receive sick pay. However, if he had a hangover or injury caused by drinking, he might well receive nothing at the discretion of his Superintendent". Many Boroughs produced a Rule Book for constables and in one of these Mandeville as "No. 1 Peeler", and focussed on the long service of Thomas and his family. See page ?. As mentioned earlier, it is unclear how the portrait of Charles came to be painted but it is possible that it was produced in the 1920s from an original drawing for Allen Solly's advertising campaign.

#### The Toll-Gate Keeper

Following his police service, Charles returned to his trade as plasterer for some years and was then appointed collector of tolls on the Portsmouth road in Godalming on what used to be known as Anchor Hill. Toll gates came into being when turnpike legislation was enacted in the late 18th century as a supposed remedy for the deplorable state of English roads. The tolls were to be used to maintain the roads, but, although there was a general improvement in the condition of roads by the end of the 18th century, many of the Turnpike Trusts were more intent upon profit than upkeep. The toll-gate keeper was provided with a small house by the gate. The pay at the principal gates was usually no more than 5 shillings for a 24-hour day. The keeper's job came with the constant inconvenience of being awakened in the middle of the night and the danger of robbery and assault. Whilst Charles was collector of tolls, it was revealed in The Surrey Advertiser of 14th October 1865 that he appeared to have been struck

off the Electoral Register. It was reported under the heading The Borough Revision that "under the Parish of St Nicholas .... Charles Mandeville [and others] objected to by the Liberals, were struck off the list." No reason was given in the newspaper item. Charles Mandeville died at the toll house in Godalming of 'apoplexy' on 6th August 1868 aged 63, and is buried in the Nightingale Cemetery. After his death Mary, his second wife, continued to collect tolls until sometime after 1871. She died in 1896 aged 73.

#### Acknowledgements

The author is grateful for the assistance and encouragement of the late Ron Mandeville of Canterbury in researching the genealogy of the Mandeville families of Surrey. Also to Rita Stevens of Chiddingfold for additional research and for material relating to Charles Mandeville. Thanks are due to Gerry Middleton-Stewart, Curator of the Surrey Police Museum and author of Surrey Police - A Pictorial History. The author is particularly indebted to Wendy Ward of Weighbridge for research at the Surrey History Centre, and for encouragement and helpful comments on the manuscript.

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## THE DEATH OF A CHIEF

ACC James Smith KPM

By Graham Borril

James Smith had just gone to bed after being at work all day supervising the civil defence effort in a North East Coast Town, a veiled name given to Hull during the war to avoid giving clues to the Germans on how successful, or not their raids had been. As Assistant Chief Constable of Hull City Police he was responsible for the whole area of police operations, as well as organising the civil rescue operations and getting the city back on its feet following air raids. It was now the early hours of Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 1941. There had been particularly heavy raids the previous month. The 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> May saw two raids over the city during which more than 300 high explosive bombs and parachute mines were dropped. 40 bombs failed to explode but remained a problem for some time after the raid. Thousands of incendiaries fell over a wide area. 2,600 wardens, 130 rescue parties and 600 Casualty Service staff helped with the rescue of over 700 individuals. The Fire Service dealt with over 800 fires. The city centre; Jameson Street, King Edward Street and Prospect Street was an inferno with almost all of the large department stores, hotels, restaurants and numerous smaller shops being totally destroyed. The Guildhall & City Hall both suffered damage. Industrial areas in all parts of the city received damage, wholesale and retail markets were destroyed along with warehouses and offices. The Riverside Quay was gutted along its whole length and blazing timber stacks sent sparks high into the air only to serve as incendiaries to fall on and ignite even more buildings. Ranks Flour Mill was rendered inoperative, 3,000 homes were destroyed or seriously damaged, 9,000 had doors and/or windows torn out of their frames and another 50,000 suffered minor blast or shrapnel damage. The telephone department had to deal with 14,000 faults - hindered by their administrative offices being destroyed. A main cable of some 2,000 pairs of wires was destroyed. A direct hit on the Corporation bus depot destroyed numerous vehicles leaving nothing more than a shell of twisted metal. The supply of coal-gas failed with 200 mains having been hit and the electricity department had to deal with over 6,000 faults. The electricity supply was maintained apart from the immediate areas of bomb impact. At his home in Summergangs Road, the ACC was woken by a call to say that raiders were once again approaching the City. It was common for the German bombers to use the topography and reflection from the river Humber to guide them to the docks. Meanwhile Constable Bernard Craven was on the way to collect his boss. The ACC's home was not far from the city centre so he needed to get ready quickly. It was 01.30am and the air raid siren had already sounded so he had no time to hang around. Pc Craven soon arrived and Mr Smith climbed in the back with his gas mask and black tin helmet with two distinctive white bands denoting a senior officer. Craven and the ACC must have exchanged a resigned greeting knowing that a difficult night was ahead for them both. The Constable had driven to the house along Holderness Road, the arterial eastern road from the city. After his pick-up he returned via the leafy Garden Village of James Reckitt Avenue which meant he didn't have to turn the car around; time was of the essence. The black

