

The policeman on patrol however, in this case Alfred, would already have heard the earlier explosions first hand a short distance away in the City. As he ran along Central Street, ahead he could already see a crowd of mainly women workers gathering at the main entrance to the City Sylicia factory, this left him in no doubt they were about to put their lives at great risk by running in all directions. By now the planes were almost overhead, and the only option available to him was to coerce them back inside and bar the doors with his own body.

This was to prove not a moment too soon, although in so doing he sacrificed his own life as a bomb exploded in the street close to where he was standing, killing him outright. At the Coroner's Inquest the factory manager of

the City Sylicia factory was recorded as saying in praise of PC Smith's gallantry: "The death roll would have been very heavy but for Smith holding back the 153 women who were present".



It is altogether sad to reflect upon the fact that although a posthumous King's Police Medal had been awarded a few months earlier (PC Greenoff - Silvertown munitions explosion), no record could be found that Alfred Smith's name had been put forward for a similar accolade. In part that has now been put right, and everyone can see his gallantry recorded at 43/45 Central Street.



KEITH FOSTER is a police historian, and has been researching for the National Police Officer's Roll of Honour since 2001.

Photograph P1159

Taken in Stratford Road, Wolverton showing a Sergeant and a Constable

By MICK SHAW



Studying the photograph shown on the opposite page, I was intrigued by the identities of the sergeant and constable captured, so endeavoured to trace them. First of all I sought advice from Bryan Dunleavy to help date the photograph.

Bryan has done considerable research into Wolverton and the surrounding area. He dated the photograph as some time between 1920 and 1926, the year of the General Strike. Apparently the tram company never recovered from the effects of it. My research is therefore centred between these two dates. Without collar numbers I will not be able to say definitely who the police officers are, but I think I will be able to say "The Sergeant and Constable are likely to be..."

Judge for yourself by reading the following research.

List of Wolverton Police Constables between 1920 and 1926

*PC 33 Edwin Randall
1919 to 1945; Wolverton from
22nd December 1919 to 17th April 1923*

*PC 85 Albert Edward Garrett
1920 to 1947; Wolverton from
19th July 1920 to 2nd December 1920*

*PC 41 Leonard Wheatley
1919 to 1932 Wolverton from 2nd
December 1920 to 18th January 1922*

*PC 118 Leslie Walter Randall
1920 to late 1940s (exact date
unknown); Wolverton 18th January
1921 to 17th December 1921*

*PC 159 Charles Henry Marsh
1921 to 1950; Wolverton 30th May 1921
to 8th April 1924*

*PC 4 Thomas George Pollard
1920 to 1945; Wolverton 17th
December 1921 to 26th July 1923*

*PC 155 Charles Bonner
1903 to 1929; Wolverton 17th April
1923 to 16th December 1929*

PC 94 Bertie William Gee

*1923 to possibly around 1948;
Wolverton (PC) 8th April 1924 to
14th August 1922*

*PC 28 Percy Frank Brewer
1921 to 1948; Wolverton 26th July 1924
to 17th October 1925*

*PC 198 Alex Alfred Trevener
1914 to late 1940s (exact date
unknown); Wolverton 8th December
1924 to 24th July 1925*

*PC 160 Basil Edward Horn
1920 to 1925; Wolverton from 24th
July 1925 to 26th September 1925*

*PC 138 Edwin Lord
1921 to 1932; Wolverton 1st October
1925 to 21st May 1926*

*PC 154 William Joseph Bragnell
1922 to possibly around 1947;
Wolverton 27th October 1925 to 14th
December 1925*

*PC 106 Robert Cameron Pointer
1919 to 1948; Wolverton 14th
December 1925 to possibly when he
retired, 6th December 1948*

*PC 117 Christopher William Goddard
1923 to 1950 (died); Wolverton 21st
May 1926 to 27th May 1927*

List of Wolverton Sergeants between 1920 and 1926

*Sergeant 34 Albert Honour
1904 1932; Wolverton 22nd April 1919
to 2nd October 1923*

*Sergeant Bob Rollings
1911 to 1946; Wolverton 2nd October
1923 to 2nd November 1928*



I have been researching the Bucks Constabulary now for over 20 years. I have around 2,000 photographs and around the same number of full or part records, which are being updated all the time. Many of the police officers have become 'old friends', and when I first saw this photograph I looked at the sergeant and something told me he was an officer named Albert Honour, but I set that thought aside and started to research the names

of the sergeants that were posted to Wolverton between the two dates.

