



A
HISTORY
OF THE
COUNTY BOROUGH
OF
HASTINGS POLICE

* * *

1836 - 1967

FOREWORD

by

Councillor H. E. Mitchell, J.P., Chairman of the Watch Committee

It is with some measure of pride, tinged with sadness, that the County Borough of Hastings acknowledges the reasons which have led to the loss of autonomy in respect of its Police Service. Changes in our pattern of life are affecting so many of our Institutions, and those which touch upon crime, traffic, and general police administration, indicate the need for larger units to cope with the problems which arise.

The Force can look with pride upon its fine record for crime prevention and detection, and for the positive efforts to deal with the traffic problem. In Life-Saving and First Aid activities it has achieved national honours. I have confidence that the excellent qualities which have brought about this creditable state of affairs will be carried forward to benefit the amalgamated Sussex Force and while we are understandably sad that we must lose our separate identity, we are happy that the planning of the amalgamation has been carried out with such excellent co-operation between the five Sussex Forces.

The changes now taking place have not deterred the Hastings Police Authority from looking after the welfare of its men, and besides providing adequately in the matter of houses and section boxes, the amalgamation date finds us well committed in the provision of a site and initial plans for a new Police Headquarters.

It is right to record this history of the oldest of the Sussex Forces affected by the amalgamation. I am sure that all of the readers of this booklet will appreciate even more the happy relationship which has existed for so many years between the public and the Force and wish for its continuation in the years ahead. The people of Hastings have good reason to say "thank you" to all members of the Borough Force who have given them such fine service over so many years.

December, 1967.

INTRODUCTION

In presenting this history of the Force, I wish to pay tribute to the research and drafting undertaken by Mr. Charles Banks, a former Inspector of the Force, who is still serving in a civilian capacity. His wealth of knowledge and painstaking efforts are largely responsible for its production. I am greatly indebted to him.

He in turn was helped by many retired members of the Borough Force who kindly loaned photographs and supplied information. Thanks are due likewise to Dr. Gordon Nesbitt Wood, our former Police Surgeon, Mr. Colin G. Macdougall, the last Chief Officer of the Volunteer Fire Brigade and former Borough Civil Defence Officer, and to Mrs. K. M. Glynn, great grand-daughter of the late Sergeant Brasier, for the loan of the Sergeant's "Journal", extracts from which appear in this work.

Hastings is a town with an excellent community spirit, and with many residents, including several police pensioners and their relatives, with memories stretching back over many years. It is with these strong local associations in mind that much of the detailed information has been included. I hope that they and all who read this history will find it interesting.

I wish to record my appreciation of the support which I have always received from the Watch Committee during my nine very happy years as Chief Constable.

I have reason to believe that the members of the Force have much to contribute to the new Sussex Constabulary and many will benefit from the enhanced opportunities which the amalgamation presents.

I thank all who have given of their loyalty and ability, without which I could not have done my job.

DONALD L. BROWN,
Chief Constable.

Chief Constable's Office,
Hastings.
December, 1967.

CHAPTER ONE

The Watch

A short summary of national background history to the Police Service should help to give a better appreciation of later local developments.

Since the reign of Alfred the Great (A.D. 870-901) the responsibility for maintaining Law and Order has devolved upon the citizens of this country. Under the Anglo-Saxon police system every citizen was made responsible for the consequences of his own actions, and that of his neighbours, and any transgressor had to reckon with the members of his community. In effect every freeman was a police officer, under oath to assist in the preservation of the peace, and was duty bound to bring an offender to justice.

The Statute of Winchester (1285) made by Edward I (1272-1307) provided a definite system for keeping the peace of the Kingdom.

Three points of this statute are of particular interest :-

1. The Hundred was to be answerable for all offences committed within it. Every man between 15 and 60 was to have arms in his house prescribed in accordance with his status, ready for use in keeping the peace.
2. The "hue and cry" was revived and sheriffs were to follow law breakers with the inhabitants of the whole countryside and the pursuit was to be maintained until the offender was either arrested or reached sanctuary. The statute prescribed that if "hue and cry" was not levied at once the inhabitants were to be fined.
3. Watch and ward was to be kept in towns. The gates of walled towns were to be shut between sunset and daybreak, and a watch of six men maintained to guard each gate. Every borough was to have a watch of twelve persons, and small towns were to have watchmen according to their population.

Later in the same year King Edward provided for the needs of the Capital, enacting that the gates of London were to be shut at night and that the City should be divided into 24 wards, each with six watchmen controlled by an Alderman. A "marching" watch was also to patrol and assist the watchmen in the Wards. All the watchmen were empowered to arrest offenders and bring them before the Mayor.

In Hastings, from a very early date, the Mayor's Sergeant and the Common Sergeant were the two town officials entrusted with the preservation of law and order. However, in case of emergency and especially in time of war, a system known as "watch and ward" was established. Each citizen had to perform his share of this duty, or provide a substitute. Failure to do so was punishable by a fine at the hands of the Mayor and Jurats. The latter were equivalent to present day Aldermen.

A number of volunteers were sworn in each year to act as con-

stables, without pay, and serving for only one year. Their number varied from seven in 1793 to forty in 1798, and seventeen in 1817. It appears that this system of policing did not work well, for about 1823 to 1824 a force consisting of nine men was formed, maintained by private subscription. Two of these men were detailed on alternate nights as night constables, and three of the others were employed as day constables.

In the Hastings Public Museum is preserved the Watch Report Book for 1825-26 which gives some insight into the trials and tribulations of the watchmen, although they only had to keep order in a population of about 8,000.

The first professional Police Force in this country was in the Metropolis. It came into being in 1829, as the result of the Metropolitan Police Act of that year. In a few years, by sheer tenacity and integrity, this Force had won the esteem and confidence of the population. In 1835 the Whig Government secured the passage of the Municipal Corporations Act, which abolished the existing local government machinery in most of the principal Boroughs, created new Corporations with authority to levy rates and control municipal affairs, and prescribed that each Corporation could set up a Watch Committee with responsibility to form a Police Force in any form desired.

In the field of the maintenance of law and order valuable reserves could be provided under the provisions of the Special Constables Act, 1831, which empowered Justices to order citizens to serve as special constables in time of emergency, and this Act laid down the early English principle that it is the duty of every citizen to assist in preserving the peace.

CHAPTER TWO

The Watch Committee is convened and a Hastings Police Force is Established

The first meeting of the Watch Committee for the Borough was held at the Town Hall (now a Museum), High Street, Hastings, on Friday, 6th May, 1836. The original Minute Books of the Committee are still preserved, and following are some interesting extracts therefrom.

"RESOLVED: That no person be appointed on the Police Force within this Borough unless he can both read and write, and unless he be of the height of 5' 7"";

"That there be appointed

1 Inspector at	£1 : 5 : 0	per week
3 Serjeants at	£1 : 0 : 0	per week
9 Constables	18 : 0	per week"

"That the Borough be divided into three Districts, viz: St. Leonards West to Priory Bridge; East - The Castle Parish; and the Parishes of Saint Clement and All Saints".

"And that this Meeting propose that — John Campbell be Inspector; Geo. Lane, John Welsted, Crispin Jessop — Serjeants; Stephen Mann, Joseph Prior, Henry Chatfield, John Tolfree, John Colbran, Henry Harmer, William Harman, William Fullager, Samuel Ginner — Constables".

"That this Committee decide necessary that an additional Watch and lock up house should be erected somewhere near the Warrior Gate".

"And that it would be desirable that a proper officer of the Metropolitan Police Establishment should be engaged here at the onset to instruct the new Police".

"And the above resolutions be reported to the Council at their next Meeting.

(Signed) Robert Montague Wilmot
Mayor".

The Committee later made an inspection of the men they had appointed, and apparently found that some of them were not up to requirements. On 12th May, 1836, they made a further inspection of the candidates and revised some of their original selection. At this Meeting the Committee requested the Town Clerk to prepare a Draft of Bye-Laws for the regulation of the Police, the same to be presented at their next Meeting.

At the next Meeting of the Committee held on 17th May, 1836, it was ordered "That a Serjt. of the Metropolitan Police be engaged to come to this Town on the 30 inst. to instruct and set the Police Force in motion and that he be paid 5/6d. per day Coachttime and lodging and that his stay here continue until further orders from this Council".

"And that the clothes and accoutrements required by the Police for 12 men be put out for public Tender by persons inhabiting within this Borough to be made from measure as found agreeable to the sample of articles now in the possession of the Town Clerk".

"And that John Campbell and George Colbran the two Serjeants at Mace be and they are hereby appointed Constables of and for this Borough and Liberties".

"Also that the regulations of the New Police now drawn out — presented by the Town Clerk be adopted and that the same together with the duties of a Constable be printed". Copies of these duties are preserved, but are rather too lengthy for reproduction.

The request for the Metropolitan Police Serjeant to act as Instructor was similar to the applications (numbering over 200) which were made at this period to the then Home Secretary, Lord John Russell, and the London Commissioner direct, for information and practical help in organising the new Borough Police Forces on the Metropolitan Police pattern. All such applications were promptly complied with.

At their Meeting held on 24th May, 1836, the Committee accepted the Tender submitted by Thomas Phillips for "clothes and accoutrements agreeable to Specification" for the sum of £7 7s. 7d. each set, and the undermentioned were duly appointed Constables of and for this Borough, and were duly sworn as such :- George Colbran, James Adams, William Wood, John Campbell, James Barnes, James Brazier, Crispin Jessop, John Colbran, Stephen Mann, William Sinden, Samuel Ginner, Thos. Muggridge, John Welsted, and William Harman. (George Colbran, the Serjeant at Mace, to be without pay).

The Committee very soon ran into difficulties, it being recorded in the Minutes of their Meeting held on 25th May, 1836, that the "Contract of Mr. Thos. Phillips in consequence of its uncertainty and of the misunderstanding in which it was made is not to be received", and that the Tender of Charles Lock for £8 8s. 2d. per suit be accepted, "and that extra fine clothes be allowed for the Inspector with such additional Badges for him and the Serjeants as may be used in the London Police to be paid extra". The official uniform and equipment was a blue coat with an embroidered collar with the letter "H" and a number on it; a greatcoat similarly embroidered; dress trousers; an oiled cape; two pairs of stout wellington boots, nailed and felted; one patent leather stock and flaps; one leather girdle and buckle; one armet and buckle; one hat with glazed leather top and side protectors; a painted and varnished truncheon; a rattle, and dark lanthorn.

Serjt. Sellwood of the Metropolitan Police met the Watch Committee on 1st June, 1836, prior to beginning his course of instruction. The Committee ordered :- "That the day duty begin at 6 a.m. and terminate at 9 p.m. That the night duty begin at 9 p.m. and terminate at 6 a.m.; that the whole force be divided into 3 Sections

and that one Section on the night duty be relieved every four weeks; that the Section on the day duty to consist of one Serjt. and 3 men be divided into three watches; that the whole of the night duty be performed by the two Sections consisting of two Serjts, and six men in one watch — that for the night duty the Borough be divided into two Divisions — viz : the East and West Division — each to comprise 3 Beats”, and that the Watchhouse (on the ground floor of the Town Hall) which had been handed over to the Watch Committee by the Commissioners of the Hastings Act should be thoroughly cleaned and painted throughout, and finally “that John Cartier (extra Constable) be allowed to sleep in the Watchhouse and that he be found in firing and candles on condition that he act as Watchhouse Keeper during the night and that he receive and keep safe all malefactors and disorderly persons that may be confined therein”.

In June the Committee agreed that arrangements be made with the Gas Company for lighting the room underneath the Town Hall with Gas from 6 to 9 p.m., and the words “POLICE STATION” should be painted on the doors under the Town Hall.

At their Meeting held on 18th June, 1836, Serjt. Sellwood of the London Police was “discharged from the Superintendence of the Force, and the Treasurer of the Borough Fund was ordered to pay him £7”. The Town Clerk was ordered to write to the Commissioner to express the Committee’s thanks for his assistance, and at the same time to express their satisfaction at the conduct of Serjt. Sellwood during his stay here.

On 2nd July, 1836, the Watch Committee dealt with their first discipline charge. P.C. 6 James Brazier was dismissed the Service for being found drunk and asleep on his beat during his night duty. John Tilden, a bricklayer, was appointed in his stead.

The Minutes dated 14th July, 1836, record that P.C. 4 Adams was authorised to retain the sum of 6/- received by him for impounding some cattle found straying in Wellington Square. It became customary for such fees to be retained by the Constables concerned.

P.S. 1 Jessop on 30th July, 1836, was reduced to the rank of Constable, having been found guilty of being intoxicated whilst on duty. P.C. 5 Barnes was promoted in his stead.

The Committee refused at their Meeting held on 11th August, 1836, an application for a constable to attend an archery meeting at St. Leonards, being of the opinion that it would not be advisable to take men off their regular duty for such purpose. The Archery Ground was at The Mount, and the College of Further Education is now built upon its site.

At their Meeting on 24th November, 1836, the Committee considered a charge against Lord Southampton for dangerous driving, and decided that the matter be deferred to their next Meeting. It appears, however, that no further action was taken.

P.C. Crispin Jessop regained his stripes on 15th December, 1836, replacing the unfortunate Serjt. Welsted, who had been dismissed

in consequence of five months' illness.

Crime prevention is not a new idea, for it is recorded under date 12th January, 1837, that "the Inspector is directed to call at 24 Marina, St. Leonards, and see the Master and inform him of the negligence of his servants, in leaving the back door unfastened at night".

The Watch Committee had no qualms from immediately discharging from the Service in February, 1837, a constable who had been "reported for neglect of duty for loitering in a street, for incivility to his Sergeant, and for reporting the conversation and private arrangements of the Police to an individual suspected of committing an offence", and they similarly discharged another constable reported "for neglect of duty in playing 4 crosses at Warriors Gate Inn and drinking when on duty, and taking off his armlet and refusing to go on duty". The Sergeant concerned in the latter case was himself in trouble a month later being "reported for neglect of duty for exchanging his Hat for a Girl's Bonnet and allowing her to wear his hat and for not visiting all his men on duty". For this offence the Sergeant was reprimanded.

At their Meeting held on 7th September, 1837, the Watch Committee considered a Resolution from the Council "That it would be expedient with a view to economy for a less amount of regular Police force in uniform to be maintained, and that the principle of enrolled assistants be adopted in lieu thereof, and report their opinion to the Council as soon as possible".

A week later the Town Clerk reported that he had made the following Return to the Constabulary Force Commissioner :- Summary of Crimes, offences and occurrences within the Borough of Hastings calling for the interference of the Police from their first Establishment in June, 1836, under the Municipal Corporations Act, to 1st June, 1837.

Felonies	29
Misdemeanours in obtaining goods under false pretences	5
Assaults on Police in execution of duty	11
Common assaults and Breaches of peace	14
Stealing vegetables, underwood, etc., under Petty Trespass Act	21
Offences under Town Act	81
Offences against Beer & Alehouse Licences	57
Other Petty Misdemeanours, Drunkenness, etc.	64
Occurrences (3 Fires)	17
Vagrancy	64
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Total	363
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Prisoners apprehended by Police on charges of other Individuals	41
Prisoners apprehended by Police on their own charges	167
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Total	208
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Of the 167 Prisoners 129 were convicted of offences
 38 were discharged on reprimand and conviction, etc.

The following is a return of the total expenses of the present Police and the Expenses of the Watch under the Local Acts together with the Subscription Watch previous to the formation of the present force —

The Municipal Force		£	s.	d.
Wages		635	19	7
Fires, etc., in Watch House		6	3	5
Oil & fire for Station House		10	8	11
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		652	11	11
Average of clothes		86	—	—
Further expenses attending on Watch Committee, printing & sundries		28	8	1
		<hr/>		
	Total per annum	£767	—	—
		<hr/>		
The late Beadles, etc.				
Sum paid by Commissioners of Hastings Act		140	—	—
Extra Subscriptions		211	—	—
St. Leonards Expenses		47	—	—
		<hr/>		
	Total	£398	—	—
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	Difference	£369	—	—
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The Watch Committee resolved that this Account should be laid before the Council at their next Meeting. On 14th June, 1838, the Committee dismissed a proposition that a reduction of £200 in their expenditure annually should be effected by dismissing five members of the Force and adopting a supernumerary force of seven at 3/- each per week, but in March, 1839, the Committee was obliged to yield to the pressure brought to bear, and agreed to the Police Force being reduced by two men. This was effected by a vacancy not being filled, and a constable being given a month's notice.

In October, 1838, the Committee ordered "that the room under the Circular Stair case near the Conqueror's Hotel at St. Leonards be hired at £4 per annum for a Watchhouse".

The Introduction of a Sickness and Reward Fund

At their Meeting held on 16th December, 1839, the Watch Committee made a decision of considerable welfare importance to the members of the Force. The Committee passed the following Resolution :- "That all Sums of Money offered to the Police by way of gratuities and which are brought before the Watch Committee for allowance are to be paid into the hands of The Mayor for the time being to form a General Fund — That such Fund shall be called

"The Police Sick Fund" and shall be applied at the discretion of the Watch Committee in relief of such of the Police Constables as shall be from time to time disabled from sickness or other Bodily infirmity or by way of reward for extraordinary Diligence or Services performed out of the General Routine of Duty". At their Meeting on 2nd March, 1840, the Committee adopted as a rule that at least one half of all monies received by the Police Officers as a reward for extra duty or services should be paid over to the Reserve Fund.

This Fund was operated until about 1855, and it was the regular custom at Christmas time for a gratuity to be paid to all ranks, the amount in each case being assessed according to each officer's rank and length of service. Later, during the years that Mr. Glenister was Chief Constable, a Mr. Clarke, of George Street, Hastings, organised privately a "Police Christmas Fund" and collected every year on average about £90, and this, with the consent of the Watch Committee, was disbursed on lines similarly adopted for the earlier Fund.