Wolseley sped through the streets as there would have been few people about and the lights were blacked out. Little else would have been on the road at that time and Craven would have made good speed. As he approached the railway bridge at Dansom Lane near to Barnsley Street the car shook with the impact of bombs all around. In quick succession eight high explosive bombs had exploded in the area throwing glass, splinters and masonry in all directions. Barnsley Street was hit damaging sewers and a gas main, a dozen shops and up to seventy houses were damaged along with the Punch Bowl Public House. The police car lurched suddenly as one of the bombs had exploded close to the rear of the car showering the interior with glass and shrapnel. The ACC was hit by a splinter and was bleeding profusely around the neck. Craven was also injured about the head but continued his journey in the hope that prompt attention may save the life of his passenger. The Infirmary was not too far away and it was the 23 year old driver's quick thinking that gave them the best chance of survival. It was 1.45am and only fifteen minutes after the air raid siren had sounded, and twenty minutes later the 'all clear' was given. Seriously wounded and stemming the flow of blood James Smith must have fleetingly thought how unfortunate these circumstances were. *Originally from Loughborough James Smith joined Hull City Police in 1907. Previously he had been in the Royal Scots Fusiliers and as a reservist was recalled to the Army just before the outbreak of The Great War in 1914. He immediately went to France with the British Expeditionary Force. In September, he left the trenches to tend to an injured soldier who was lying in No Man's Land and was taken prisoner by the Germans. On demobilisation in 1918, he returned to the detective branch of the Hull City Police, being promoted to sergeant in 1923, detective Inspector in 1925 and detective Superintendent in 1932. He became Chief Superintendent in 1935 and ACC in 1940. He could have been enjoying retirement in June 1939 but, with another war looming and Civil defence preparations being pressed ahead, his sense of responsibility to the public made him decide to stay on, gaining the King's Police Medal in 1940 for outstanding service. With his passenger seriously wounded and himself suffering a head injury Craven drove quickly to the infirmary. When they arrived ACC Smith was barely conscious due to the loss of blood. He died soon after arrival. Craven was treated for his wounds and shock and was later praised for his plucky efforts. Five citizens were injured in the raid but the only death that night was Assist Chief Constable James Smith K.P.M. The news was broken to the ACC's wife and her daughter who were both still at home at 5.30am. The Chief had information that the bombs fell not in the main raid, but from that of a lone bomber returning from a raid further west. Lone aircraft from other raids would often return over the city to head back and as mentioned, the River Humber provided an easy navigation aid. It is entirely possible the straggler offloaded his bombs over the city to at least make some contribution. The City had lost a faithful public servant. The Hull daily Mail reported him as 'A most genial man, he knew how to maintain a high standard of efficiency, inspire discipline without lessening of self respect and yet observe the normal codes of hospitality in social life without bringing in his official status. In short, on duty he was a first class police official. Off duty he shed all sense of authority, and became a man among men'. Mr*



Smith was survived by his widow, three sons, all in the Forces and a daughter. Tributes were paid at St James' Church, Sutton which was attended by civic dignitaries, corporation officials and police chiefs from The East Riding, Durham, North Yorkshire, Leeds, and Bradford. The Police Inspectorate was also represented as were Mr Smith's many friends and colleagues. ACC Smith is commemorated on the bronze plaque at Police HQ, Priory Road which was previously at Queens Gardens Police Station. The plaque was dedicated in February 1951 to those from The City Police who gave their lives in both World Wars. He is buried in Hedon Road Cemetery.

