

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



## NORTH RIDING CONSTABULARY

### 'Queen's Crown' Helmet Plates

by

Ralph B. Lindley

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

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 They were withdrawn immediately after the Review and the officers involved went back to wearing their flat caps.

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



## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE CONSTABULARY

### 'Queen's Crown' Helmet Plate

*Left* Although this Queen refers to Queen Victoria.

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



Photograph by courtesy of Mr Len Woodley.

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## DISTINCTIVE POLICE BADGES



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

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

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

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