The St. Leonards Police Station

On 20th July, 1841, the Committee decided to relinquish their tenancy of the St. Leonards Watch Room — "finding it has become from damp and nuisances totally unfit for the purposes of a Lock up House". They decided to rent for 2/6d. per week another building in St. Leonards for the use of the Police, but sometime between this date and 1853, the second Lock up was closed. In June, 1853, the Watch Committee recommended "that some place be provided near St. Leonards as a Lock-up for prisoners taken into custody by the Police as considerable inconvenience arises in consequence of the officer having a long distance to go off his beat with the prisoner to Watchhouse (in Bourne Street)".

It must be remembered that at this time there was a great deal of building development in the Borough, and particularly in the "New Town" of St. Leonards, with a consequent rapid rise in population. It was not until 1862, however, that a new Police Station was built in Mercatoria, St. Leonards, at a cost of about £650. The necessary land for this was purchased from Mr. A. Burton for the sum of £315.

The Railway Navvy Disorders

The Brighton to Hastings railway, operated by the London, Brighton and South Coast Company, was opened in 1846, the line terminating at Bo-Peep, near the site of West Marina Station. Hastings Railway Station was opened in 1851, and the Hastings to Rye Line in the same year. The huge amount of tunnelling and construction work involved in building the railway necessitated the employment of hundreds of navvies, most of whom drank hard and fought hard between themselves and the unfortunate Police, whose strength in December, 1846, was only one Inspector, two Serjeants, and six Constables.

Between 1845 and 1849 a number of Railway constables and



1854. Force members outside the original Police Station (later a Museum), in the High Street, Hastings.

employees were sworn in as "Extra Constables" for the Borough of Hastings, but exclusively for duty purposes on the railway works.

The railway navvies created much disorder, and the Watch Committee Minutes record in September, 1849, that twelve persons be paid each 2/6d. for their services to the Police in a disturbance, and "that in consequence of the serious riots which often take place in the paying, etc., of the Railway Labourers — That the Inspector be allowed to employ any number of Extra Constables for night duty not exceeding that he may require". On 17th May, 1850, the Committee gave instructions for six supernumeraries to be called out for service on the night of Whitsun Monday. These reinforcements, however, were insufficient to maintain order, for on 7th June the Inspector reported a list of about 24 people "who assisted the Police in a Row on the Hill on Whit Monday". The Committee gave awards ranging from 1/6d. to 2/6d. according to merit. The Committee condemned the action of a Supernumerary Constable and a Council official in "sending P.C. 4 Waters into a fight with the Navvies single handed without supporting him".

Sad to relate, Inspector John Campbell, who had held that rank in the Force since it was formed in 1836, and had led his men excellently through many severe tests and difficulties, fell from grace in October, 1854, when the Watch Committee dismissed him for being drunk on duty in the Petty Sessions. The Committee communicated with the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, enquiring whether he could nominate one of his officers for appointment as Inspector in the Hastings Police, with a result that on 9th November, 1854, Sergt. Charles Thomas Battersby was appointed to the vacant post, and was duly sworn in.

Inspector Battersby appears to have been an unfortunate choice, however, and was discharged on 5th June, 1857, for general misconduct.

The next chapter deals with his illustrious successor, William Montague Glenister, who has since become known as "the father of the Hastings Borough Police Force".



Mr. William Montague Glenister. Chief Constable of Hastings from 1857 to 1894.
He is wearing his uniform of Captain of the Volunteer Fire Brigade.
His whistle and chain are preserved at Police H.Q., Hastings.

The era of William Montague Glenister — First Chief Constable of Hastings

On 29th May, 1857, the Watch Committee appointed William Montague Glenister, age 30 years, a Police Inspector of the Great Western Railway, as Inspector of the Hastings Borough Police. Mr. Glenister commenced duty in his new post on 27th June, 1857, at a salary of £120 per annum.

At the Meeting of the Watch Committee held on 17th July, 1857, the Committee considered a "report dated 30th June from Captain Edward Willis, H.M. Inspector of Police, as to the efficiency of the Borough Police Force wherein Captain Willis recommended an addition to the Force of four sergeants and nine constables and also some alteration in the day and night duties". The Committee recommended that such report be not adopted as it would entail too much additional expense to the Borough.

In the next month Inspector Glenister's recommendation "that the services of the Keeper of the Watch House be dispensed with and that an additional Regular Police Constable be appointed in order that there may always be a Constable up and on duty at the Police Station nightly from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m., visiting any persons in the Watch House during that time every half hour" was approved by the Committee.

In September, 1857, the Watch Committee agreed to the change in Mr. Glenister's designation of "Inspector" to that of "Superintendent".

In November, 1857, the Committee agreed to the recommendation of H.M. Inspector of Constabulary that six additional men should be appointed to the Borough Force, "seeing that one fourth part of the total expenses of the pay and clothing of the Police will be repaid by Government and the only extra expense thereby incurred by the Borough will be about £27". The six additional Constables commenced duty on 1st January, 1858.

The Superintendent's salary was increased £15 per annum after completing one year's service, and in October, 1858, he reported to the Committee that he had been presented with a gold watch and chain "as a token of satisfaction felt by the tradesmen in the Borough for his exertions in carrying out the duties of his office". The acceptance of the gift was approved, and the Committee had "much pleasure in recording their high approval of the lucid manner in which the first annual report of the state of crime in the Borough for the preceding 12 months had been prepared, and presented by the Superintendent".

At their Meeting in January, 1859, the Committee agreed that the pay of the Sergeants be 22/- per week, with 6d. extra Boot Allowance, and that the Constables be divided into two Classes,

the First Class to consist of six men of the most merit and service, to be paid 20/- and 6d. for boots, and the Second Class, the remaining portion of the Force, be paid 18/- per week and 6d. for boots.

Also at this Meeting the Committee, for the first time, decided on the amounts that were to be deducted from Police pay for Superannuation purposes, as required by the Act dealing with this question, and made that year.

At this time the strength of the Force was 1 Superintendent, 5 Sergeants and 14 Constables.



Circa 1860. Police Sergt. Thomas Jones, who died whilst serving in the Force in February, 1870. Member of a Hastings family of many generations.

In May, 1860, the Superintendent reported to the Committee that he had established a library for the use of the Police Force, and the Committee agreed that the men should contribute 2d. each monthly for this to defray expenses.

The first mention of the method employed of policing the district of Bohemia appears in the Watch Committee Minutes of March, 1861, when they allowed P.C. Morley 10/- for the removal of his goods from his lodgings to Bohemia Road, and that a notice board with the words "Police Station" should be affixed outside his premises.

In January, 1864, the Superintendent reported a case of burglary to the Committee, and they approved that he "get the attendance of two detectives to assist him". This is the first time that "detectives" are mentioned in the records of the Hastings Police.

An augmentation by four men for the Force was approved by the Committee in February, 1865, and in July of the following year the pay of the Police was increased, excluding the Superintendent, who, however, was allowed £15 a year as Inspector of Hackney Carriages, pleasure boats, bathing machines, etc.

Consequent upon the rapid increase in the population of the Borough, and property development, the Watch Committee agreed in January, 1869, to add three men to the Police Force, and a further two men in October, 1871.

Leave, Pay and Appointments

At their Meeting held on 30th April, 1872, the Committee considered a Memorial from the Police Force applying for fixed times of leave, and a shorter time for promotion. The Committee agreed that each man would be allowed a day off a month and five days Annual Leave; that on appointment as 3rd Class Constable a man would be paid £1 0s. 6d. per week, and be on probation for six months. The pay of a Constable was increased so that after five years' service a 1st Merit Constable was paid £1 5s. 6d. per week. The pay for Sergeants was also increased by 1/- per week, and in consequence of the foregoing decision affecting leave, the strength of the Force was increased by one man. In October of the following year the pay of sergeants and constables was increased by another shilling a week.

C.I.D. Staff

The first detective in the Hastings Police Force was P.C. Weston (1875), but by 1879 there was a Detective Sergt. and two Detective Constables. By August, 1883, however, there was only a Detective Sergeant.

The appointment in February, 1881, of Sergt. Dennis as an Inspector is noteworthy. It was the first time that this rank was established as we know it today. The pay of Inspector Dennis was £100 per annum. In October, 1883, Sgt. Streeter was also promoted to the rank of Inspector. Mr. Streeter was promoted to Superintendent in 1895, and he retired on pension in 1903, having completed 50 years' service in the Force.

By December, 1882, an additional Constable had been appointed to "watch the East and West Hills, and Torfield", an Undertaking having been given by Alfred R. Sayer, Receiver of the Estate of Edward Henry Sayer-Milward, "to pay one half of the yearly expenses of the Constable's pay and clothing, not to exceed in any one year the sum of £35".

The Police Force took formal possession on 7th November, 1883, of the new Police Station which had built in Bourne Street on the site of the demolished Gaol, and the original Police Station underneath the Town Hall in High Street was vacated.

The date of 13th November, 1885, is a milestone in the Force's history, for it was on this date that Mr. Glenister, who since Octo-

ber, 1881, had been styled "Chief Superintendent", was named "Chief Constable".

In April, 1888, application was made to the Home Office for the approval of the appointment of six more constables, 900 new buildings and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of new roads having been laid out since the last authorised increase of strength in 1883. The Home Office refused to sanction this until the following October, but nevertheless the Committee approved that one Constable be appointed at the expense of the Borough Fund until Home Office approval was obtained.

In connection with the implementation of the provisions of the Police Act, 1890, the Watch Committee introduced from 26th December of that year a new pay structure for Inspectors, Sergeants and Constables, the rates of pay for each rank on appointment being £2 2s. 0d., £1 11s. 6d., and £1 4s. 6d. per week respectively. This Act also introduced superannuation deductions from pay for pensions.

The population of Hastings in February, 1892, was 52,223, and from April of that year four additional constables were appointed.

The Mounted Constables

Consequent upon complaints received "about the unruly behaviour of certain day excursionists" the Committee in July, 1893, authorised the appointment of an additional constable for Mounted Duty.



1921. Hastings Police Mounted Section.

Left to right :- P.Cs. Milton, Lavender, Funnell, Taylor and Wood.

From this date a mounted P.C. became a familiar figure in the Borough, being employed in patrolling the Fire Hills and rural areas. On the occasion of the visits of important personages, up to four constables were engaged in escorting processions, and in

crowd control duties, horses being hired from a local establishment. The Mounted Section was finally disbanded in 1942, owing to the shortage of animal foostuffs. Mare "Kitty" was put out to grass at Pevensey. She enjoyed several years of retirement, but unfortunately had to be destroyed on account of injuries she received from falling into a dyke.

During the course of his long career, Mr. Glenister received many commendations for his valuable services, and on completing 25 years' service in the Force he was the guest of honour at a banquet held in the Queen's Hotel. At this function he was presented with a cheque for nearly £400. His great grand-daughter is employed at the Hastings Police Headquarters as a shorthand-typist.

Mr. Glenister died on 15th December, 1894, with thirty-seven years approved Police Service. His devoted service to the community and Police Force cannot be measured, and his great work in connection with the organisation and operation of the Volunteer Fire Brigade is most commendable.

CHAPTER FOUR

Between the years 1895 to 1939



Mr. Charles Frederick Baker. Chief Constable of Hastings from 1895 to 1907.

On 24th January, 1895, Mr. Charles Frederick Baker, an Inspector of the Criminal Investigation Department, New Scotland Yard, commenced his duties as Chief Constable, at a salary of £300 per annum. Thanks to the wise and capable stewardship of his predecessor, Mr. Glenister, the new Chief Constable found morale in the Force excellent, but under strength and lacking in some essentials. A Police Surgeon was appointed in March, 1895, and Inspector Streeter, who was then aged 66 years and had 40 years' Police Service, was appointed Superintendent with a wage of £2 15s. 0d. per week. He retired on pension in 1903. For the first time in the history of the Force, a Promotion Examination was held and the Committee agreed in August, 1895, to 14 additional constables and 3 sergeants being appointed. The strength of the Force at this time was 1 Chief Constable, 1 Superintendent, 2 Inspectors, 10 Sergeants (including 3 detectives), and 57 Constables. Some of the extra strength was required for the manning of the new Police Stations at Bohemia and Clive Vale, which were opened in November and September of that year. The Central Police Station at the rear of the new Town Hall, in Queen's Road, had been opened in September, 1881.

On 9th November, 1897, the Borough of Hastings was extended to include Silverhill, Hollington and Ore, and the County Police Stations in the last two named locations were transferred to the County Borough Force. Consequent upon the increase in the area to be policed, the authorised establishment of the Borough Force was augmented by 1 Inspector, 1 Station Sergeant, 4 Section Sergeants, 4 Acting Sergeants and 12 Constables. For Police purposes the Borough was divided into three Divisions — "A" (or Central), "B" (or Eastern), and "C" (or Western). The route for working the Beats was laid down and had to be patrolled strictly within the times allotted.

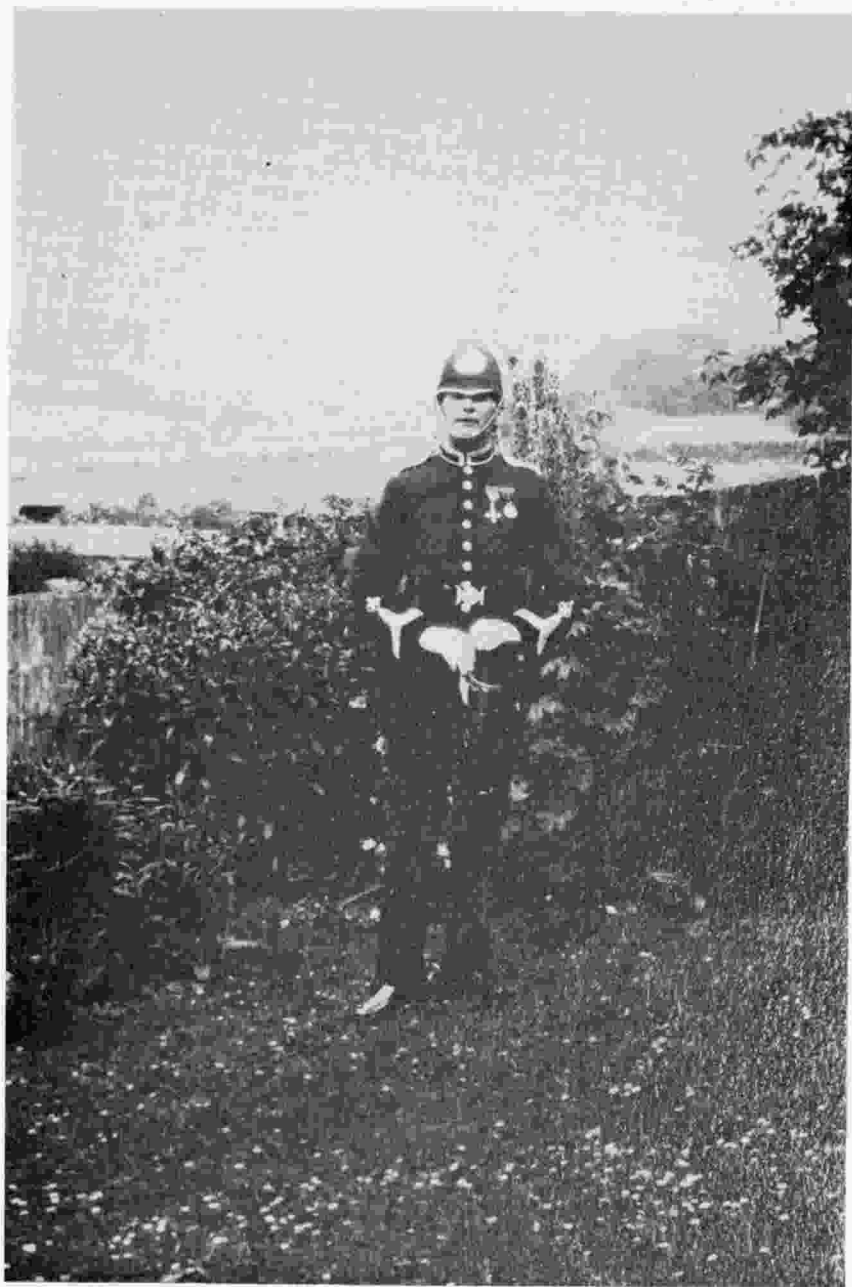
The appointment of Mr. Frederick James as Chief Constable

In 1907 Mr. Baker resigned, and Mr. Frederick James, O.B.E., was appointed to succeed him. Mr. James, who had served in the Plymouth City Police, was a first-class administrator, and although a strict disciplinarian, he was held in high esteem. One of his early reforms was to reduce the daily duty of all Inspectors and Station Sergeants from 12 to 8 hours.

It was customary just before Christmas every year for the Chief Constable to publish a Force Order as follows :- "During the ensuing festive Season, when persons in mistaken kindness offer Intoxicating Liquors to members of the Force, the Chief Constable hopes that everyone will resist temptation in every shape and form, and stringently observe the regulations pertaining to such matters, and so, when the Season has passed, have nothing but pleasant memories of Christmastide.

The Chief Constable wishes every Member of the Force the Compliments of the Season".

When Superintendent Markwick retired on pension in October, 1908, Inspector Lowe was appointed to be his successor. The Watch



Mr. Frederick James, O.B.E. Chief Constable of Hastings from 1907 to 1933.

Committee approved in February, 1909, of the institution of the rank of "Sub-Inspector" for Station Sergeants, and this hybrid rank was maintained until about the beginning of the Second World War.

Another innovation came into operation in April, 1910, when the Watch Committee took over the tenancy of a house in Station Road as a "Detention Home", with a Sub-Inspector and his wife in charge. The implementation of the Police Weekly Rest Day Act in 1911 necessitated the strength of the Force being increased by six men.

