

“ TO GUARD
MY PEOPLE ”



WALTER WILLIAM HUNT

"To Guard My People"

An account of the Origin and History
of the Swansea Police By

Walter William Hunt

Superintendent
County Borough of Swansea Police

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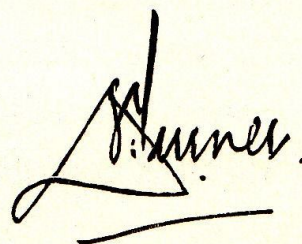
Foreword

The invitation I have received to write a foreword to this historical record of the Swansea Constabulary is one I gladly accept and greatly appreciate.

It enables me to pay tribute to Superintendent Hunt on the successful accomplishment of a task which he voluntarily undertook. It is the result of long, patient and industrious research into the municipal archives and other sources—and this all in his leisure time. A labour of love as it was, his exertions to discover and collate data requisite for the presentation of this full account of the origins and growth of the Police Force in Swansea, merit the highest praise.

It is seldom that adequate attention is given in publications to the stabilising and consolidating influence which the British Police Service has exercised on social progress. It is gratifying, therefore, to observe that there emerges from a perusal of this volume the significance of the contribution made by County and Borough Constabularies to the advancement of society by the maintenance of order and the enforcement of law. This record thus recalls an element of our great national heritage and directs our notice to local traditions which have so largely determined the pattern of our communal life.

The volume will commend itself as an illuminating account of pioneering efforts to create and build up the Constabulary in Swansea, the formidable obstacles and prejudice that were overcome, and the steps which led to the establishment of an organisation which now enjoys the pride and admiration of those whom it serves. May the volume also foster and encourage that enlightened interest in the police force which will ensure its continued improvement.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Hunter', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

October, 1957.

Chief Constable of Swansea.

Acknowledgments

This year when many British Police Forces celebrate their centenary the County Borough of Swansea Police Force records its 121st year of service to the public. Without any pretensions to historical or literary merit it was felt that an account of the history of the force should be written before some of the sources of information should be lost or no longer available. In compiling the story the help and advice received from the following gentlemen is gratefully acknowledged :—

Glanmor Williams, Esq., M.A., of University College of Swansea, Secretary of the Glamorgan Local History Society.

W. C. Rogers, Esq., A.R.I.C.S., Borough Estate Agent, Swansea.

The late Mr. W. H. Hanna, Honorary Secretary of the Royal Institution of South Wales, and

The late Police Sergeant Thomas West for his recollections of service between 1885 and 1911.

Documentary information has been obtained from the following books and records :—

The Charters of Swansea—George Grant Francis.

Common Hall Books and Hall Day Minute Books between 1549 and 1835.

Paving Commissioners Minute Book, 1809 to 1835.

The Cambrian newspapers from 1804.

The Life of Sir Robert Peel, Wm. Harvey, 1850.

The Police Encyclopaedia, Hargrave L. Adams.

The Life Mr. Justice Swift, Fay.

Rebecca and Her Daughters, H. T. Evans.

Police Record Books, documents, and reports.

★ ★ ★ ★

The title of this book is taken from the inscription on the Queen's Police Medal, the highest police award for bravery or distinguished service.

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Chapter I

THE FIRST CONSTABLES AND THEIR BACKGROUND.

“YOU SHALL TRUE BURGESS BE OF THIS TOWN AND BOROUGH OF SWANSEA—YOU SHALL BE OBEDIENT TO THE STEWARD AND PORTREEVE THEREOF—YOU SHALL PAY ALL TAXES LAWFULLY RATED AND TAXED ON YOU—YOU SHALL MAINTAIN THE PRIVILEGES AND LIBERTIES WITH ALL LAUDABLE ACCUSTOMED ORDERS USED OR TO BE USED WITHIN THIS TOWN TO THE BEST OF YOUR ENDEAVOURS AND IF THERE SHALL HAPPEN TO COME ANYTHING TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE THAT SHALL OR MAY IN ANYWISE BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE LIBERTIES OF THE SAID BOROUGH YOU SHALL NOT ONLY ACQUAINT THE PORTREEVE FOR THE TIME BEING AND OTHER ALDERMEN OF THE SAME, BUT SHALL ALSO DEFEND IT TO THE UTMOST OF YOUR POWER AND LIKEWISE DO ALL THINGS THAT BECOME GOOD BURGESSES FOR TO DO. SO HELP YOU GOD.”

