

Tales from 'The Mess'

There are many tales that could be told about the Single Men's mess and I am sure other members who were mess members, when asked would be able to tell you many stories.

The Mess was known as the best matrimonial bureau in Swansea because single men in order to get out of the mess had to wait until a new single member joined the force to take your place or you had to get married to get out.

Somebody might tell you how the men in the mess managed to get into Maggie Mullen's store and 'borrow' on permanent loan bacon and eggs for us to eat!

Another story in my early service; if one of the nightshift brought in a prisoner for being drunk or drunk and disorderly, the Charge Room Sergeant would come up to the mess and if you were on the morning shift he would tell you that you would be needed to prove the prisoner was drunk. I wonder how many members of the mess ever got up to see the drunken prisoner; but attended court later in the morning and give evidence?

Who remembers the attic room where mess members went to drink beer and play cards all night and went to bed at 6.0am after having a breakfast of Dan Hansen pasties, cakes from Birt's Bakery and Icecream from Lyons brought in by the night shift?

What about arriving back in the mess after 10pm shift to find all their furniture had been taken from the room and distributed around the station. Of course, nobody would help you to find it or put it back in your room.

You could always leave money in your room but what about the white gloves and capes which were taken on loan never to return?

What about the stray dogs which were brought to the station and placed in a kennel under the singlemens mess. Barking all night. Who will admit to getting up and releasing these dogs before they could be taken to dogs home so that you could sleep at night.

Let us see what other stories can be remembered by old mess members?
Viv Martin – December 2010