When Superintendent Lowe retired in September, 1912, Inspector Kenward was promoted as his successor.

In October of that year Inspector Walls of the Eastbourne Borough Police was shot dead by a housebreaker, and at his funeral a large contingent of the Hastings Police, together with their Band, attended to pay their last respects to their fallen comrade.

The Great War 1914-1918

At the outbreak of the War eight Constables, who were Reservists, were immediately called to serve with the Colours, and consequently the strength of the Force was seriously depleted. In October, 1914, the First Police Reserve of Police pensioners were brought on the strength, and throughout the War these men were in charge of the Sub-Stations, thus releasing the Acting Sergeants for street duty.

In Chapter 13 will be found details of the most valuable work which the Special Constabulary performed during World Wars I and II.

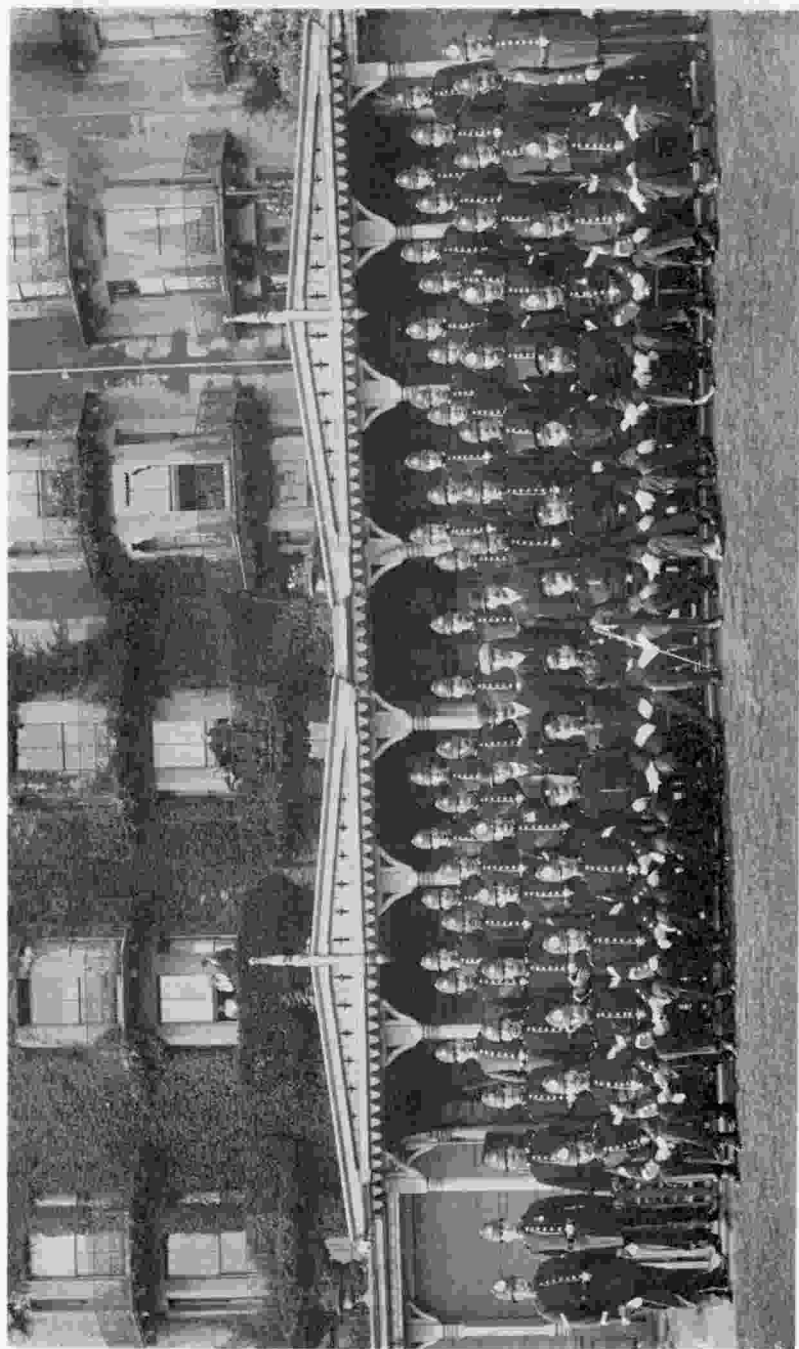
During both Wars, Hastings was a Garrison town, and in particular, there were large formations of Canadian troops stationed in the area. The town was not subjected to any enemy action during the First World War.

Unfortunately the records concerning First World War service of the members of the Hastings Police are incomplete, but it is known that P.C. 97 P. F. Knight was killed in action, and P.C. 96 (later P.S. 4) P. J. White was very severely wounded, and P.C. 41 (later P.S. 7) G. E. Hatch wounded. Available records show that the under-mentioned members of the Force were decorated for acts of bravery during the War :-

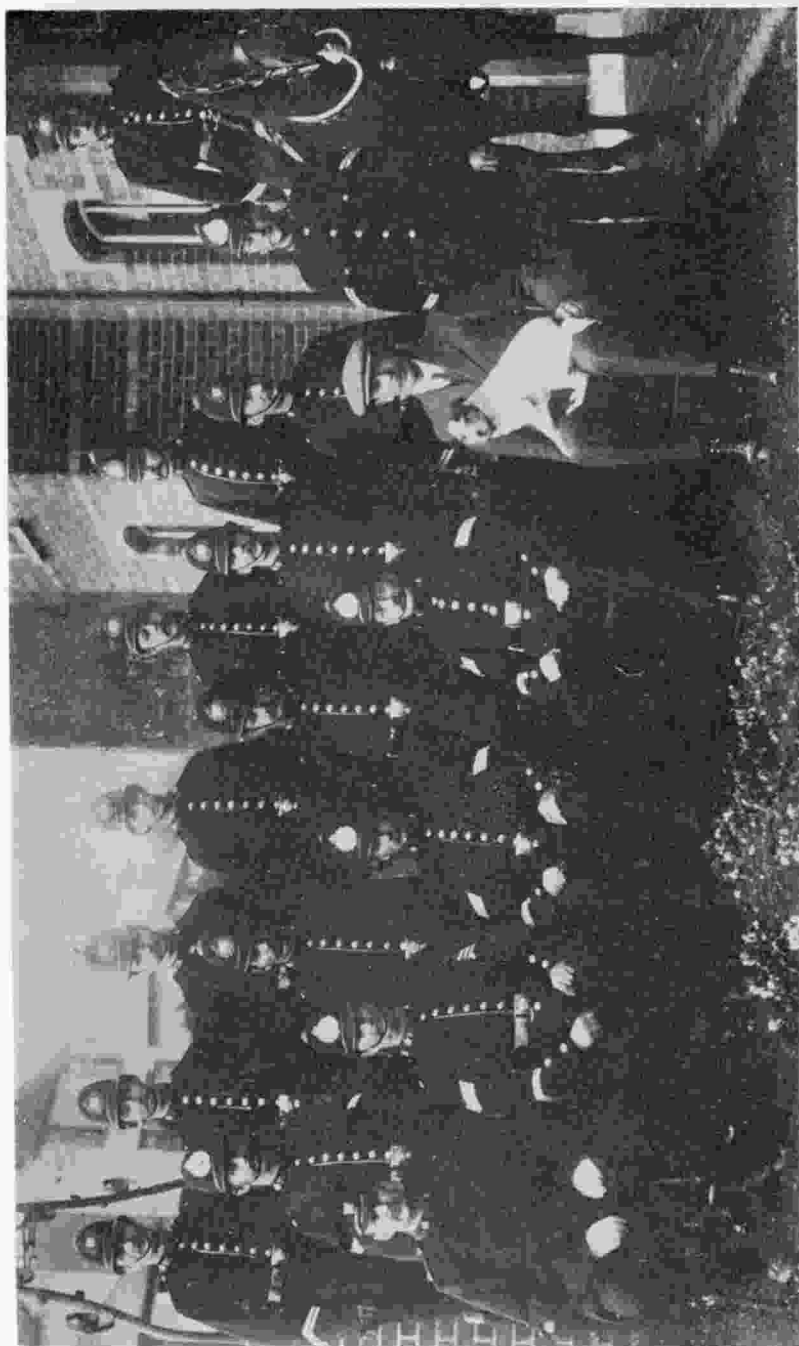
P.C. Hatch	D.C.M. and Medaille Militaire
P.C. French	Distinguished Conduct Medal
P.C. Hickson	Distinguished Conduct Medal
P.C. Lelliott	Distinguished Conduct Medal
P.C. Barden	Military Medal

It is believed that other officers were decorated, and apologies are offered for any omissions.

The decorations awarded to P.C. Hatch were for outstanding acts, even in a time when self-sacrifice and bravery were commonplace. The following is an extract from the Official History of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment :-



1913 — on the occasion of Crown Inspection. Mr. Frederick James, O.B.E., Chief Constable, in centre of front row.



1914, "B" Division, County Borough of Hastings Police, at Clive Vale Police Station.
On left of front row is Inspector Janes. The officer holding the dog is Detective Constable (later Superintendent) Philpott.

"No. 7725 Cpl. George Hatch.

Corporal Hatch of the stretcher bearers, unable to get stretchers forward owing to machine-gun fire, went out alone into the bullet-spattered ground and placed the wounded under cover in shell holes, whence they might be brought in when the fire relaxed. He undoubtedly saved many lives. It was a marvel that he was not hit in the first five minutes, but he continued his wonderful work for hours. At last he was wounded. To the intense disappointment of every man in the Battalion, Corpl. Hatch did not receive the V.C. which, in the opinion of all, he had earned many times that night. He was recommended for it by his Commanding Officer, Brigade, Divisional, Corps and Army Commanders. He was awarded the D.C.M. and Medaille Militaire".

The Police Strike, 1919

The Peace of 1918 found that the cost of living had risen very steeply, and the pay of the Police Force had lagged so far behind the average wages being paid to other work-people that many married policemen were in financial straits. A Police Union was formed and members were recruited from the Forces throughout the country, with the object of securing a better standard of living. Nine members of the Hastings Borough Police joined this Union, but declined to comply with the Union's call for strike action, especially as an interim pay award had been given whilst a Royal Commission under the Chairmanship of Lord Desborough was investigating the pay and conditions of service of the Police. The "Desborough Report" is now regarded as one of the most important events and the turning point for the improvement of the Service generally.

Superintendent Barnes

When Superintendent Kenward retired in May, 1920, Inspector Barnes was promoted to fill the vacancy. He served in this capacity until 31st October, 1923.

Superintendent H. G. French

He was appointed Superintendent and Chief Clerk on 16th November, 1923.

The Use of a Motor Ambulance in cases of illness or accident in the streets

Until December, 1923, persons taken ill in the streets, or who had become accident casualties, were conveyed to hospital in a hand litter in charge of the Police. This primitive method was abolished in 1923 when the Watch Committee made arrangements for the St. John Ambulance Brigade motor ambulance to be used. It was not until 1933, however, that the Police were relieved of conveying bodies to the Mortuary by means of hand litters, when the Police Authority purchased a utility van.

The General Strike, 1926

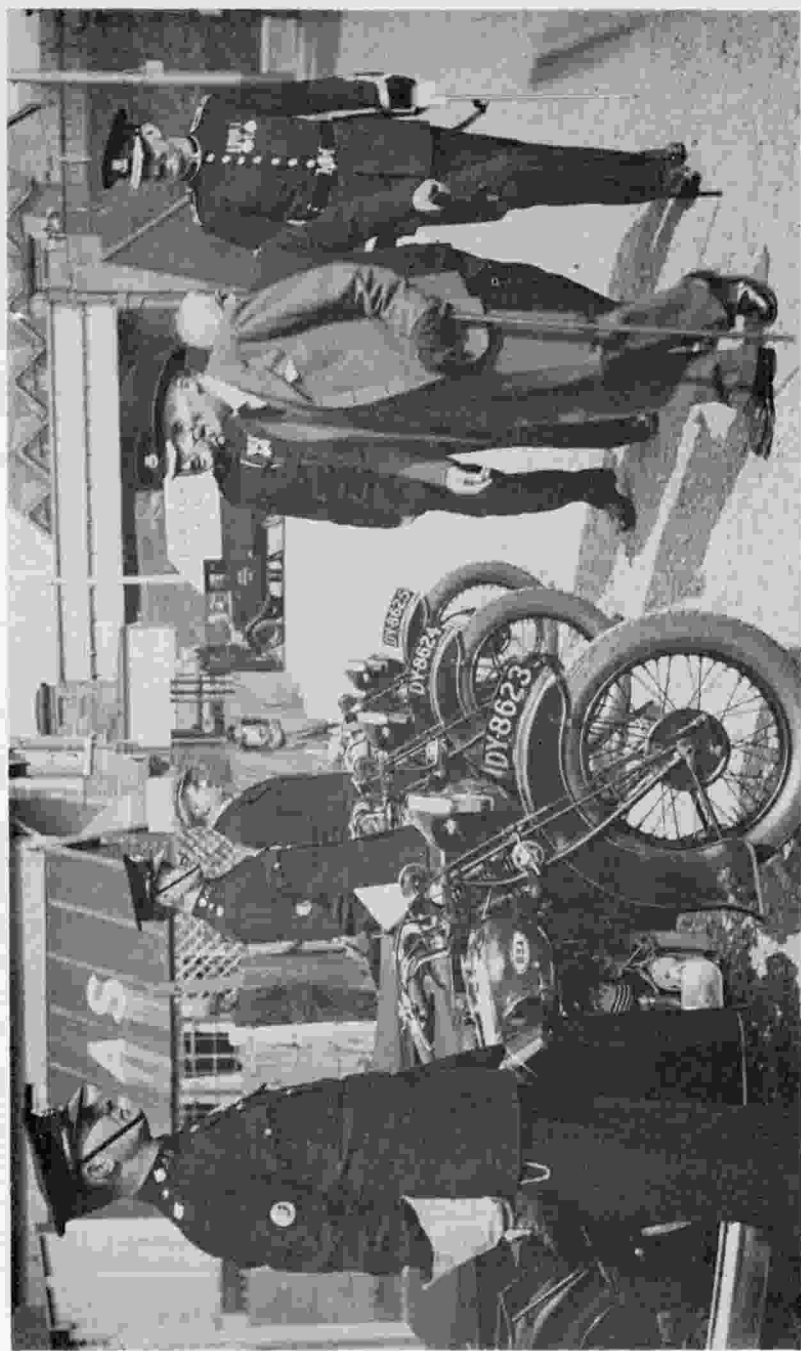
Special police arrangements were made during this period of national emergency, and there were no incidents worthy of mention in the Borough. The Watch Committee at their Meeting held on 14th May, 1926, commended the Force "on the excellent manner in which they performed the onerous duties which devolved upon them during the recent National Crisis" and "expressed the Committee's high appreciation of the dignified and law abiding demeanour displayed by the inhabitants generally, which exemplary behaviour enabled the peace and quietude of the Borough to be so satisfactorily maintained".

The Force becomes Mechanised

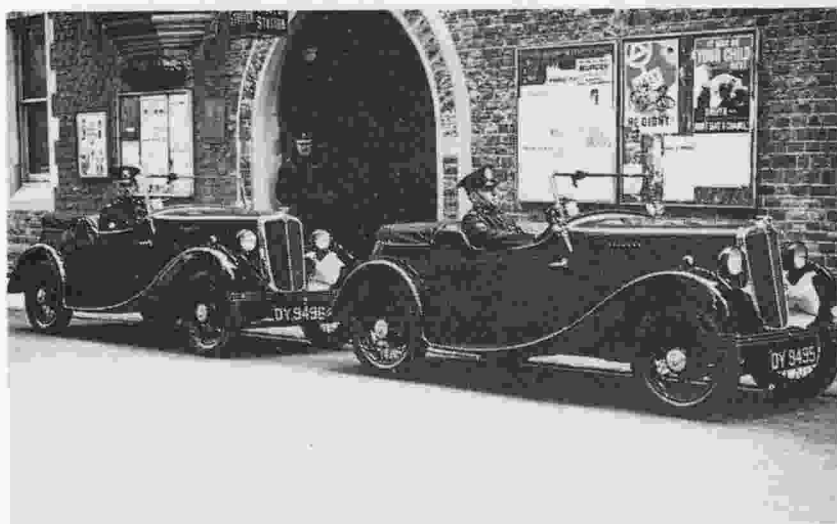


6th April, 1927. Visit of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales to Hastings.
The Prince is seen here accompanied by the Chief Constable,
Mr. Frederick James, O.B.E.

It was on 6th April, 1927, on the occasion of the visit to the Borough of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales that motor transport, in the shape of four privately-owned motor cycle combinations, was used for official Police purposes. The use and adaptability of such machines made a great impression upon the Chief Constable, and in a General Order dated 28th August, 1928, it was announced that two B.S.A. 9.86 h.p. motor cycle combinations had been purchased by the Police Authority and were to be used for the purposes of traffic patrol, transporting officers to scenes of crime, etc., and for carrying dispatches.



Crown Inspection — 6th May, 1936. Lt. Col. Allan, H.M. Inspector of Constabulary, Mr. J. Bell, Chief Constable, and Superintendent W. J. Buddle.
Standing beside the motor cycles are P.Cs. Dann and Parsons, and Detective Constable Carter.



1936. The first motor cars used by Hastings County Borough Police.
Drivers :- P.Cs, E. Metcalf and W. Erridge.

Two 8 h.p. Morris coupes were taken into service in 1936, and additions have been made to the Police fleet of transport to effect mobility and for traffic patrol purposes. At the time of amalgamation the Force possessed :- four lightweight motor cycles, four 750 c.c. motor cycles, six saloon cars, a 15 seater Transit Bus, a dog handler's van, and a Landrover with trailer. This indicates how the Force has kept pace with the increase in traffic, and the need for mobility in answering emergency calls.

