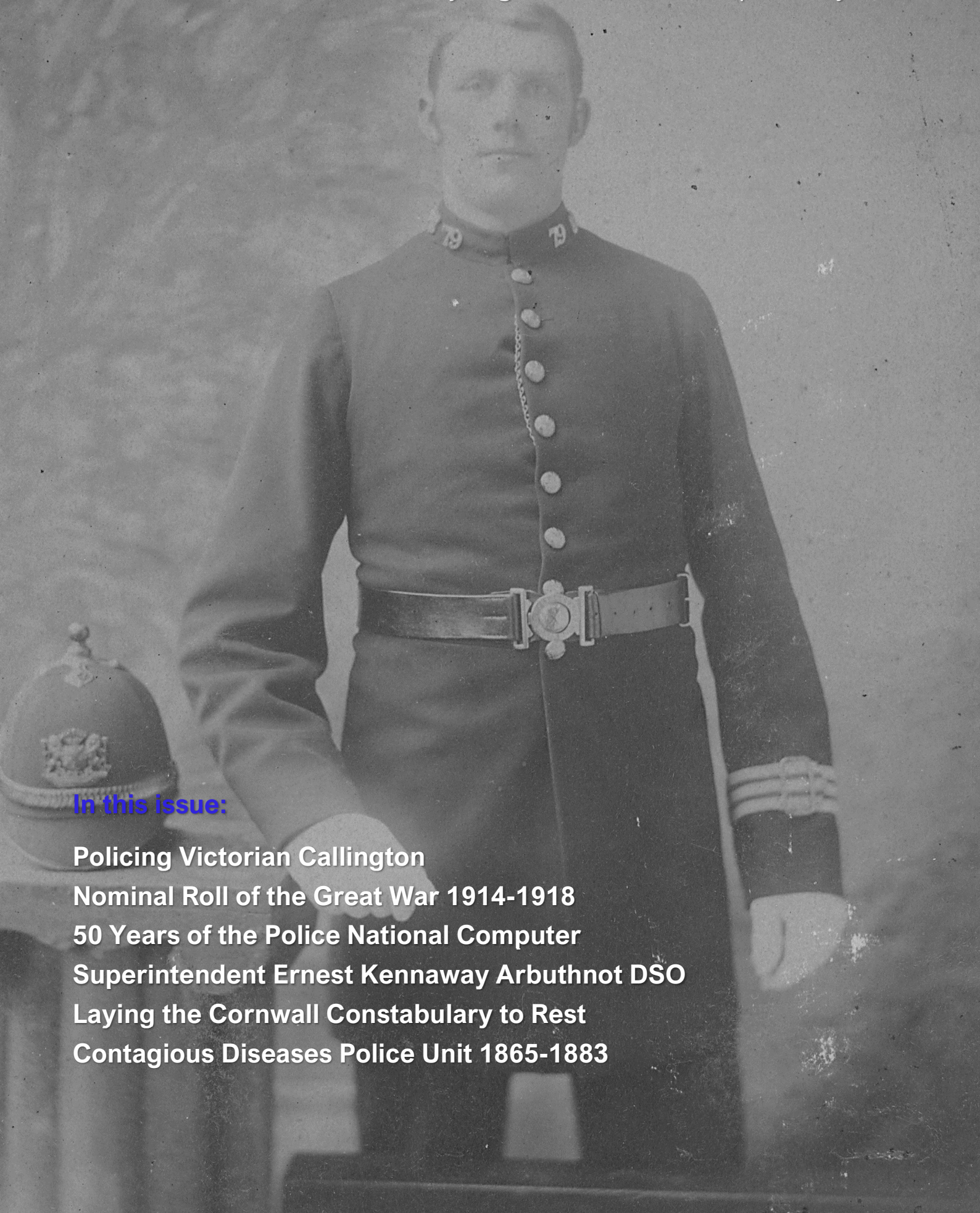


History Matters

The Devon & Cornwall Police History Magazine

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Policing Victorian Callington

Nominal Roll of the Great War 1914-1918

50 Years of the Police National Computer

Superintendent Ernest Kennaway Arbuthnot DSO

Laying the Cornwall Constabulary to Rest

Contagious Diseases Police Unit 1865-1883

Welcome to Issue 45 of 'History Matters – The Devon & Cornwall Police History Magazine'. This month we have articles on Victorian Callington, the Great War, and the fiftieth anniversary of the Police National Computer (PNC).

As always, guest articles are welcome. If you have anything in mind for a future issue, please get in touch.

- **56658 Mark Rothwell**

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“After my capture things started to happen. Kind arms took hold me – the arms of the Devon Constabulary. ‘Poor Devil,’ said one. ‘He must be nearly dead,’ said another. Then I found a paper bag full of cakes in one hand and an orange in the other, while a cigarette was being thrust in my mouth and someone else was lighting it. I’ll never forget those grand fine Policemen. They took me to Tavistock police station, and I felt like a long-lost son coming home. One of them took off my shoes, bit by bit like a nurse. Another brought a bowl of warm water and began washing my feet. Yes, it really happened – a copper washed the feet of a criminal. I was a gunman, an old lag, and he washed my feet. It was too much. I am afraid the tears started in my eyes. I did not stay long in that dreamworld. Very soon two Warders arrived from Dartmoor Prison.” – **Harold ‘Rubber Bones’ Webb, speaking in 1954 about his capture by the Devon Constabulary after escaping from prison.**

Front cover image: Police Constable 79 Mander, Plymouth Borough Police, c1880s. Note the presence of the striped duty band which was worn to indicate whether the officer was booked on (officers of the era were required to wear their uniforms even when off duty!) *Image – Simon Dell Collection*

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Postcard
Image



POLICING VICTORIAN CALLINGTON

Callington's Church of St Mary (pictured above) was more than a place of religious observation in Victorian England. The 'parish vestry', chaired by the rector, met here regularly to decide on local expenditure and appoint the parish officers. One of the functions of the vestry, so called because the meetings were held in the vestry room, was the appointment of constables.

Within the curtilage of the church, a structure known as 'the clink' (pictured below) acted as the parish gaol. The parish constables, who were usually selected at the Easter vestry, held the keys to the clink and imprisoned offenders until the sitting of next local court sessions; 'petty sessions' for minor offences and 'quarter sessions' for serious ones. It was the constable's duty to take offenders to court. For serious crimes, the constable would walk the felon to Liskeard, and then on to Bodmin. If the prisoner was well-behaved, they would be allowed to rest and enjoy a meal and a drink on the way, but if they adopted a fighting attitude, then a horse and carriage would be arranged for travel directly to Bodmin.



Parish constables were traditionally unpaid, however an October 1834 vestryman's diary indicates that Callington's constable was quite generously compensated:

"Went to the Vestry Meeting at Callington when the Parish Constable was again chosen at the same salary as before, £52 a year and clothes".

Miners' pay day was a particularly fraught occasion for the Callington constables, when the hardworking tinnners received their weekly coin and blew off steam in the many pubs. There were many arguments and assaults; in November 1848, **Constable Immer Burt** was called to the Red Lion following complaints of disorder by two patrons. Burt produced his wooden staff and required the peace of them but was violently assaulted. The offenders were sentenced to hard labour.

In 1848, a series of jewellery robberies occurred across Cornwall. Callington was targeted, and the offender apprehended by **Constable Holwill**. The prisoner said he would find the loot in Plymouth, and Holwill duly proceeded there with the man to check the veracity of his claim. They lodged together, and one day Holwill went off in search of the goods leaving the prisoner chained to a bedpost. Upon learning of Holwill's enquiries, **Superintendent Gibbons** of the Plymouth Borough Police force attended the lodge and found the prisoner on the cusp of escaping his restraints by meticulous filing away of the metal bed frame!

The last parish constable of Callington, before the town was turned over to the Cornwall Constabulary in 1857, was a man with the rather splendid name **Brenfell Crabb**. He was a formidable figure; "...big, burly, broad of shoulder, and deep of chest".

NOMINAL ROLL OF THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918

A list of police officers from the constabularies of Devon and Cornwall known to have served in the military during the Great War 1914-1918. Those who swapped their truncheons for rifles were either recalled as military reservists, volunteered, or were conscripted, as the office of police constable was not a reserved occupation. A small number of men were also seconded to the military as drill instructors and are included in this list. Omissions (-) under the various headers are the result of certain official records being incomplete or unavailable. 'Reappointed' and 'not reappointed' indicates the officer resumed or did not resume police duties after demobilisation from the military.