I found there were two just sergeants during that period:

*Sergeant 34 Albert Honour,
Bucks Constabulary 1904 to 1932.
Wolverton 22nd April 1919 to 2nd
October 1923*

*Sergeant Bob Rollings,
Bucks Constabulary 1911 to 1946.
Wolverton 2nd October 1923 to 2nd
November 1928*

Yes, Albert Honour was one of the sergeants!

I earlier mentioned the phrase 'old friends', and Bob Rollings also falls into that category. The photographs I have of Bob show him as having a stout figure. His record when he joined in 1911 states he was 6 feet 2½ in tall and he was of proportionate build for his size. The photograph here shows him with his wife Fenella



who, during the Second World War, was either a Special Constable or War Reserve Officer, so this photograph of them both dates sometime between 1939 and 1945. Unfortunately I do not have a photograph of Bob Rollings going back as far as the 1920s and I would assume his figure would have

been less 'stout' during his younger days.

Looking at the Wolverton photograph, the sergeant, holding the pedal cycle, is not of a large build and not 6 feet 2½ inches tall. Comparing him with the constable, the sergeant looks the shorter of the two. Sergeant Albert Honour was described as 5 feet 11 inches tall and of proportionate build.

Bob Rollings served in the Royal Navy Air Service during WW1 on number 12 Balloon Section. He joined on 6th September 1915 and was demobilised on 26th February 1919. Consequently, he would have been awarded the the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal; he was also recommended for a gallantry award during his service, but I have been unable to find out if he was awarded it. Bob would have worn the medal ribbons on his tunic when he joined the police, but the sergeant in the photograph has no medal ribbons.

Albert Honour had no military service. It is also worth noting that Albert had a moustache and Bob did not. The sergeant in the photograph is sporting a moustache.

Out of the two sergeants posted to Wolverton on the "balance of probability", Albert Honour, pictured below in 1913, would be the sergeant in the Wolverton photograph.



For the moment this dates the photograph in question to between 22nd April 1919 and 2nd October 1923, the dates of his posting to Wolverton.

On this basis, I looked at the constables at Wolverton between these dates. As you can see, the constable is taller than the sergeant (also taking into consideration he is very slightly nearer the camera) and would therefore be taller than 5 feet 11 inches, Albert Honour's height. Out of the seven constables who served under Albert Honour during the period, I can exclude the following:

PC 85 Edward Garrett
5ft 10 ¾ inches tall

PC 41 Leonard Wheatley
5ft 10 ½ inches tall

PC 159 Charles Henry Marsh
5 feet 9¼ inches tall

PC 4 Thomas George Pollard
5 feet 10¾ inches tall

PC 155 Charles Bonner
5 feet 10 inches tall

This leaves two constables:-

PC 33 Edwin Randall
5 feet 11 ½ inches tall (just ½ inch taller than Albert Honour)

and

PC 118 Leslie Walter Randall
6ft ¾ inches tall.

Looking at the remaining officers, the taller of the two - Leslie Walter Randall - is more likely to be the constable in the photograph. I have also taken into consideration that although he saw military service, Leslie was not awarded any medals and would therefore have no medal ribbons. The other possibility, Edwin Randall, was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

So again, on the "balance of

probability", the constable is PC 118 Leslie Walter Randall, and looking at his photograph below, taken around 1922, and comparing it with the Wolverton photograph, this is a very good likeness, taking his height and build into consideration.



Edwin was posted to Wolverton on 18th January 1921 until 17th December 1921 when he was posted to the Chief Constable's Office, so if I am correct about the two officers the photograph could be dated to between these dates. Narrowing it down a bit more, the sergeant and constable are not wearing capes, which would suggest this was not taken during the winter.

So, in conclusion, the two police officers are Sergeant 34 Albert Honour and Police Constable 118 Leslie Walter Randall, and the date of the photograph would be sometime between January and December 1921.

Albert Amos Honour

Albert Amos Honour was born on 25th August 1879 at Lambeth, south London, to Amos and Elizabeth (nee Wood). Amos was a constable in the Metropolitan Police, and had been born in Bierton, Bucks. He would serve a total of 40 years in the Met. Albert was baptized on 14th September the same year. Albert and Elizabeth already had a daughter, Alice, two years older than Albert,

and the family lived at 9 Oakden Street, Lambeth. In 1887 tragedy hit the family when Elizabeth died in Guilford, Surrey, aged just 31 years.

On 26th September 1889 Amos married 34-year-old Sarah Garnett at St James Church, Richmond Upon Thames. Their son Richard was born a year later.