The New Superintendents

In September, 1929, Superintendent H. G. French retired, and Inspector F. Philpott was appointed to fill the vacancy. Mr. Philpott served until May, 1933, when Inspector and Chief Clerk W. J. Buddle became Superintendent. Mr. Buddle was also appointed Deputy Chief Constable on the 29th April, 1939. He retired on 31st March, 1944.

The Introduction of the Police Box System

Between 1929 and 1930 a considerable number of Police Boxes were built in the Borough, and in conjunction with these a revised Beat System was introduced in December, 1930. The Beats still had to be worked on prescribed routes and to a strict timetable. Under this system of patrolling it was possible for householders and criminals to log accurately the times at which constables would be in a particular area. This method of working also discouraged the initiative of the men working the patrols. In June, 1935 a new system of policing, involving a redistribution of strength, and reorganisation of the Beats with discretionary working, came into operation.



Mr. Joseph Bell, Chief Constable of Hastings from 1933 to 1942.

The Resignation of Mr. Frederick James

On 31st May, 1933, Mr. James relinquished his command, which he had held since April, 1907, and Mr. Joseph Bell, Detective Superintendent in the Newcastle-on-Tyne City Police Force, was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Bell took prompt measures to improve communications within the Force, and a new telephone and signal system was installed and brought into operation in June, 1935. Additional Police Boxes and Pillars were erected and all were equipped with "Call Lights".



Crown Inspection, 1936. The last mounted Constable — P.C. W. T. Paterson on "Kitty".

Left to right :- Mr. J. Bell, Chief Constable; Captain Hyland, Chairman of the Watch Committee, and Superintendent W. J. Buddle.

The first Woman Police Constable is appointed

On 27th February, 1937, Miss Joan E. Edwards was appointed, and since that date the authorised strength of policewomen has been increased to seven.

The Hastings Extension Act, 1937

When this Act came into operation on 1st April, 1938, it extended the Borough in the districts of Fairlight, Bachelor's Bump, St. Helen's, Baldslow, Crowhurst Road, and Pebsham. The extended area was patrolled by three day and two night motor patrols.



15th June, 1936. The Rt. Hon. Leslie Hore-Belisha, M.P., (centre foreground) with the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Hastings, Alderman E. M. Ford, when the Minister opened the new Underground Car Parks. In the left foreground is Superintendent W. J. Buddle.

War Preparations

In view of the fact that war with Germany seemed inevitable the Chief Constable intensified A.R.P. training, with an A.R.P. Control and Police Headquarters being duplicated in case the main building was put out of action. The Special Constabulary was reorganised, with a Mobile Reserve, and its members were provided with uniform for the first time.

On 1st January, 1939, the first civilian staff — a shorthand-typist and two telephone operators — were appointed.

A.R.P. exercises under "Black-Out" conditions were organised and all the Services that participated in these displayed most satisfying efficiency.

Thus, when War was declared in the September, the A.R.P. organisation in Hastings was well trained and prepared to meet the demands caused by enemy action.

CHAPTER FIVE

The years 1939 to 1967

Members of the Regular Force, the Police War Reserve and the Special Constabulary, share and take credit for their devotion to duty and loyalty, which enabled the Force to cope with all the problems, danger and difficulties which were encountered during the momentous war years.



10th November, 1939. Police escorting the Mayoral Divine Service procession.

After the Fall of France in 1940 the evacuation of the civilian population, particularly the aged, women, children, and persons regarded as "non-essential", was quickly organised and from a figure of about 65,000 the number of residents was reduced to about 10,000. The town suffered its first bombing raid on 26th July, 1940, and thereafter was subject to frequent "tip and run" raids and the flying bombs. The last flying bomb incident occurred in Hastings on 8th August, 1944. During the War the Borough was subjected to 85 enemy air attacks of various kinds, a total of 550 H.E. bombs, 14 small bombs of a special type, and 27 unexploded bombs were accounted for. In addition twelve oil incendiary bombs, about 750 small incendiaries, and 15 flying bombs fell on the town. During these attacks 154 people were killed, 260 were injured and detained in hospital, and 439 were slightly injured.



Lt. Col. Angus Gordon Cargill, B.E.M. Chief Constable of Hastings from April, 1942 to September, 1954.

463 houses or buildings were demolished, and 14,818 properties were damaged.

At the outbreak of the War there were six Army Reservists serving in the Force and they were recalled to the Colours on 1st December, 1939. All these men came safely through the conflict.

Many of the younger members of the Force served in H.M. Forces, and all returned except P.C. Roy Baker, who joined the R.A.F., became a Pilot Officer/Observer, and was killed in 1944 with all his crew over France.

Lt. Col. Angus Gordon Cargill, B.E.M., becomes Chief Constable

When Mr. J. Bell resigned his appointment in 1942 to become Chief Constable of Manchester City Police, Inspector A. G. Cargill of the Liverpool City Police was appointed on 27th April, 1942, to become Chief Constable of Hastings. Mr. Cargill's services in connection with Air Raid Precautions duties in Liverpool were recognised by the award of the British Empire Medal.

The first "Sussex Police Force"

From the 1st April, 1943, to 31st March, 1947, all the Police Forces in Sussex were merged to form the "Sussex Police Force". The reason for this amalgamation was primarily for improving Military/Police co-ordination in connection with the planned landings to be mounted by the Allies on the Continent. Hastings became the Headquarters of No. 2 District of the new Police Force, and Mr. Cargill became its Assistant Chief Constable. The Headquarters of the amalgamated Force was located at Haywards Heath, and Major (later Sir) John Ferguson, a Deputy Assistant Commissioner at New Scotland Yard, was appointed the first Chief Constable.

In January, 1944, Mr. Cargill enlisted in H.M. Army and served on the Staff of the Civil Affairs Organisation in France and Germany with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In September, 1946, he resumed duty as an Assistant Chief Constable in the Sussex Police Force. When the Hastings Borough Police Force regained its autonomy in 1947, he resumed his Office as Chief Constable. He worked untiringly to bring the Force up to the highest standard of efficiency, was instrumental in persuading the Police Authority to embark on a Police housing programme, and in spite of all the severe financial restrictions and difficulties he was able to prevail upon them to provide, as a temporary expedient, better Headquarters accommodation at Nos. 4/5 Robertson Terrace. Owing to ill health he was obliged to resign in September, 1954, and died in 1963.

From the time that Lt. Col. Cargill retired until the appointment of a new Chief Constable in February, 1955, the Force was in the capable command of the Superintendent and Deputy Chief Constable, Mr. George Sheppard.



Mr. James Robert Archer-Burton, O.B.E., Chief Constable of Hastings from 1955 to 1958.

Mr. James Robert Archer-Burton, O.B.E.

Before his appointment as Chief Constable of Hastings in February, 1955, Mr. Archer-Burton was Superintendent in charge of the Chelsea Sub-Division of the Metropolitan Police. He took a keen interest in Police Recreational activities and it was mainly through his efforts that the Police Authority provided Club premises adjacent to the Police Station.

On 30th October, 1958, Mr. Archer-Burton resigned to take up his appointment as Chief Constable of the North Riding of Yorkshire Constabulary.

Mr. Donald Leslie Brown

The present (and last) Chief Constable of the County Borough of Hastings Police was appointed on 5th January, 1959. When he obtained this appointment he was a member of the Kent County Constabulary, and held the post of Commandant of the No. 6 District Police Training Centre at Sandgate, Folkestone.

Mr. Brown was particularly experienced in administration and training. From the 7th August, 1963, until the 31st October, 1964, he was seconded to the Police College as first Director of the Senior Staff Course. During his term of office the site at Summerfields was acquired and the schedule of accommodation drawn up for the building of a modern Police Headquarters.

The Post-War Superintendents

Hastings has been fortunate in having very able men in this rank during the post-war years.

Mr. George Knell

Mr. Knell was promoted Superintendent in charge of the Hastings Division of the Sussex Force on 1st April, 1944. He retired on pension on 2nd May, 1947.

Mr. George James Sheppard

On 3rd May, 1947, Mr. Sheppard was appointed Superintendent and Deputy Chief Constable.

He retired on 24th May, 1960, having served in the Force over thirty-seven years. His subsequent appointment as Road Safety Organiser in Hastings kept him in touch with the Police Service.



Mr. Donald Leslie Brown, Chief Constable of Hastings from 1959 to 1967.



Superintendent and Deputy Chief Constable James Longhurst making a Retirement Presentation to Miss Mabel Odell (C.I.D. Civilian Clerk) at Police Headquarters, Hastings, on 30th October, 1963.

Mr. James George Charles Longhurst

Mr. Longhurst was appointed Superintendent and Deputy Chief Constable on 24th May, 1960. It gave the Force much pride and pleasure when he was appointed Chief Constable of Southport on 6th June, 1964.

Mr. Kenneth Arthur George Huntly

Mr. Huntly was appointed Superintendent and Deputy Chief Constable on the 6th June, 1964, and held that appointment until the date of the amalgamation, he then being appointed the Chief Superintendent in charge of the new Hastings Division of the Sussex Constabulary.

Mr. Huntly attended the "guinea-pig" course at the Police College in 1948.



Mr. Kenneth A. G. Huntly, Superintendent and Deputy Chief Constable from 1964 to 1967.

STRENGTH OF THE BOROUGH FORCE

The Authorized and Actual Strength of the Force on 31st December, 1967, was :-

Chief Constable	...	...	...	1
Superintendent & Deputy				
Chief Constable	...	...	...	1
Chief Inspectors	...	...	...	2
Inspectors	...	...	...	7
Sergeants	...	...	...	26
Constables	...	...	...	116
Women Police	...	...	...	7
			Total	160

Civilian Staff

Cadets				
3 Male				
Canteen Staff				
4 Female				
Cleaning Staff				
2 Male				
2 Female				
1 Female (Part-time Matron)				
Clerks				
1 Female				
3 Male				
Garage Staff				
2 Male				
1 Driver Handyman				
Kennel Man				
1 Male				
1 Relief (Male)				
Public Enquiry Office				
2 Male				
Shorthand Typists				
7 Females				
Stores				
1 Male				
Telephone Operators				
2 Female				
2 Male (Relief)				
1 Male (Night)				
Traffic Wardens				
1 Female				
7 Male				
			Total	44

Hastings Gaol — Crime and Punishment — The Murder of the Gaoler

When the Hastings Watch Committee came into being in 1836, the Gaol, which was situated at the junction of Courthouse Street and Bourne Street, came under their jurisdiction.

The Gaol was a three-storied building, the ground floor being occupied by the keeper and his wife, and the prisoners being confined on the first and second floors. An enclosed yard was attached to the prison, and the Town stocks were situated in the street nearby. The stocks were removed about 1849.

In 1836 the Keeper of the Prison was George Colbran, a supernumerary Constable, with a wage of £30 per annum. His successor in March, 1842, was James Wellard, with Mary, his wife, acting as Matron. The Hastings Gaol was also used by the County Police, and in April, 1852, the Keeper quoted this practice in an unsuccessful application he made to the Watch Committee for an increase in his pay, stating that the County prisoners were becoming more numerous. In 1856 the building was condemned as a prison, and all prisoners under sentence were thereafter conveyed to Lewes Prison.

In the Hastings Public Museum are preserved various Journals and Registers appertaining to the Gaol, covering the years 1838 to 1853. These records make grim reading, and the following extracts, taken at random, give some idea of the savage sentences and cruelty inflicted upon law breakers in those early days :

1838 William Cobran, aged 7 yrs.	Larceny	7 days Hard Labour and once whipped
1838 Henry Beeching, aged 18 yrs.	Apprentice absconding	2 months Hard Labour
1839 Edward Calvey, aged 9 yrs.	Vagrancy	7 days Hard Labour
1839 Mary Calvey, aged 10 yrs.	Vagrancy	7 days Hard Labour
1840 Samuel Stevens, aged 12 yrs.	Stealing turnips	7 days Hard Labour
1840 Henry Hayler, aged 16 yrs.	Larceny	7 years Transportation
1841 James Warren, aged 21 yrs.	Larceny (2 cases)	14 yrs. Transportation
1841 William Reeves, aged 9 yrs.	Vagrancy	14 days Hard Labour
1841 Sophia Huntley, aged 31 yrs.	Larceny	14 yrs. Transportation
1841 Henry Reeves, aged 9 yrs.	Vagrancy	14 days Hard Labour

1843	Thomas Stonestreet, aged 15 yrs.	Larceny	10 days solitary confinement & 12 lashes in private
1844	George Uptain, aged 18 yrs.	Larceny	7 years Transportation
1847	Edward Mathis, aged 22 yrs.	Robbery	15 yrs. Transportation
1847	William White, aged 7 yrs.	Stealing apples	14 days Hard Labour
1851	Georgianna Stevens, aged 16 yrs.	Larceny	7 years Transportation
1851	Isaac Bennes, aged 9 yrs.	Under Town Act	14 days Hard Labour
1853	Joshua Hiscock, aged 10 yrs.	Misdemeanour	2 months Hard Labour & to be once whipped

Doctor W. Duke acted as Surgeon to the Prison, and the Visiting Justices frequently awarded punishment in the form of a bread and water diet for up to three days. Here are a few of the entries in the Surgeon's Journal :-

December 23rd, 1841	Sophia Huntley, age 31 yrs. State of Health — Indifferent. Sentenced to 14 years Transportation. Having led a very dissolute life for some years was much affected from being deprived of stimulus of Gin, etc., and from the confinement of the Prison.
March 31st, 1842	George Crowhurst. Disease — Itch. Cause — Filth. Treatment :- Sulphur and Gaol diet.
November 21st, 1848	Alexander Busher. Disease — Delirium Tremens. Treatment :- Opium, Porter, Mutton Broth.
January 10th, 1851	John Tilden. Injury from Fall. Treatment :- Salves, mutton, gruel, Tea, Ale.

In October, 1881, the Watch Committee accepted the recommendation of Chief Superintendent W. M. Glenister that the Old Gaol and Watch House should be pulled down, and decided to build a Police Station on the site. The Police Force took formal possession of their new Station on 7th November, 1883. This building was demolished about 1947 in connection with the construction of The Bourne Road.

The Murder of the Gaoler

This crime was committed in March, 1856, after the kindly old gaoler, James Wellard, had released the prisoners from their room on the first floor to allow them to go down into the yard to wash.

Amongst the prisoners were 21 years old John Murdock, alias Williams, and a John French. The latter had previously warned their aged custodian that he had overheard Murdock discussing with another prisoner ways of escaping from their confinement, and the best method of overpowering their gaoler.

Wellard, however, unfortunately chose to disregard the warning given him by French of the plan to escape, and as he opened the door of the prisoner's room Murdock leapt upon him, savagely attacked him and strangled him.

The gaoler's wife heard the sound of the struggle, and on looking out into the yard saw Murdock climb over the wall and escape. She gave the alarm, and the entire Police Force with many residents joined in a search for the murderer.

No trace of Murdock was found, however, until about 2 p.m., when a little girl, playing on the West Hill, found him hiding in a ditch. After threatening her and some boys who arrived at the scene, the fugitive fled over the fields, and down Wallinger's Walk, pursued by a large crowd. In Bedford Place the quarry turned into a garden where he was seized by a woodturner who held him until Sergeant Brasier arrived and took him into custody.

Murdock was indicted for murder at the Sussex Assizes, found guilty, and was sentenced to death.

He was hanged in front of Lewes Prison on 5th August, 1856, meeting his end with fortitude. He wrote a letter to the son of the murdered gaoler, begging forgiveness and expressing sincere regret for the crime he had committed.

One of the sad aspects of this crime is that Murdock was confined in Hastings Gaol on a charge of stealing 3½d. by picking pockets in George Street.

Honours, Commendations, and Awards

In an abridged history such as this it is quite impossible to give details of the hundreds of commendations and awards given to the members of the Force for saving life under most hazardous conditions, for courage and devotion displayed in arresting violent and dangerous prisoners, or for zeal, tenacity, or skill displayed in the performance of duty. During the long history of the Force its members have consistently shown all these attributes, and very many valuable lives have been saved by them, principally from drowning or fires. Very many Awards of the Royal Humane Society and the Society for the Protection of Life from Fire have been given to members of the Force. In many of these rescue operations officers have jeopardised their own lives, and several of them have been incapacitated for considerable periods as a result of injuries or illness occasioned by their efforts.

The first recorded Commendation of the Watch Committee is dated 4th October, 1844, as the result of a representation from H.M. Coroner and Jury, concerning "the conduct of P.C. 8 Phillips in descending a well at night on the Barrack Ground, and getting up the corpse of Mary Skinner who had drowned herself therein". The Committee Highly Commended the Constable upon his bravery, and he was given a reward of 20/- by the Town Council. Permission was also given to P.C. Phillips to accept a reward of £2 from the Royal Humane Society.

In 1894 the Watch Committee commended P.C. 61 Burr "for the able manner in which he effected the arrest of an escaped lunatic, who was armed with a sword-stick and pistol" and awarded the officer a gratuity out of the Borough Fund.

The Force Records also show that in 1897 P.C. 36 Sier was "Commended" as follows :

"By the Grand Jury at the Trinity Quarter Sessions and by the Recorder, and the Chief Constable and the Watch Committee for perseverance and intelligence in three cases of housebreaking and larceny in which the thieves were apprehended and convicted, and the stolen property recovered; also he was Commended by the Chief Constable and the Watch Committee for zeal and courage displayed in protecting a man who was being violently assaulted by four men who also violently assaulted the Constable himself, and for determination displayed in securing their arrest".

Unfortunately, in 1908, Sier, then a Detective Sergeant, had to resign his appointment being medically unfit, his infirmity being attributed to an injury sustained in the assault case mentioned above, and was granted a special pension.

