

A HISTORY OF THE WARRINGTON BOROUGH POLICE

Written May 1968, when the amalgamations of police forces was beginning to loom.

Today the County Borough of Warrington, with a population of 74,370, is served by a modern, efficient, highly disciplined and specially skilled Police Force, consisting of 184 men and women. It is surprising to find, however, that although the first Warrington was a product of the Bronze Age, it was not until the Stuart era in the 16th century that recognised Constables were used for ensuring law and order within the town. These Constables or Market Watchers as they were sometimes referred to, although unpaid, apparently carried out their duties successfully. Records show the sitting of Summary Courts in which people were fined for petty offences such as selling food under weight, and letting swine go abroad on the Lord's day, these being against the local laws of the town.

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the only bodies comparable with a Police Force consisted of a number of men known as watchmen, and the Parish Constables. The watchmen were equipped with lanterns, wooden rattles and keys, and were paid and financed by private subscriptions. Their main duty was to visit and inspect by night, the warehouses and premises of the business people of the town, who were the only people wealthy enough to subscribe to these services. They were employed and worked as individuals, there being no co-ordination or group organisation between them.

The Parish Constables, of which the town had four, were generally tradesmen of the town appointed at the Court Leet. These Constables did little or no actual Police work, but delegated their powers to one deputy and an assistant, by whom the King's Peace had to be kept among the 18,000 inhabitants of the town.

By an Act of 1813, Police Commissioners were appointed in Warrington; their responsibility was the well-being of its inhabitants and the provision of social services. Shortly after their appointment a Bridewell was erected in what was then known as Irlam Street, now known as Buttermarket Street, on the site adjoining Dial Street. All prisoners arrested by the aforementioned Policemen, were locked up in the Bridewell to await trial and punishment. The cell accommodation was adequate to receive approximately one dozen prisoners of each sex.

The form of law enforcement carried out by the Watchmen and Parish Constables was apparently to the satisfaction of the Police Commissioners, until the year 1837. In the latter part of that year an occasion arose when an unusually large number of male prisoners were arrested on the same day, which necessitated some being detained in the females cells. Of those detained in the females cells, one, charged with the serious crime of burglary, escaped by climbing out of the exercise yard the construction of which did not afford as much security as that of the male prisoners yard. How he got from his cell into the yard is still not known, but suspicion fell heavily upon a young man acting as assistant to the Parish Constables Deputy, in that it was thought he had left the cell door unlocked for the purpose of assisting the escape. No motive was ever put forward for this suspected conduct.

The escape of such a serious criminal as this, caused the Police Commissioners some concern, and on the 5th January, 1838, they held a meeting, the outcome of which was the formation of a Committee whose sole responsibility was the selection and appointment of Police Officers, who would form the first Warrington Police Force, and the efficient administration of the same. This Committee selected James Jones, who, it appears, was then acting as Deputy to the Parish Constables as

Deputy Constable of the town, and appointed four assistant Constables to be under his command. The Committee sat each week to discuss the efficiency of the Force, and to furnish Mr. Jones with any new orders they may have made.

This effort by the Police Commissioners is no doubt the earliest beginning of the Warrington County Borough Police Force. Mr. Jones was given full responsibility of the Bridewell, which was his residence as well as the Police Station. It was usual for him to engage himself in his duties, mainly of patrolling the town from 9.00 a.m. each day until 11.00 p.m. or often later. The four assistant Constables worked a two-shift system, two men working from 9.00 a.m. until 9.00 p.m. and two from 9.00 p.m. until 9.00 a.m. with rest days a thing of the future.

In 1846 due to the rising population of the town and the rapidly growing industries, which were obviously going to increase and expend as time went on, a petition was sent to the Queen's Government by the people of the town, requesting a Charter of Incorporation. On the 3rd April, 1847, such a Charter was granted and subsequently a Watch Committee was formed to supervise and take on the responsibility of the efficient policing of the Borough.

The Watch Committee held its first meeting on the 15th July, 1847, and by November of that year had appointed Mr. Charles Stewart as the new Chief Constable of the Borough, Mr. Jones having quietly left the scene. Mr. Stewart still had only four assistant Constables, but due to his very high standards and dedication to duty, was successful in his task of keeping law and order at a bearable level. Within weeks of taking office he drew up a set of rules for his men, outlining their hours of duty, and created a simple beat system at first using the boundaries of the already existing wards. Although his Constables worked twelve hour shifts at the very least, he emphatically laid down that no man was to remain within the Bridewell for any time longer than was necessary for the compilation of reports or the completion of other specific duties. He himself worked in excess of twelve hours daily, mainly in patrolling the streets and supervising his men. At first he ordered his men to work shifts commencing at 12 noon and 12 midnight, but soon changed this back to the 9 o'clock system, probably due to the frequency in which the night duty men had to be called on duty early to assist in the many drunken brawls. Mr. Stewart himself equipped his men with canes or sticks, for night duty patrolling, and the following is an exact copy of an order written by him on the 31st December, 1847, regarding the use of the sticks, as a means of communication:

"The Chief Constable in going his rounds on the different beats will strike one sound and will wait for a replying sound from the Constable. If he sound again, he will strike twice, which will denote that he has heard the sound of the Constable on his beat, and will pass on.