By 1901, Albert was living with his grandparents Richard and Francis Honour at 3 High Street Berton, Bucks. Albert was a bricklayer.

He married Nellie (Ellen) Saunders, born at Steeple Claydon, on 10th February 1880. In the spring of 1902, their son Alex was born at Berton, Bucks, where Albert continued his trade as a bricklayer, working for a Mr. G. Parsons at Prestwood, Bucks.

On 7th November the following year, at the age of 25, Albert joined the Bucks Constabulary as a 3rd Class Constable, following in his father's footsteps. He was described on joining as 5ft 11 inches tall with an oval visage and fresh complexion; he had brown eyes and dark brown hair and was of proportionate build.

After his initial training Albert was posted to the Northern Division at Newport Pagnell, where his son Aubrey was born on 24th April 1905. On 13th November that year he was promoted to a 2nd Class Constable.

The photograph on the right was taken was taken of the Northern Division in the summer of 1908. Albert is standing on the back row, fourth from the left as you look at the photograph. Just as a matter of interest, Police Constable 155 Charles Bonner, mentioned in the list of Wolverton constables (1920/26) at the start of this report is sitting on the ground in the front row first on the left.

On 6th October 1908 Albert and his family were posted to Whaddon, still on the Northern Division. On 16th November he was promoted to

a 1st Class Constable, and in 1910 to a Merit Class Constable. Alex was now earning 26s and 3d a week.

On 14th February the following year he was posted to Wolverton. The family moved into 27 Bedford Street. On promotion to Sergeant on probation on 8th April 1912, Albert was posted to Olney, still on the Northern Division. He was confirmed in the rank on 8th April 1913. The following year he was awarded a pay rise and was now earning 31/- a week.

While at Olney Albert earned a commendation which was placed in General Orders for the other Bucks Constabulary officers and men to read:

*Chief Constables Office,
Aylesbury,
23rd August 1915.*

Sergeant Albert Honour is commended for courage and determination in affecting the arrest of John Soul, who had committed murder and attempted suicide at Olney on the 30th July last. Soul was armed with a knife, barricaded himself in his house at Olney, and violently resisted apprehension, attacking Sergeant Honour.

*sd/ Otway Mayne Major,
Chief Constable*

On 22nd April 1919 Albert was

again posted to Wolverton, this time as sergeant. It was during this period that the Wolverton photograph was taken (if I am correct). While at Wolverton Albert he earned another commendation, which read:

12th April 1922.

For good work in detecting a case of Housebreaking and other similar cases at Wolverton "Commended".

As with all General Orders at the time it was short and precise, keeping the records straight.

Albert studied hard for promotion and took the exam for Inspector on 6th March 1923, which he passed, and as a consequence he was given the rank of Acting Inspector on 1st October the same year, being posted to the Southern Division at Eton the following day. He was now earning £310 a year. He was confirmed in the rank on 7th April 1924; he was still at Eton.

On 30th July 1928 he was promoted to Superintendent and posted to the Eastern Division at Chesham, where he was in charge of the Division. In 1930 he was earning £430 a year, which went up to £445 the following year, and £460 the year of his retirement. He remained in charge of Chesham until his retirement on 14th November



1932, the General Order read:

3rd September 1932.

Superintendent Albert Honour, whose pension was guaranteed on the 7th October 1930, having notified his intention to retire will be struck off the strength of the Force from the 14th November inclusive, and will be admitted to the Pension List £306.13.4. on that date.

*Signed T.R.P. Warren Colonel,
Chief Constable.*

During his 28 years' service in the Bucks Constabulary Albert was very keen on sports and athletics, and ran the Bucks Constabulary tug-o'-war team.

In the meantime, his son Alex Lionel Richard had himself joined the Bucks Constabulary, on 29th October 1923, making three generations of policemen in the family. Alex is pictured below. It is part of a group photograph taken in 1926.



Alex married Constance Ivy Coy during the summer of 1929 at Potterspurty, Northants, and lived at 92 Buckingham Street, Wolverton. His trade at the time was described as a storesman, employed at the Wolverton Railway Works.

During his service in the Bucks Constabulary he saw service at

Aylesbury, Checquers (the Prime Minister's Country Retreat), Linslade, Great Missenden, West Wycombe, Great Kingshill and finally Maids Morten. During his service he attained the rank of sergeant, and would have seen further promotion but for his untimely death at the early age of just 33. During his service he received one commendation, which read:

10th October 1932

Police Constable 96 Honour is commended for effecting the arrest at West Wycombe on the night of the 2nd September 1932, of three men who had stolen a motor car at Gerrards Cross on that date. At the Bucks Quarter Sessions on the 3rd instant the prisoners were each sentenced to three months hard labour for stealing the car and three months concurrent for being in possession of housebreaking implements, and the Constable was commended by the Chairman.