In the early days of the Force, Commendations and a financial reward were frequently given to policemen for stopping runaway horses; the last Commendation of this type was given to Inspector Albert Small in 1935, when he courageously stopped a runaway

horse at Verulam Place. The Watch Committee also awarded him the sum of two guineas.

A General Order published by Mr. Frederick James, the Chief Constable, on 22nd December, 1928, must surely be unique. It reads as follows :-

Commendations & Awards

P.S. 5 Barnes
P.C. 68 Goodsell
Pioneer Birch
(Hastings Volunteer
Fire Brigade)

Highly Commended by the Chief Constable and the Watch Committee for zeal and attention to duty in rescuing a woman from a basement room which was on fire on 14th September, 1928, and awarded one guinea each.

The Bronze Medal of the Society for the Protection of Life from Fire was awarded to each of them.

P.C. 96 Tookey

Highly Commended by the Watch Committee and the Chief Constable for zeal and attention to duty in discovering a fire at the top room of No. 4 Cambridge Gardens, at 9.35 p.m., 17th September, 1928, thereby saving the life of a child aged 2 years who was asleep in a cot, and awarded the sum of one guinea.

The Certificate of the Society for the Protection of Life from Fire was awarded by the Trustees of that Society.

P.C. 43 Sheppard
and
P.C. 53 Godfrey

Highly Commended by the Watch Committee and the Chief Constable for zeal and attention to duty in discovering a fire in the attic at No. 4 Bourne Street at 10.46 p.m., 17th September, 1928, thereby saving the lives of the occupants, and awarded the sum of one guinea each.

The Certificate of the Society for the Protection of Life from Fire was awarded by the Trustees of that Society to each of them.

Sub.-Inspr. A. Small
P.C. 55 Eldridge
and
A/Det. Insp. Milton

Commended by the Chief Constable for zeal and efficiency generally with the case of a man charged with the murder of his mother on 28th October, 1928.

In General Orders dated 16th February, 1929, and 28th May, 1959, appear details of two more members of the Force, namely, P.C. 70 S. Copper and P.C. 106 Harbord, receiving Commendations and Awards for saving life from fires.

Several officers have been awarded the Silver Medal of the R.S.P.C.A. for rescuing animals under hazardous conditions, and two other Commendations are of particular interest :

W/P.C. 127 J. E. Coles Commended by the Chief Constable of Cyprus for her action in connection with the suppression of terrorist activities, and also awarded his Excellency the Governor of Cyprus' Personal Commendation for loyal and efficient service rendered to the Cyprus Police Force.

Inspr. K. Somers Commended by the Governor of Nyasaland, Sir Robert Armitage, for courage and devotion to duty whilst assisting the rescue of a colleague from a riotous mob at Limbe on 24th September, 1960.

The Queen's Police Medal for Distinguished Service

In 1956 the above was awarded to Supt. & D.C.C. G. J. Sheppard, and in 1964 to the Chief Constable of Hastings, Mr. D. L. Brown.

The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem

H.M. The Queen, the Sovereign Head of the Grand Priory in the British Realm of the above Order, has been graciously pleased to sanction the admission of the under-mentioned officers of the Force into the Order :

February, 1944	Lt.-Col. A. G. Cargill, B.E.M.	Serving Brother
February, 1957	Police Sergt. Norman Church	Serving Brother
November, 1962	Donald L. Brown, Chief Constable	Officer Brother
April, 1963	Inspector Osborne Jones	Serving Brother
November, 1963	James Archer-Burton, O.B.E., Chief Constable	Officer Brother



30th June, 1964. His Grace The Duke of Norfolk congratulating the Chief Constable, Mr. D. L. Brown, upon being awarded the Queen's Police Medal for Distinguished Service, just after the Duke had made the presentation at a Parade of the Force.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Major Crimes — The 1963 Gas Explosion “Mods and Rockers”, 1964

There have been very few cases of homicide since the Borough Police Force was formed in 1836. In the official records are details of the following:

- 1849 A woman was charged with poisoning, sentenced to death at the Sussex Assizes, and was duly hanged.
- 1904 A woman was charged with murder, but she was subsequently convicted of manslaughter.
- 1928 A man was charged with murdering his mother, was found guilty but insane.
- 1932 A man was charged with murdering his wife, but was acquitted. Shortly afterwards the man committed suicide on the railway line.
- 1943 A soldier raped and murdered a woman in the Air Raid Shelter at Carlisle Parade. He shot himself on learning that the Police were searching for him.
- 1946 A knackerman/dealer named John Whatman was shot dead. The motive was robbery. His murderer was arrested at Markyate, Hertfordshire, tried and executed.
- 1962 Two women were killed in their car as the result of another car in possession of two wanted men crashing into their vehicle. In the criminals' car pistols were found. Both men were subsequently convicted of manslaughter, and each sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.

The 1963 Gas Explosion

The violent series of explosions along Sturdee Place and Marine Parade on 11th July, 1963, injured 30 persons (six seriously), damaged approximately 32 properties, and necessitated 16 persons being temporarily housed in a Civil Defence Rest Centre. This incident received a great deal of Press publicity, and the work of the Borough Police, Ambulance, Fire and Civil Defence services, and the Local Authority, in dealing with this serious emergency, received the highest praise from many quarters.

The “Mods and Rockers” Disturbances, August Bank Holiday, 1964

These events received world-wide publicity. Some 5,000 potential trouble-makers were subdued and routed by a force of Regular Police and Special Constables.

From about noon on Saturday, 1st August, there was a steady influx into the Borough of “mods” and “rockers”, and bearing in mind that the effective strength of the Regular Force at that time was 133 and 67 Special Constables, and that the situation was deteriorating, Eastbourne Borough Police Force was requested to send ten men as reinforcements.

On Sunday, 2nd August, a total of 158 reinforcements were sent from Eastbourne, Brighton, Kent and East Sussex Constabulary, and the Metropolitan Police. On Monday, 3rd August, the number of Police reinforcements sent by the above-named Forces amounted to 205, and by the late evening of that day the crisis was over.

During this trying period 66 prisoners were charged with 79 offences. 11 of the 18 juveniles dealt with were sent to a Detention Centre, 2 to an Approved School, and 5 were fined. Of the adults, 6 were sent to prison, 25 to a Detention Centre, 17 heavily fined, 2 were Conditionally Discharged, 2 were given an Absolute Discharge, and 1 was dismissed. 42 offenders were Bound Over in their own recognisances for two years in addition to other punishment. It is interesting to note that almost half of the offenders had previous convictions.

On 3rd August the body of a 15 years old youth was recovered from the sea, and it was later ascertained that he had died from the effect of an overdose of drugs. At the adjourned Inquest held on 25th August, 1964, a verdict of death by misadventure was recorded.

During the disturbances three Constables of the Hastings Borough Police and three of the Metropolitan Police were injured. The strong force of Police brought to bear against the trouble-making element prevented large scale damage to property.

For the first time in the history of the British Police, reinforcements were flown in. The Metropolitan Police contingents travelled by air to Lydd Airport, and were transported to Hastings by public service vehicles.

The coolness and efficiency of the Regular and Special Constables who were employed, and the invaluable assistance rendered by the Chief Education Officer, members of the School Meals Service, the Civil Defence Services, and the Governor and Staff of H.M. Prison, Lewes, was beyond praise. The Magistrates, the Clerk to the Justices, and his staff also displayed a tremendous sense of duty in holding the many Emergency Courts that became necessary during the disturbances. Even wives of members of the Force gave voluntary help and one was conscious of the high morale and sense of duty which prevailed.

CHAPTER NINE

The Out-Liberties — The Police Surgeons

Hastings is a Head Port of the confederacy of the Cinque Ports to which Edward the Confessor had granted certain rights and privileges in return for supplying ships as was required for the purposes of the State. The Confederacy is first mentioned in a charter of Henry II (about 1155).

To lighten the heavy burden imposed upon the Ports, each was permitted to have members as "limbs", who shared the privileges in return for part responsibility in the provision of "ship service" for the King.

Northeye (now within the Borough of Bexhill) known as the Liberty of the Sluice (Normans Bay), Petit Iham close to Winchelsea (known as the Liberty of St. Leonard, Winchelsea), and Bekesbourne (near Canterbury), and Grange (now within the County Borough of Chatham) were detached portions of Hastings Borough. Upon the formation of the East Sussex Constabulary and Kent County Constabulary it appears that the Hastings Watch Committee made arrangements for the County Constabulary to police these Out-Liberties. So far as the Liberty of the Sluice is concerned, in the Watch Committee Minutes dated 1st December, 1854, it is recorded that :- "William Pocock of Bexhill, Constable in the East Sussex Constabulary, is appointed Supernumerary in the Hastings Borough Police Force. He is 34 years of age and has served ten years in the Police Force — sworn — for especial service in Liberty of Sluice".

In 1867 the Committee considered a letter from P.C. Gilmore Hawkins of the East Sussex Constabulary, stating that he had visited the Sluice Inn at Pevensey at different times since April, 1866. The Committee ordered that he be paid 10/- annually for the performance of such duties; in 1868 this allowance was increased to £1, and in 1881 to £2 per annum.

Until October, 1951, when the provisions of the Justices of the Peace Act, 1949, came into operation, there were licensing anomalies concerning the "Star Inn" at Normans Bay, and "The Hastings Arms" and "The Mulberry Tree" at Grange. These public houses were licensed by the Hastings Justices, but it was the practice for the Justices to grant licensing applications made by letter from these premises, owing to the distance the applicants would have to travel to attend the Court. By virtue of the provisions of the above Act the Bexhill Magistrates took over the jurisdiction of the "Star Inn", and the Kent Magistrates assumed responsibility for the two public houses at Grange.

Until a few years ago, these Out-Liberties, being officially regarded as a part of the Borough of Hastings, came within the jurisdiction of H.M. Coroner appointed for the Borough. The Coroner held an Inquest upon bodies washed ashore within the Liberty of the Sluice, and the Hastings Police Surgeon was obliged

to conduct post-mortem examinations under primitive conditions in an old shed, and even in the open air.

The Police Surgeons

It was apparently not the practice until 1858 to have recruits for the Force medically examined. In the Watch Committee Minutes dated April, 1858, it is recorded that Mr. W. Duke, the Surgeon for the Gaol and Lock-up had certified a recruit as being medically fit, and Dr. Alderman Ticehurst was thanked for examining several candidates in January of that year.

Dr. Duke either died or resigned about 1861, and Dr. Underwood was appointed to succeed him at a salary of £8 per annum, after declining the salary of £6 which was first offered. Dr. Underwood resigned in September, 1877, and Dr. B. H. Allen became Surgeon to the Gaol, relinquishing the post in April, 1881. In May, 1882, Dr. Henry G. Shorter was appointed Police Surgeon at a salary of £12 per annum. Sometime between this date and 1895 the post appears to have fallen vacant, the Watch Committee then agreeing to the recommendation of the Chief Constable, Mr. C. F. Baker, that a Police Surgeon should be appointed. The post was filled by Dr. Shorter.

A Police Order, dated February 26th, 1898, dealing with Police Sickness, states that the Corporation had decided to provide medical attendance and medicine for the Police during sickness. Sick men who were able to leave their homes were to be taken by a Sergeant to the residence of the Police Surgeon at 9.15 a.m. but the Surgeon would visit officers at their homes if this were necessary.

Sick Police Officers were to wear plain clothes when attending at the house of the Police Surgeon, and in no case were they to be seen by him less than three times a week. Even if an officer was an in-patient at a hospital, he was nevertheless seen weekly by the Surgeon and certified that he was unable to perform duty.

A deduction of 1/- per day was made from an officer's pay during sickness, but full pay would, in the discretion of the Chief Constable, be granted to a man injured in the execution of his duty, or whose case presented some exceptional features.

Mr. Shorter remained Police Surgeon until about 1900, and was succeeded by Dr. Adolphus Theodore Field. Dr. Field retired from practice in 1934 and on 12th October of that year Dr. Gordon Nesbitt Wood, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., became Surgeon to the Hastings Police. At the outbreak of War he enlisted in the R.A.M.C., serving with the 10th Field Ambulance and No. 4 Com-mando under the command of Lord Lovat.

Whilst Dr. Gordon Nesbitt Wood was away on active service his wife, Dr. Cordelia Nesbitt Wood, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., deputized for him until the end of hostilities.

The services which the last two named doctors rendered to the Hastings Police and the Borough cannot be measured. Dr. Gordon Nesbitt Wood retired from active practice on 31st March, 1967. Both took a keen interest in forensic science, and Dr. Gordon

Nesbitt Wood was many times commended by the Learned Recorder, Judges of Assize, the Borough Justices, and H.M. Coroner, on the lucid manner in which he gave his evidence in complex and difficult cases.

CHAPTER TEN

The Journal of Sergeant Brasier — The Salvation Army Prosecutions — The Suffragettes — Fire Fighting and the Volunteer Fire Brigade

The Journal of Sergeant William Brasier covers the period 1859 to 1866, and is of great interest. Reproduced below are a few of the entries :-

1859	January 28th	A Child found in a well in Cross Street in the Parish of St. Mary Magdalen. Inquest held — Wilful Murder against some person(s) unknown.
	March 10th	Conveyed to Lewes House of Correction Edward Wanderlitch and Daniel Collins. Collins an Apprentice in the "Pelican" brig of Hastings. 21 days at Lewes for Absenting himself from Ship.
	April 16th	Sergt. William Brasier, Acting Supt. The Supt. gone to London to Execute a Warrant.
	July 17th	Sergt. William Brasier, Acting Supt. The Supt. gone to Folkestone. Apprehended at Staplehurst — gave name Lord Charlivelle — for uttering forged cheques.
	August 3rd	Sergt. William Brasier, Acting Supt., from 3rd to 5th inst. Supt. gone to Pudsey in Yorkshire. Apprehended John Hepworth for stealing a horse belonging to Mr. Hart from the Saxon Hotel.
	November 28th	Sergt. William Brasier, Acting Supt. Supt. gone to Liverpool to convey Mr. Astha, Play Actor, for Deserting his wife and Family. Returned on the 30th.
	December 10th	The first payment of the Superannuation Fund — Supt. 1/3d., Sergts. 6d., Privates 5d. per week.
1860	May 2nd	Conveyed to House of Correction William Smith — charged with Begging. 3 weeks Hard Labour. When in the Watchhouse he tore his clothes to pieces and was had up in sack.
1861	June 20th	Received Charles Tupp. On Remand until 22nd inst. Charged with sleeping in a Tub. Dismissed with a Caution.
	June 24th	A very heavy Storm. The rain flooded the Gaol.

The Salvation Army Prosecutions

In this enlightened age it is difficult to understand why the Salvation Army in its early days evoked so much antagonism and open hostility in many places throughout the Kingdom.

Unfortunately, during the years 1884 to 1911, members of the Hastings Corps of the Salvation Army were subjected to many assaults by hooligans, and the relationship between Hastings Corporation, the Salvationists, and the Police, left much to be desired, and fell sadly short of the harmonious and respectful understanding which exists between the three organisations today.

In 1884 the Salvationists were allowed to hold open-air meetings on the beach, mainly at Denmark Place, in spite of the fact that the members were frequently pelted by ruffians with sand, stones, and putrid fish. The Corporation refused to grant the Salvationists permission to march, play and sing in the streets, but nevertheless they persisted in doing so. Often whilst they were marching they were assaulted by roughs, and the escorting Police appear to have done very little in protecting the Salvationists, or in apprehending the assailants.

On one Sunday afternoon a mob attacked the Salvationists, who were obliged to seek shelter in a house. The hooligans broke every window in this house, and it was necessary in the dead of night for the Salvation Army Divisional Officer to be smuggled safely out of the Borough.

The following night a small group of the Salvationists went to their Hall for a prayer meeting, but they were besieged there by an infuriated mob. The mob began to shout for the Salvationists to come out, and the gates were torn off, the iron fence pulled down, and the ruffians armed themselves with the debris.

Police were present, and they knocked at a side door of the Hall, informing the Salvationists that they could not disperse the crowd unless they vacated the building, and promised to escort them safely to their homes. On entering the street, the mob attacked the Salvationists, sweeping the small force of Police aside. Several Salvationists were badly injured by kicks and blows.

One of their members, a young woman, sought shelter in a nearby dairy, where she received protection from the mob by the proprietor and his two sons, who were armed with pistols and other weapons and threatened any intruder into the dairy with dire consequences. By dawn the mob began to disperse, and the young woman, Elizabeth Beaty, was escorted to a house where she found her mother and father lying injured. Her father was suffering from wounds and bruises, but the mother was unconscious and suffering from internal injuries. After being critically ill for many weeks the victim recovered. However, her injuries eventually proved fatal, and she is now known as "the Army's first martyr". She was the first woman to be converted at William Booth's open-air meetings on Mile End Waste, in July, 1865.

Early in 1884 Chief Supt. Glenister instituted proceedings against

several of the Hastings Salvationists for holding a religious meeting on the beach contrary to the local Bye-Laws, and secured a conviction in each case. The three defendants appealed to the Queen's Bench Division against their conviction. This was allowed by the Judges, who not only ordered the Costs to be paid by Hastings Corporation, but directed that the Salvationists were to be given adequate Police protection to enable the Salvation Army to carry on its open-air ministry unmolested.

At Eastbourne also, the Salvationists during this period encountered difficulties with the Borough Council and hostility from the townspeople, and the Corporation there sought new legislation giving powers which would enable the Movement's outdoor activities to be curtailed. In this connection, Mr. Glenister, then Chief Constable of Hastings, was required to give evidence "before the Hybrid Committee of the House of Commons as the exponent of the views of the Committee in regard to the Sunday processions of the Salvation Army".