THIS oath, taken by each burgess of Swansea before his fellow townsmen and which remained unchanged for centuries, was last recorded in the Hall Day book on 5th October, 1789. As an acknowledgment of civic duty and responsibility to assist in maintaining the laws, the oath had its origin in the tribal system of preserving law and order introduced to Britain centuries earlier by the Saxon king, Alfred, when every freeman had to give his pledge for the good behaviour of the others in his community, and to assist in the detection and punishment of those who broke the laws.

In the Charter to the Burgesses of Swansea granted by William De Newburgh, 3rd Earl of Warwick, 1158-1184, their duties and rights were first defined. Each was granted a plot of land (a burgage), with rights of hunting, fishing and pasturage. In return they were required to render service to the Earl if necessary by taking up arms. They were permitted to hold their own

Court of Justice within the town. These duties were recognised in the subsequent Charters of King John (1215) and Henry III (1234), but it was in the Charter of William De Breos, Lord of Gower, 1305 A.D., that the administration of justice and law enforcement by the burgesses was first established. This Charter also reads, “ No constable, porter, gaoler or other our officer shall henceforth take any fee from any prisoners whomsoever except in cases of felony and not then even except such a one shall tarry for one night in our prison of Swansea; and although he shall be oftentimes bailed or mainprized and shall be returned into the prison, nevertheless if for the same fact, he shall once only pay a fee, to wit, fourpence. Nor shall our Burgesses be imprisoned so long as they can find sufficient security to answer in our hundred, except it be one taken for the death of a man wickedly and feloniously slain upon the fact newly committed and who shall have been in due manner indicted; a thief caught with the manour (stolen property) for a theft exceeding twelvecpence; a burner of houses taken in maliciously committing the felony and duly indicted; an outlaw; one who has abjured the Realm; a prison breaker of our Castle of Swansea detained therein in irons for felony or by judgment of the Court; a counterfeiter of coin taken with the implements of coining; or an excommunicated person imprisoned at the instance of the Bishop.” (Grant Francis *Charters of Swansea*).

It is clear from these ancient records that the townspeople knew that freedom to live, work, and trade in the town did not give any man the right to do as he pleased without responsibility for the welfare and comfort of his neighbours. As the population increased more rules and standards of conduct were necessary, and these laws were made by the Burgesses who met at the Town Hall to administer the affairs of the town. Local legislation consisted of measures to establish regular markets with fair distribution of goods; to prevent shortages of food, clothing, and fuel; to regulate weights and measures; to licence ale-houses and prevent disorderly houses, gaming houses, and for the relief of the poor.

Having made these laws it was necessary to enforce them and from amongst their number the Burgesses nominated constables

whose duty it was during their year of office to uphold the law. In this manner the constable evolved from the need of the majority to protect themselves from the selfishness and wrongdoing of the few.

Although the town already had a history of several centuries, the first occasion that a constable was referred to by name appears in the accounts of the town kept by Sir Hugh Waterton, described as a receiver of the King in 1402, in which he speaks of one Thomas Somer, the catchpole, whose title was then in common use for a constable or petty officer of justice. The account reveals that besides his duty as catchpole, Thomas Somers held the office of Gaol keeper for which he received twopence a day. That such a combination of duties could be successful would appear doubtful for it is apparent that the more efficient he was as a catchpole, the more arduous his work as gaoler! Nevertheless he appeared to be an industrious man for another item in the accounts reads—"Received of Thomas Somer, catchpole of the town, £6. 8s. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. there of the issues of his office." His wages as gaoler were shared between the King, who contributed 20s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and the Lady of the Manor, Lady Anne Mowbray.

"Sweynesey," as it was known at the time, was a cluster of small dwellings, inns, shops, and slaughter-houses, grouped for protection under the walls of the old castle, the three main streets being Wind Street, St. Mary Street, and Fisher Street. The town was paved and enclosed with a wall in the early fourteenth century, the cost being defrayed from the income from a tax on all saleable articles coming in to the town, including food, animals, cloths, silk and wool, iron, metal and timber, for a period of ten years between 1317 and 1327. This right was granted by Edward II. The Lord of the Manor, through his Steward at the Castle, wielded a vast influence over the townspeople in whom he had a financial interest, taking a share of all tolls and fines. These were generally shared between the High Lord, the "Common Coffers of the town," and the poor.