#### *The Author*

*Graham Borrill is a Humberside Police Sergeant stationed at Preston Road Police Station in Hull. He has researched this story after interviewing James Smith's son, Frank who is now 86.*

Cheshire's Hero  
The 'Gallant' Gentleman'  
**LT. COLONEL. PULTENEY**  
**MALCOLM. C.B.E. D.S.O. M.V.O. A.M. K.P.M.**  
**CHIEF CONSTABLE CHESHIRE CONSTABULARY**  
**1910~1934.**

This synopsis cannot pay tribute enough to the life a most 'Gallant Gentleman'. Pulteney Malcolm was born on the 16th August 1861, in Sholapur, East India, son of the late General Sir George MALCOLM G.C.B., Bombay Army. He was educated at Summerfields, near Oxford; Burney's at Gosport; Wellington College and Sandhurst. He entered the British Army on the 11th August 1880, and joined the 2nd Battalion Royal Fusiliers. He was promoted Lieutenant at Kandahar, Afghanistan on the 1st July 1881. In 1886 he was transferred to the Indian Army, and was posted to the 2nd Battalion 4th Goorkhas (Ghurkha) then being raised. He received in the ALBERT MEDAL for Gallantry in 1887, the citation reading, "The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the "Albert Medal of the Second Class" upon Lieutenant Pulteney Malcolm, 4th Goorkha Regiment, in recognition of the conspicuous gallantry displayed by him on the 10th June 1887, in attempting to save the life of a comrade who had fallen over a precipice near Dalhousie, East India". The actual statement made by the Commanding Officer of Lieutenant Malcolm shows, "On the 10th June 1887, the late Lieutenant Trevor of the Yorkshire Regiment, was returning to Dalhousie (in the Himalayas) from Kajiar. He was riding along a narrow road and at the most precipitous part of it, his horse, which was a fresh one, and which had been sidling along got it's hind legs over the side, and fell carrying it's rider along with it down the precipice. The Officer who was with Lt. Trevor at the time of the accident went back for assistance, and on the road met Lt. Malcolm and the latter hearing of the occurrence, at once ran to the spot and at the immediate risk of his life, commenced the descent. Lt. Malcolm managed after tremendous exertions, by dropping from

ledge to ledge (causing him much exhaustion and considerable laceration of the feet) to get down to Lt. Trevor, who was lying 300 to 400 feet below, and had the sad satisfaction of supporting him until he died and rendering him such assistance as was possible under the circumstance. Some other officers tried to go down to Lt. Malcolm's aid, but as appears from the evidence taken at the inquest they could not do so, it being described as a perpendicular precipice of an apparently inaccessible nature. There seems no doubt that Lt. Malcolm ran a great risk in climbing down; as had he made a single false step he must have been dashed to pieces". He served in the Chin Lushai Expeditionary Force, from 1889-1890 for which he received Medal with clasp. He was promoted Captain on the 11th August 1891 and served with the Chitral Relief Force, 1895 being present at the storming Malakand Pass (Medal and clasp) ; in the North West Frontier operations, 1897-1898, as Provost-Marshal to the Relief Force, and subsequently as D.A.A.G., 1st Brigade, for which he was Mentioned in Despatches and awarded a further clasp (London Gazette 11 February 1898). He was promoted Major on the 11 August 1900; served as Chief Officer, Malakand Field Force, 1900~1901. He served in Waziristan, 1901~1902 as Officiating A.A.G., Derajat District, and Chief of Staff. He was twice mentioned in Despatches; and received a further clasp to the Medal. During this campaign his horse was shot from under him and he himself received wounds around the left eye. He was created a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order on 2nd September 1902; "In recognition of services during Mahsud-Waziri operations" He was invested by King Edward VII on the 18th February 1903. Major Malcolm retired from the Indian Army on the 11 August 1904, after a total of 24 years service. He was Head Constable of Kingston-on-Hull from 1904 to 1910. He became Chief Constable of Cheshire on the 30 September 1910. His personal record shows on appointment to Cheshire that his Religion was Protestant, Height 6' 0", Age 48 years, Hair Fair, Complexion Fair. His pay on appointment was £500 plus £100 travelling expenses per annum. This rose annually by approximately £100 per annum until 1919 and on his retirement on the 30 April 1934, aged 72 years, and a total service with Cheshire Constabulary of 30 years 120 days, he was in receipt of £1300 per annum. His pension on retirement amounted to £866.13s.4d per annum. On the 24 April 1913 His Majesty King George V, at the expiration of his visit to Crewe Hall, Cheshire bestowed the M.V.O. on Major Malcolm and at the same time the King expressing his approval of the Police arrangements. On the 25 February 1915 he became temporary Lt. Colonel, as A.A. and Q.M.G. on the Divisional Staff of the New Armies, 22nd London Division. He served with the Division in France until late 1916, and again he was mentioned in Despatches. He was given the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel on