In 1911 a series of prosecutions were instituted against members of the Hastings Corps of the Salvation Army for holding meetings on the beach contrary to the Bye-Laws. Convictions in the form of a fine of 20/- or 14 days imprisonment in default, were obtained in each case. The defendants refused to pay the fines, and were duly committed to Lewes Prison. After serving their sentences their fellow Salvationists rapturously welcomed them back, treating them as heroes. A packed "Protest Meeting" was held in their Hall, and a unanimous resolution was passed, condemning the authorities for instituting these proceedings against their members.

At this period Hastings Corporation also endeavoured to obtain additional Parliamentary powers in the shape of a Local Act or new Bye-Laws to control street processions and open-air meetings. The Corporation received no support from the Home Office on these proposals, however, and it is of particular interest that the Home Secretary was then Mr. Winston S. Churchill.

It is pleasing to know that a friendly settlement, honourable and satisfactory to each party alike, was found to this problem and now the Salvation Army, with its band and open-air meetings, is a familiar sight in Hastings.

The Suffragettes

During 1912 and 1913 there was a branch of the Women's Suffragette Political Union in Hastings, and the militants of this movement caused some trouble by their activities. In several churches and in the Public Library they left inflammable materials or imitation bombs with slogans attached.

In 1913 an unoccupied mansion on the Green, St. Leonards, was badly damaged by a fire. The fire was attributed to the Suffragettes, but the perpetrators were not detected.

On 14th May, 1913, the Women's Tax Resistance League held a procession in the Borough.

This occasioned some disorder, women in the procession being

pelted with rotten fruit, eggs and flour. None of the women was seriously hurt, however, and the Police prevented the mob from overturning carriages in which members of the League's Executive were riding.

Fire Fighting and the Formation of the Volunteer Fire Brigade

When the Watch Committee and Police Force was established they inherited responsibility for fire-fighting.

Long before the foundation of the Borough Police Force in 1836 the "Watch" and Parish Beadles were concerned with fire fighting and the custody of the primitive hand-operated appliances then available.

The first mention in the Watch Committee Minutes of fire-fighting equipment is dated 1st December, 1836, and reads as follows :-

"That a new small jet for the hose kept by the Police shall be provided by Messrs. Richman and Godlee to be used in case of fire, and that some Pegs be put up in the Police Station House to hang the Fire Engine Hose upon".

At their Meeting held on 9th February, 1837, the Committee resolved "That it is necessary that the Police should be provided with a sufficient hose to use with the Stand cock and Jet kept in the Police Station and they recommend that a length of 40 feet rivetted Hose should be purchased for the use of the Police, the expense of which will be £7 10s. 0d." and referred the matter to the Council for their sanction.

In August of the same year the Committee ordered "That a Map of the Town shewing the different situations of the plug pipes in the Town shall be provided for the use of the Watchmen and that the Commissioners of the Waterworks shall be requested to allow a Key of the Water Cocks to be made for their use in case of fire".

On 6th September, 1838, the Committee considered a letter "from the Commissioners of Hastings Act requesting the Police to assist in the working of the Large Fire Engine". The Committee ordered that they attend accordingly, and applied to the Commissioners for another 40 feet long hose for the use of the Station House.

In May, 1839, the Committee ordered "that the interior of the small Fire Engine in St. Clements Church be examined and reported on by some competent person". At the next Meeting of the Committee it was reported that the necessary repairs had been effected for the sum of £5, and steps had been taken to make the hose nozzles inter-changeable for use with the largest Engine.

At their Meeting in April, 1840, the Committee considered a report from James Cox, the Town Crier, on the state of the Fire Engines, and referred this to the Town Council. It is very likely that the Town Crier's recommendations were carried out by the Council, for on 15th December, 1840, the Committee's Minutes record :- "Resolved that an application be made to the Insurance Office by the Police for allowance during their exertions at Mr.

Breed's fire — the same to be supported by the Watch Committee and recommended".

The Watch Committee next dealt with fire-fighting arrangements at their Meeting on 6th February, 1846 — "Ordered: that the whole of the Police Force shall assist with the Committee appointed by the Commissioners in fixing the Stand pipes into the Fireplugs in the Town in order to learn their use in time of need, provided the Council shall approve of this plan".

When Mr. Glenister was appointed Inspector of Police in May, 1857, he found that the Force had the custody of a number of horse or hand-drawn fire engines. In time of need the Police had to man-handle the equipment to the scene of a fire, helped by members of the public, and often by H.M. Coastguards.

Mr. Glenister promptly set to work to improve the efficiency of the fire-fighting equipment and arrangements with a result that in September, 1857, the Watch Committee after hearing a report prepared by Mr. Poole, the Superintendent of Fire Engines, on the condition thereof, set up a Sub-Committee of five to view the engines, and to report thereon at the next Meeting of the Council. At this period the three engines were located — one at the Town Hall, High Street; one at Castle Hill Road; and one at the Police Station at Mercatoria, St. Leonards. One of the escapes was kept in Breed's Brewery Yard, Bourne Road, and the other at Wellington Square.

In 1858, Mr. Glenister convened a meeting of townspeople at the Town Hall "for the purpose of considering the propriety of forming a Volunteer Fire Brigade for active service in an emergency". He outlined the duties of the Brigade and the means of supporting it would include donations from some thirty local Fire Insurance Offices and by public subscriptions. He had a list of names of over eighty men who were prepared to act as Volunteer Firemen.

A Committee was formed and it was resolved that the Superintendent place the proposals and the list of volunteers before the Town Council. On 30th July, 1861, the offer of service was accepted by the Council and the Commissioners for St. Leonards.

The original Brigade comprised of three Sections — Old Town, the Castle, and Mercatoria, each with a Foreman, Engineer, eight men and a "call boy". Later, engine houses were established at Halton, Bohemia, Clive Vale and Marina.

The residents of St. Leonards in 1879 purchased a horse-drawn steam fire engine and formed "The St. Leonards Steam Fire Brigade". The Engine House was in King's Road. Needless to say, things did not go too well with this "private" Brigade when working alongside the official Brigade. However, amicable arrangements were agreed and this unit eventually came under the command of Superintendent Glenister.

Later the Mercatoria and King's Road Sections were amalgamated and in due course moved into Shepherd Street Fire Station, which was officially opened in 1900. The St. Matthew's Parish Council also

had a Brigade, and on the extension of the Borough the men with their horse-drawn "steamer" became the Silverhill Section of the official Brigade.

The combination of these units under the command of Superintendent Glenister formed a Brigade of 8 Stations with a total of ninety Officers and other ranks, three horse-drawn steam engines, three horse-drawn manual pumps, ten fire escapes and ten hose reels.

The introduction of hose reels and a light hand propelled vehicle carrying sufficient equipment, made it possible for three or four men to get to work direct from street hydrants. They were quickly on the scene sometimes before the engines, for which horses had to be obtained. In fact water supplies in the lower part of the Borough were so good that pumping apparatus was seldom necessary.

Securing horses was always difficult. Generally arrangements were made with nearby livery stables which could supply suitable horses during the night. In the daytime any horses available were "borrowed". The Superintendent, like other professional men of the day, rode in a horse-drawn brougham if any distance had to be covered.

Prior to 1898 the method of calling the Volunteers was by "Call Boy", who being notified by the Police, ran from house to house, knocking on the firemen's doors with a wooden mallet. Police would also blow their whistles, which not only alerted the firemen, but neighbours who turned out to give a hand. Only men who lived and worked near their respective fire stations were accepted as members of the Brigade, therefore prompt "turn-outs" were possible.

Later, the "call boy" was replaced by a simple electric bell system, in most cases operated from the nearest Police Station. On the centralisation of the Police Force in Station Road a modern system was installed by the Post Office which enabled the calling of personnel and the respective Sections of the Brigade from a main switchboard.

There were also sirens installed at Shepherd Street and Halton which could be made to function during daylight hours. The Station Officer at Police H.Q., was expected to use his discretion, according to the "fire risk" involved, of the number of Sections he called out on receiving a fire alarm.

Mechanisation greatly increased the efficiency of the Brigade, in particular, attendance to the neighbouring country parishes, and assisting the Bexhill, Battle and Rye Brigades.

Mr. Glenister was always interested in the social activities of the Brigade and instituted an Annual Outing and Smoking Concert. Both became notable events in the local calendar.

The major role taken by the Police in the operation of the Brigade was always gratefully acknowledged by the Volunteers, for without Police aid the Brigade could not have functioned. From the date of the Brigade's foundation by the Police Superintendent until it was disbanded, the Police were responsible for calling out the firemen. On the more practical side Police were always ready to assist in

man-handling equipment to the scene of operations, and to keep the public away from the fire thus enabling the firemen to work without hindrance.

In 1889, Mr. Glenister retired from the active command of the Fire Brigade owing to ill-health. He held office for 28 years, but remained its Honorary Captain until his death in 1894.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Visits of Royalty and Important Personages — Parades and Processions — The 1066 Celebrations

The County Borough of Hastings has been honoured by many visits of Royalty and famous personalities. On these important occasions, as for other noteworthy events, parades and processions, the Borough Force has been responsible for the necessary control of traffic and sightseers.

Among the most noteworthy of these visits were the following :-

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 26th June, 1882 | Visit of Their Royal Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales. |
| 6th April, 1927 | Visit of His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales for the purpose of opening the White Rock Pavilion. |
| 18th May, 1951 | Visit of Her Royal Highness The Princess Elizabeth to lay the foundation stone at St. John's Church, Upper St. Leonards and to visit Hastings Castle |
| 7th September, 1955 | Visit of The Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Churchill, K.G., O.M., C.H., M.P., Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, and Field Marshall Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, K.G., G.C.B., D.S.O., to the Meeting of the Courts of Brotherhood and Guestling at the White Rock Pavilion. |
| 27th July, 1966 | Presentation of the Freedom of the Borough to Sir Robert Gordon Menzies, Kt., P.C., C.H., Q.C., Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. |
| 28th October, 1966 | Visit of H.M. The Queen and H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, for the purpose of viewing the Hastings Embroidery, to unveil a plaque at the College of Further Education, and a Civic reception. |

There were very many other events organised in connection with the Battle of Hastings Anniversary celebrations, and a special issue of postage stamps.

CHAPTER TWELVE

The Hastings Police Band — The Police-Aided Clothing Fund — Traffic Wardens

It was due to the initiative of Superintendent Glenister in 1866 that the Hastings Police Band was formed. The Band was very successful and regularly gave public performances and played for many Parades and Processions.

About 1890 the Band ceased to function, but by 1899 had been reformed, with a strength of about twenty, their Bandmaster being a Mr. Stutely. This Band, like its predecessor, gave regular performances in the public parks and gardens, in the Old Town at Market Cross, at Rye, and in the Public Hall (now known as the Orion Cinema).



1912. Hastings Police Band, with their Bandmaster, Police Sergeant Lewis.

The Hastings Police Band gave its last performance in Grosvenor Gardens, St. Leonards, on the day that War was declared in 1914. Unfortunately, it was not found possible to re-form the Band after the Great War.

The Police-Aided Clothing Fund

No history of the Hastings Borough Police Force would be complete without some reference to the long and impressive record of charitable work which has been performed by the above Fund to deserving cases which have come to Police notice within the Borough.

In 1914 a Mr. Alfred Henry Pett died at Hastings, and left a legacy of £500 to Hastings Corporation, to be invested "and the interest therefrom to be used for the sole benefit of the deserving poor children of the town who are permanent residents, not forgetting the children of poor and deserving widows, many of whom work hard to keep their children respectable and who sometimes want help more than cringers who get it, but are overlooked because they keep their children clean and respectable". Mr. Pett directed that the Interest was to be principally used for the purchase of clothing and boots, and food also when necessary. The Will also laid it down that the Fund was to be administered by the Chief of Police for Hastings and his Force, and the testator also expressed the hope that others would leave legacies or contribute to the Fund during life. Later the "Holman Bequest" was added to the Fund. This Bequest was in respect of the Ground Rents of certain properties in St. Leonards. This Fund also receives valuable support from the voluntary donations of kind-hearted persons.

As some indication of the scope of welfare work carried out by this Fund, the Chief Constable reported to the Watch Committee in November, 1931, that during the previous year the following articles of clothing, food, etc., had been supplied:- 341 pairs of boots and shoes, 658 pairs of stockings and socks, and 105 other garments; together with quantities of beef, bread, potatoes, coal and groceries. The total amount expended was £210. 8s. 4d.

Today, due to the various State Welfare facilities which exist, there has been a considerable reduction in the need for this Fund. Nevertheless, this charitable work is still continued in its traditional unobtrusive way. The fund is now registered with the Charity Commissioners.

Traffic Wardens

The first three Traffic Wardens in the Borough commenced their duties on 19th July, 1965. The Wardens have greatly helped to reduce the strain on Police manpower, and there are now eight of them on the establishment.

**The Special Constabulary and their Annual
"Quiz" Competition
Police Dogs
"The Farnfield Cup" and the "Barfoot Trophy"**

The Special Constabulary

Prior to the outbreak of War in 1914, Mr. F. James, the Chief Constable, had made arrangements to have available a considerable number of Special Constables, but they were not provided with uniforms.

By October of that year the Specials were employed in guarding the waterworks, working in pairs, from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. in four hour tours of duty.

The Specials were divided into three Companies, and allocated to the appropriate Police Divisions in the Borough. Each Company was commanded by a Superintendent, assisted by a number of Inspectors. The Superintendents were Captain B. J. Bertenshaw, Councillor H. A. Tildesley and Mr. A. M. Edwards. By December 1914, in consequence of enemy aliens having been removed from the County of Sussex, the Specials were withdrawn from guard duties at the waterworks, and were employed on patrol duties. Owing to the serious depletion of the strength of the Regular Force due to the call up of men for service in the Armed Forces, the Specials played an essential role in the Policing of the Borough.

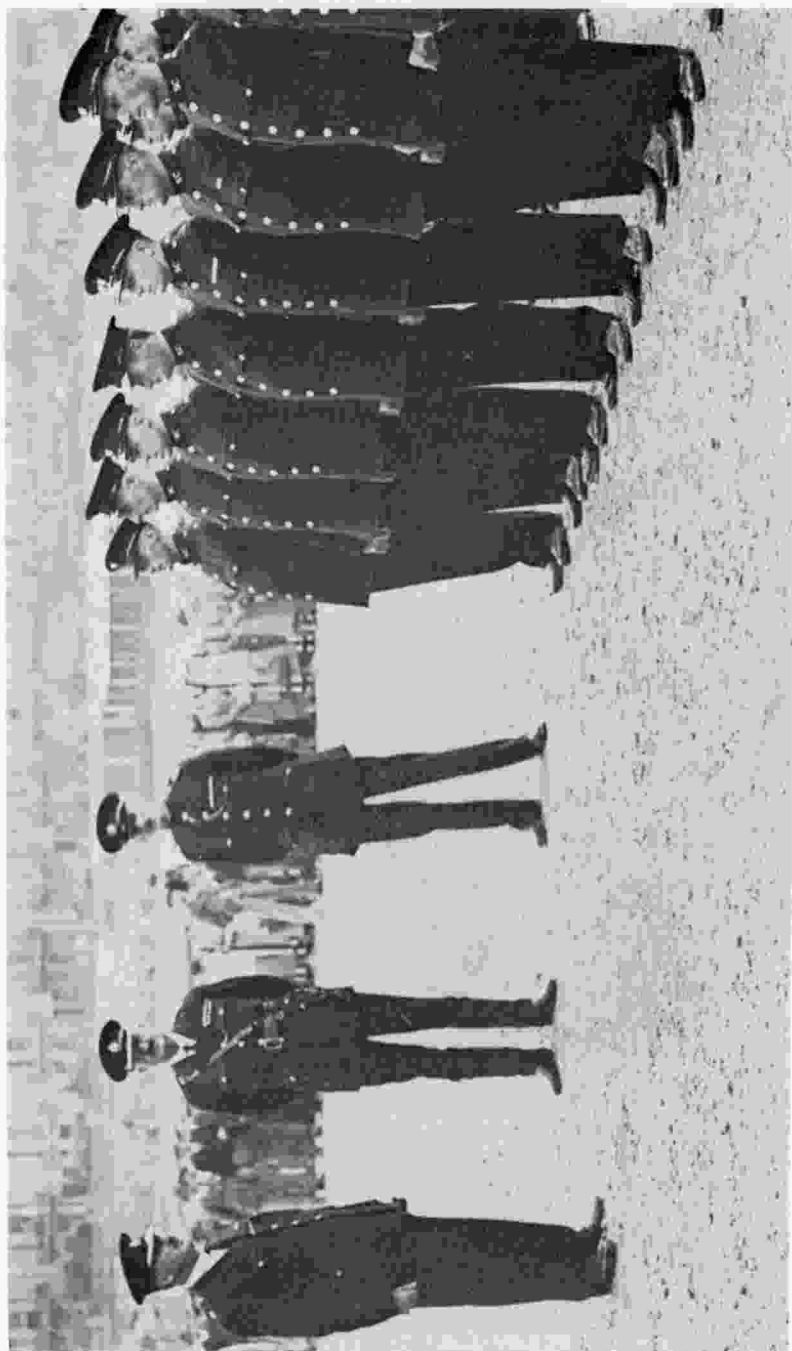
The Special Constabulary was relieved from active Police duty as from 24th March, 1919. The Chief Constable's Order, dated 7th April, 1919, is worthy of reproduction :-

"The Chief Constable desires to place on record his high appreciation of the Special Constabulary's loyalty, co-operation and efficiency during the four and half years they have been associated with the work of the Regular Police, and he trusts the friendships made, and the good feeling shown between the Regular and Special Constabulary will continue and strengthen in the future to the mutual advantage of themselves and the general public".