If a Constable wants assistance he will strike three times or should he only want to communicate with the Chief or other Constables twice."

Mr. Stewart continued in office until 1852, during which time he and his Constables were highly successful in investigating crime and detecting criminals. Men for the first time were allowed to wear plain clothes on special investigations, and there is no doubt from his interest in detective work and many communications with detective offices of larger Police Forces he would have formed the first C.I.D. in Warrington, had he had sufficient men under his the command. On his retirement from the force the manpower was : -

1 Chief Constable; 1 Sergeant; 3 Constables; 3 Assistants and a Clerk.

The assistants worked with the Constables, this being the only means of training men at that time. The total cost of the Police Force in 1852 was estimated at £271 Os. 4d. for a period of six months.

In December, 1852, the Watch Committee appointed J. S. MacMichael of Bradford as Chief Constable, this gentleman being selected from fifty applicants for the post, at the same time increasing the strength of the force to: 1 Chief Constable; 5 Officers and 1 Clerk. Within six months of this new appointment the strength of the force was again increased by the addition of one man, and the Officers, for the first time in the history of the force, were referred to as Police Constables.

Mr. MacMichael was officially allowed by the Watch Committee to equip his men with staffs, lanterns and rattles for night duty, which tends to suggest that Mr. Stewart's earlier issue of canes or sticks, was his own personal effort. It is remarkable that this is the first record of Police Constables being issued with lanterns remembering that their forerunners, the watchman, had them and the fact that at this time Warrington consisted of narrow streets illuminated by gas lighting, which was described by a person of that time as, "Faintly illuminating the streets of our town." Many of the streets had no lighting system at all, the only illumination being from the windows of the many public houses which remained open until midnight.

Among Mr. MacMichael's many reforms and improvements was the publication to members of his force in 1864 of a book of instructions detailing the duties of various ranks, and summarising many felonies, misdemeanours and numerous other offences. He also drew up a pay scale including a system of increments for his Constables, which was adopted by the Watch Committee, enabling a Constable to receive from 18s. Od. as a third class Constable to 23s Od. as a merit class Constable. Use was made of Special Constables, who were sworn for duty as and when required, and frequently after information had been received of possible outbreaks of violence in the town.

Warrington in these times, due to the rapid expansion of industry, the commencement of work on the Manchester Ship Canal, and the lack of work in Ireland, was attracting more and more Irish families and labourers, which resulted in the town becoming literally filled with lodging houses. Brawls were the order of the day, many of which were fought passionately and resulted in full scale riots. One incident worthy of note and showing the bravery and tenacity of Mr. MacMichael and his men was in 1857 when he, together with two Constables, in arresting two men for causing a disturbance were set upon and beaten to the ground by a riotous mob of nearly 300. Despite their injuries the three Officers retained the prisoners whom they locked in a public house until the rioters had dispersed. The prisoners were later transferred to the Bridewell and stood their trial, together with a number of the other rioters who had been arrested.

During the thirty years shared by Mr. Stewart and Mr. MacMichael in the office of Chief Constable, much drunkenness and the numerous ale houses had caused them many headaches. Not only were they inundated with offences of drunkenness by the public, but on many occasions, unfortunately, had to deal with it within the force. No doubt due to the long hours of duty, lack of rest days and the whole atmosphere and general attitude of the town, many Constables found themselves parading for duty in a state of intoxication. This conduct was almost invariably met with instant dismissal by the Watch Committee, one Constable who

was so punished, was not only found drunk on duty, but appeared before the Watch Committee to answer his charge in a drunken condition. One report written in Mr. Stewart's own handwriting, states how he was forced to strip a man of his uniform after he had paraded himself before a congregation entering Church in a drunken condition wearing his uniform plus an old Scotch cap pulled down almost over his eyes. In the words of Mr. Stewart, "He appeared to be insane."

Sickness and disease were also problems of the times, due mainly to the appalling filth created by the inadequate sewage system. On numerous occasions the strength of the Police Force was nearly halved due to Constables on sick leave. Judging by some of the illnesses reported on the medical certificates, such as a bad cough and neuralgia, there is little doubt that some of the officers took advantage of the conditions to avail themselves of a few days rest, probably not altogether undeserved. One medical certificate, still preserved, simply states: "I certify that P.C. Rippingale says he was unable to follow his duty on January 24th, 1867. Signed: Abel Pennington, Surgeon."