the 29 May 1917. He returned to the Cheshire Constabulary on the 01 January 1917. In 1919 the Police Act was passed. This created the Police Federation. In this he told the Standing Joint Committee that: "there was no difficulty in the men making representations. Arrangements which had stood the test of years resulting in the best feeling between all ranks cannot be improved upon," and, "that he would not hold himself answerable for the efficiency of a force in which the members were permitted to join a union". In 1924, the Standing Joint Committee considered a Home Office report on the employment of policewomen. No action was taken in Cheshire, the Chief Constable commenting, "There is no necessity to appoint women in this County". The question was not seriously considered again until 1946. Chief Constable Malcolm was awarded the Kings Police Medal for Distinguished Service on the 31st December 1925 and CBE on the 3rd June 1932. Lt. Colonel Malcolm, Chief Constable of Cheshire Constabulary died on the 20th April 1940 aged 78 years; his interment took place at Westerkirk, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. Lt. Colonel Malcolm married in 1888, Emily, eldest daughter of T.R.Bowen. It is perhaps pertinent at this point to say that Gallantry appears to run in the Malcolm family as the only surviving child of the union, Captain Pulteney Malcolm, who commanded the King's Company, Grenadier Guards, was killed in France on the 25th August 1918. A tribute to Captain Pulteney Malcolm stated "The charge in which he lost his life was one of the most gallant glorious episodes of the War". The medals have been kindly loaned to the Museum of Policing in Cheshire by the Malcolm Family. His awards are as follows (1) CBE (2) Distinguished Service Order. (3) Member Victorian Order. (4) Albert Medal (Gallantry). (5) Kings Police Medal. (6) India General Service, 2 Bars. 1854-1895. (7) India Medal, 3 Bars 1895-1902. (8) British War Medal 1914-1920. (9) Victory Medal, Mention in Despatches 1914-1919.

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## Joseph Henry BRIGGS The Leicester Military Policeman

By Peter Spooner

Joseph Henry Briggs was one of many who joined the Army during the First World War and served overseas but did not return, regretfully Joseph is probably now forgotten. Joseph's military service is recorded by a headstone in a cemetery in France, entries in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register, Soldier's Died in the Great War, a book recording those from Leicester who died during the war and a Leicestershire Constabulary memorial plaque. It is a sad fact that by dying, it is easier to obtain information about Joseph than had he fought and survived. Although unknown to many, Joseph is of special interest to me, as he was a police officer and a mounted military policeman. As a former member of the Royal Military Police Mounted Troop, it was with interest that I saw his name on a brass memorial plaque in the Parade Room at Charles Street Police Station Leicester, which had been the headquarters of the Leicester City Police. The plaque listed those members of the Leicester Borough Police who served and died with H.M. Forces during World War I, Joseph's name was included, as was the fact that he was serving with the Military Mounted Police (MMP). It has been a slow process but I have managed to learn something about Joseph, the main sources being Leicester Borough Police records held by The Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland and luckily, Joseph's military service record, which has survived as part of the 'burnt collection'.

