

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*)

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)