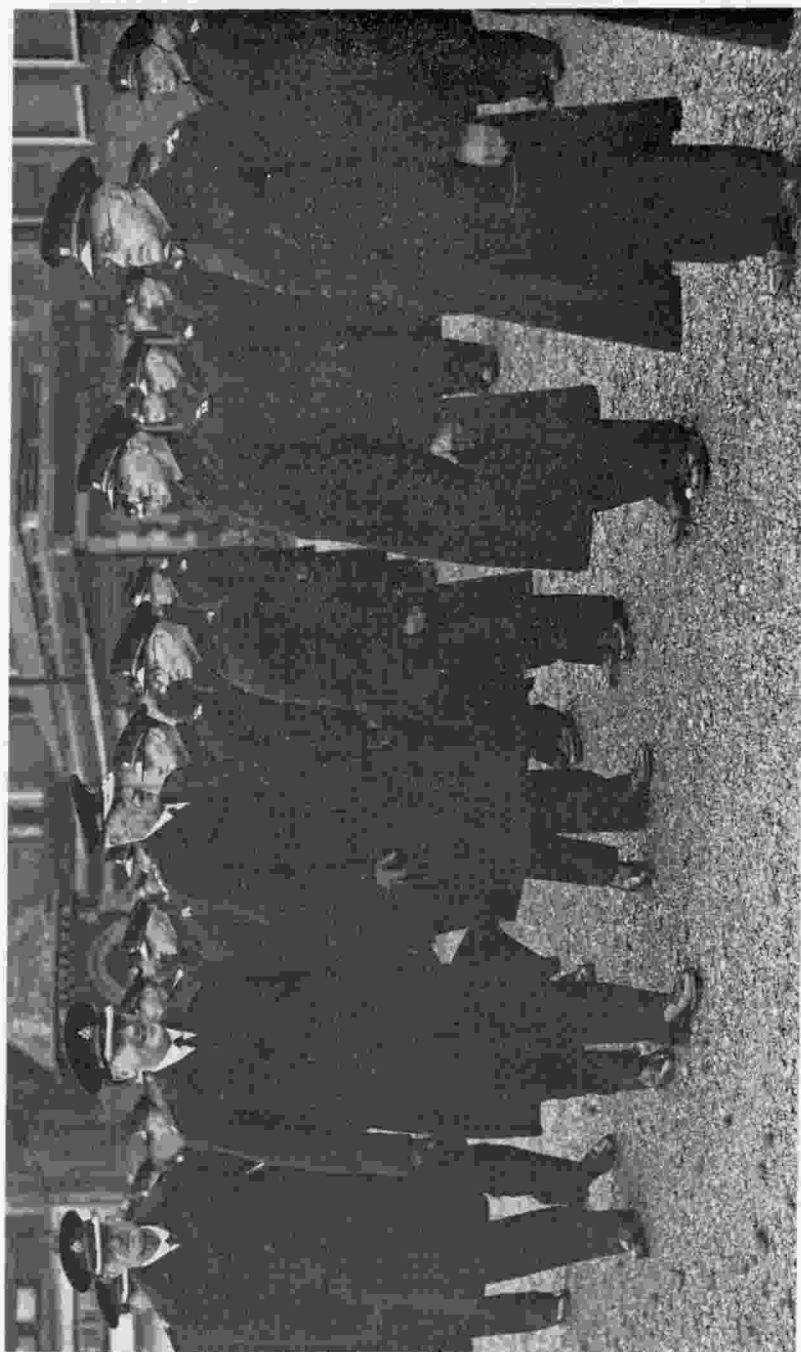
In 1925 the Watch Committee granted a pension of £30 per annum to the widow of a Special Constable who died as the result of an injury he sustained whilst on duty during the Great War.

During the General Strike of 1926 over 400 residents were sworn in to act as Special Constables if required. It was not found necessary to call these up for street duty, but in a General Order the Chief Constable comments "the fact that so many were sworn in and ready, no doubt had a great moral effect".

During this crisis the Special Constabulary was well organised, and consisted of a Company comprising four platoons. In addition a mounted and motor section were formed.



1938. The Special Constabulary parading for the first time in uniform, under Major E. H. Langham, T.D., (Commandant).



1944. Lord Goschen, Commandant of the Sussex Constabulary, inspecting the Hastings Division of the Special Constabulary. Also shown Major E. H. Langham, T.D., Commandant of the Hastings Specials, and Superintendent W. J. Buddle.

From 1936 onwards the Special Constabulary was re-organised and thoroughly trained in A.R.P. work, and in 1938 they were supplied with uniform. The outbreak of War in 1939 found the Specials under the able command of their Commandant, Major E. H. Langham, and having a Mounted and Mobile Section, Administration Inspector and staff.

The Specials rendered invaluable service during the War years, and their loyalty and co-operation deserved the high praise they received from many quarters.

The Special Constabulary — After the War

Care was taken after World War II to foster good relationship between the Regulars and the Specials. An officer of the Regular Force was appointed to act as Liaison Officer, and the Specials performed regular duties particularly during the summer months. They established their own Social Club.

On 24th April, 1959, Mr. B. N. Parks was appointed Commandant and under his capable guidance the morale and efficiency of the Specials became of the highest order.

The Police War Reserve

At the outbreak of War these men were recruited from the Specials, and became whole-time Constables for the duration of the War. Their contribution to the efficient policing of the Borough and the war effort generally was most praiseworthy. Several of them received commendations for outstanding performance of duty and leadership during air raids.

The Boutwood Cup "Quiz" Competition

In 1961 the Chairman of the Watch Committee, Councillor L. S. Boutwood, M.B.E., kindly presented "The Hastings Special Constabulary Cup" to be competed for annually on a team basis between members of the Special Constabulary of the Forces within the County of East Sussex. The subject matter for each year's competition and the rules governing the award of the Cup were determined between the Chief Constables of the Forces concerned, but the subject was directly connected with a duty or recreational aspect of Special Constabulary work.

There was keen rivalry between the Specials in the East Sussex Forces every year to win this trophy and each Force in turn has won it on at least one occasion.

Police Dogs

The first Police dog was introduced to Hastings on 1st October, 1959, when Constable P. B. Jenkins and his dog transferred from the Metropolitan Police.

"The Farnfield Cup"

In 1957 Alderman Mrs. A. W. Farnfield, M.B.E., J.P., generously presented the Hastings Police with a Cup for presentation to the officer adjudged to have received the most outstanding commendation of the year.

"The Barfoot Trophy"

This Trophy was presented to the Force in 1965 by an anonymous donor, in memory of the late Alderman C. Barfoot, J.P., a former and much respected Chairman of the Watch Committee, to be awarded annually to the probationary constable considered to be the best all-round recruit.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

Life-Saving and First-Aid Awards

Life-Saving Competitions

The record of the successes achieved by members of Hastings Police during the years 1956 to 1962, under the leadership of ex-Inspector W. D. Edwards, is most impressive.

In 1956, P.C. F. Knowles swam in the National Police Championship Finals. Later in the same year the Force Life-Saving Team were winners of the "Benyon Trophy" competition which was staged in the River Thames at Reading.

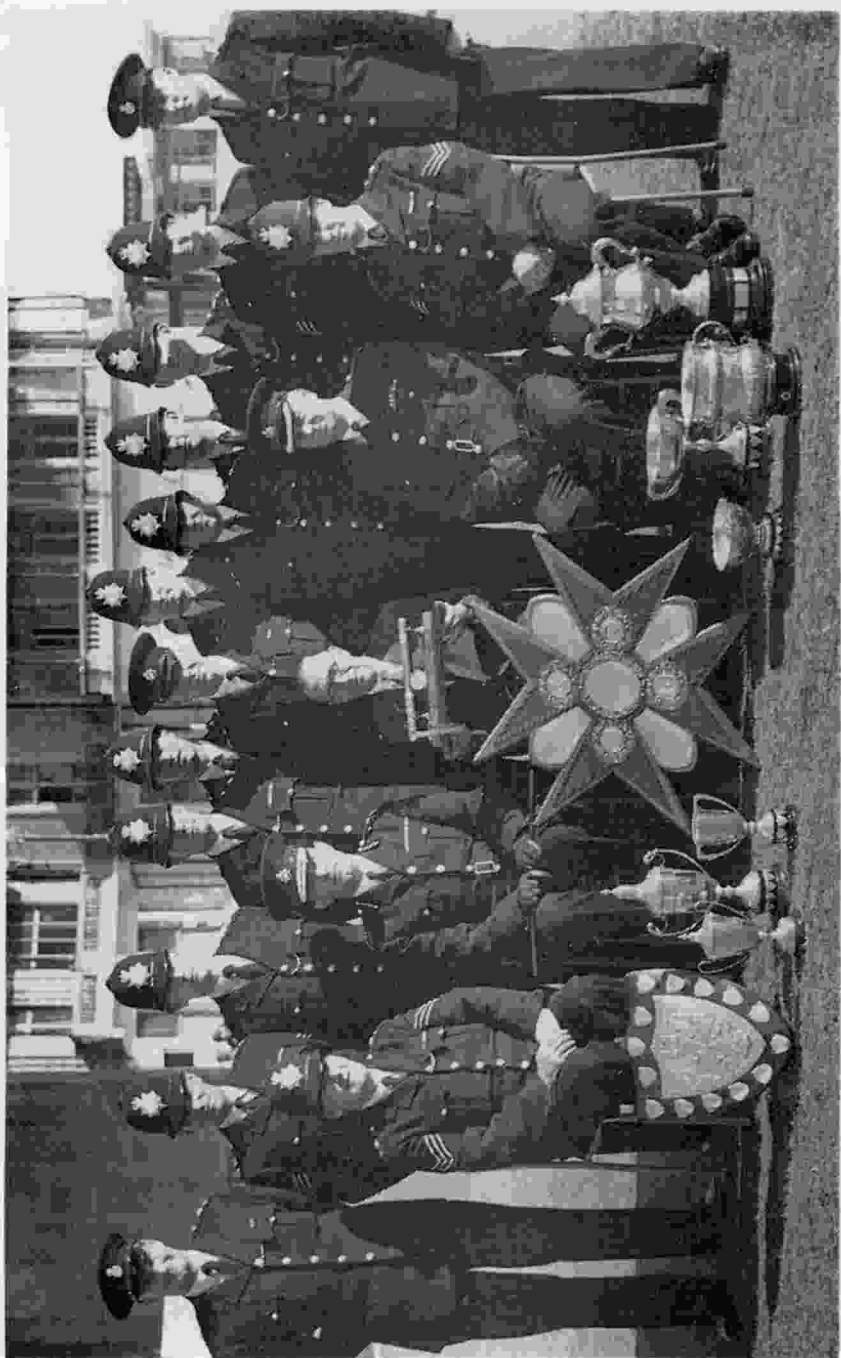
In 1957, 1959 and 1961, Hastings Police won the coveted "Colonel Woodcock Cup" for Royal Life-Saving Society awards during the previous year. This competition is open to all the Police Forces in the Kingdom. The Force Life-Saving Team also won "The Lady Davenport Trophy" in 1957 and 1959, for a contest staged in Dover Harbour, and open to all the Police Forces in S.E. England.

At Hove in 1959 the team won No. 6 District Life-Saving Eliminating Competition, going forward to the Finals at Hendon, winning the Police Life-Saving Championship of Great Britain.

Inspector Edwards was elected President of the Sussex County Amateur Swimming Association in 1962, and in this year the Force Life-Saving Team won the "Alderman McInnes Trophy" at Bournemouth.

First-Aid Competitions

The Hastings Police First-Aid team was highly successful in Competition work. The victories of the team are too numerous to give in detail, but their successes in 1965 deserve the highest praise, for in this year they won no less than nine trophies. On 5th November of that year, representing the St. John Ambulance Brigade, they participated in the Grand Prior's Competition, facing opposition from fourteen other teams who were finalists in the national competitions open to such organisations as the Police, Fire Service, Railways, National Coal Board, Electricity and Gas undertakings, etc. The team secured second place, a truly wonderful achievement.



1959. The Hastings Police Life-Saving and First Aid Teams, with Mr. D. L. Brown (Chief Constable), Councillor L. S. Boutwood, M.B.E., (Chairman of the Watch Committee), and Superintendent and D.C.C. G. Sheppard.

**The Police Recreation Club
The "Blue Jackets" Concert Party
The Police Choir**

The Cricket section and the Schools matches

The Recreation Club

The Force's Recreation Club came into existence in January, 1911, when the Watch Committee secured the tenancy of the Lower Central Hall, Station Road, as a Recreation Room for the Force. Various indoor games were provided, also fencing sticks, boxing gloves, and a ju-jitsu mat.

In April 1924, a large room over a garage in Havelock Road was taken into use as a Recreation Room.

About 1930 the Club moved again to premises in Pelham Street, and in 1940, when the Force took over the whole of the Town Hall, the Clubroom was established in the top floor of the Town Hall. This was the first time that the Recreation Club had a bar. When the Town Clerk's staff re-occupied the Town Hall at the end of the War, Police Headquarters were transferred to other premises and the Recreation Club was located once more in the Lower Central Hall.

Finally, in December 1956, the Clubroom was established at No. 7 Carlisle Parade.

The Club became flourishing and virile, catering for all the needs and interests of the members, which included the majority of the Civilian Staff. The Club formed the following Sections :- Football, Cricket, Bowls, Tennis and Squash, Swimming, Rifle Shooting, Angling, Golf, Judo, Indoor Games, Sub-Aqua, Motoring, and Wine-making. It is worthy of mention that the Club raised over £450 in donations for the Police Convalescent Seaside Home New Premises Fund.

The "Blue Jackets" Concert Party

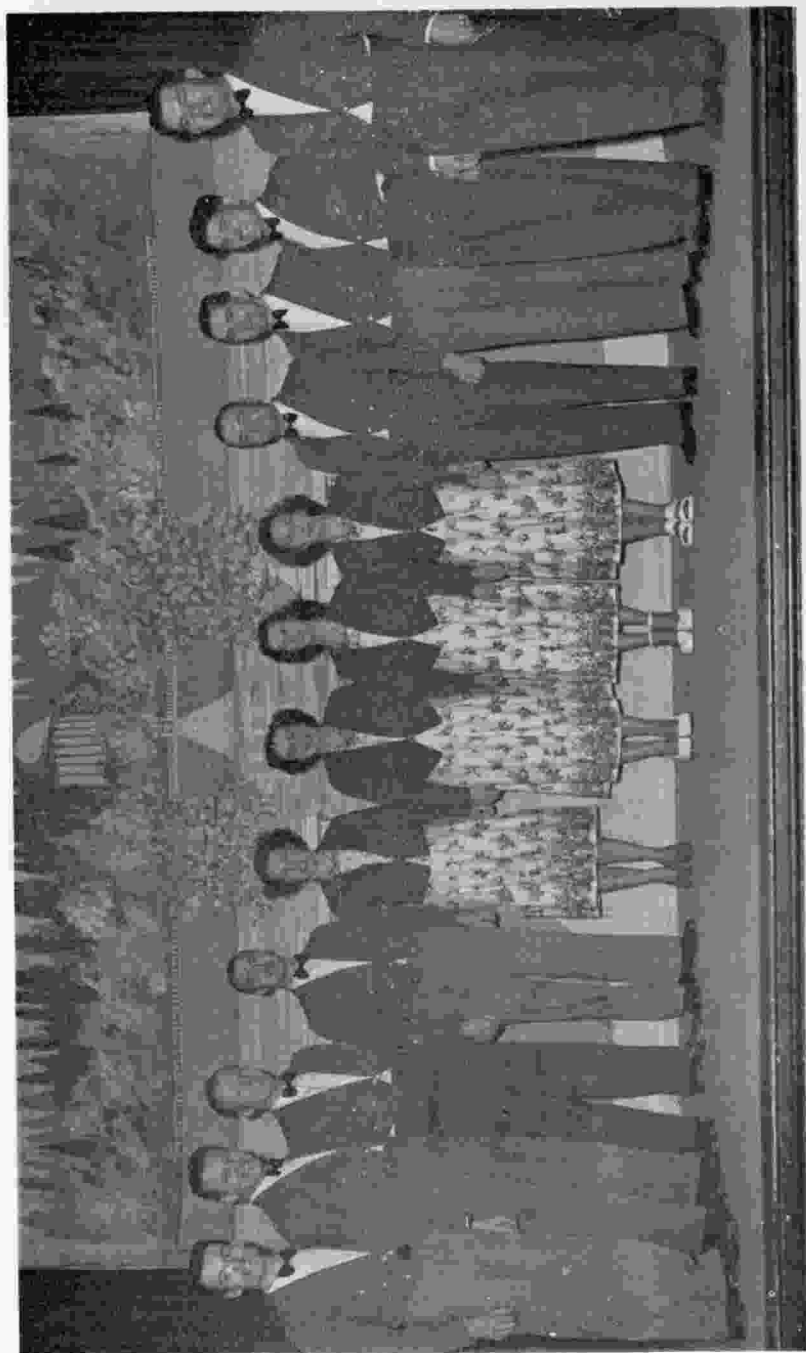
This talented company was formed early in 1950 from a nucleus of newly joined officers under the tutelage of Sergeant Finch, who already had some experience as an entertainer, and with the whole-hearted encouragement of the Chief Constable, Lt. Col. A. G. Cargill.

They gave their first public performance on 1st April, 1950, in Christ Church Hall, St. Leonards. This show was an outstanding success and played to a capacity audience.

After this performance numerous applications were received from many organisations in the Borough and county for the Party to give charity concerts, and from 1950 to 1955 the "Blue Jackets" gave over one hundred shows in aid of various charities. Their most ambitious and probably most successful effort was staged at the White Rock Pavilion on 27th May, 1952, in aid of the "Guide Dogs for the Blind Association".



1912. The Recreation Room of the Borough Police Force. Lower Central Hall, Station Road, Hastings.



The "Blue Jackets" Concert Party, at their first public performance at Christ Church Hall, St. Leonards-on-Sea, on 1st April, 1950.
Left to right :- P. Walker, W. Kimber, R. Tye, P. Holley, June Stace, Olive Bath, Barbara Hoare,
Joyce Shepherd, R. Steedman, N. Gasford, S. Ferguson, L. Finch.