### *A Derby childhood*

Joseph was born in Ilkeston Derbyshire about 1888 and was living there with his parents in 1901, his occupation being shown in the census for that year as pawn shop assistant. Sometime between 1901 and 1912 Joseph travelled to Leicester and, on the 17th December 1912, was recommended to the Watch Committee as suitable for appointment as a probationary constable in the Leicester Borough Police, becoming PC 48. No doubt he hoped that he

### **ROD ELWOOD POLICE PRINTS**

I keep a large stock of police oriented prints, pictures and other ephemera. I have many antiquarian originals that cover most aspects of policing. These include the subject matter of Courts,

Prisons, Magistrates, CID, Dogs, Mounted Police, Women Police, Transport, cartoons, Vanity Fair etc. I have also acquired a good selection of miscellaneous pictures that include photographs of almost all the original London Police Stations

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would fare better than the previous holder of that number, PC 48 Poxon, who had been dismissed for drunkenness in September of that year. The Leicester Borough Police records provide some information as to Joseph's police service.

On the 8th April 1913 he commenced a first aid course, which he successfully completed on the 3rd June 1913, possibly a requirement as part of his initial training. He must have made acceptable progress as, on the 16th September 1913, the Head Constable recommended to the Watch Committee that Joseph's pay be increased from 27/- to 28/- a week, 'in accordance with the rules of the service'. On the 14th September 1914 his pay was further raised to 29/- a week.

On the 24th June 1914 Joseph was one of a party of members of the Leicester Borough Police that went to Nottingham to provide special duty for a Royal Visit, the party paraded at 7.45am and travelled to Nottingham by train. It would seem that an entry in the Watch Committee notes in August 1914 did not impact upon Joseph, assuming that it does refer to the same PC Briggs, 'The Chairman also reports the case of PCs Briggs and Baker who were concerned in an affiliation summons by a girl (?) Dillon, which was dismissed and the Constables are cautioned by the Chairman as to conduct in the future'.

Early 1915 was a busy time for Joseph, with a training register recording Joseph's attendance on several courses but events were to overtake the planned training and like many others, he was not to complete the courses. The reason for the courses being cancelled is clearly shown in red, 'classes abandoned men to Army'.

#### *Into the Army*

On Tuesday 30th March 1915 all members of the Leicester Borough Police under the age of 35 years, whether married or not, were instructed to be in the Muster Room at 4.30pm. This instruction resulted from an urgent appeal to Local Authorities for further recruits for the Army. The Chairman of the Watch Committee was present at the meeting and it was decided that, for those attending, any dress would be acceptable. The following day the Watch Committee was presented with a list of 44 officers who had enlisted, including Joseph and a list of 34 officers who were seeking permission to enlist. The resolution of the Watch Committee was that the named officers, 'were granted leave of absence during the duration of the war and that married men have their separation allowances made up to their police pay and that single men secure one third of their police pay in addition to their army allowances'. The training class record shows that Joseph joined the Army Service Corps and a photograph includes him in a

group of 15 Leicester Borough officers who joined the Army Service Corps at the same time, 13 of whom were to later serve with the MMP, as were 6 other Leicester Borough Police officers. As Leicester Borough Police did not have a permanent mounted section, the transfers cannot have resulted from the officers being experienced horsemen. I have been able to identify 3 members of the Leicestershire Constabulary who served with the MMP; I have yet to establish if any members of the Rutland Constabulary served with the MMP.

Joseph's military service record shows that he enlisted on the 25th March 1915, before the meeting in the Muster Room, joining the Army Service Corps and was attached to the 2/1st North Midland Division, later the 59th Division. Joseph's service number indicates that he was involved with horse transport. At sometime he was transferred to the 2/8th Battalion The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment) 178th Brigade 59th Division, this was before he was transferred to the MMP.