The Portreeve, the headman of the townspeople, was appointed from among the Aldermen by the steward, whilst the Aldermen consisted of the twelve senior burgesses. Great value

was placed on being a burgess who thereby had a voice in the affairs of the town. To be a burgess one had to be a person of good character and a tradesman or craftsman, and if accepted by the burgesses at the Hall Day meeting he took his oath. The Burgesses met annually to nominate the town's officials who had to be approved by the Lord of the Manor through his steward. In 1553 the officials appointed held such names as common attornies, constables, sergeants at the mace, ale-tasters and viewers of the haven. These were more than nominal offices, for although unpaid for their services, the holders of these ranks had duties to perform in the service of the town, and it sometimes occurred that less public-spirited burgesses tried to avoid election to the office, especially that of constable, the nature of whose duties must have conflicted with the individual's business and private life. There were instances of refusal to accept office as constable which usually brought about the disfranchisement of the person concerned, with the forfeiture of all his rights, which was a serious punishment, in that he was no longer permitted to ply his trade or craft in the town. It is noticeable that there were no recorded instances of difficulty in filling the position of ale-taster, and considering the number of brew-houses at this time, all contributing handsome revenue to the Lord of the Manor, the ale-taster must have been an active man!

The Common Hall Book records that on 1st October, 1553, four constables were appointed for the year, their names being Thomas Carter, John Smyth, Morgan Harrys and John Thomas Sadler. (The last name was repeated 270 years later when John Sadler, a Bow Street runner, was appointed at a salary to take charge of the constables and watchmen of Swansea.) The duties of these constables were controlled directly by the Portreeve, who, as the first citizen, took an active and personal part in keeping good order, and to ensure some assistance to the constables and himself in carrying out their duties, the following order was made at a meeting of the Burgesses on 21st December, 1563.

“AN ORDER TO AYD THE OFFICERS.”

“Yt ys agreyd with the consent of the Porteryff, alldermen and comyngs of the sayde towne and franchises that all the bur-

gesses of the sayde towne shall ayde the porteryff and hys officers in doying hys and theyre offesses whensoever as they be requyryde upon payne of forffytur of Xs the one halffe to my lorde and the other halffe to the commyng coffer of this towne, and he or they to be provyd to have done to the contrary of this order to be dyecommynd of hys or theyre liberts. On the xxi day of Desember in the vth yere of the rayng of our Soverayne Ladye quene Elsabethe, the day the namyse under wrytten agreed unto the same order." (Common Hall Book 1549-1665)

Probably the earliest Byelaws in Swansea were those enacted on 14th November, 1553, upon the advice of Sir George Herbert, the steward of the Lord of the Manor, who resided at Plas House (now the site of the Castle Gardens). It was the duty of the burgesses, and especially the elected constables, to enforce these measures, which reflect some of the nuisances which then existed.

"No man nor woman nor their servants shall winne (winnow) any corn in the streets, that is to say, Winde Strette, Fisher Strette, Seynt Marie Strette and the Market Place."

"Yt ys agreed and constytutyd that no man nor woman shall leave any casks or pypes or hogseds or any tymber that shall be hurte to any men by nyght but it be sette out of way before nyght uppon payne of iiijd. of marchement."

"No person shall retail any manner of merchandise in saide towne except to the burgesses and inhabitants in payne of forfeiture of the same merchandise, the third part of the same forfeiture to the Lord and a third to the common coffer, and the other third part to the taker thereof." (Common Hall Book 1549-1665).

The office of "Sergeant of the Mace" came into being during the middle of the 16th century, and this officer's duties which, among other matters, consisted of executing warrants, serving writs and taking debtors to gaol, were directed by the Portreeve. In Cromwell's charter to the town in 1655 two sergeants at the Mace were authorised "for executing the process of our Courts and to do and execute all other things appertaining to the duties of sergeants at the Mace." Probably they less directly represented the authority of the crown than the constables whose duty, not concerned with manorial interests, was principally the mainten-

ance of the King's Peace. The sergeant was an officer of the Court of Pleas and to this day, although without any official duties, is nominated by the Leet Court.

The Mace was symbolic of the authority of the law and was carried by the sergeant on all official occasions and ceremonies. The following record appears in the Hall Day Book, dated 2nd January, 1573.

“It is alsoe agreed by Rise ab John ab Ieuan, Portreff of this Towne of Sweynsey with the rest of his brethren together with the consent and agreement of the common burgesses of the saide towne conclude and agree that the xll Aldermen did paie for one maze and the commons paie for the other maze the which daie of the carrying of the sayd mazes before the Portreff was upon the ffeast of the Puryfication of Our Lady St. Mary.”