Barnstaple Borough Police

Name	Rank/No.	Regiment or Service	Notes
BROWNSCOMBE, John Andrew	PC	Royal Marines Artillery	Reappointed 27.2.1919
DARCH, Reginald	PC	Coldstream Guards	Wounded 1.7.1917. Did not resume police service
GAMMON, Samuel James	PC	Royal Marines Artillery	Reappointed 27.1.1919
HILL, Samuel Frederick	PC	Royal Garrison Artillery	Did not resume police service
PEARCE, Frederick John	PC	Military Foot Police	Military Cross. Mentioned in Despatches
SQUIRES, James	PC	Machine Gun Corps	Reappointed 13.1.1919

Barnstaple Market Police

Name	Rank/No.	Regiment or Service	Notes
LARAMY, Philip John	PC	Royal Engineers	Recalled 24.5.1915 Wounded, discharged 19.1.1918

Barnstaple Parks Police

Name	Rank/No.	Regiment or Service	Notes
HARDING, George Sydney	PC	Royal Engineers	Joined 1915. Medically discharged 11.7.1916
KIFF, H.	PC	Royal Engineers	Joined 1915

Cornwall Constabulary

Name	Rank/No.	Regiment or Service	Notes
BABBAGE, William John	PC 51	Royal Marines Light Infantry & Machine Gun Corps	Bugler. Reappointed 1.2.1919
BADCOCK, Richard Edward	PC 103	Coldstream Guards	Reappointed 1.2.1919
BASTIAN, Thomas Henry	PC 206	Guards Division	Reappointed 20.1.1919
BECKERLEG, William John	PC	Royal Flying Corps	Reappointed
BENNETTS, Samuel Reynolds	PC 203	Military Foot Police	Medically discharged. Reappointed 1.2.1919
BENNEY, Frederick Stanley	PC 113	Coldstream Guards	Accidentally wounded with a bayonet during thrust drill. Reappointed 13.1.1919
BERRYMAN, Percy	PC 58	Royal Field Artillery	Reappointed 10.2.1919
BISHOP, Samuel Thomas	PC 167	Royal Garrison Artillery & Military Foot Police	Reappointed 3.3.1919
BOTHERAS, James Edwin	PC 127	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 18.2.1919
BRAY, Arthur James	PC 25	Military Foot Police	Reappointed 11.8.1919
BRAY, Frederick John	PC 201	Royal Garrison Artillery	Died of wounds 3.5.1917

BRAY, William Avery	PC 92	Royal Field Artillery	Wounded and discharged. Reappointed 10.2.1919
BROAD, William Thomas	PC 102	Machine Gun Corps	Reappointed 16.6.1919
BROOKING, William John	PC 18	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry	Reappointed 25.2.1919
BURROUGH, Ernest	PC 193	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 29.8.1919
BURROWS, Vincent Arnold	PC 81	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 10.3.1919
CLYMOW, Charles	PC 70	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 27.3.1919
COCKS, Edwin George	PC 156	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry	Reappointed 17.2.1919
COLWILL, Richard Claude	PC 7	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 9.11.1919
COOMBE, Alfred Charles	PC 18	Military Foot Police	Reappointed 21.8.1919
CORTIS, Stephen	PC 190	Coldstream Guards	Wounded February 1918 and discharged. Died from disease 6.2.1919
CURGUNVEN, Richard	PC 117	Somerset Light Infantry	Reappointed 1.3.1919
DANN, John Henry	PC 11	Royal Marines Light Infantry	Reappointed 17.4.1919
DAWE, Cyril	PC 44	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 1.7.1919
DICKINSON, Oliver William	PC 199	Military Foot Police	Reappointed 13.8.1919
DONEY, Charles	PC 126	Grenadier Guards	Reappointed 16.4.1919
DONEY, Ernest	PC 195	Machine Gun Corps	Reappointed 1.2.1919
DUSTOW, Edward Charles	PC 88	Grenadier Guards	Reappointed 18.7.1919
EAD, Edgar	PC 202	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 8.10.1919
FRADD, George Henry	PC 213	Royal Flying Corps	Reappointed 24.2.1919
GARLAND, William John	PC 87	Royal Navy	Reappointed 18.2.1919
GOAD, Sidney	PC 197	Military Foot Police	Reappointed 14.1.1920
GRANGER, Samuel John	PC 100	Devonshire Regiment & Military Foot Police	Reappointed 1.10.1919
GRAY, Walter	PC 211	Royal Marines Light Infantry	Died of wounds 4.8.1918
GREET, Jonathan	PC 189	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 2.2.1919
GRIGG, Thomas Cecil	PC 210	Military Foot Police	Reappointed 7.8.1919
HALEY, Harry	PC 147	Guards Division	Reappointed 3.2.1919
HICKS, John	PC 71	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry	Reappointed 1.5.1919
HOCKING, Ernest	PC 131	-	Reappointed 16.6.1919
HOCKING, Sydney Henry	PC 10	Military Foot Police	Did not resume police service
HOCKING, William Henry	PC 205	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry	Reappointed 1.2.1920
HODGE, Edwin Edgar	PC 25	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry	Reappointed 1.3.1919
HOSKIN, Albert	PC 67	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 1.10.1919
HOSKIN, Frederick	PC 194	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 9.4.1919
HOSKIN, Harry	PC 19	Military Foot Police	Medically discharged due to stomach ulcer 24.7.1917. Reappointed 26.8.1919
HYDE, Gerald	PC 45	Royal Field Artillery	Reappointed 16.4.1918
JAGO, Albert Ernest	PC 49	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 11.10.1919
JAMES, John Tonkin	PC 200	-	Reappointed 1.1.1919
JOB, Percy	PC 208	Grenadier Guards	Reappointed 1.2.1919
JOSE, Thomas Henry	PC 207	Royal Garrison Artillery	Did not resume police service
KITT, Arthur John	PC 112	Grenadier Guards	Reappointed 7.4.1919
LEAKER, Edward John	PC	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry	Recorded as 'Army Gymnasium Staff'
LUKE, Herbert John	PC 26	Military Foot Police	Died of wounds 13.4.1918
MALLET, William Henry	PC 211	Military Foot Police	Reappointed 15.9.1919
MAPSTON, Henry Thomas	PC 183	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 20.7.1919

MATTHEWS, Robert	PC 138	Royal Navy	Reappointed 20.3.1919
MATTHEWS, William Samuel	PC 5	Grenadier Guards	Reappointed 10.2.1919
MAYNE, George	PC 74	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 30.1.1919
MAYNE, Nicholas	PC 15	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 16.9.1919
MCGLENON, John David	PC 172	Military Foot Police	Reappointed 1.9.1919
MINERS, Francis Henry	PC 4	Royal Garrison Artillery	Military Medal. Reappointed 20.1.1919
MITCHELL, Percy	PC 209	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 14.2.1919
MOONEY, William George	PC 10	Royal Garrison Artillery	Wounded and discharged September 1918. Reappointed 18.11.1918
MOYSE, William	PC 13	Guards Division	Reappointed 4.2.1919
PALMER, Richard Henry	PC 214	Grenadier Guards	Wounded and discharged. Reappointed 2.10.1918
PEARCE, George	PC 123	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 21.9.1919
PEDLAR, Cecil	PC 99	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 1.7.1919
PELLOW, John Henry	PC 196	Army Service Corps	Reappointed 19.3.1919
PENROSE, James	PC 63	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 1.5.1919
PROTHEROE-SMITH, Hugh Bateman	Chief Constable	Military Police	Legion of Honour 1917. Reappointed
PRYNNE, John Kessel	PC 54	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry & Military Foot Police	Reappointed 1.5.1920
RICHARDS, Leonard	PC 212	Military Foot Police	Reappointed 4.9.1919
ROGERS, Gerald	PC 204	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 4.6.1919
ROWE, Samuel Charles	PC 88	Royal Garrison Artillery	Belgian Croix de Guerre 1 st Class 1918. Killed in action 23.3.1918
ROWLAND, Reginald	PC 65	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 14.10.1919
SCANTLEBURY, Philip Richard Martin	PC 88	Labour Corps & Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 18.7.1919
SCOTT, William Charles	PC 191	Guards Division	Reappointed 22.1.1919
SLOMAN, Ira	PC 135	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 4.2.1919
SOLOMON, William John	PC 196	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry	Killed in action 16.9.1916
STAMP, Thomas Newery	PC 72	Guards Division	Reappointed 10.2.1919
STEVENS, Henry Edward	PC 164	-	Reappointed 1.4.1920
TAPLEY, George Thomas	PC 15	Royal Engineers	Reappointed 10.2.1919
TAYLOR, William Henry	PC 145	Grenadier Guards	Reappointed 22.1.1919
THOMAS, John Henry	PC 131	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry	Reappointed 1.9.1920. Died from war-related illness 29.9.1921
TOM, Samuel	PC 198	Royal Garrison Artillery	Died of wounds 2.10.1917
TOM, William	PC 133	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 10.2.1919
TREMETHICK, William Roger	PC 89	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 6.2.1919
TRAYS, Joseph Edward	PC 8	Military Foot Police	Reappointed 20.8.1919
TUCKER, John Henry	PC 134	Royal Garrison Artillery	Military Medal. Wounded 26.10.1917. Reappointed 1.2.1919
TURNER, Harry White	PC 41	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 26.5.1919
VALLANCE, James Gerry	PC 46	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 23.9.1919
WALTERS, Henry Charles	PC 207	Grenadier Guards	Reappointed 28.1.1919
WARNE, Arthur Henry	PC 38	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry	Reappointed 11.8.1919
WARNE, Leonard	PC 23	Devonshire Regiment	Reappointed 20.8.1919
WEARY, Ernest	PC 192	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 29.8.1919
WEARY, Richard Clifford	PC	Military Mounted Police	Meritorious Service Medal. Reappointed 1919
WILLIAMS, William Reginald G.	PC 202	Royal Navy	Reappointed 1.9.1919
WEBB, Charles Leonard	PC 81	Royal Engineers	Died from disease as a POW 4.2.1915