#### *Off to Ireland*

Units of the Division formed up at various locations in the Hertfordshire area and prepared to go to France, the preparation reached such a level that officers were sent to France for trench instruction. However, events were to overtake them, as the Division was sent to Ireland in response to the Easter Rising in April 1916, during this period Joseph may have served as an infantryman. Joseph was fortunate not have been transferred to the 2/7th Battalion, which sustained 162 casualties during fighting in one Dublin Street. The 177th Brigade history refers to the fact that the residents of remote Irish villages were mildly impressed by guns, rifles and sabres, but were genuinely disturbed by field cookers, which were believed to be poison gas machines with the cooks preparing a fearful poison. At least one soldier agreed with their thoughts about the material produced by the cooks. In 1971 four members of the Royal Military Police Mounted Troop carried out mounted patrols of radio installations in rural areas of Northern Ireland. I wonder what the local residents seeing these horses and riders?

From Ireland the Division went to Salisbury Plain and again commenced preparations to go to France, this time the plans were not to be interrupted. On the 13th February 1917 the King inspected the Division and sent them as message of goodwill.

#### *Embarkation to France*

On the 23rd February 1917 Joseph embarked at Southampton, arriving at Le Havre the following



day, 59th Division was going to France. Prior to embarkation Joseph had returned to Leicester, as on the 23rd December 1916, he married Annie Theresa Hood, who was to be a widow within the year. Annie, who is initially shown in Joseph's service record as his fiancée and next of kin, appears to be the daughter of Samuel Hood, a detective sergeant. Unfortunately Annie's father, aged 51 years, died a short time after the wedding. On the 25th January 1917, prior to the Division going to France, Joseph was transferred to the MMP under A.C.I. 1733/1916 and became an Acting Lance Corporal. I assumed that the A.C.I. related to the transfer of police officers to the MMP and the Military Foot Police (MFP) but I was wrong. The instruction refers to soldiers temporarily attached to the Military Police being temporarily transferred. The effect of this was that they were paid rates of pay and allowances by the Military Police and not the pay and allowances of their former unit. It is therefore possible that Joseph had been attached to the MMP before the date shown for his transfer. Having landed in France the Division was to move around France and Belgium, taking part in actions surrounding The German Retreat to the Hindenburg Line and the 3rd Battle of Ypres (the Battles of the Menin Road and Polygon Wood). It is not possible to be sure about the duties undertaken by Joseph but it is possible that he was involved in traffic control, enforcing march discipline, staffing straggler posts and battle stops and dealing with prisoners of war. In December 1917 the Division was involved in the Battle of Bournon Wood, towards the end of the Battle of Cambrai and on the night of the 5th December 1917 was withdrawing to new positions following a German counter stroke. It would appear that Joseph received his wounds during this process. It is not possible to know how close Joseph was to the front line but it is likely that his wounds were as a result of rifle or machine gun fire. There is no information as to the fate of Joseph's horse. The reference to Joseph's wounds is contained in his Casualty Form Active Service, this records that, on the 5th December 1917, he was admitted to the 2/1st South Midlands Field Ambulance (61st Division), having received gun shot wounds to his thigh and wrist 'in the field'. The following day he was admitted to the 21st Casualty Clearing Station at Ytres, where he died sometime after admission. Joseph was buried nearby in Rocquigny-Equancourt Road British Cemetery, which was used by the 21st and 48th Casualty Clearing Stations, whose encampments were located in the field across the road and on the hill behind the cemetery

#### **The sad news**

Annie was notified of Joseph's death by telegram

sent from Military Police Records Office at Aldershot. The telegram simply said, "Regret to inform you that a report received states No. P/6379 Lance Corporal J. Briggs Military Mounted Police died of wounds on 6th December". By this stage of the war it is very likely that the significance of the telegram would be recognised and it is therefore quite likely that just the receipt was sufficient to tell Annie what the content was going to be. In March 1918 the Military Police Headquarters sent Annie several items of Joseph's property that had been returned from France. In 1917 the Military Police Headquarters were in Stanhope Lines Aldershot, this is where 160 (Provost) Company Royal Military Police was based when I joined the Mounted Section in 1968, the Company later moved into new accommodation built nearby. When I joined the Mounted Section single men and the horses resided in Beaumont Barracks, the remaining Victorian cavalry barracks in Aldershot. Although 51 years after Joseph's death, we used the saddlery and sword that Joseph and his colleagues would have recognised. The Watch Committee Notes for the 18th December 1917 record that 'P.C. Briggs J. H. died of wounds whilst serving in His Majesty's Army'. His death was also recorded in the Leicester Mercury on the 11th January 1918. For his military service Joseph was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal, these like his items of personal property, were sent to Annie but his Medal Roll Card appears to indicate that they were returned. In 1918 Annie received a pension of 13/9d a week from the War Office. At the start of this article I said that Joseph was probably now forgotten, at least his service is now known to readers of the Journal.