Annual inspections by H.M. Inspectors of Police, commenced during Mr. MacMichael's term of office, and the records available show that in 1865 a certificate was issued by them entitling Warrington Borough to a monetary grant from the Treasury when £358 6s. 4d. being one quarter of the yearly expense, was granted to assist in financing the Police Force, many requests had been made earlier for such a grant, but had been refused due to the inadequate number of Police Officers employed. In 1871 a threat was made to discontinue the grant due to the excessive amount of money spent on uniforms. The specific amount so spent is not known, but there is little doubt that the Police of Warrington appeared on the streets looking much smarter than their predecessors. However, this small problem was resolved and the grant, which to the rate-payers' relief is still in operation today, was continued.

In 1864, Mr. Samuel Hunt was appointed the first Police Superintendent of Warrington having previously served for 13 and half years in the Derby Borough Police. He remained in this rank until 1866, when he succeeded Mr. MacMichael on his premature retirement due to ill health. On this change at the head, the force consisted of :-

1 Chief Constable; 2 Sergeants; 23 Constables and a Clerk.

1867 saw the introduction of arms to the force when Mr. Hunt was issued on Government orders with enough revolvers and ammunition to arm each member of his force, for their personal protection if the need to do so ever arose. A short while later the first Detective Constable was officially appointed, though Mr. Hunt in his records had previously referred to a Detective Sergeant who, together with Constables in plain clothes, attended services at Churches on a Sunday both for their spiritual benefit and to ensure law and order.

The strength of the: Police Force was increased from time to time to keep pace with the increased population and extension of the Borough boundaries and by 1880 had risen to 37.

During the 1880's the town had become saturated with Irish immigrants and labourers, and although every possible building was used as a lodging house, large groups of men were found roaming the streets at all hours of the day and night. The only places of comfort they could find were the ale houses, which they resorted to continually. This influx of men and their habits, further taxed the strength of the

force. The Borough boundary was further extended and the force increased to 48. On Mr. Hunt's retirement in 1895, the establishment had risen to 54.

The next gentleman to be appointed Chief Constable was Mr. Luke Hamilton Talbot, he having previously been Chief Constable of Kendal for a period of 52 years. Mr. Talbot had much experience in the running and organisation of a Police Force, and was very soon instrumental in obtaining an increase in establishment bringing the total strength of the force up to 66. He formed the first Criminal Investigation Department in the Borough Police, which consisted of 1 Detective Inspector; 4 Detective Constables and a Clerk. He also opened out-stations at Latchford and Sankey Bridges and later one at Longford. These out-stations remained in existence until 1963, only moving position slightly as new property was built and acquired. This modernisation of the Police Force was continued, and in 1898, two bicycles were purchased for use by the Constables, showing the first signs of the necessity for mobility and speed. It is interesting to note that mounted Police were not introduced until 1900, thus in Warrington Police the machine preceded the horse. A further development in Mr. Talbot's programme was the introduction of an official Police Photographer. Photographs of prisoners at Warrington are referred to as far back as 1867, but it was not until 1897 that the Police Photographer was appointed. He received 3s. Od. per week extra in his pay on the understanding that he took all the necessary photographs and provided all his own apparatus and materials.

In the latter part of the 19th century, after years of prodding by H.M. Inspectors of Constabulary and other Police officials, the Town Council finally decided that it was necessary to build a new Court House and Police Station, the old Bridewell having long been inadequate for the purpose. In 1901 the new Police Station, situated in Arpley Street and still used today, was opened. It contained a handsome and commodious Court Room which soon earned itself amongst the inhabitants of the town the title of "The Palace of Justice". The opening of this new building coincided very conveniently with the acceptance of Warrington as a County Borough and thus becoming a judicially self-contained unit.

Before passing from the period in which Mr. Talbot was Chief Constable, it seems only right to mention his fairness and efforts to create a high morale within the force. During his term of office he refused a personal pay award granted by the Watch Committee, in order to ensure that his Constables received an increase which had long been overdue. Also due to his foresightedness and belief in recreation, the Warrington Police Athletic Club was founded. This organisation for many years after its formation raised, through its many activities, large sums of money which were distributed amongst the many worthy charities of the town. The strength of the force was then 73 men.