Devon Constabulary

Name	Rank/No.	Regiment or Service	Notes
ABBOT, Arthur S.	PC 411	Royal Navy	Reappointed 2.2.1919
ABRAHAMS, William	PC 251	-	Reappointed 28.3.1919
ABRAHAMS, Percy Frank	PC 348	-	Reappointed 21.9.1919
ARBUTHNOT, Ernest Kennaway	Supt	Royal Navy	Distinguished Service Order. HMS Titania, HMS Iris, HMS Gadfly. Order of St Maurice & St Lazarus. Mentioned in Despatches four times. Reappointed 3.1.1919
BALL, Bertie John James	PC 232	Military Foot Police & Devonshire Regiment	Killed in action 8.11.1916
BALL, William Henry	PC 416	Coldstream Guards	Reappointed 13.3.1919
BARNACOTT, Ernest Victor	PC 145	Military Foot Police	Reappointed 29.4.1919
BARNACOTT, Reginald Henry Blofield	PC 329	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 11.11.1919
BEAVIS, Leonard Bertrand	PC 415	Royal Lancers	Reappointed 7.2.1919
BEDFORD, Ernest	PC 361	Royal Navy	Reappointed 29.3.1919
BEER, Walter F.	PC 99	-	Reappointed 28.1.1919
BERRY, William	PC 58	Royal Fusiliers	Died of wounds 4.10.1918
BOARD, Charles Robert	PC 371	-	Reappointed 31.2.1919
BREWER, Percy John	PC 168	-	Reappointed 28.3.1919
BROOM, William	PC 22	-	Reappointed 8.1.1919
BULGIN, Albert	PC 105	Royal Navy	Reappointed 20.2.1919
BURNETT, George	PC 265	-	Reappointed 29.1.1919
BURRIDGE, Percy Herbert	PC 24	Military Foot Police	Reappointed 3.5.1918
BURROWS, William Frederick J.	PC 289	-	Reappointed 14.1.1919
BUTT, Sidney	PC 143	-	Reappointed 20.1.1919
CHAPMAN, W.	Sgt	Devonshire Regiment	Drill instructor at Higher Barracks
CHILCOTT, Harry Harris	PC 53	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 16.1.1919
CLEMENTS, Albert John	PC 68	Royal Garrison Artillery & Military Mounted Police	Wounded in 1917 which necessitated amputation of the foot. Reappointed 28.1.1918
CLEMENTS, Frederick John	PC 362	Military Foot Police	Reappointed 22.9.1919
CONIBEER, Frank	PC 358	-	Reappointed 13.1.1919
CONIBEER, Merlin	PC 51	-	Reappointed 14.1.1919
CONNETT, Fred	PC 174	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 20.1.1919
COOMBES, James	PC 426	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 18.8.1919
COPPIN, Francis Joseph	PC 64	Army Service Corps	Reappointed 1.3.1919
COTTON, Orlando George	PC 413	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 10.8.1919
CROCKER, William Gerry	PC 318	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 2.9.1919
DALLING, John	PC 188	Somerset Light Infantry	Wounded in an accident with a propeller 15.3.1916 and medically discharged. Reappointed 25.2.1919
DAVEY, James Frank	PC 216	Royal Engineers	Reappointed 29.4.1919
DAVIS, Albert George	PC 164	Somerset Light Infantry	Reappointed 4.2.1919
DENNIS, William Edward	PC 120	-	Reappointed 20.1.1919
DERGES, John	PC 118	Military Foot Police	Reappointed 22.9.1919
DOWD, Patrick James	PC 23	Military Foot Police	Reappointed 5.10.1919
DUNSCOMBE, Frederick Thomas	PC 342	Grenadier Guards	Died of wounds 29.5.1918
EASTERBROOK, Edwin James	PC 285	Machine Gun Corps	Reappointed 25.1.1919
EDWARDS, Thomas John	PC 17	Devonshire Regiment	Reappointed 1.10.1919
EDWORTHY, Daniel	PC 317	-	Reappointed 16.3.1919
EVANS, Alfred James	PC 132	-	Reappointed 13.1.1919
EVANS, Richard William	PC 236	Royal Navy	Reappointed 4.2.1919

FORD, James	PC 203	-	Reappointed 28.3.1919
FREEMAN, Bertie Frederick	PC 430	-	Reappointed 14.2.1919
GENT, Frederick William	PC 116	-	Reappointed 28.3.1919
GORDON, Walter	PC 291	Coldstream Guards	Killed in action 31.12.1914
GREENSLADE, Frederick	PC 257	Military Foot Police	Died of wounds 29.4.1916
HALFORD-THOMPSON, Ralph	Supt	Royal Field Artillery	Reappointed
HAMMACOTT, Wilfred	PC 355	Devonshire Regiment	Reappointed 14.1.1919
HAMMETT, John Lee	PC 346	-	Reappointed 2.2.1919
HARDING, Frank	PC 42	Devonshire Regiment & Military Foot Police	Reappointed 28.1.1919
HARRIS, Frederick	PC 185	-	Reappointed 8.2.1919
HAWKINS, Ernest James	PC 424	-	Reappointed 31.8.1919
HAWKINS, John	PC 234	Royal Garrison Artillery	Killed in action 16.12.1917
HEALE, William George	PC 276	-	Reappointed 24.1.1919
HILL, Fred	PC 431	-	Reappointed 1.3.1919
HOILE, Albert	PC 119	Royal Army Ordnance Corps	Reappointed 23.1.1919
HOILE, John	PC 237	Coldstream Guards	Reappointed 18.1.1919
HOLMES, Richard	PC 356	-	Reappointed 16.1.1919
HOSGOOD, Sidney John	PC 425	Somerset Light Infantry	Killed in action 16.9.1916
HOSGOOD, Walter Ellis	PC 249	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 4.2.1919
HOSKING, Reginald George	PC 418	Royal Field Artillery	Reappointed 3.2.1919
HUBBARD, John	PC 166	Royal Field Artillery	Reappointed 27.1.1919
HURFORD, Frank	PC 368	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 17.2.1919
HUXTABLE, Clifford John	PC 248	Army Cyclist Corps	Reappointed 16.1.1919
JORDAN, Herbert	PC 376	Royal Field Artillery	Distinguished Conduct Medal. Medically discharged 10.12.1915. Did not resume police service. Died from war-related illness 8.10.1917
KEEN, Sidney John	PC 428	-	Reappointed 28.1.1919
KELLAWAY, Frederick John	PC 75	Royal Navy	Reappointed 3.3.1919
KERSLAKE, Harry Huxtable	PC 278	Royal Navy	HMS Thunderer. Did not resume police service.
KIFF, John	PC 373	Devonshire Regiment	Reappointed 14.3.1919
LANE, Frank	PC 112	Military Foot Police	Military police detective. Reappointed 4.5.1919
LANGDON, Ernest George	PC 206	Devonshire Regiment	Reappointed 20.2.1919
LATHAM, Thomas	PC 96	Royal Navy	
LEACH, Edwin George	PC 212	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 5.2.1919
LEACH, George	PC 427	-	Reappointed 9.2.1919
LOOSEMORE, Ernest	PC 87	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 29.10.1919
MAIR, James	PC 202	-	Reappointed 6.5.1919
MARDON, Jack T.	PC 273	Military Foot Police	Reappointed 5.3.1919
MARTIN, Arthur Edward	PC 226	-	Reappointed 22.9.1919
MARTIN, John Henry	PC 142	-	Did not resume police service
MEMBURY, William John	PC 26	Volunteer Training Corps	Seconded to Topsham VTC as drill instructor
MILFORD, Theophilus	PC 292	Royal Field Artillery	Reappointed 30.3.1919
MILLER, William John	PC 421	-	Reappointed 11.2.1919
MINERS, George Augustus	PC 252	Northumberland Fusiliers	Killed in action 3.4.1917
MOIST, Alfred Charles	PC 363	Coldstream Guards	Died of cancer in a military hospital 28.8.1919
MORCOMBE, Richard Charles	PC 302	Royal Engineers	Reappointed 17.1.1919
MORRISH, Ernest George	PC 70	Rifle Brigade	Reappointed 14.1.1919
MORTIMORE, Walter James	PC 407	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 4.3.1919
MUGRIDGE, William	PC 190	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 15.9.1919