*Signed T.R.P. Warren Colonel,
Chief Constable.*

The Wolverton Express 13th March 1936 described his death as follows:

Police sergeant Honour, whose funeral is reported in another column, died in the City of London Chest Hospital on the 3rd March (1936) whilst undergoing an operation.

At the opening of the inquest on the following Thursday Mrs Constance Honour said that her husband had influenza in October and was sent to the Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury. He did not improve and was transferred to the City of London Chest Hospital in February. He was told an operation was necessary and he was quite willing to have it done. Dr H K Childs said sergeant Honour was admitted to the hospital suffering from a suspected abscess on the lung and it was decided to operate. Whilst the operation was being performed he collapsed and died shortly afterwards in the ward. He was in a very toxic condition when admitted and his

condition never improved.

Dr Francis Temple Grey, pathologist of Harley Street, W: who performed a post Morton examination stated the death was due to toxæmia from lung abscesses and bronchiectasis. The operation had almost been completed and had been performed with great skill. Death had been accelerated by the shock of the operation.

At the adjourned inquest on Saturday Dr Robert Beaver, who was deputizing as anaesthetist at the hospital, said an operation was essential, although there was a grave risk owing to the fact of deceased's toxic condition. Witness administered the aesthetic and the surgeon had found the abscess in the lung and was opening it when the deceased collapsed.

Summing up, the coroner said he was quite certain that everything was done for the deceased. They were simply giving him a last chance by performing the operation.

A verdict of death by misadventure was recorded.

FUNERAL OF PS HONOUR

POLICE MOURN AN ESTEEMED COLLEAGUE

Uniformed members of the Buckinghamshire Constabulary, representative of all ranks and of all divisions of the county, were present at Wolverton on Saturday last to pay tribute to the memory of a colleague, Sergeant Alec Lionel Richard Honour, who was buried at Wolverton that day. The Chief Constable (Col. T.R.P. Warren C.B.E.) four superintendents, two inspectors, twelve sergeants, and thirty constables were among the mourners, and in addition there were one superintendent, one sergeant, and two constables, stationed in the Towcester Division.

Sergeant Honour, who was but thirty three years of age, passed away on Tuesday 3rd March at the City of London Hospital where he had entered to undergo an operation.

He was the elder son of ex-Supt. A. Honour and Mrs Honour of the

Bungalow, Bierton Hill, Aylesbury, and spent his younger days in Wolverton where his father was twice stationed, first as a constable and later as a sergeant. Deceased entered the Bucks Constabulary in 1923 at about the same time his father was promoted to the rank of inspector and transferred on promotion from Wolverton to Eton. The young officer was first stationed for duty at the county town of Aylesbury and afterwards was at Linslade, Great Kingshill, Great Missenden, and West Wycombe. It was on the 13th April 1933 that he rose to the rank of sergeant and was transferred to the North Western (Buckingham) Division and stationed at Maids Morton; where during his illness intervened in October last.

His untimely death at such an early age, came as a great shock to the many who knew him, especially so to his near relatives. It also cut short a very promising police career for throughout his thirteen years of service he had shown marked ability, a keenness for his work, and very conscientious duty. He was held in the highest esteem by all his colleagues, and he was much respected by the residents of Maids Morton and district with whom his duties brought him into contact. He also will be remembered with affection by residents of those neighbourhoods where his police service had taken him.

Sergeant Honour married a daughter of Mr and Mrs W Coy of 81 Windsor Street, Wolverton, seven years ago, and to her and the bereaved relatives most profound and sincere sympathy has been extended.

There were many mourners at the funeral service, the first portion of which was conducted in the Wesley Methodist Church. From the house of the parents of Mrs Honour to the church the funeral cortege was headed by an escort of twelve constables of the Buckingham Division under the charge of Inspector W. Heritage the escort consisting of PC Slatter, PC Goodall; PC Turney and PC Ewens (Buckingham) PC Darville

(Tingewick) PC Marsh (Padbury), PC Hammond (Preston Bissett) PC Trevener (Twyford) PC Lawrence (North Marsden) PC Melia (Brill) PC Carter (Westbury) and PC Smith (Steeple Claydon).