In March, 1907, Mr. Talbot suffered a rather tragic death, and the town lost not only a dedicated and forward thinking Chief Constable, but a friend. Mr. Martin Nicholls became the next Chief Constable, after serving in a similar capacity at Windsor. He remained Chief Constable for a period of 30 years, retiring in 1937, after a very distinguished Police career and the possessor of the King's Police Medal for meritorious Police service. During his term of office, Warrington saw many changes, not least of all in the administration and organisation of its Police Force. The Watch Committee continued its progressive policy, increases in the establishment were to

82 in 1908;

84 in 1910;

86 in 1911;
89 in 1913;
92 in 1914,

and in 1920 the force had reached the 100 mark. During the latter part of this era (1907--1937) the force saw further developments in its mobility, communications, setting up of new departments, and the availability of lectures and courses of instruction for its members at Manchester, Liverpool, Preston and Wakefield. This was after recovering from the adverse effects of the First World War, in which the force lost five men on active service, and was so depleted in its manpower that at one time only 44 regular Police Constables were available to police the town.

In 1930 the first motor vehicle was purchased for the force, this being a motor cycle combination for use on patrol and traffic duties and the conveyance of prisoners to the gaol at Liverpool. In the same year a contract was drawn up for the first automatic traffic lights to be erected in the town, stressing the increase on the roads of mechanical traffic. Due to this increase and the fact that Warrington is situated on a cross roads in the industrial north, heavier demands were made on the Police Force and a greater need for further mechanisation was made. In 1935, a motor car was purchased for the exclusive use of the force and the number of pedal cycles available had increased to 15. The cycles were used, as they still are, for patrolling the out-lying districts of the town and were complimentary to the Officers working the still existing outstations, then known as Latchford, Orford and Bewsey. By this time all the outstations had been linked to the Central Police Office by means of telephone.

Despite the many changes and the difficulties created by the war of 1914 - 1918, Mr. Nicholls was responsible in 1921 for founding a scheme for providing articles of clothing for poor and needy children, of whom there were many. This scheme, known as the Police Aided Clothing Scheme, still operates today and, no doubt, helped immensely in cementing the good relationship between the public and police which had developed through the years. It is pleasing to record that this excellent relationship is prevalent today. Mr. Nicholls also raised funds which enabled the Police to purchase their very fine athletic ground in Loushers Lane during the year 1924. This ground must still be one of the finest in the land amongst Police Forces of comparable size.

On Mr. Nicholl's retirement in 1937, the then Superintendent of Police, Mr. Francis Summers, was appointed Chief Constable. One year later saw the addition at the Police Station of a photographic studio and dark room furnished with modern and highly technical equipment and apparatus for the specialised photographing of fingerprints. The outbreak of World War II brought many extra duties and Mr. Summers very soon found himself in the unenvied position of losing a large number of his authorised strength, which had risen in 1939 to 113 men; for the Armed Services.

In spite of this severe loss of manpower the Police of Warrington still managed to carry out their duties efficiently, being ably assisted by the First Police Reserve, the Police War Reserve, the Special Constabulary, and the Womens Auxiliary Police Corps. Throughout this trying period the Police Authority forged ahead with the task of modernising the force. It is now becoming obvious that the future Police Force of this town, as indeed that of others, would have to be streamlined in order to combat the growing tendency towards crime of a more serious nature apparent throughout the country. To improve communications and

ensure the swift circulation of information to patrolling Constables in 1940 a network of Ericsson street telephone pillars was set up in the town. This was closely followed by two-way radio.

During the 1939-45 war the Force lost six men on active service, and several others did not return to their former employment when the war ended. Recruiting at this time was difficult due to the greater remunerative offers made by the large industrial firms in Warrington and the North, and the fact that no accommodation could be offered to married men and their families. This was despite fervent requests by the Chief Constable for the erection of Police owned houses. Warrington Borough Police Force was now faced with its greatest crisis in peace time, there being 41 vacancies in the authorised strength which was then 117.

In 1946, the Home Office approved an increase in establishment consisting of 1 Inspector; 1 Sergeant; and 2 Constables for the purpose of forming a special Road Traffic Department. Two new cars were purchased, bringing the full complement of vehicles to three motor cars and a motor cycle. In the same year, four Policewomen were appointed, these posts being quickly filled by women who had served in the Women's Auxiliary Police Corps. In February, 1948, a further 17 were added to the strength making an authorised establishment of 30 men and 4 Women. In the war years many office jobs were performed by members of the Women's Auxiliary Police Corps. When they were disbanded in 1946 some became regular Policewomen whilst others were engaged in a civilian capacity as telephonists, clerks and shorthand / typists. In 1949 there were two shorthand / typists, 1 clerk and 3 telephonists in addition to domestic staff as cleaners and matrons.