NEWTON, John	PC 169	-	Reappointed 14.1.1919
NORTHY, George Richard	PC 412	Shropshire Light Infantry	Reappointed 4.2.1919
OAFF, James Stanley	PC 33	-	Reappointed 4.2.1919
OLDING, Ernest George	PC 313	Corps of Military Police	Branch unknown. Reappointed 3.10.1919
PALMER, Edward George	PC 379	Army Service Corps	Wounded 1917 whilst attached to the Wessex Field Ambulance. Reappointed 18.1.1919
PALMER, Henry Perry	PC 192	-	Reappointed 16.1.1919
PALMER, Herbert Slader	PC 417	Dragoon Guards	Killed in action 31.10.1914
PARSONS, Charles	PC 180	-	Reappointed 4.7.1919
PARSONS, T.E.	PC	Military Foot Police	-
PEARCE, John	PC 278	Royal Navy	Reappointed 15.3.1919
PENWELL, John Thomas	PC 21	Military Foot Police	Reappointed 29.4.1918
PITWOOD, John	PC 420	-	Reported missing in action 22.3.1918. Confirmed as prisoner of war 7.6.1918. Reappointed 1.1.1919
POTTER, John Tremlett	PC 160	-	Reappointed 5.3.1919
POTTER, John	PC 423	-	Reappointed 15.11.1919
PUGSLEY, Harry A.	PC 126	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 15.2.1919
RAYNER, William Frederick	PC 41	Royal Navy	Reappointed 29.1.1919
REDWOOD, Percy James	PC 350	Devonshire Regiment	Military Medal 1917 Reappointed 18.8.1919
RENDELL, Frank	PC 422	-	Reappointed 2.9.1919
RENDELL, Louis	PC 193	-	Reappointed 2.9.1919
SALTER, Leonard N.	PC 20	Royal Army Service Corps	Reappointed 20.2.1919
SANDERS, George	PC 232	Army Service Corps	Died of wounds 4.11.1918
SCOTT, Arthur John	PC 49	-	Reappointed 4.4.1919
SHARP, James Inkerman	PC 167	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 30.1.1919
SHARP, Samuel Feltham	PC 29	Gloucestershire Regiment	Died of wounds 9.5.1917
SHORT, Wilfred Shepherd	PC 380	-	Reappointed 25.2.1919
SOPER, Archie Elliott	PC	Royal Navy & RAF	Transferred to RAF 1.4.1918. Reappointed
SOUTHWOOD, James	PC 155	Coldstream Guards	Reappointed 14.1.1919
SPARKS, Samuel Lewis	PC 324	Military Foot Police	Died from appendicitis 24.6.1916
SQUIRES, Frank Leopold William	PC 7	-	Reappointed 4.2.1919
STONE, John Charles	PC 107	-	Reappointed 15.2.1919
STRANG, John Frederick	PC 80	Royal Navy	Later RAF. Reappointed 5.2.1919
STRATTON, Alfred William	PC 314	Royal Engineers	Distinguished Conduct Medal Reappointed 3.2.1919
STUART, Robert Albert Edward	PC 187	-	Reappointed 24.1.1919
TOLLEY, Alfred George	PC 293	-	Reappointed 11.5.1919
TREMLETT, Charles	PC 179	Royal Field Artillery	Reappointed 17.1.1919
TRIGGER, Charles	PC 120	-	Did not resume police service
TRUMP, George	PC 150	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 7.9.1919
TURNER, Alfred Francis	PC 16	Royal Engineers	Reappointed 2.2.1919
TURNER, William Henry	PC 159	Military Foot Police	Reappointed 29.10.1919
UGLOW, Hubert George	PC 31	Military Foot Police	Intelligence Department. Reappointed, date not a matter of record
VENTON, Ernest William	PC 57	Military Foot Police	Reappointed, date not a matter of record
WAKLEY, Thomas William Gould	PC 89	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 19.10.1919
WARREN, John Samuel	PC 135	-	Reappointed 17.1.1919
WATERSON, Bertie Robert	PC 4	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 15.1.1919
WEBBER, Reginald Samuel	PC	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed
WEST, Alfred Edgar	PC 409	-	Reappointed 15.1.1919

WEST, Frederick J.	PC 291	-	Reappointed 21.1.1919
WESTAWAY, Arthur J.	PC 205	Devonshire Regiment	Reported killed in action in error 3.12.1914. Reappointed 16.2.1919
WHITE, George William	PC 357	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 28.8.1919
WHITE, Alfred	PC 138	-	Reappointed 4.9.1919
WILLCOCKS, Harry	PC 272	-	Reappointed 20.1.1919
WILLIS, Albert Ware	PC 88	Royal Horse & Field Artillery	Died of wounds 8.8.1917
WILLIS, George Ernest	PC 90	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 14.9.1919
WILLS, John	PC 200	-	Reappointed 20.9.1919
WINSER, Albert Henry	PC 327	Royal Engineers	Reappointed 18.1.1919
WINSOR, William John	PC 419	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 30.12.1918
WOOLLAND, Reginald F.	PC 366	Coldstream Guards	Croix de Guerre (France) Reappointed 15.2.1919
YELLAND, William Thomas	PC 156	Royal Navy	Reappointed 4.2.1919

Devon Constabulary Police Authority

Name	Rank/No.	Regiment or Service	Notes
MALLOCK DSO, Major Charles Herbert	Civilian	Royal Field Artillery	Died of wounds 5.11.1917

Devonport Borough Police

Name	Rank/No.	Regiment or Service	Notes
ACRELL, George Edward	PC 20	Royal Navy	Reappointed
BAWDEN, C	PC	Military Foot Police	Reappointed
BENNETTS	-	-	Recorded in Watch Committee minutes but no further details known
HEALEY, John Clarence	PC	Devonshire Regiment	Discharged 16.11.1914 "not being likely to become an efficient soldier." Reappointed
LEYBURN, Albert	PC 86	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed
RICKETTS, William John	PC 42	Coldstream Guards	Wounded 15.9.1916. Reappointed
SANDY, George	PC	-	Drill instructor
SAUNDERS, Arthur E.	Sgt	-	Drill instructor
TOMS, Frank	PC 82	Royal Navy	Reappointed

Exeter City Police

Name	Rank/No.	Regiment or Service	Notes
ACKLAND, Edward James	PC 32	Royal Navy	Reappointed 13.2.1919
ADDICOTT, Walter	PC	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 13.2.1919
BAKER, Samuel	T/PC	Royal Navy	Temporary constable. Not reappointed
BARRATT, John Edwin	PC 57	Military Mounted Police	Military Medal. Mentioned in Despatches. Reappointed 1919
BELLOTTI, Frank G.	PC 37	Royal Field Artillery	Reappointed 13.2.1919
BISHOP, William J.	PC 66	-	Reappointed 13.2.1919
BLACKMORE	T/PC	-	Temporary constable. No further details known
BRADFORD, Edward	PC	Devonshire Regiment	Reappointed 1919
CARR, Sydney Hill	PC 43	Coldstream Guards	Reappointed 13.2.1919
CLARKE, Walter James	PC 64	Devonshire Regiment	Killed in action 11.7.1915
COBLEY	PC 74	-	No further details known

DARBEY, P.	SC	-	Special constable. No further details known
DAVIS, William J.	T/PC	-	Temporary constable. Not reappointed
DODGE, Henry	T/PC	-	Temporary constable. Not reappointed
DOOLING, Arthur	PC 69	Royal Field Artillery	Reappointed 13.2.1919
ELFORD, Cecil Josiah	PC 28	Royal Engineers	Reappointed 1919
ELLIS, Percival	PC 48	Cheshire Regiment	Died of wounds 6.4.1918
GERMAN, Ernest	T/PC	Royal Navy	Temporary constable. Not reappointed
GIBBINGS, Francis	PC 60	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 13.2.1919
GRAHAM, Cecil Joseph	PC 16	Military Mounted Police	Mentioned in Despatches. Reappointed 1919
GRANT, Ernest P.	T/PC	Devonshire Regiment	Temporary constable. Not reappointed
GREGORY, John H.	PC 63	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 13.2.1919
HAMMOND, Wilfred	PC 24	Royal Field Artillery	Medal of St George Killed in action 27.8.1917
HAWKINS, Albert	PC	RAMC	Not reappointed
HILL, Rowland	PC 63	-	Not reappointed
HODDER, Thomas James	T/PC	Royal Flying Corps	Temporary constable. Not reappointed
HURFORD	A/Sgt	Devonshire Regiment	Drill instructor 8.9.1914. Joined the colours 17.6.1918. Not reappointed
JARMAN, Joseph	PC	Coldstream Guards	Reappointed 13.2.1919
JORDAN, Robert Thomas	PC 36	Royal Field Artillery	Mentioned in Despatches. Medically discharged. Not reappointed
LOVICK, William E.	PC 21	Military Foot Police	Reappointed 1919
MOCK, Alfred	PC 30	Devonshire Regiment	Reappointed 1920 to Devon Constabulary
MORGAN, Thomas	PC 54	-	Not reappointed
PARKER, Gilbert	PC 33	-	Reappointed 13.2.1919
PURCHASE, Henry	T/PC	Royal Navy	Temporary constable. Not reappointed
RENDELL, Frederick	PC 56	Royal Navy	Reappointed 13.2.1919
RICE, William Henry	PC 67	Devonshire Regiment	Wounded 1915. Not reappointed
RIGG, Alexander William	PC 60	Highland Light Infantry	Wounded and discharged 25.1.1916 Not reappointed
ROUNSLEY, William	PC 9	GHQ	Reappointed 9.6.1919
RUSSELL, William Robert 'Pat'	PC 54	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed July 1919
SKINNER, John James	PC 44	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed 1919
SNOW, Albert E.	T/PC	Royal Navy	Temporary constable. Not reappointed
STEVENS, Frederick	T/PC	Military Foot Police	Temporary constable. Not reappointed
STRAWBRIDGE, Charles	PC	-	Reappointed 1919
STREET	T/PC	Devonshire Regiment	Drill instructor. Temporary constable. Not reappointed
TROWBRIDGE, Gilbert	PC 17	Devonshire Regiment	Not reappointed
UNDERHILL, Henry	T/PC	Devonshire Regiment	Drill instructor. Temporary constable. Not reappointed
VICKERS, James	PC	-	Not reappointed
VINNICOMBE, S.	PC 22	-	Reappointed 1919
WILLS, Walter	PC	-	Not reappointed

Penzance Borough Police

Name	Rank/No.	Regiment or Service	Notes
BICKNELL, John Henry	Sgt	-	Drill instructor at Bodmin
CURNOW, John	PC	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 4.1.1919
DANIEL, Thomas John	PC 9	Royal Garrison Artillery	Wounded and discharged 1.9.1917 Reappointed 5.9.1917
HAWTON, J.P.	PC	Military Foot Police	Mentioned in Despatches 27.2.1917