Immediately following the escort was the motor-hearse bearing the coffin of plain oak which was draped with the Union Jack and which had rested upon it the helmet, truncheon and handcuffs used by the deceased. Six sergeants, the bearers, walked on each side, these being sergeant P. Woodward (Olney), sergeant W. Merry (Bletchley) sergeant W. Chilvers (Winslow), sergeant G. Blake (Brill), sergeant J. Dore (Aylesbury) and sergeant A. King (Linslade).

The main body of police constables followed behind the hearse under the charge of Inspector R. Browning (Newport Pagnell), and at the rear were Superintendents J. Cleary (Aylesbury), F. Bryant (Buckingham), E. Callaway (Bletchley), M. Williams (Towcester), and A. C. White (Aylesbury) the last named being Deputy Chief Constable of Bucks.

Col. T.R.P. Warren walked immediately in front of the motor containing the family mourners.

As the congregation was assembling in the sacred building Mr R. Nicholls played a number of suitable voluntaries including "I know that my Redeemer liveth", and during the service he rendered accompanying music for the hymn "Jesu Lover of my soul" which was feelingly sung.

The Rev. F.B. Hudson the Superintendent Circuit Minister, who conducted the service, in the course of a short address, said it was not an occasion for one to speak at length, but the company was one of tribute. It was a representative assembly – they were assembled to pay tribute to a worthy man. In the presence of so many comrades and of others who represented other societies as well as the church, he would speak an affectionate word of sympathy. Their brother and friend was brought up in connection with the Sunday

School there, and they remembered his early associations and those of his father and family with the town. There were those present who thought of him in those early days and they had followed his career with interest and high regard. He was reminded that deceased was married in that church about seven years ago to one who herself had been closely identified with them as well as her family. Little did they realize seven years ago that this occasion would come all too soon. As minister, for the time being, and behalf of those who had known him for so many years, he expressed sympathy very sincere and condolence with the widow, parents, relatives, and friends. It looked as this was of the mysteries of life – a man of fine physique, apparently in splendid health, gifted in his work, devoted to it, efficient, with promise of life before him – now strangely this had fallen upon him. They knew he had borne his illness with courage and they hoped he would have won through. They had to leave the mysteries of life in higher hands but they could pay tribute to character and service and it was that which they did that day. They had come from distances to pay tribute and they would pay it very affectionately.

At the conclusion of the service in the church the organist feelingly rendered the Dead March in "Saul" and as the cortege left the sacred building Mr Nicholls played Mendelssohn's "O rest in the Lord".

At the entrance to the church the police escort formed a guard of honour, whilst at the entrance to Wolverton Cemetery where the interment took place, the whole of the uniformed police formed a guard through which the body of their colleague was borne to its earthly rest. The Rev. F. B. Hudson performed the last rights and as each member of the Constabulary filed passed the open grave they saluted the coffin, Masonic brethren present let fall sprigs of acacia into the grave.

The family mourners present were

Mrs Alec Honour (widow), Mr and Mrs A Honour, Aylesbury (father and mother). Mr and Mrs Aubrey Honour, Wolverton (brother and sister-in-law), Mr and Mrs W Coy, Wolverton, (father-in-law and mother-in-law), Mr and Mrs E Wilson, Neasden, Mr and Mrs F Herbert, Castlethorpe, (brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law), Mr and Mrs J Coy, Chadwell Heath, (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mr W Saunders, Butlers Cross, Mr A Saunders, Bierton, (uncles), Mr and Mrs A Holes, Leighton Buzzard, Mr and Mrs J Saunders Wicken, (uncles and aunts), Mrs G Saunders Bierton, Mrs G Ellis, Willen (aunts), Mr and Mrs L West, Newport Pagnell, Mr and Mrs F Holes, Deanshanger, Miss N Holes, Leighton Buzzard, Mr E Saunders, Wicken, Mr C Thorne, Bierton, and Mr C Burt, Harrow (cousins), Mrs J Cleary, Aylesbury, and Mr and Mrs R Tompkins, West Wycombe, (friends).