#### **Sources:**

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Soldiers Died in the Great War Part 80 Corps of Military Police.*  
*Leicester Borough Police Head/Chief Constable's Special Order Book - Record Office of Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.*  
*National Army Museum, for information about A.C.I 1733/1916.*  
*Service Record and Medal Roll Card for Joseph Briggs and 1891 and 1901 Census returns, held by the National Archives.*  
*The 177th Brigade 1914-1918 by Lt. Col. J.P.W. Jamie M.C. (1931).*  
*The History of the Office of Provost Marshal and The Corps of Military Police by A.V. Lovell-Knight (1943).*  
*The Story of the Royal Military Police by A.V. Lovell-Knight (1977).*  
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## The Other Gallant 600

Paul Rason

Who were the Met's 'own 600' who were prepared to go into the valleys of ..... etc.

The answer to this question seems to be the result of the 'Kaiserschlacht' or 'the Kaiser's Battle', officially the Spring Offensive of March 1918.

When the War was declared on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914 by Great Britain on Germany, all reservists with the Army and Navy were called up. Over 1,000 men of the Metropolitan Police were thus recalled to the 'Colours' having seen previous military service which required them to be on the reserve list up to about 5 years.

Many others then left the police without previous military service to join up as Kitchener's New Army was being formed. However the Commissioner soon realised he would have staffing problem and made orders so that men could not just resign but needed permission. This was relaxed at differing times as the fortunes or misfortunes of the military occurred during the war. Few men however were, I believe, allowed to leave during this period.

However the initial success of the German Army in their Spring offensive of 1918 when, in some places, over 40 miles were captured in days from mainly the British 5<sup>th</sup> Army, compared with nearly 4 years of fighting when success had been measured in tens of yards. This called for a massive injection of new recruits and reinforcements to the BEF. [The battle which started on the 21<sup>st</sup> March carried on till 5<sup>th</sup> April and even with reinforcements from the Eastern Front, the German Army was denied victory in the last gamble of the 1918 offensives.

The early success of these offensives proved entirely illusory. Desperate as the fighting had been, Franco-British forces had finally blunted the assault. During the battles of March-April 1918, Haig's army of 59 Divisions had met 109 German Divisions in the field and had fought them to a standstill once more. At the cost of over 250,000 men to both sides, Ludendorff ultimately therefore achieved little more than saddling his own army with an extended front line, and vastly diminished resources with which to hold it. The turn of the tide came with the successful French counter-attacks during the Second Battle of the Marne in July 1918. By this time fortunately the Germans had ran out of steam and out-stripped their supplies and follow up troops. They were of course also stopped by the British Army, with tremendous Australian and French Army aid being rushed in, as mentioned above, and then the 100 days advance from August 8<sup>th</sup> onwards which resulted in Germany asking for an end to the fighting i.e. an Armistice on eleven hour of the eleven day of the eleven month on 1918.]

But that's all another story which I will not go into here. Suffice to say that Field Marshall Haig then issued his famous Special Order of the Day on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1918 '.....believing in the righteousness of our cause ... Victory will belong to the side which holds out longest.....There is no other course than to fight it out ..... with our backs to the wall ..... each one of us must fight on to the end ..... etc.

Lloyd George as Prime Minister, horrified at the loss of men had tried to control the Army (Haig) by stopping or controlling the supply of reinforcement from the UK. But with the early success of the Kaiser's Battle, troops were rushed to the front.