Advertising modernisation and the long awaited start in the erection of Police houses, attracted a small number of men to the force, but in 1950 when Mr. Alexander Jeffrey took command as Chief Constable, having joined the force as a Constable in 1920, the shortage of men was still acute. In order to combat this Mr. Jeffrey reluctantly decided to lower the physical and educational standards required for entry. The average height of the force had always been retained at 6 feet or over, and the physique and bearing of the men had throughout the history of the force been the pride of its members and of the town. A new post of Chief Inspector was added to the force in March, 1950, to provide a deputy to the Superintendent and an officer in charge of the Patrol Department, Training had become a most important need in the Police Service and in 1951, a Sergeant Training Officer was appointed in the force after he, himself, had received suitable training at one of the Police District Training Centres, which by this time had become an essential part of the Police Service, particularly in relation to the training of probationers.

Seven more men and one Policewoman Sergeant were added to the authorised strength and by 1952 the establishment had been increased to 137 men and 5 women. The shortage of staff had decreased to 12. The Traffic Department had expanded and now had 5 motor cars, 1 motor van and a motor cycle, equipped with wireless sets and in direct communication with the Central Police Office. A twenty-four hour patrol was now kept by the traffic patrol drivers, who found themselves attending more accidents and making more traffic enquiries than ever before.

Great strides forward were made in the following years, in the modernisation and organisation of the force. A Crime Prevention Campaign was launched in 1953, and in the same year a Crime Museum was started at the Police Station. On 1st

April, 1954, the Borough was extended to 4,520 acres with a population of 80,292, which was one Constable to 565 persons and 32 acres.

The Regional Criminal Records Office at Hutton, Preston, came into operation on 1st April, 1956, resulting in numerous instances of assistance and arrests in Warrington of persons wanted in many parts of the country. In the same year a Safe Cycling Scheme was started and still continues whereby members of local youth organisations and school children are educated in road safety by the Police. The provision of houses for members of the Force had progressed throughout the years and by the end of 1957, 68 Police Officers were comfortably accommodated in Police owned houses.

The following year brought two further changes towards more mobility and better communications. An extra motor cycle was provided to permit better patrolling of the outskirts of the Borough. The telephone system for Warrington was changed to automatic dialling and the '999' service was installed at the Police Station.

In August, 1958, five Constables from the Force were seconded for a period of three months to the British Police Unit in Cyprus.

By the end of 1958 recruiting had improved and only one vacancy existed. This was the first time for many years that the force was almost up to its authorised establishment. The Policewomen's Branch was increased in that year by three to an establishment of 1 Sergeant and 7 Constables. Approval was also given to the annual exchange of the four patrol cars thus giving a better fleet and better service to the public.

The conditions of service of members of the force were gradually being improved - the working week was reduced from 48 to 44 hours as from 5th September, 1955, and leave on or in lieu of Bank Holidays was also granted. An application for an additional 2 Sergeants and 13 Constables to permit these changes to be implemented was submitted. An increase of 1 Sergeant and 7 Constables was granted bringing the total establishment of men and women to 153. Variations were granted in the civilian staff. The 44 hours working week was fully introduced on 1st May, 1960.

In the New Year's Honours List of 1960, the Chief Constable, Mr. A. Jeffrey, was awarded the Queen's Police Medal and a year later two Constables were commended by Her Majesty the Queen for bravery when attacked by three criminals armed with metal bars.

Team policing was introduced in June, 1961, and has continued in various forms since that time. It is operated at the discretion of the supervising Inspector.

One duty which had required a considerable expenditure of Police time and manpower was that of attending to children crossing busy thoroughfares whilst travelling to and from school. On 28th August, 1961, ten civilian school crossing wardens took over ten of these crossings under an arrangement with the British Legion Attendants Company Limited. The scheme was a success and now some 19 wardens are so employed leaving five for Police supervision.

With the increase of crime and the need for mobility, efforts made to obtain separate transport for the Detective Department and in May 1961 a motor vehicle was obtained for use by that branch of the police service

For many years the need for a civilian Road Safety Officer was mentioned in the Chief Constable's Annual Report and on several occasions Local Authority was drawn to this need. Eventually in 1962 a Constable was attached to the Traffic Department to undertake other duties and also help with Road Safety matters. Whilst much is being done within the limits of manpower and time available, the need for a separate department with a civilian Road Safety Officer still exists as the traffic increases and the problem grows year by year.

Communications took another step forward in 1962 when a teleprinter link was installed between the Police Headquarters and the Lancashire County Police Headquarters.

After forty-three years of Police Service, all of which were in the Warrington County Borough Force, Mr. A. Jeffrey retired on 31st May, 1963. His successor was Lieutenant Colonel Ronald E. Rowbottom, M.B.E., who became Chief Constable on the 1st June, 1963. Colonel Rowbottom had previously served in the Southport Borough Police, and as Superintendent and Deputy Chief Constable in the York City Police. Additionally he held appointments in H.M. Forces and with the Colonial Police in Cyprus.

Reference has previously been made to the outstations which have been with us for many years. The size of the Borough was such and with increased mobility and wireless communications, it was decided in 1963 to close the three outstations and all Officers to operate from the one Police Headquarters.