Others present in church and at the cemetery were: representing the Grenville Lodge of Freemasons, of which the deceased was a member, Messers Phillip Wood, T Osborne, J P, W Bunker, C E Bonner, F N Hillier, and G Creed, the Rev. H Pickles (Vicar of West Wycombe), D Randall (Rector of Leckhamstead) ex PC Dillow and Mrs Dillow, (Stony Stratford), Mr R Browning (Newport Pagnell), Mrs Chilvers, (Winslow), Mrs F Bryant and Mrs Heritage (Buckingham), Mrs C Marsh (Padbury), Mr and Mrs Snelling and Mrs Darville (Tingewick), Mrs B Gee (Wolverton), Mrs Merry, (Bletchley), ex PC Dickens (Newport Pagnell), Mrs R Pointer (Wolverton), Mr W Watson, Mr H Mapley, Mr R Bardin, Mrs Cook, Mr D Faulkner, Mrs A Faulkner, Mr C Keeves, Mrs King, Mrs T Robinson, Mrs H Mapley, the Misses Wildman, Mrs W Cox, , Miss Holes, Miss Wilson, Mr B Wilson, Mrs W Watson, junior, Mrs H Rainbow, Mrs W Wildman, Mr A Rolfe, Mr C Jones (Maids Morton), Mr L Faulkner, (Stony Stratford), Mrs Taylor, Mrs Parris, Mr A Emerton, senior, Mr H Clarke, Dr R Williams, and others.

The Towcester Division Police,

in addition to Supt. M Williams, were represented by Sergeant E Johnson (Pottesbury), PC Neesham, Deanshanger), and POC Kellett (Towcester).

Members of the police stationed at Wolverton, who carried out the traffic duty on the route of the funeral procession under PS B Gee, were PC R Pointer and PC Haynes.

Beautiful floral tributes bore the inscriptions; To my darling husband with all my love, from your broken-hearted wife: I loving remembrance of our dear Alec, from mother and father: In loving memory of our dear brother, from Aubrey and Peg: To dear Alec with fondest love and loving memories from Mum and Dad, 81 Windsor Street, "Thy will be done": In loving memory from Grandma and Grandpa, Horley: With deepest sympathy, from Gerty and Albert (Plumstead) and Elsie and Buff (Croydon): In loving memory from uncle Will, Aunt Nellie, Nellie, Irene, and Dorothy Butler's Cross): In loving memory from Auntie Pollie, Uncle Albert, and family (Leighton Buzzard): With deepest sympathy from Uncle Joe and Aunt Carrie, and family (Hill Top, Wicken); With deepest sympathy from Uncle Alf and family, Auntie Gerty and Evelyn; In loving memory from Auntie Rose, Uncle George, and family (Willen); With deepest sympathy from Charlie and Doris; In loving memory of a dear Alec from Lily, Ivy, Marjorie, and Eric; With deepest sympathy from Jim Connie and Ian (Luton); In loving memory of our dear brother from Nellie and Ted; To dear Alec in loving ad affectionate memory from Dot, Frank and John (Castlethorpe); With love and deepest sympathy, from Jack and Elsie; To my dear Uncle Alec, with love from Baby Alan; In loving memory of Uncle Alec from Ken and Mary; To dear Alec with fondest memories from all at Syresham; In loving memory of dear Alec from Uncle Fred and Auntie Livy (Towcester); With deepest sympathy and fond remembrance from Tom and Nan, and family, Agnes, Arthur, Lil and Reny, "There is a sweet rest in Heaven";

In affectionate remembrance from Cousin Fred, Alice and the children; With deepest sympathy from Gladys and Billie (Harrow); In affectionate memory and deepest sympathy of a dear Alec from sincere friends Mr and Mrs Cleary, Joan and Reg; In ever loving memory of our dear friend Alec from Rene and Reg; With deepest sympathy from Mr and Mrs Shepherd, Doris and Bill (High Wycombe) "We shall always remember you"; With deepest sympathy from all at the Pedestal, High Wycombe; With deepest sympathy from Sid and Kath (Great Missenden); In loving memory of Uncle Honour, from Betty and Walter (great Missenden); With sincere sympathy from Mrs Wilson, Ethel, and Bert, (Wolverton), "Thy will be done"; In loving remembrance from all at "Rosemary", Wolverton Road, Newport Pagnell; In kind remembrance of Alec from an old friend Miss L Cave; In fond remembrance of Alec from Arthur and Win (Oxford); To Alec with affectionate remembrance of happy days in the past, from Doris and George; With sincere sympathy from Frances and Billy; In loving memory of Alec from Mr and Mrs Osterfield (Aylesbury); With deepest sympathy from Mr and Mrs Walton (Castlethorpe); Sincere sympathy from Charlie, Dorothy and Alan (Padbury); With deepest sympathy from Neighbours and Friends Wolverton; With deepest sympathy from the Chief Constable, officers and men of the Buckinghamshire Constabulary: In remembrance from his comrades of the South Western Division; With deepest sympathy from Superintendent and Mrs Bryant (Buckingham); With sincere sympathy from Superintendent and Mrs Callaway (Bletchley); In remembrance from Inspector and Mrs Heritage; A token of respect from the Grenville Lodge of Freemasons (No. 1787); With deepest sympathy, from 1st Maids Morton Boy Scouts.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs Winsor Bros., and Glave of Jersey Road, Wolverton."