The performers hired a coach for travelling to many Village Halls and hospitals, and it is pleasing that these productions, given in "off duty" time, were so much enjoyed.

After a highly successful career the "Blue Jackets" ceased to give performances in 1955 due to several of their members either retiring or resigning from the Force.

The Hastings Police Choir

Police Sergeant Latchem, with the staunch support of the Chief Constable Lt. Col. Cargill, B.E.M., and Mr. H. Vincent Batts, L.R.A.M., F.R.C.O., (then serving in the Force as a Police War Reserve) founded the Hastings Police Choir in 1943.

The Choir gave its first public performance at the White Rock Pavilion on 22nd October, 1944, and received high praise.

The services of the Choir were much sought after, and they gave many delightful performances in the White Rock Pavilion, Churches, and in Alexandra Park.

The Choir was given an audition by Mr. Leslie Woodgate, choral conductor for the B.B.C. and made such an impression upon him that he arranged for the Choir to give two broadcast performances.

The Cricket Section and the Schools Annual Matches

For well over forty years it became a tradition that Hastings Police had an annual cricket match against the local Preparatory Schools. It was indeed a happy thought on the part of Councillor R. J. S. Curtis, M.A., the Headmaster of Hurst Court School, in 1961, that the Schools subscribed towards a plaque which was erected in the Police Club Room to record these delightful meetings of the boys and the Police on the cricket field.

On the 24th March, 1961, Mr. Curtis, in the presence of many serving and retired members of the Force, gathered in the Recreation Club, where Mr. Curtis unveiled a handsome brass plaque inscribed :-

"Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools
To commemorate the friendly cricket matches
played between the Hastings Police and
Preparatory Schools in the Borough
1920—1960".

Sergeant W. Pope, the Chairman of the Recreation Club, played in the Cricket Team every season (apart from the War years when he served in the Royal Navy) and during his 30 years service participated in these School matches. At the match held at Hurst Court School in 1967 Mr. D. L. Brown, Chief Constable, presented Sergeant Pope, on behalf of present and past members of the Hastings Police cricket team, with a hand-carved lamp standard, on the shade of which were the signatures of all the donors.

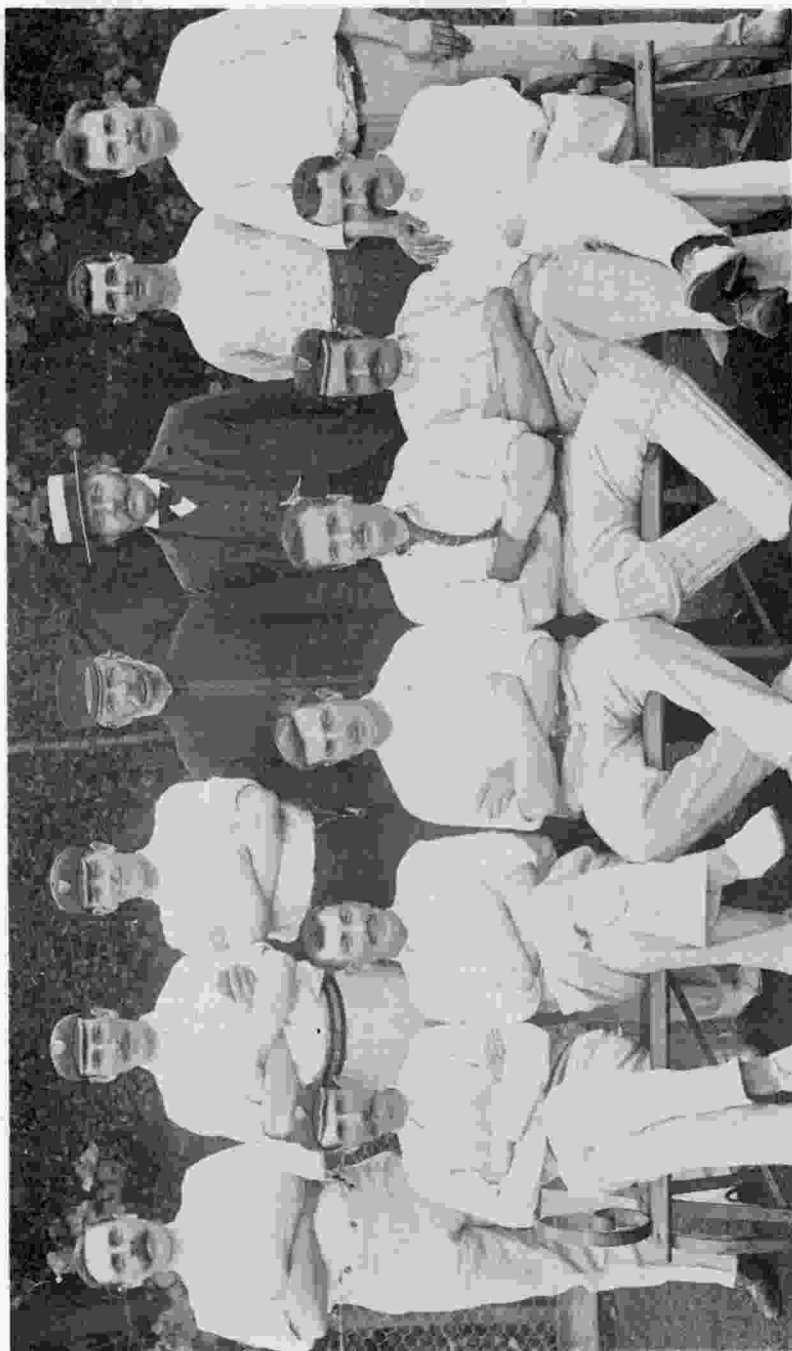
Mr. Curtis was Chairman of the Watch Committee from 1956 to 1959.



Hastings Police Choir, at White Rock Pavilion, Hastings, on the occasion of their first public Concert on 22nd October, 1944.



1945. Hastings Police Choir giving one of their many performances in the Alexandra Park, Hastings.
Conductor :- Mr. H. Vincent Batts, L.R.A.M., F.R.C.O.



1894. Hastings Police Cricket Team. In centre back row is Inspector Streeter.



1967. Mr. D. L. Brown, Chief Constable of Hastings, presenting a lamp standard to Police Sergeant W. Pope, a senior member of the Hastings Police Cricket Team. On the right of the picture is Mr. R. J. S. Curtis, M.A., former Headmaster of Hurst Court School, Hastings.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

Items of General Interest

December, 1837

James Pulford was prosecuted for hawking sheeps' heads.

Extract from the Minutes of the Watch Committee :-

20th July, 1841

The Watch Committee considered a Charge "that the Inspector after the Borough Election had paraded in the Procession of the Blue Candidate in favours", and "resolved that the matter be postponed for further consideration". It appears that the Committee took no further action.

6th June and 5th September, 1845

On the first quoted date the Watch Committee resolved "that P.C. 6 Adams be acquainted that it is incompetent for him to hold the office or appointment of Collector of a Burial Society as his whole time must be devoted to the duties of his Office".

On the second date the Committee reprimanded this Constable "for carrying Hogwash in his Uniform early in the morning, and replying in an improper manner to the Inspector when spoken to on the subject".

21st November, 1845

The Watch Committee ordered "that proceedings be taken against Charles Lower to prevent his committing Murder or Suicide".

21st June, 1850

On this date the Committee ordered "that the Police caution persons against exposing themselves and their children when affected with the small pox".

5th November, 1852

No doubt with a view to economy on this date the Committee resolved :-

"That the Inspector of Police shall lay before every Watch Committee a Return of the number of Lamps which have not burnt the full every night, in order that the proper deductions may be made from the Gas Company's account for lighting".

12th October, 1866

"The Superintendent applies for permission to attend the Court at Brussels to give evidence there — and for leave of absence for ten days — which application is agreed and that Sergeant Streeter is appointed to take charge of the Police Force in the absence of the Superintendent".

12th June, 1874

"The Superintendent is instructed to take the proper steps to get the performing Bear and attendants out of the Town".

The Introduction of Electric Torches

The replacement of the oil-filled dark lanterns by electric torches was begun in 1918, and completed in 1923/24. Although the old lanterns were no longer used it is of interest to record that John Logie Baird, who first demonstrated Television at numbers 2/4 Queen's Avenue. Hastings, in 1924, bought a considerable number of the old lamps, and used the lenses in connection with his experiments.

The Straw Helmets

As early as 1918 the Force wore straw helmets in summer time. These helmets, besides being liable to become mis-shapen after heavy rain, sometimes caused the wearers to be exposed to ridicule from high-spirited or semi-intoxicated "trippers" who dubbed this type of headgear as "beehives" or "Donkeys' Breakfasts". The use of these straw helmets was abolished in 1937.

Official Note Books

The first issue of these was made in December 1920. Before this, members of the Force had to provide their own notebooks, and in consequence it was not unusual for private memoranda to be entered. It is said that once H.M. Inspector of Constabulary examined one of these non-official notebooks, and complained about finding such entries as "Doe to Buck" and an account of purchases of oats, etc. !

British Weeks Abroad

At the request of the Board of Trade, members of the Hastings Force have performed duty at the following British Trade Fairs :-

Milan — 8th-18th October, 1965	One Sergeant and two Constables
Florence—8th-16th October, 1966	One Constable and one Woman Police Constable
Brussels — 26th September-7th October, 1967	One Sergeant, One Constable, One Woman Police Constable
Toronto — 10th-22nd October, 1967	One Sergeant

In every case a senior official of the Board of Trade expressed his appreciation for the real services which the Hastings personnel had rendered to that Department and the cause of international relationships.

The Women's Auxiliary Police Corps

A unit of the above was formed in July, 1942, and disbanded in July 1946. The unit had a strength of ten and its members, employed as drivers, office staff, or telephone operators, rendered most valuable service.



September, 1944. Hastings Division of the Women's Auxiliary Police Corps, with Superintendent George Knell.

Police Cadets

The first was appointed at Hastings on 2nd February, 1953. The Authorised Establishment for these was three.

Wireless Communications and Telex

Since about 1942 the patrol and C.I.D. cars have been equipped with radio, and in recent years the traffic motor cycles and the light-weight machines have been similarly equipped.

Telex was installed at Police Headquarters in October, 1961, and has proved of great practical value.

In April, 1967, a pocket radio scheme was introduced in the Borough, resulting in most efficient communications between men on the beat and their Headquarters. This must be regarded as one of the most important developments in the history of the Police Service.

The Police College

Detective Chief Inspector K. Somers was seconded to the Police College as a member of the Directing Staff from May, 1964, to May 1966.

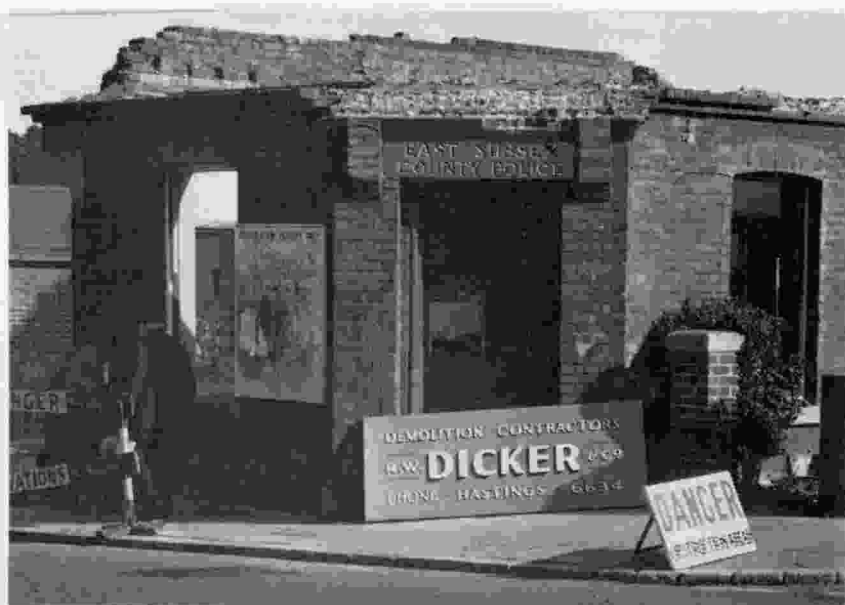
In the Police Promotions Examinations held in February 1962, Police Constable D. C. Reed obtained the third best result amongst candidates in all England and Wales. This qualified the officer for admission to the Special Course, commencing 30th September, 1962, at the Police College.

A Senior Appointment

Chief Inspector John Muldoon was appointed Superintendent and Deputy Chief Constable of Norwich City Police on 1st June, 1966.

Case Law

It is perhaps not widely known that the oft quoted dictum "that justice should not only be done, but be manifestly and **undoubtedly** seen to be done" was laid down by Lord Chief Justice Hewart in the King's Bench Division in 1923, in a case of an appeal (which was allowed) against the Hastings Justices for convicting a man of driving a motor car in a dangerous manner.



May, 1967. Demolition work at Battle Road Police Station, Hollington.
When the facade was removed it revealed the wording as shown.

The Hollington District and this Police Station were incorporated into the
County Borough of Hastings on 9th November, 1897.

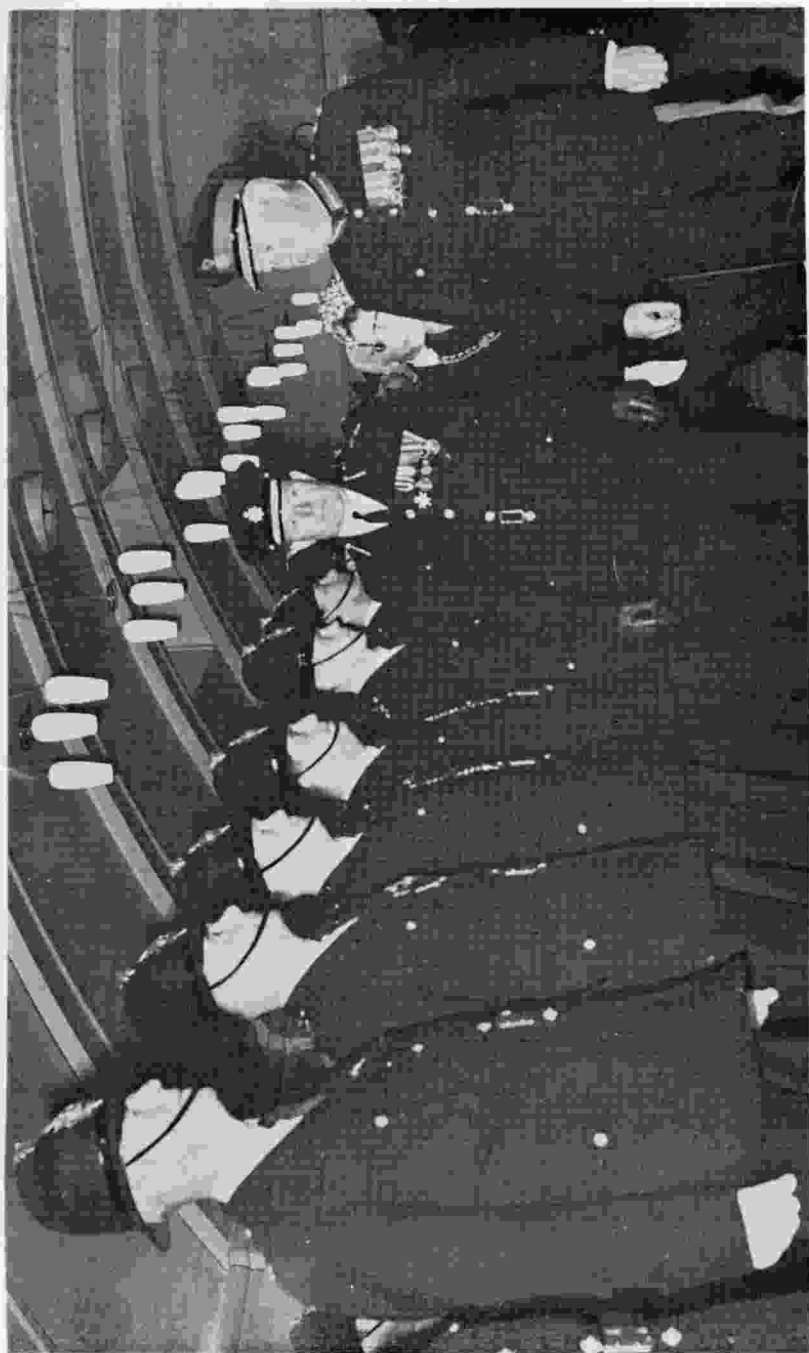
CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

The Ceremonies to mark the end of The County Borough of Hastings Police

As befitting the oldest of the Sussex Police Forces to be amalgamated, it was the last to be honoured on 24th October, 1967, by His Grace, The Duke of Norfolk, E.M., K.G., G.C.V.O., P.C., J.P., H.M. Lord Lieutenant of the County of Sussex, when he Inspected and Addressed a parade of its members at the Falaise Hall.

His Grace expressed sincere appreciation for the outstanding service which the Borough Police Force had rendered to the community throughout its very long history and said he was certain that its members would play a vital role in the new Sussex Constabulary. He wished all concerned every success and happiness.

The last ceremony to mark the end of an epoch took place on 8th December, 1967, when the Force held a Farewell Dinner in the Falaise Hall.



(Hastings & St. Leonards Observer)
His Grace The Duke of Norfolk, E.M., K.G., G.C.V.O., P.C., J.P., H.M. Lord Lieutenant of the County of Sussex, inspecting the County Borough of Hastings Police, on 24th October, 1967, in the Falaise Hall, Hastings.
On the Duke's right is the Chief Constable of Hastings, Mr. D. L. Brown, and The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Hastings, Alderman Mrs. V. M. Jones, J.P., is following them.