In 1963 a car was purchased for use by Supervising Officers who had formerly done their 'visiting' on foot and an extra motor cycle was also provided. Modern science had produced the 'Radar' speed meter and this was first used in 1963. At first the Press and the motorists accused the Police of unfair tactics and of spying on the motorists, so much so that 'Radar' signs were erected to inform motorists of the use of this new equipment. The Radar meter has been an excellent asset. Speed is considered to be a prime factor in accidents, and the use of the radar meter is having the desired effect and so helping in the struggle against the mounting toll of road accidents. How strange it would all seem to Chief Constable MacMichael who witnessed the advent of electric tramcars and motor vehicles and who, in 1904, described the driver of a motor car travelling at a speed estimated at 30 miles per hour as "Driving like a meteor gone mad."

One of Colonel Rowbottom's first tasks was a reappraisal of the manpower situation and need to provide adequate Police service for the town, combined with efficiency, mobility and current trends of crime, incidents and traffic. Resulting from this review an application was submitted for an appreciable increase in the authorised establishment. Approval was given for an increase of 18 on the 1st April, 1964, and a further 7 on 1st July, 1964, bringing the Force up to its present strength of 178. The increase of 18 was 1 Inspector; 2 Sergeants; and 13 Constables to provide efficient patrols and beat coverage; 1 Detective Constable to act as Crime Prevention and Juvenile Liaison Officer, and 1 Detective Constable for attachment to the Regional Crime Squad. The 7 further Constables were to compensate for the reduction of the working week from 44 to 42 hours which took effect on 1st July, 1964. Four additional personnel were also granted for the civilian staff, thus permitting the release of Police Officers for other duties.

1964 saw the first steps in this locality towards Area Crime Squads when a South West Lancashire Area Crime Squad was formed and a unit was based at our

Police Headquarters. One member of the Force was attached to this unit. The Area Crime Squads were replaced on 1st October, 1965, by a National Scheme with Regional coordinators. The Headquarters of No. 1 Region was established at Manchester with a Branch Office at Warrington. One Detective Sergeant and 1 Detective Constable are attached to the Regional Squad, and 1 Shorthand/Typist to the office staff. The formation of these Crime Squads is a method of combating crime in the light of current trends where the criminal recognises no boundaries and has the means to get quickly to any part of the country. The Crime Squad is a highly equipped mobile unit which can operate anywhere.

Three Officers were commended by Her Majesty the Queen in March, 1964, for bravery when called upon to arrest a man armed with a shotgun who was threatening to use the weapon.

On 1st April, 1964, the first Juvenile Liaison and Crime Prevention Officer was appointed, and since then his work has increased considerably in both fields. The prime object of his work as a Juvenile Liaison Officer is to keep children out of trouble and to prevent them from falling into moral danger and/or criminal habits. His efforts as Crime Prevention Officer are to make people more and more crime prevention conscious, and Insurance Companies are pressing their clients to make their premises secure by way of automatic alarms etc. This appointment was upgraded in May 1965 to Detective Sergeant.

Late in 1964 the first Pack Radios were received for use by Patrol Officers; thus giving a direct line of communication to the Police Station.

As from 1st April, 1965, the authorised strength of the Force was increased by 6 Cadets - the employment of youths between the ages of 16 and 19 years with the ultimate object of becoming Police Constables. This is a means of trying to attract into the Police Service, youths of good educational standards who may otherwise start in some other profession and be lost to the Police. Now for the first time in its history, the citizens of Warrington may have their problems dealt with by a Police Cadet, although most of their time is spent on some form of training to fit them for their future career.

The Force was very proud when it was announced on 19th October 1965, that Constable Thomas Henry Lucas had been awarded the British Empire Medal for Gallantry for the rescue of a man from the River Mersey on 18th March, 1965.

Attached to the Police Force since 1920 has been a voluntary organisation - The Grappling Corps - whose services in recovering bodies and objects from the numerous waterways in Warrington have been appreciated time and time again. In 1965, because active membership had dwindled and ill health caused resignations, the duties and equipment, which includes a very fine powered military assault type boat, were taken over by the regular Force.

Late 1965 and early 1966 brought with them sweeping changes. Tours of duty were changed to provide seven leave days every four weeks, including a long week-end every four weeks - a different picture to 1847 when it was a twelve hours tour of duty and no leave days. More vehicles were provided and more team policing.

Dictating machines provided for all departments and typists to prepare the reports.

One major improvement was in 1965 when the sum of £1,000 was expended in the conversion of three cells into a very modern well equipped photographic and fingerprint department, comprising a studio, dark room, fingerprint room and workshop.