The grave of Alex and Constance Honour at Wolverton Cemetery is shown above. On the grave is

Sacred to the memory of Alec Lionel Richard, beloved husband of Constance Honour who fell asleep March 3rd 1936 aged 33 years

Alex's wife Constance died 44 years later having never remarried.

*Also his wife Constance Ivy
Died 8th September 1990
aged 86 years*

To return to Albert; on retirement, he and Ellen moved to Berton, Aylesbury. He was a very keen gardener and became the first president of the Berton Allotments Association. During 1957 they moved to Wolverton to be nearer their son Aubrey, who was chief draughtsman at a local firm, and his wife Margaret, moving into 100 Aylesbury Street West where they were living when Albert died four years later at the age of 81 on Thursday, 5th January 1961 at Northampton General Hospital following an operation.

The funeral service was held at the Wolverton Methodist Church on Monday the 9th and was conducted by the Rev. P.W. Trembath. A tape recording was made of the service by the funeral directors, Gurney and

Son, for Ellen, who was unable to attend owing to ill health. Amongst the many mourners were son Aubrey and his wife Margaret, along with Alex's wife Constance. The Bucks Constabulary was represented by Superintendent Lawrence Harman (Bletchley) representing the Chief Constable Brigadier John Cheney, Chief Inspector Joseph Wilson (Bletchley), Sergeant Douglas Stratham (Stony Stratford) and PC J. Burt (Wolverton).

Albert was buried in Wolverton Cemetery not too far from his son Alex. He left £2,628 11s and 8d to his wife Ellen.

Albert's simple grave at Wolverton Cemetery reads:

In loving memory of Albert Amos Honour who passed away on January 5th 1961 aged 81 years.

"At Rest"



Aubrey died on 23rd November 1983 at the age of 78, three years after his wife Margaret, who had died on 23rd December 1980 aged 74. Albert's widow Ellen died at Manor House, Broughton, on 27th November 1969 at the age of 89; she had seen the death of not only her husband but also her two sons, Alex and Aubrey. I have been unable to find where she was buried.

On Aubrey and Margaret's headstone at Wolverton Cemetery is written:

*In Loving Memory
of
Margaret Kathleen Honour
Died 23rd December 1980 Aged 74
Years
Also of
Aubrey Victor Honour
Died 23rd November 1983 Aged 78
Years
Reunited*

Albert is also pictured in a photograph taken at Newport Pagnell in 1913. He is sitting on a chair third from the right. There is an interesting story with regard to this photograph which I have included below.

A few months before my retirement from the police in 2011, with the help of one of Milton Keynes Police Station's facilities officer, Robert, we found an original of this photograph in the garage roof-space at Newport Pagnell Police Station. No-one had been up there for a number of years. Also found were a number of old property books from the early 1970s and several old road-side lamps from the 1950/60s.

The original photograph was very dusty, and after I had cleaned it up I was able to clearly read, with a magnifying glass, many of the collar numbers and so could name these officers. I also recognised a number of them from other Bucks Constabulary



photographs I had. Some of the other numbers were not so clear, but where I could make out part of the number, from a process of elimination of where a particular officer was posted at the time and in some cases by promotion, I was able to also name many of these. Out of the 37 officers I was able to name 28.

The original photograph was named 'Bucks Constabulary, Northern Division Newport Pagnell 1913'. I had this photograph framed and it now hangs in the CCTV room at Central Milton Keynes Police Station with a number of other original Bucks Constabulary photographs.

Leslie Walter Randall

Lesley Walter Randall was born on 15th October 1898 at Bromley, Kent, to Walter and Elizabeth. He had an elder sister, Alice Naomi, born two years earlier. His father was a cowman/domestic and in 1911 the family lived in Parks Dairy, Hinkton, Great Chesterford.

Leslie joined the 21st Training Reserve Battalion at Watford on 23rd February 1917. On 14th August the following year he transferred to Number 5 Officers Cadet Battalion at Cambridge, then transferring to The Rifle Brigade in November that year. On 2nd March 1919 the records state that he "proceeded from Cambridge to Winchester", but in May that same year he was discharged having suffered a nervous breakdown. He served a total of 2 years and 3 months. During this period he received no medals.

After leaving the Army Leslie obtained employment as a gardener until 25th October 1920, when he joined the Bucks Constabulary as a Temporary Constable. The General Order read:

*Chief Constables Office,
Aylesbury,
25th October 1920*

Leslie Walter Randall is appointed Temporary Constable from this date inclusive, for employment at the

Slough Depot, at the sole expense of the Slough Trading Company, Ltd.