			Reappointed
SMITH, John Eaton	PC	Ambulance Brigade & Royal Horse and Field Artillery	Reappointed 31.5.1919
WARREN, John Adams	PC	-	Reappointed 4.1.1919
WEBBER, Thomas	PC	Devonshire Regiment	Reappointed 18.1.1919

Plymouth Borough Police

Name	Rank/No.	Regiment or Service	Notes
ARGENT, Joseph G.	PC 123	Royal Garrison Artillery	Medically discharged 19.4.1917 Reappointed
AVERY, Charles William Claude	PC	Royal Garrison Artillery	Wounded 5.6.1918. Reappointed
AYERS, H.R.	PC 40	Royal Marines Light Infantry	Reappointed
BENNETT, Edward Harry	PC	Worcestershire Regiment	Reappointed
BEZZELL, W.H.	PC	Machine Gun Corps	Reappointed
BICKLE, James Alfred	PC 92	Royal Engineers	Reappointed
BIDGOOD, Walter	PC	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed
BILLING, W.H.	PC	Military Foot Police	Reappointed
BOUNDY, Frederick John	PC	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed
BLATCHFORD, A.G.	PC	Military Foot Police	Reappointed
BRAUND, Claude	PC	Machine Gun Corps	Reappointed
BRAY, J.W.	PC	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed
BRIGHT, S.A.	PC	Military Foot Police	Reappointed
COLEMAN, J.W.	PC	Royal Garrison Artillery	Wounded. Reappointed
COLES, E.E.	PC	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed
COLWILL, Albert	PC	Machine Gun Corps	Reappointed
COUCH, William James	PC	Royal Engineers	Reappointed
COWLING, W.H.	PC	Military Foot Police	Reappointed
CRABBE, W.H.	PC	Military Foot Police	Wounded. Reappointed
DARCH, Charlie	PC	Royal Garrison Artillery	Killed in action 5.5.1917
DUGGAN, John	PC 116	Border Regiment	Military Cross & Bar. Distinguished Conduct Medal. Reappointed
DUNN. C.H.	PC	Royal Navy	Reappointed
HAMAR, Joseph James	PC	Royal Navy	Reappointed 15.1.1919
HAWDEN, E.T.	PC	Military Foot Police	Reappointed
HAWKEN, H.	PC	Royal Navy	Reappointed
HEWINS, A.	PC	Royal Navy	Reappointed
HOLBERTON, Thomas H.	PC 80	Machine Gun Corps	Reappointed
HOSKEN, C.H.	PC	Royal Navy	Reappointed
LANSLEY, B.	PC 119	Royal Navy	Reappointed
LANSLEY, Harry	PC 44	Border Regiment	Mentioned in Despatches
LEE, Edward James	PC 23	Military Foot Police	Meritorious Service Medal. Reappointed
LYLE, Samuel	PC 20	-	Reappointed
MARCH, Reginald William Edward	PC	Royal Navy	Reappointed 1.1.1919
MEAD, W.	PC 122	Royal Navy	Reappointed
MOSS, C.	PC 124	Royal Marines Light Infantry	Reappointed
NORMAN, James	PC	Royal Garrison Artillery	Killed in action 24.10.1918
ROGERS, Francis	PC	Military Foot Police	Reappointed
ROGERS, H.J.	PC	Royal Garrison Artillery	Wounded. Reappointed
SOUTHCOMBE, Ernest Charles	PC	Royal Garrison Artillery	Killed in action 15.2.1917
STURN, William James Crocker	PC	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed
SWEET, Samuel J.	PC	Military Foot Police	Military Medal. Wounded and discharged.

THOMAS, William George	PC	Machine Gun Corps	Reappointed 1.1.1919
TREEBY, John Reginald Aubry	PC 62	Devonshire Regiment	Wounded. Reappointed 1.1.1919
TUNSTALL, Frank Percival	PC 54	Military Foot Police	Reappointed
VENNING, William Edwin	PC 196	Military Mounted Police	Military Medal & Bar. Mentioned in Despatches. Reappointed
VOSPER, James H.	PC 40	Devonshire Regiment & Royal Engineers	Reappointed
WALKE, E.	PC	Military Foot Police	Reappointed
WALTERS, W.G.	PC	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed
WARD, John William	Insp	Military Foot Police	Meritorious Service Medal. Reappointed
WATTS, H.S.	PC	Military Foot Police	Mentioned in Despatches. Reappointed
WEBBER, Richard Rastiy	PC	Military Foot Police	Reappointed
WEEKS, George Thresher	PC	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed 1.1.1919
WEEKS, L.J.	PC	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed
WESTLAKE, J.R.	PC	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed
WILLIAMS, F.J.	PC 33	Royal Garrison Artillery	Wounded. Reappointed
WILLIAMS, R.J.	PC	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed
WRIGHT, W.J.	PC	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry	Reappointed
WYATT, William John	Insp	Devonshire Regiment	Died of wounds 29.10.1917
WYATT, W.J.	PC	Military Foot Police	Reappointed
YEOMAN, Percy John	PC	Royal Garrison Artillery	Reappointed

Tiverton Borough Police

Name	Rank/No.	Regiment or Service	Notes
BEER, Frederick James	PC 8	Coldstream Guards	Killed in action 5.11.1914
BEER, William	PC	Royal Army Service Corps	Reappointed
GALPIN, Frank Aloysius	Sgt	Machine Gun Regiment	Reappointed
GLIDDON, William	PC	Royal Engineers	Reappointed
LAND, William	Sgt	Military Foot Police	Reappointed
LEE, Samuel	PC	-	Not reappointed
PERRY, Frederick John	Sgt	Military Foot Police	Served 1 month. Reappointed
STEVENS, Robert	PC	-	Reappointed
WILLIAMS, Frederick William	PC	Royal Field Artillery	Reappointed

Truro City Police

Name	Rank/No.	Regiment or Service	Notes
BALMENT, John	PC	Military Mounted Police	Reappointed to Cornwall Constabulary
BENNEY, Ivor Stanley	PC	Coldstream Guards	Reappointed 21.2.1919
CAPELL, Eddy	PC	-	Reappointed 1919
LINDESAY, Edward Hamilton	PC	Coldstream Guards	Died from war related illness 16.1.1919
MOON, Walter	PC	Coldstream Guards	Reappointed 10.7.1919
NANCARROW, Henry	PC	Royal Navy	Died from disease 30.10.1915
NORMAN	PC	Devon Yeomanry	Failed Army medical exam and was reappointed 20.1.1915. Succeeded in second attempt to join up 5.5.1915. Unknown if reappointed
SERCOMBE, William John	PC	Royal Garrison Artillery	Failed Army medical exam and was reappointed. Succeeded in second attempt to join up 24.5.1917. Reappointed 1919
SLOMAN, Frank Lamb	PC	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry	Reappointed
WARNE, Ernest	Sgt	-	Reappointed 1919

Editor's notes about the Great War Nominal Roll:

- I was asked by Deputy Chief Constable Paul Netherton to undertake this research in 2017 in anticipation of the centenary of Armistice Day in 2018. As far as is known, no prior attempt to compose a full list of this kind had ever been made. From the outset, we had no idea how many police officers in the two counties served in the military during the Great War. Once all avenues of research were exhausted, I had a list of 369 names. In 2020, four more were added following discoveries made in newspaper articles.
- When research began, 23 officers were known to have died in the war. By research's end, 11 more were found to have died. In 2020, another war death was added to the list.
- There were ten constabularies in Devon, Cornwall, and the Isles of Scilly in 1914. The Museum of Policing in Devon and Cornwall (MOPIDAC) does not possess a complete set of personnel records for all ten forces.
- There is no known register of the Isles of Scilly Police, therefore it is impossible to say whether any members joined the military. It is unlikely given there were so few of them on the islands.
- County record offices in Exeter, Plymouth, and Truro hold some, but not all, personnel registers, and each was visited and the records viewed to help compose this list.
- The remaining gaps were filled in by viewing police watch committee (police authority) meeting minutes, newspaper articles, memoirs, memos, correspondence, and other resources held by county record offices.
- A major knowledge gap was filled thanks to the efforts of Richard Callaghan, the curator of the Royal Military Police Museum, who happened to be researching RMP members with pre-war police service the same time as I was conducting my own research.
- The full list of Plymouth Borough Police officers who served in the military was, in the absence of a personnel register which has presumably been lost, sourced from a pamphlet printed in 1919 for a church service. The pamphlet recorded initials rather than full forenames, creating an additional frustration when trying to match names to military records.
- Some forces recorded which service/regiment their officers joined, others simply recorded 'Army' or 'Navy' and the date of enlistment.
- Some forces recorded collar/shoulder numbers, others did not. For example, the personnel register for Barnstaple Borough Police records warrant card numbers rather than collar/shoulder numbers, none of which marry up with photos of Barnstaple officers where the collar/shoulder number is visible.
- A concerted effort was made, where service/regiment was not recorded in a police register, to match up the name of the officer with that of an official military record on Ancestry.com, Find My Past, and Forces War Records. Even so, it was impossible in some cases to match a police officer with his military record. There are various reasons for this:
 - The military record was amongst the so-called 'burnt records' which were destroyed in the Blitz.
 - The military record exists but is so degraded as to be illegible, therefore creating doubt.
 - The officer's surname is quite common (e.g., 'Smith') and therefore it is very difficult to match him to a record with confidence.
 - Some police officers are recorded in police registers as having enlisted but did not enter into a theatre of war and therefore were ineligible for medals. With medal records being an important source, their absence in these cases creates problems when researching.
- During the research phase, some very interesting discoveries were made:
 - Some forces reallocated war leavers' collar/shoulder numbers immediately to probationer constables, whilst others kept them in reserve.
 - The exodus of officers to the military was backfilled by the appointment of temporary constables, the 'activation' of war reserves, and a massive expansion of the special constabulary.
 - Some forces invested significant sums of money in supporting the wives and children of policemen who joined the military.



