

the date of ceasing publication and the total number eventually sold, was forthcoming. But an edition dated 1970 stated it was the thirty-third edition, and was nearing 400,000 copies sold, being priced then at nine shillings.

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**CHARLES BATES**  
Police Constable,  
Northamptonshire  
Constabulary



**T**he King's Police Medal was instituted in 1909, in two categories: *For Gallantry* and *For Meritorious Service*. Whilst the majority (though not all) the gallantry awards were awarded to officers of the lower ranks, those for meritorious service usually went to the higher ranks - Superintendent and above. However in the New Year's Honours of January 1926, PC Charles Bates was awarded the KPM. As such, he was the first police officer in the country, of *Constable* rank, to be awarded the KPM for *Meritorious Service*, rather than Gallantry, given 'for devotion to duty', in effecting an impressive list of arrests of wanted criminals.

## REWARDS FOR LONG SERVICE (AND GOOD CONDUCT?)

by

**Richard Cowley**

**I**t is a chastening to think that recognition of the civilian emergency services by the issue of Long Service medals, came late in relation to the other services. The Army Long Service and Good Conduct medal (LS and GC) was established in 1830, The Royal Navy LS and GC in 1831, and the RAF, obviously much later in 1919.

The civilian services on the other hand were lagging behind: the Fire Services LS and GC in 1954, and shamefully, the Ambulance Service had to wait until 1996, and the Prison Service until 2010. But the police LS and GC medals were split into two, The Special Constabulary and the 'Regular' Constabulary.

The Special Constabulary medal, was established on Saturday 30 August 1919, and was obviously given in recognition of service during The Great War, but the Regular police had to wait for another thirty-two years, until Thursday 14 June 1951, for their award. Whether this reflects officialdom's favourable partiality to its volunteer policemen, in preference to its full time officers, who seemed to be taken for granted and regarded with indifference by the ruling elite, is open to debate. After all, the Regular police contribution to the war effort of both world wars (and indeed during peacetime) was just as much as that of the Special Constabulary.

The Special Constabulary Long Service Medal (note, there is no 'Good Conduct') is cast in bronze. The usual varying busts of the monarch are on the obverse, and on the reverse is the inscription FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE IN THE SPECIAL

CONSTABULARY, alongside a sprig of laurel to the right. This reverse has remained the same up until the present day, except for small variations relating to the police services in Northern Ireland.

The medal is awarded for service of nine years, providing fifty or more duties have been performed every year. A clasp (sewn onto the ribbon, and not attached to the medal) reading THE GREAT WAR 1914-18 was given for service during that time. Further clasps inscribed LONG SERVICE with the year, were given for every subsequent ten year period with the qualifying duties. During The Great War and the Second World War, the qualifying period dropped to three years, in other words, war service counted treble.

The ribbon is white with a large red centre stripe and two narrow black stripes towards each edge. The medal is impressed on the rim with the name of the recipient. Strangely enough, only the name is given, not even the rank or the police force of the recipient. And again, curiously enough, the ribbon as supplied with the medal is slightly wider than the suspension bar, leading to a slight buckling of the ribbon on one or both sides where it is threaded through the suspension bar.



The Special Constabulary Long Service Medal

Having to wait for another thirty-two years, the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (note, 'Good Conduct' this time) was instituted on Thursday 14 June 1951, and was originally of cupro-nickel, but nowadays is rhodium plated. The ribbon has a broad blue stripe in the centre, with narrow white-blue-white stripes down either edge. As with the Special Constabulary, it has the monarch's bust on the obverse, and on the reverse, a figure of Justice holding the Scales of Justice in her left hand, and a police truncheon surrounded by a laurel wreath in her right hand. The words FOR EXEMPLARY POLICE SERVICE are inscribed round the edge of the medal. This wording sometimes leads the medal to be erroneously called the Police Exemplary Service Medal.



The Reverse of the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

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**

*Vice President, Ripon Museum Trust*

**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