*Signed Otway Mayne Major,
Chief Constable.*



From what I have been able to make out, during WW1, and for a time after, the Bucks Constabulary took on Temporary Constables. These were untrained constables that were

effectively given 'Guard Duty' at important locations at the expense of the companies concerned. I think it was just to have a police uniformed presence at these locations. Leslie decided that the police could offer him a good career and applied to join the Bucks Constabulary as a full time constable; the General Order read:

*Chief Constables Office,
Aylesbury,
15th November 1920*

*Leslie Walter Randall joins the Force
on probation from this date inclusive.*

*Signed Otway Mayne Major,
Chief Constable.*



His first posting, after his initial training at Aylesbury where this photograph was taken, was to Wolverton on 18th January 1921. It is during this posting that the 'Wolverton photograph' was taken. He remained here until 17th December the same year, when he was posted to the Chief Constable's Office at Aylesbury.

The next photograph, above, shows the Chief Constable's Office at the time Leslie was posted there. Leslie is standing at the back, first on the right. The person in civilian clothes is the Chief Constable, Major Otway Mayne O.B.E. D.L.

I think when you compare the Chief Constable's Office photograph (below) with the constable in the Wolverton photograph there is a more than a good likeness, taking his height and build into consideration.

I would think that this was a posting Leslie would have been pleased to take, bringing him in personal contact with the Chief Constable and this would not do his career any harm.

He remained at Aylesbury until April 1923, when he was posted back on the Northern Division at Newport Pagnell where he remained until he was posted to the Southern Division

at Salt Hill. From what I have been able to find out it, would appear Leslie remained single throughout his police career, during which time he would have lived in lodgings approved by the Chief Constable.

The police records become unclear but it looks like he was posted to Burnham in 1929, as he was "Commended" for good police work at Burnham on 1st January 1929. The commendation is dated 19th March that year.

Leslie took an examination for Sergeant in June 1929 which he failed, but on the next attempt, on 22nd May 1939, he passed and was promoted to Sergeant on probation on 30th August.

During my research I found another General Order dated 1937 which refers to Leslie. It reads:

12th June 1937.

Police Constable 48 Leslie Randall has passed an examination in Anti-Gas measures held at Aylesbury on the 10th instant.

*Signed T.R.P. Warren Colonel,
Chief Constable.*

During the Second World War a lot of police officers were prevented from retiring, owing to the fact that

many officers went to fight in the war and there was a shortage young men. As you can see below, Leslie was prevented from retiring:

10th December 1946

Permission to retire withheld. Pension guaranteed in accordance with Home Office Circular 49.1945.

Sergeant 118 L. Randall Relevant Date. 7th December 1946. Amount of annual pay upon which calculated £429.

*Signed A.F. Wilcox Lt. Col.
A.C.C.*

Aylesbury Records Office have a 70 year ban, so police records towards the end of the Second World War are not available. Leslie remained in the rank of Sergeant up until his retirement, which would not have been too long after the above General Order.

Leslie has been difficult to research, but he seems to have married towards the end of 1945 to a Betty Smith.

I have been able to find out little more, but Leslie died at the age of 78 in December 1976 at Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this report, I cannot say that I am going to definitely name the Sergeant and Constable in the Wolverton

Photograph numbered P1159, but I think I can say the following:

The Sergeant is likely to be 34 Albert Honour and the Constable is likely to be 118 Leslie Walter Randall. That being the case, the photograph is likely to be dated between 18th January and 17th December 1921.



MICK SHAW has been retired from Thames

Valley Police for the past 6 years, having served 33 years. He served 17 years as the village Constable for Hanslope and became interested in the Bucks Constabulary and police history in general during 1994, when the local school staged a display on the formation of the Hanslope Parish Council in 1894. As Area Beat Officer of Hanslope Mick was asked to assist with a small display on the police from that period and in particular the village constable. He wrote to the Records Office at Aylesbury and was informed that the officer's name was PC 42 Joseph Lorton. Amazed at the information held on Lorton,

even the colour of his eyes, Mick decided to research all the village constables since the formation of the Bucks Constabulary back in 1857. He found that he was the 39th constable. From there he became hooked and started his research; at this point in time he has well over 2,000 photographs and around the same number of full or part records of service of police officers who served in the Bucks Constabulary up until the amalgamation in 1968.

Visit his website: www.mkheritage.co.uk/bch.