50 Years of the Police National Computer

In the fiftieth, and likely final, year of the Police National Computer (PNC), we take a look at the system which revolutionised how the police access vehicle and criminal record information in the UK.

In October 1970, ahead of a General Election, Conservative Home Secretary Henry Maudling made pledges on criminal justice reform and police investment. One of the pledges was the Police National Computer, adding, *"The finest force in the world deserves the finest equipment in the world".¹*

The new system, in an era when many public and private organisations were becoming increasingly computerised, was scheduled to go online in 1972. Elsewhere in the world, other country's police forces had dabbled with computerising some of their work. In 1967 in the United States, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) brought the *National Crime Information Center* (NCIC) online to facilitate information sharing between the country's many thousands of law enforcement agencies. Around the same time, St Louis Police Department brought in a basic system for information storage, and in 1970 the New York City Police Department's 'SPRINT' came online.² Many of these systems were for command and control of resources only, and limitations on data storage capacity required police agencies to continue storing records on paper well into the 1990s. Following Maudling's announcement, the PNC was to be pioneering, being the first computer system in the world to hold police data on a national scale. It went 'live' in April 1974. Although archaic by modern standards, at the time of writing the PNC is still *the* go-to police computer system for such things as

¹ 'Maudling Pledges Drastic Reform of Courts' Birmingham Daily Post - Friday 09 October 1970, p20

² The Impact and Use of Computer Technology by the Police – Kent W. Colton – Massachusetts Institute of Technology, p16

vehicle information (ported from DVLA databases), criminal records (including warning markers, arrest summaries, and court disposals), and stolen property information. Those who are authorised and trained how to use it can interrogate the PNC from any police computer, permitting instant and convenient access when the need arises, such as during criminal investigations, roadside stops, and '999' call handling. In the early days however, access to the PNC was only possible via a single visual display unit (VDU), usually situated within (or within reach of) a police force's divisional control room, such as the kind seen in the article header overleaf.

Before PNC, to obtain registered keeper details was an arduous process. The officer would have to telephone the local vehicle licensing office and ask someone to go through the records, or worse, have to visit the office themselves. In Cornwall, said office was located in Truro. If at night, this involved waking someone up so as to obtain the key!

PNC originally only held information on stolen vehicles, some 125,000 entries which were manually indexed at Hendon over the course of 1971 and 1972. By 1975, the PNC was linked to the Department of the Environment server at Swansea enabling police forces to enquire as to registered keeper details for newer vehicles.

The *Annual Report of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary 1973* (page 26) states:

"A Visual Display Unit terminal has been installed in the Operations Room [Exeter] to give direct access to records held on the Police National Computer, now scheduled to become operational in April 1974, and a further terminal has been installed in the Plymouth Communications Centre. Additional terminals will be installed to coincide with the growth of the system".

Further VDUs were installed in the Paignton and Camborne divisional control rooms over the course of 1974. The VDUs were purchased en masse by the Home Office for £250,000 and distributed across the UK's constabularies. Each terminal had a direct electronic link to the Metropolitan Police Electromechanical Branch at Hendon, where the PNC data was held and maintained centrally. The original operating system at Hendon was based on a Fujitsu BS2000/OSD SE700. The server technology was as one would imagine for the 1970s; bulky, noisy, power-hungry, and not unlike the kind which allowed NASA to put men on the Moon.

The *Annual Report of the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary 1975* (page 28) speaks of the success of the PNC:

"Operational use of the Police National Computer continues to increase rapidly, and the continuing build up of vehicle records on the Department of the Environment computer at Swansea enables a rapid retrieval of records in respect of newer vehicles, via the PNC, rather than the former, more lengthy, method of enquiring through Local Taxation Offices."

Such was the success of PNC, collars enabled by the system were newsworthy in the early days. A number of incidents are mentioned in the 1975 annual report. One describes how a constable in Cornwall requested a PNC check over the radio for a vehicle which "aroused his suspicions". Information was relayed to the constable that the car had been stolen from London five days earlier and had been used in the commission of a robbery in South Wales. He pulled the vehicle over and took the occupants into custody.

Another incident mentioned in the report, again in Cornwall, describes how a police officer on duty in a quiet country road radioed for a PNC check on a saloon car that "did not belong in the area". The initial check revealed nothing out of the ordinary, however the radio operator decided to conduct additional checks on the computer's owner index which indicated a different make and model to the one seen. Forming the opinion

the vehicle was on false plates, the officer pulled it over and relayed the VIN and chassis numbers back to the control room. The PNC revealed that the vehicle had been reported stolen from Norfolk six weeks' previous. The driver was an escapee from one of Her Majesty's prisons! At the end of 1975, 78 persons had been arrested and 98 stolen vehicles recovered thanks to the PNC.³

As well as a central database from which local police forces could draw data, there was a duty on the police to provide information back to Hendon so that it could be updated. For example, when a person was arrested, the police were required to forward the information to the National Identification Bureau (located within the Met). Information on convictions was stored on microfiche and copied to police forces by post when required.⁴ This process changed in 1995 when police forces were given permission to update PNC themselves via a specialised bureau within each force.

In 1976, 'Names Applications' was added to the PNC and control room operators were sent to Hendon to undertake a training course. Devon & Cornwall's Chief Constable John Alderson said in 1976:

"Police National Computer facilities continue to have a profound effect upon efficiency by providing officers with a means of obtaining almost instantaneous information on the criminal use of motor vehicles."⁵

Arguably the fastest ever detection thanks to the PNC took place in North Devon in 1976. Whilst on patrol in South Molton, an officer instigated a PNC check on a vehicle containing two men heading in the direction of Barnstaple in the early hours of the morning. The reply from control revealed the car had been reported stolen from Dudley, Worcestershire. The stolen marker had been placed on PNC only 2 minutes before the check! Naturally, the officer stopped the vehicle and arrested the occupants.⁶

"The record for speed of detection must, however, go to the North Devon officer who, whilst on patrol near South Molton, instigated a PNC check on a car containing two men which was being driven towards Barnstaple early one morning. The reply indicated that the car had been stolen whilst parked overnight at Dudley, Worcestershire, and the owner had only reported the theft at his local police station at Dudley 2 minutes before. The car was recovered intact and the offenders arrested."

As technology made leaps and bounds in the 1990s and 2000s, the PNC become more accessible across more devices. When the editor joined Devon & Cornwall Police in 2009, PNC was accessible via a transaction code in the OIS command and control system, allowing one to perform a check during the course of creating a police incident log. OIS was decommissioned in June 2012, and the successor system, called STORM, did not have the convenient link to PNC. Instead, PNC was accessed by a separate system called SRG, a situation which remains in the present day. A perhaps underappreciated, and now obsolete, function of the PNC was the ability to access European arrest warrants via the Schengen Information System (SIS). All UK police forces permanently lost access to SIS at 2300hrs on 31st January 2020; the date the UK formally left the European Union.

What's next for the PNC? Sadly, the impending arrival of the new Law Enforcement Database (LED) will render it nowt but a fond remembrance, and all who join the force thereafter will be unable to believe we ever coped for so long with such an antiquated system!

³ Annual Report of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary 1975, p24

⁴ Police National Computer Data Quality and Timeliness Report by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, p9

⁵ Annual Report of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary 1976, p42

⁶ Annual Report of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary 1976, p42

SUPERINTENDENT ERNEST KENNAWAY ARBUTHNOT DSO

Served 1914-1921 (Devon Constabulary)



The illustriously named **Ernest Kennaway Arbuthnot** was born in Torquay, Devon, in 1876 to Anne and Archibald Ernest Arbuthnot. His father was a field officer in the Bengal, Madras, and Bombay Armies and retired in the rank of Major. No doubt inspired by his father's impressive military career, Ernest joined the Royal Navy aged 14 as a cadet and served on the training ship *HMS Britannia* stationed at Dartmouth. Formerly known as *HMS Prince of Wales*, the *Britannia* was the same vessel men like Prince Albert Victor and King George V found their sea legs as naval officers. A comment in Ernest's service record by a Captain Boyes was a sign of things to come – his progress was “promising” in the eyes of his superiors and by 1911, the year of his retirement from the Navy, he had reached the rank of Lieutenant Commander. A year prior to leaving the Navy, he married the stage actress Evie Green (left).

In the days when 'direct entry superintendent' had no controversy attached, disciplined military men like Arbuthnot were preferred candidates when police superintendents needed hiring. On 8th May 1914, he was appointed in the Devon Constabulary in the force's 'B' Division (North Devon).

He was recalled to the Royal Navy upon the outbreak of The Great War and served for a time on the renowned *HMS Arethusa*, which was present during the Battles of Heligoland Bight and Dogger Bank in 1914 and 1915 respectively. *Arethusa* struck a mine on 11th February 1916 off Felixstowe and drifted

onto a shoal, which brought an end to the vessel's short service. Thereafter he commanded *HMS Iris* and *HMS Gadfly*, showing great tenacity during the Mesopotamian campaign for which he was thrice Mentioned in Despatches. On 21st September 1917, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) for “coolness under fire” and for lending his intimate knowledge of the Iraqi region to the forces advancing on Baghdad.