Police (Met) that is (I'm not sure how the other forces operated) 'allowed' volunteers to rush to join at what was seen as a very critical time. The following Police Order is the result with the above setting briefly the scene:

### Police Orders.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 918.**

***At the urgent request of the Minister of National Service, the Commissioner has undertaken to release at short notice a considerable number of Police Officers for Military Service.***

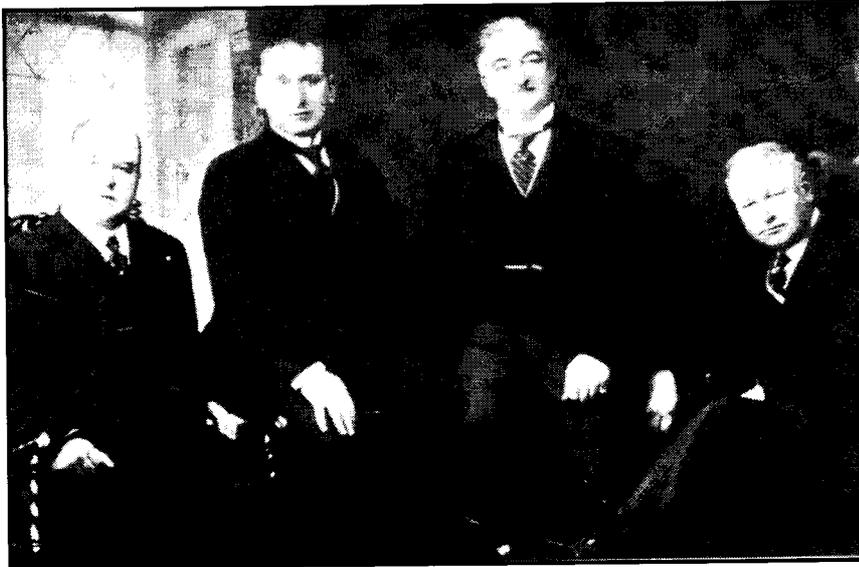
***The list of men to be released has been compiled in order of seniority in the Service, commencing with the junior Constables, without regard to the nature of the duty on which the officer is employed.***

***The list cannot be completed until the returns from dockyards and military stations are available, but a nominal roll of 600 constables, medically examined at New Scotland Yard and classified Grade 1, has been submitted to the Minister of National Service, and calling up notices will be issued forthwith to the men whose names are included in this list.***

***The exigencies of the situation do not in the case of these 600 Constables admit of permission being granted to take Annual or Special Leave prior to attestation, but the Commissioner recognising the importance to those concerned of having an opportunity to arrange their domestic affairs has approached the Military Authority through the Ministry of National Service, and has pleasure in announcing that the Army Council has agreed to sanction a grant of 7 days leave to each officer immediately after he has joined the unit to which he is appointed.***

***The necessary instructions will be issued by the Army Council to Commanding officers. In conclusion the Commissioner desires to record his appreciation of the way in which the very large majority of Police eligible for Military Service have, on realising the needs of the country, made voluntary tender of their services. E.R. Henry. Commissioner***

All six hundred are listed in Police Orders dated 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1918, which also states 'Pay to the 19<sup>th</sup>'. police pay that is, so all had joined up by the 20<sup>th</sup>. No chance of two lots of pay even for a day!!!! Interesting to note that the Commissioner could not allow the 600 time away from their beats/duty although they would be gone less than a week later, and that he was making promises on behalf of another organisation; the Army. One has to wonder how many got their 7 days leave. Of this six hundred, 5 were killed. Of the original 1000 or so who were recalled in 1914, 370 were killed, nearly 25%. Under the Police Constable (Naval and Military Service) Acts 1914/5 their job was guaranteed if, and a big if, they were fully able to perform duty after demob. Of those that failed to get back into the police, I am not yet sure as more work has to be done to compare before and after. I'll let you know in about 5 years.



THE (BIG)  
FOUR HORSEMEN



ALL ALONG, DOWN ALONG, OUT ALONG LEE,  
WE COME WITH OUR HANDCUFFS THE BOLD C.I.D.,  
SO IF YOU'RE IN TROUBLE JUST GIVE US A CALL  
-FRED WENSLEY, DICK HAWKINS, FRANCIS CARLIN,  
ARTHUR NEIL AN' AULD UNCLE BILL HORWOOD  
AN' ALL -

THE BIG FOUR  
1920