

The original instituting Warrant of June 1951, stated that the medal would be awarded for twenty-two years service (irrespective of Good Conduct) to all ranks in all the recognised UK constabularies. However, because the qualifying service for the Fire and Ambulance services medals is twenty years, this caused a campaign to be started by PC Kenneth Fowler of Warwickshire Police to reduce the qualifying period for the police medal to twenty years, so as to bring it into line. So, on Tuesday 19 January 2010, the qualifying period for the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal was reduced to twenty years, where it remains. Unlike the Special Constabulary medal, there are no further clasps for service over twenty years.

The impressed naming round the rim of the 'Regular' medal, in contrast to that of the Special Constabulary, does include the rank, but still not the force of the recipient. The question as to why this was, was asked of the Home Office, but no reply has ever been received.

The instituting Warrant also states that a Register should be kept to record every award. Not surprisingly, no Register has ever been kept by the Home Office, nor by the Royal Mint, who also demur to say how many medals are issued every year, referring that query to the Home Office. Again, no reply from the Home Office has been received.

In the book *Medals* by William Spencer (National Archives : ISBN 978 1 903365 63 2), the author states that no Register is kept at the National Archives either, and that the responsibility for any Register is in the hands of the separate Constabularies. I hazard a guess now, that no police force has ever compiled a Register of its members who have been awarded either medal. However, if there are, the Editor would be amazed. But in that event, would be interested to know which forces have. He can be contacted on the *Journal* e-mail address.

## NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE SPECIAL CONSTABULARY 1914-1918

### Only Lady Special Constable in the Country during the War

by

**Ralph B. Lindley**

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**T**he only lady member of the Special Constabulary throughout the whole of Great Britain during the First World War 1914-1918 was Miss Audrey Twentymen of the North Riding of Yorkshire Special Constabulary.

She was the daughter of the Chairman of the North Riding Standing Joint Committee and he felt that they needed a despatch rider. Audrey was one of those daring young women who had a motorcycle, so he asked for official permission to appoint her to the post. The authorities agreed on condition that she was sworn in as a Special Constable, and this was done.

Her duties were to carry despatches to Scarborough (presumably from Northallerton?) and to call out the local Police Constable and all the Special Constables whenever an air raid warning was received, or any other emergency arose. When the emergency was over she went round again, dismissing the Special Constables.

When she was interviewed in the late 1950s, she was Mrs Audrey McCormick of Malton, and commented, 'all these second rounds were soon to become very lonely performances, for as soon as the Specials heard my motorcycle in the distance, they did not wait for me to appear, but went

home. At the end of the war I was presented with a Victorian policeman's truncheon, a certificate and a man's medal.\* All really for nothing.'

References :

SETH, Ronald *The Specials - The Story of the Special Constabulary in England, Wales and Scotland* (Victor Gollancz 1961, reprinted 2006)

(\*The Special Constabulary Long Service Medal, as described in the previous article - *Editor*)

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## **RULES TO BE OBSERVED BY ALL POLICE CONSTABLES**

*(Drawn up in the reign of Queen Victoria)*

1. Constables are placed in authority to Protect and not to Oppress the public.
2. To which effectually they must earnestly and systematically exert themselves to prevent Crime.
3. When a crime has been committed, no trace should be lost, nor exertion spared to discover and bring to Justice the offenders.
4. Obtain a knowledge of all reputed Thieves. Idle and Disorderly persons.
5. Watch narrowly all people having no visible means of Subsistence.
6. Prevent Vagrancy.
7. Be impartial in the discharge of duties.
8. Discard from the mind all Political and Sectarian prejudices.
9. Be cool and intrepid in the discharge of duties in emergencies, and avoidable conflicts.

10. Avoid Altercations, and display perfect command of Temper under assault, and gross provocation, to which all Constables must occasionally be liable.
11. Never strike but in self-defence, nor treat a prisoner with more vigour than may be necessary to prevent escape.
12. Practice the most complete Sobriety; one instance of Drunkenness will render a Constable liable to dismissal.
13. Treat with the utmost Civility all classes of Her Majesty's subjects and cheerfully render assistance to all who may have need of it.
14. Exhibit deference and respect to the Magistracy.
15. Promptly and cheerfully obey all superior Officers.
16. Render an honest, faithful and speedy account of all Monies and Property whether entrusted with them for others, or taken possession of in the execution of duty.
17. With reference to the foregoing bear especially in mind that honesty is the best policy.
18. Be perfectly neat in person and attire.
19. Never sit down in any Public House or Beer Shop.
20. Avoid Tippling.
21. It is in the interest of every Man to devote some portion of his spare time to the practice of Reading and Writing, and the general improvement of the Mind.
22. Ignorance is an insuperable bar to promotion.

*(The author of these is unknown, but by reading numbers 14, 15, 19 and 20, it was obviously an armchair police officer, and not a person who had actually 'walked the beat' - or am I being cynical? - Editor)*

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