Early in 1917, he was awarded the Order of St Maurice and St Lazarus, the Italian equivalent of a knighthood. It was during this year though that he suffered great personal tragedy. While he was away on military service, his wife Evie lived with her father at his Portsmouth residence and her health began to deteriorate. One September morning in early 1917, she was found collapsed in her bedroom and died later that day, having succumbed to the effects of Bright's Disease. Being on active service, he was unable to attend her funeral service, however was able to arrange a floral tribute, possibly enabled by his brother Major Patrick Arbuthnot, who *was* able to attend.

Arbuthnot returned to the Devon Constabulary after the war, taking up the appointment of superintendent of the Totnes Division before removing to 'X' Division (Exeter) following the retirement of the incumbent. 1920 was an eventful year; he married Gladys Mann at Newton Abbot and in April was promoted to deputy chief constable, a post within which he served until 1921 when he was appointed chief constable of Oxfordshire Constabulary.

Laying the Cornwall Constabulary to Rest

9th March 1967



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Beset by snow and sleet, a most unusual parade took place in the City of Truro on Sunday 9th March 1967. Roads were closed and diversions were put in place as over 400 members of the Cornwall Constabulary (regulars and specials) paraded together for the last time. The Cornish public turned out, many of them huddled in shop doorways and beneath umbrellas, to bid farewell to their faithful county police force that had served them since 1857. Amalgamation with Devon was on the horizon (a consequence of the *Police Act 1964*), and the mood was sombre.

Led by a 68-strong Royal Marines Band in striking red, white, and blue uniforms, the procession began in the city's main car park and then proceeded onto Boscawen Street, past City Hall (the headquarters of the old Truro City Police force) and on to Truro's magnificent cathedral. Also marching with the marines and constables were the city's various civic officers; the Mayor, Town Clerk, Recorder, and Mace Bearers, as well as senior figures such as the Lord Lieutenant, the High Sherriff and Under Sherriff, and various parliamentary VIPs. The Cornish force was firmly under the command of **Chief Constable Kenneth Wherly**.

As seats were taken in the cathedral, the marines played 'Land of Hope and Glory'. Following them down the centre aisle was **Assistant Chief Constable J.A.H. Pill**, holding a specially minted framed silver Cornwall Constabulary helmet badge pinned to a blue velvet cushion. Behind him walked an escort party of men and women from the various ranks; two superintendents, two inspectors, two sergeants, two constables, one woman constable, and one police cadet. When ACC Pill reached the high altar, he handed the badge to the Very Reverend Henry Lloyd who had arranged for it to be displayed for eternity within the cathedral.

Readings were given by CC Wherly (pictured below), PC J. James (chairman of the Cornish branch of the Police Federation), and Dr J. M. Key, the Bishop of Truro. History was very much a theme throughout, with the speakers referring to the early days of the force when the presence of a large and uniformed constabulary in Cornwall was greeted with distrust. Over the course of 110 years, the view had changed from that of suspicion to admiration.



The pomp of the marines and their instruments was replaced in the outro by the soothing tones of the Cornwall Police Choir with their rendition of *Psalm 124: Now Israel May Say*, followed by the entire congregation singing *God Save the Queen*. The constables and various dignitaries then filed out onto the street to the sound of the cathedral bells. The end of an era was marked.

The 9th March was not the end of the Cornwall Constabulary at that point, although many certainly felt it. Amalgamation day had been originally scheduled for 1st April 1967, however owing to various logistical problems the date was put back to 1st June.

Feelings about the merger were mixed, with perhaps the dissenting voices being the loudest. The new force, to be called 'Devon & Cornwall Constabulary', would be Devon-centric with its headquarters at Middlemoor, Exeter. Ronald B. Greenwood, previously the chief constable of Devon & Exeter Police, was selected as chief of the new force, perhaps owing to his role as Civil Defence Controller for the South West Region, such was the nature of the Cold War era. Some officers saw the merger as an opportunity to advance more quickly through the ranks, others were concerned about the erosion of local identity. Whatever the thoughts and feelings, amalgamation was inevitable, and it is a credit to all involved that 1st June 1967 went by without a hitch, albeit quite unceremoniously and with little notice paid by the public.



Left: the silver Cornwall Constabulary badge committed to Truro Cathedral in remembrance of the old county police force. (Image © Reach PLC. Image created courtesy of THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD.)

Many Cornish officers refused to wear the new Devon & Cornwall Constabulary badges and uniform accoutrements when they began arriving in the post. Chief Inspector Gerry Tremelling (Falmouth) famously got away with wearing his kernow insignia well into the 1980s! At midnight on 31st March 1967, a Telex message was sent from the Bodmin Control Room to colleagues at Greenbank Police Station in Plymouth titled 'An Amalgamation Prayer: To All Those Who Are Also Suffering'.

An Amalgamation Prayer: To All Those Who Are Also Suffering

*"From Muddlemoor to Bodmin Moor
We're coming down quite soon
Communications we'll take over
From Monday next at Noon.*

*We'll send your cars to Hayle and back
St.Just and Sennen too
And offer up a prayer to God
They shouldn't have gone to Looe.*

*To Blisland and St.Teath as well
St.Tudy and St.Cleer
To No Mans land or who can tell
May even end up here.*

*Amalgamation Jenkins said
Take over is what we say
We bet that you are seeing red
Farewell Q-B X-Ray
And shall Trelawney die.*

*Farewell friends with much regret
We shall miss you from the net
Gone the voice of Bravo 2
And Charlie booking on at Looe
Whilst saying Cheers to Q.B.X.
Let us remember we are next.*

*Come this time we shall be sore
At being chopped by Middlemoor
So although parting brings us pain
May we say we still remain
Sincerely friends from 'W'
And wish the best to all of you.*

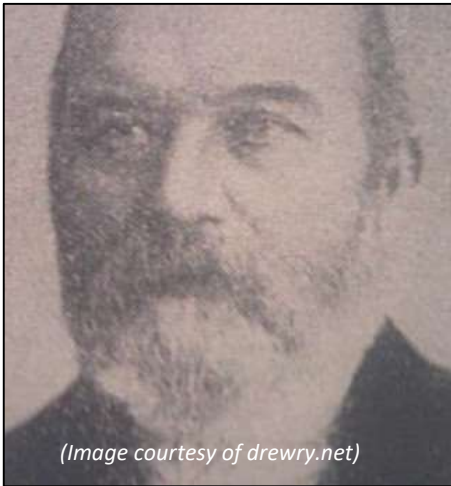
*Our Father which art in Devon
Greenwood be thy name
Thy Kingdoms come
Thy will be done
As it is in Devon
Forgive us our resentment
As we forgive them that are resentful against us.*

*Lead not in thy Counties way
But deliver us from them
For thine is the power
The glory and the promotions
For ever and ever.*

Amen"

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES POLICE UNIT 1865-1883

In 1865, a police unit was raised in Devon with a singular objective – to enforce the requirements of the new *Contagious Diseases Act 1864*. The permissive law was intended to reduce sexually transmitted diseases amongst the British Army and Royal Navy. In Plymouth, a part of Devon which was serviced by four police forces, a local agreement was reached whereby the Metropolitan Police, which had recently assumed jurisdiction over Admiralty premises in Devonport, would perform the task as it was thought that the Metropolitans would be able to act with greater impartiality than the local police across Plymouth, Devonport, and Stonehouse.



(Image courtesy of drewry.net)

The new unit was under the command of **Inspector Silas Rendle Annis** (left) and was to be a plain clothes detective operation. Annis received £31 15s per week, significantly less than the pay of a detective in the capital. The unit's members were recruited directly from the dockyard police's water patrol unit as they were well-trained in search and detection techniques. They operated across the three towns, and in any case within fifteen miles of Her Majesty's Dockyard. Surveillance was carried out frequently across the densely populated three towns and women suspected of being diseased were targeted. In 1871, the unit's membership included **Police Constables Gale, Morecombe, Goodyear, Ford, Coombes, Hockaday, and Disberry**.⁷ Many of these men were still serving in 1881 when Inspector Annis was challenged by

William Littleton, registrar for Devon, as to the neutrality of the unit. Annis had long claimed that, as Metropolitan policemen, they were impartial Londoners. This was frankly untrue, as all of the abovementioned were either Cornish or Devonian men, some of them having served in the Dockyard Police Force at Devonport prior to it being replaced by the Metropolitan Police. Annis himself was a Plymstock native.

The first *Contagious Diseases Act* was controversial; rather than place prohibitions on military men, the Act led to intrusive monitoring of women prostitutes and allowed the police to detain, search, and subject them to examinations (performed by a medical examiner) to look for sexually transmitted diseases. Those found to have disease were detained in a special hospital wing called a 'lock' until declared free from infection. Women in advanced pregnancy were not sent for examination. In the early days, the law allowed the police and medical examiners to "deal only with women who were suspected to be diseased"⁸, meaning that any woman could be challenged by the authorities and subjected to examination. Later Acts (1866 and 1869) confined the police to dealing with women who were known to be, or were strongly suspected of being, prostitutes.

The unit, at the height of its operation, sent for examination as many as seventy to eighty women per day at the Royal Albert Hospital. In 1870, a Royal Commission into the administration and operation of the Contagious Diseases Act was held, and Inspector Annis was called as a witness to speak for the situation in Devon. The report of the commissioners reveals in detail how the police unit commenced its work effective 1st April 1865 (the date of commencement of the Act).