The biggest change was in January, 1966, when 17 Pack Radios were in daily use and the number of Ericsson Street Telephone Pillars were reduced by 50%. In April, 1967, a further wireless scheme of ten pocket radios was introduced, and officers on patrol duties now have a personal radio set in addition to direct telephone lines to the Police Station. The Heat System was amended to make the best use of these two facilities.

Although the Police Station was erected in 1901 it has seen many changes and few years have elapsed without some improvement or structural alteration with the result that we have a Police Headquarters of which we are proud and which is comparable with many a modern structure.

Mr. Thomas A. Lloyd, who had been Superintendent and Deputy Chief Constable for more than 16 years, retired in December, 1966, after 40 years' Police Service with the Warrington Police Force. In the New Year's Honours List for 1967, he was awarded the M.B.E. in recognition of his service. This is the first time such an award has been made to a member of this Force.

The early months of 1967 brought further steps to improve the efficiency of the Force. Variations in the form of beat working were introduced including neighbourhood beats for the residential areas. In April, 1967, an additional car was purchased for utility purposes, i.e. visits to scenes of crime; accident enquiries; and use by the Juvenile Liaison Officer. The Bedford van was replaced by a new Incident/Personnel Carrier vehicle.

A report was also prepared for the introduction of a scheme to employ Traffic wardens for minor traffic matters; control of traffic movement; and enforcement of parking regulations. This was approved by the Police authority and Home Office to commence on 1st April, 1968, but was later deferred on account of the economic position of the country.

The last 130 years has seen the birth and growth of the Warrington County Borough Police Force. With the town changing from one of narrow filthy begrimed cobbled streets, dimly lit and overcrowded with drunken, ragged and often hungry people, to one of hustle and bustle of healthy, well fed and contented people, provided with every amenity. The Police Force has also changed. No longer does one man patrol half the town with the only means of communication being the loudness of his voice, the speed of his legs, or the sound of a cane struck on the footpath. No longer had the endless hours of duty with little rest at their conclusion, and rest days only granted for special occasions. Now we have a streamlined and highly skilled unit, equipped with almost every possible aid, working together as a team.

Appendix 'A' shows the present allocation of the Force with effective and efficient departments, i.e. Patrol; Criminal Investigation; Traffic; Prosecutions; Administration; and Policewomen, all capable of giving a first class service to the

citizens of Warrington, yet specialising in their own particular field, this having been found necessary in this complex world in which we live.

It will also be seen that the civilian branch of the service has also increased through the years, mainly to cope with the extended administration which automatically follows the making of the many laws now needed to govern a society. The introduction of civilians has also been necessary to try to ensure that Police Officers are engaged on matters for which they have been specially trained. Such changes in Warrington have included the introduction of Corporation solicitors for some of the duties as Court Prosecutors, a duty which was formerly almost completely performed by a senior Police Officer.

Policemen are no longer required to carry out the various tasks of station cleaning, canteen duty, cleaning vehicles, repairing cycles, mortuary attendant, feedings prisoners, and care of dogs etc. All these duties being performed by civilians.

The moves toward civilianisation to keep Policemen engaged on outside duty underlines the policies of Chief Constable Stewart of 120 years ago when he laid down instructions concerning the time spent at the Birdwell by his Officers.

There is no doubt that civilianisation-ill be further extended in the immediate future. (A report has been prepared and presented to the Police Authority).

In 1966 the Right Honourable Mr. Roy Jenkins, Home Secretary, announced his plans for amalgamation of many of the Police Forces in the country. This procedure to be completed by 1969. It appears, therefore, that the Warrington County Borough Police Force has only a very short future left, at the conclusion of which the people of Warrington will, no doubt, be somewhat sorry to see the end of the Force of which they had come to respect so highly and which they have always been proud to call their own.

