

# POLICE HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity 295540

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## History of the Police Whistle.

Since 1885, whistles have been carried as an appointment and as a means for patrolling officers to summon assistance. They are still carried, although now supplementary to personal radios.

**J Hudson & Co** was founded in the 1870s in Birmingham by [Joseph Hudson](#) (1848–1930) and his brother James Hudson (1850–1888). The company became a manufacturer of whistles and is still active today as [Acme Whistles](#).

It is believed that the whistle used by the police service in the UK was named the Metropolitan Police Whistle because in 1885 the Metropolitan Police commissioned Hudson to produce over 7000 whistles of the pattern used in Manchester. J Hudson & Co moved about and the address on the whistle will indicate its date of manufacture.

- 84 Buckingham St 1883 - 1884.
- 131 Barr St 1885 -1887.
- 13 Barr St, 1888 - 1909.
- 244 Barr St 1910 >.
- If the whistle has the word 'patent' pre 1920.
- If the whistle has a cast top and loop pre 1920.
- If the whistle has a nipple on the flange inside the window pre 1939.
- If the whistle has a seamed body pre 1970.

The number on the whistle would be a batch number and not the officer's warrant number.

If the whistle was handed in on retirement it was often returned to stock after cleaning.

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