Firstly, acting on orders from a Metropolitan Police superintendent, Inspector Annis and his men visited the various military hospitals in Devonport, Stonehouse, and Plymouth, and ascertained the number of men with

⁷ Policing in Plymouth, Devonport, and Stonehouse 1800-1886, by Partridge, Marc, p110

⁸ 'The Town Council and the Contagious Diseases Acts' Western Times - Monday 28 October 1878, p3

disease. The report of the commissioners, issued in 1871, suggests there were "many". Part of this inquiry involved questioning the men as to with whom they had had sexual contact and used this information to select women from the various local brothels. Fifteen women were requested to attend the hospital in the first instance, and it was said in the commissioners' report that they went willingly and without objection. The report goes on to say:

" The hospital accommodation gradually increased. The beds were made up to 37 within a fortnight after commencement. In 1866 they were increased to 60. In July 1868 they numbered 162. The Royal Albert Hospital is divided into two classes, the civil and the lock side. There was a lock side before the Acts came into operation, for reception of women who voluntarily applied for admission, but witness [Inspector Annis] has heard that these were few in number, and that the women would leave the hospital, diseased or not, if a ship or a new regiment came in.

Women are inspected once in 14 days. They have notice to attend, and come up in ones and twos, sometimes bringing a companion. The police try to induce the women to come up clean and sober. There is no publicity about the examination; a woman may attend and depart, without the outside world knowing that she is a prostitute.

There are two examining places, one in Plymouth and one in Devonport for the convenience of the women. They never complained of publicity of attendance till three or four months ago, when a disturbance was created by persons who were trying to persuade them to keep away, and then they complained of people assembling round the doors. That is now passed away, and they come quietly as before."

- **Report of Royal Commission upon the Administration and Operation of the Contagious Diseases Acts, 1871**

The 1871 report paints a picture of objectivity and fairness in the work of the police unit. Other sources however describe Inspector Annis as a tyrannical and unsympathetic character who, in the latter years of the unit, was suspected of trying to convert some of the women he came into contact with to religion. Annis was twice summonsed to court on charges of housebreaking and assault; the first case did not proceed past the summons, the second was found to be a case of mistaken identity. Whatever the truth, it is right to say that there were many reasonable objections to the act and the officials charged with enforcing it. Being at the forefront of the police operation, Inspector Annis became the 'face of the enemy'. The latter half of the 19th century was a critical time for women's rights movements (indeed, the first petition for the right to vote was delivered to Parliament in 1866, one year after the Contagious Diseases Act came into force). Commentators were right to point out that the law, as well-intentioned as it was, had its problems.

The *Contagious Diseases Act* was repealed in 1883, and thus the Contagious Diseases Police Unit was disbanded. A notable proponent in the dissolution of the Act was the prominent social reformer Josephine Butler. Inspector Annis, who was 52 years old, remained in service with the Metropolitan Police for another two years until retirement. His name was notorious in Plymouth for many more years, with the parents of the town allegedly using his name to enforce good behaviour, else, "...Silas Annis would come and get [them]".

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS



Simon Dell
Collection

POLICING WARTIME BARNSTAPLE

The image left shows a **Devon Constabulary** police officer stood outside the heavily sandbagged Barnstaple Police Station during the Second World War.

Such fortifications were intended as air raid precautions and remained in place for many years.

The officer in the photo wears the standard uniform of the era, with the addition of a gas mask bag evident from the strap running diagonally across his overcoat.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Through newspaper research (The British Newspaper Archive), the following discoveries have been made in respect of fallen officers, and the details forwarded to the UK Police Roll of Honour Trust for formal commemoration:

Special Constable Frank Samuel GROSE CBE – knocked down and killed by a motor vehicle on Christmas Day 1941 whilst walking along the Newton Abbot-Bovey Tracey road. He was 60 years old and had previously served in the British Army with the Burma Frontier Force as superintendent of the Northern Shan States and later as commissioner of the Federated Shan States.

Police Sergeant Archibald MILFORD – died in June 1948 from burns and smoke inhalation following the explosion of a paraffin stove at Strete Police Station (South Devon). The explosion also caused serious, but non-fatal, burns to Police Constable Venton who was visiting from a nearby police station.

Police Constable Samuel HATHAWAY – a member of the Metropolitan Police stationed at Devonport, Hathaway fell ill whilst on duty and retired to his dockyard lodgings where he died suddenly.



‘ello, ‘ello, ‘ello,
what’s all this,
then?

An English gentleman’s fashion show? Auditions for the Ministry of Silly Walks? The scene actually depicts an identity parade at the rear of Penzance Police Station sometime in the 1960s.

Simon Dell
Collection

CAUTION? NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A THING...

CORNISH POLICEMAN IN FOOLS PARADISE.

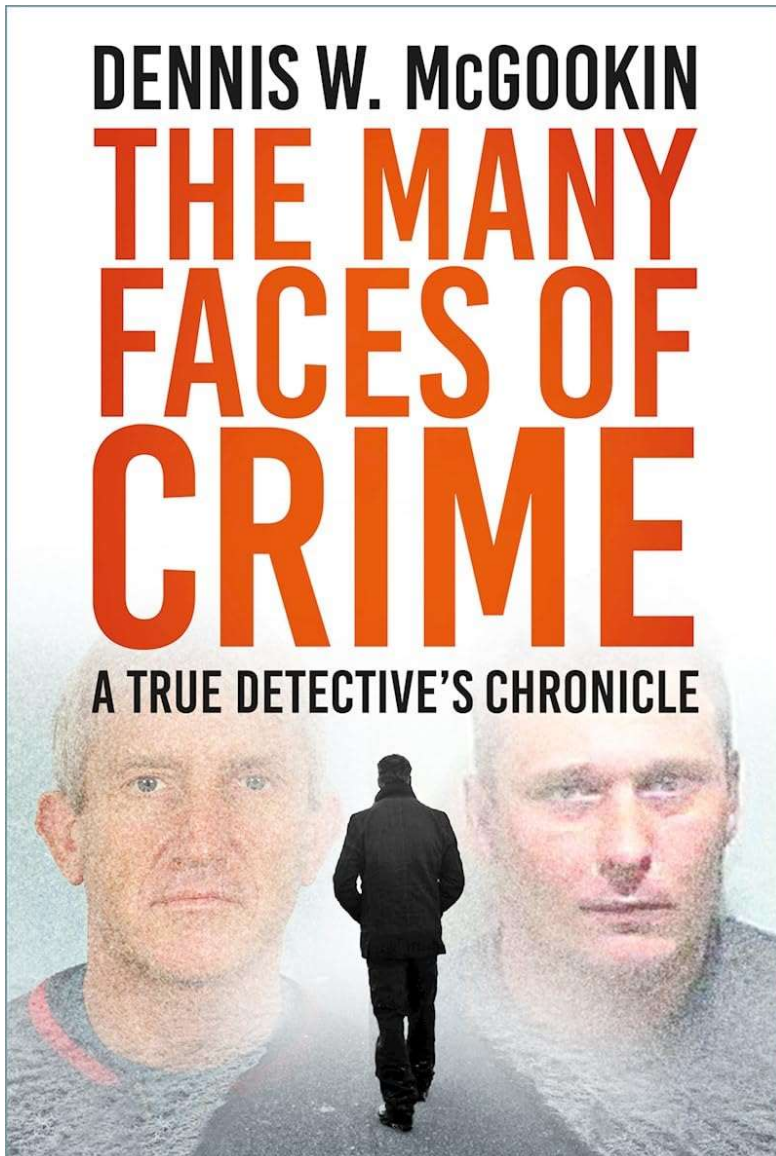
Elijah Ferrett, 25, farm labourer, charged with a criminal assault on Annie Tryphena Paul, aged 15, on July 19th.—Prisoner pleaded not guilty.—Prosecutrix said she was fifteen years and five months old when the offence was committed. On July 19th her parents went to Camelford fair, and prisoner came in the kitchen and threw her down.—P.S. Webber said he arrested prisoner on August 29th, but he did not caution him.—Witness in reply to the Judge said he had been in the force for eighteen years and had never heard that in making an arrest they had to warn the person.—His lordship: That does not say much for your chief constable. Have all the Cornish policemen been in fool’s paradise all these years?—Mr Macleod, who prosecuted, said he had heard some who had cautioned prisoners.—His lordship told witness it was never too late to mend.—Prisoner was sentenced to six months hard labour.

In 1899, the issue of whether Cornish police officers issued a verbal caution when making an arrest became a topic of discussion during the sitting of the Cornwall Assizes Court in Bodmin...

Source: Cornish Echo and Falmouth & Penryn Times - Friday 03 February 1899

NEW BOOK

Words by Nicola Punyer



"As some of you may know, my dad is releasing a book in 2024. It has now gone live on Amazon for pre-sale for release in April 2024! A bit of background for you - my dad worked for Kent Police for almost 30 years and achieved ranking of Detective Chief Superintendent of Major Crime. He worked on some of the most high profile cases known within the policing community, and as such, has now written a book on those experiences from a policing point of view.

I cannot even begin to tell you how proud I am of this achievement. This is a shameless plug to buy the

book! For those I have already spoken with prior - more than happy to arrange to get the book signed for you".

Dennis McGookin's book 'The Many Faces of Crime: A True Detective's Chronicle' is available for pre-order on www.amazon.co.uk and will be released on 18th April 2024.

RRP: £22.99 (Hardcover) and £8.99 (e-book).

Publisher: The History Press