

Chief Constable Thomas Oliver

By GILL WHITEHOUSE



Having recently moved house, I have just unearthed *Journal* no. 30, which contains an article on the Port of London Authority Police.

Amongst my police medal collection is the group belonging to Chief Constable Thomas James Oliver (1958-1972). The group consists of :

O.B.E. (Civil)
1939-1945 Star
France & Germany Star
Defence Medal
War Medal
Coronation 1953 Medal
Police Long Service Medal

As an orphan, Thomas Oliver was brought up in institutions (Barnado's?) so to achieve his rank was a remarkable effort. In 1944, he was seconded by the Police Authority to the Civil Affairs Branch of the Army, hence the two stars. In 1947 he was seconded to the Foreign Office as a member of the Special Police Corps of the Control Commission for Germany, serving until 1955. This was the organisation responsibly for the post-war policing of the civilian population of Germany.

From 1955-1958, he was Civil Defence Officer for Kent, and Chief Police Officer, P.L.A. from 1958.

With the group of medals came his police and C.C.G. insignia, and a photograph on the occasion Her Majesty's visit in 1959.

I appreciate that this is rather a long time from the *Journal* article, but things get buried in a move!