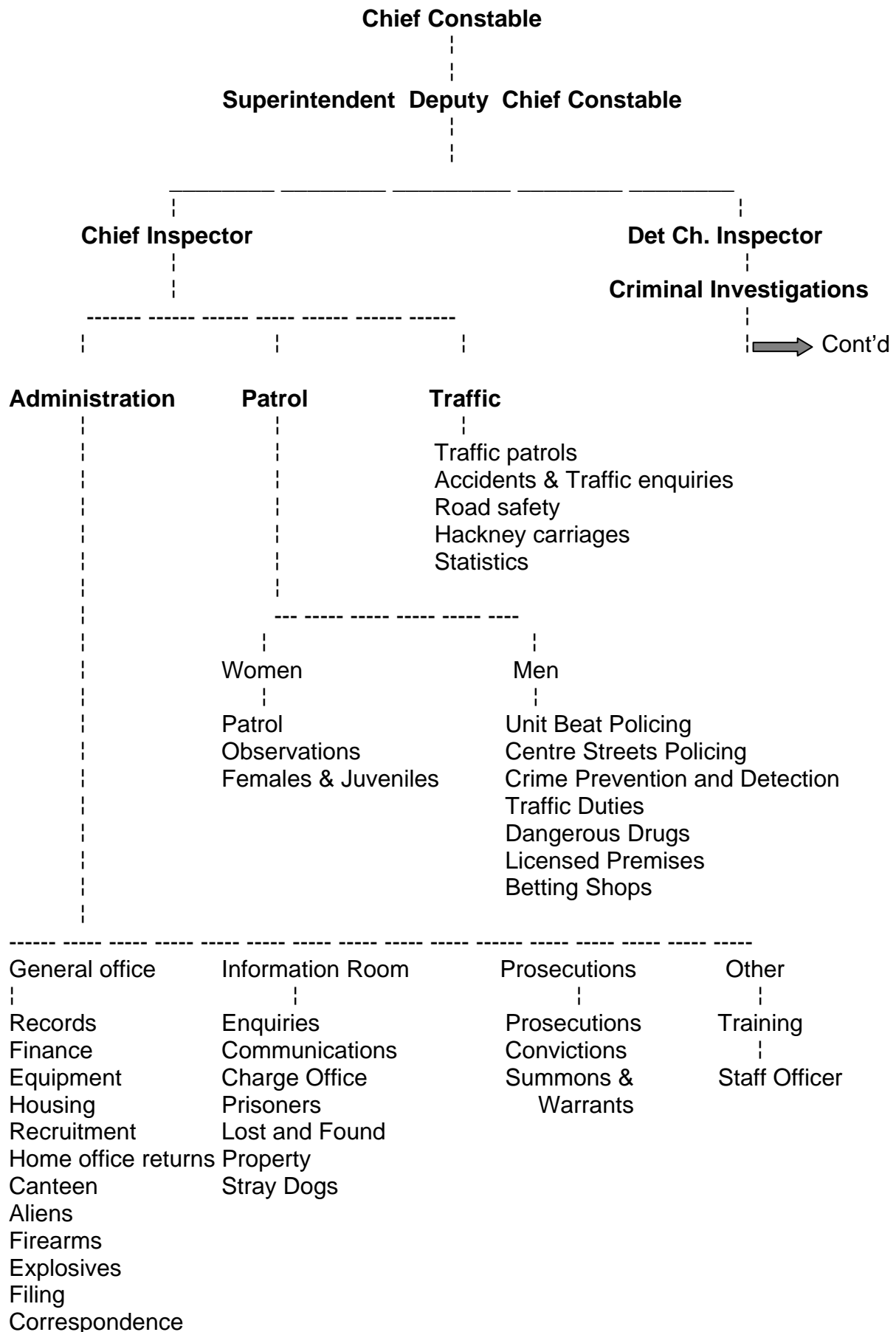
Whatever the outcome of the amalgamations the Police Officers of this area will continue to serve the town to the best of their ability and to give a service second to none.

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May, 1968.

Organisation and Disposition of the Force

Authorised as at 31st December 1967





Criminal Investigations
 Crime Recording
 Photography / Fingerprints
 Security
 Statistics
 Crime Squad
 Missing Persons
 Crime prevention
 Juvenile Liaison Officer
 Coroners Officer

Disposition of Strength

	Inspector	Sergeant	Constables	Clerk	Typist	Telephonists
General Office	1	1	2	1	2	
Information Room		4	4			4
Prosecutions		1	3		1	
Others		1				
Womens		1	5			
Men	5	9	88		2	
Traffic	1	2	27 + 1 PW		1	
C.I.D.		5	12 + 1 PW	1	1	

Also:- 1 Inspector, 2 Sergeants seconded to No 1 District, Police Training School,.
 1 Det. Sgt, 1 Det Cont., and 1 Shorthand Typist attached to Regional Crime Squad
 6 Cadets

Domestic Staff : 2 full time female cleaners
 2 Part time female cleaners
 2 Part time Female canteen Asst.
 2 Handymen
 1 Grounds man

Authorised
 1 Chief Constable
 1 Superintendent
 2 Chief Inspectors
 7 Inspectors
 23 Sergeants
 136 Constables
 1 Policewoman Sergeant
 7 Policewomen
 6 Cadets

Total 184

1968 VEHICLE ESTABLISHMENT

3	G.T. Ford Cortina cars	General Patrol
1	G.T. Ford Cortina car	Traffic Patrol
1	Ford Cortina car	Patrol Supervision
1	Ford Cortina car	C.I.D
1	Ford Anglia car	C.I.D
9	Ford Anglia cars	Unit Beat Policing
3	Solo motor cycles	General and traffic patrol
1	Ford Transit van	Incidents and personnel carrier