“ Common sergeants :—Thos. Glover and Thomas Wachan.”

Another reference to these maces appeared in November, 1615, when the Portreeve made this report to the burgesses,

“Oure two old maces which our sargeants had was totally broken and decayed upon my cominge in to be Portrefe. I motioned unto the Aldermen and Burgesses of our towne wee might have them renued and augmented, whrupon they did condescend yr I should cause a new paire to be made, upon the general consent, I goinge to Bristole brought the old maces with me thither and caused the gouldsmith to make us a newe paire of maces larger and fairer than these old ones, which newe paire waied XXty ozs which costs vjs. per oz and I had for the old maces XIIs vjd so that the maces cost us with the olde paire fower pounds and one shilling, the which monies hath been rated and colected upon the Aldermen and Burgesses of our sayd Towne of Swanzey. Walter Thomas, Portreff.” (Book of orders 1569-1682).

In 1840 the two maces were found to be missing from the Townhall and an enquiry was ordered, the loss being advertised in the *Cambrian*. Through the diligence of Mr. George Grant Francis they were found some years later and restored to the Corporation. They are now in the custody of the Town Clerk.

In the early 19th century the wooden staff carried by constables was embellished with the Royal cipher, a crown and the Borough Coat of Arms, and as well as being a weapon of defence was still a symbol of authority, even as late as 1836, when at

Glamorgan Assizes, a constable giving evidence in a case said that he had told the prisoner upon arrest that he was a constable, and produced his staff to show his authority. (To-day this is superseded by a warrant card.)

In 1563, it became necessary to make an order dealing with the fees taken by the sergeant in the course of his duties. Headed "An order for the Sargents," it read,

"On which day yt ys agrede that the sargents shall not at no tyme taske or take for any prisoner that shall be comytted under hys charge no maner of fees but that yt shall allwayse remayne unto the dyscresyon of the Porteryffe and thys upon the payne of prysonement at the dyscresyon of the Porteryffe. One halfe of the which fees shall be wardyd to be dew to the comyng coffer of this towne, and the hother halfe to hym that shall be sargent of this towne." (Common Hall Book 1549-1665).

The problem of dealing with gaming, vagrancy and other forms of vice in the town came to notice in 1569, and the Unlawful Games Act, 1541, was supplemented by a local byelaw, the enforcing of which must have been an unwelcome addition to the duties of the constables, who in that year were David Harrys, Richard Clement, Robert Baret and John Clement. The Byelaw stated,

"Yt ys agreed that yf anye of the said burgesses of this towne or any howseholder within the ffranches of the same do at anye time hereafter keape or suffer to keapte any unlawfull games in their howses unordinattye or receive to lodge into the howses any quenes, harlots or vacabonds or anye ydle persons then suche offender for every fawlt and offence shall pay xijd."
(Book of Orders 1569.)

A court was held each fortnight to deal with minor offenders, but in addition the Leet Court, under the Lord of the Manor, sat twice a year "after the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels" to consider and adjudicate upon those matters which more directly affected the manorial interests. As the castle stood out from the smaller buildings which clustered around the walls so the influence of the Lord of the Manor was dominant in the affairs of the town, and he kept a firm control on the activities of the people. Nominations for the office of Portreeve, although made by the Alder-

Borough of Swansea.

NOTICE.

THE several Persons whose Names are hereunder written have been nominated and appointed by the Council of the above Borough, under the provisions of the Municipal Corporation Act, **DAY and NIGHT CONSTABLES,--** and *Notice is hereby given*, that the said Constables will begin to act on **MONDAY, the 4th day of APRIL next.--** Dated this **21st day of March, 1836.**

N. CAMERON, Mayor.

**William Rees, *Inspector,*
George Luce,
William Lodwick,
John Woolley,
William Joseph,
William Webb,
Thomas Jones.**

The Public Notice announcing the formation of the Swansea Borough Police.

men, were presented to the Steward who made the final selection, and before whom the Portreeve was sworn. The Portreeve also held the office of “cronnership,” the forerunner of our present day coroner.

The boundaries of Swansea were described in the Common Hall Book in 1584 as extending from “The Cockett of the West and the brooke called Purloke Brooke of the North, the River Tawe of the East and the sea of the South, containing in length one mile and breadth one mile.” Most constables who have patrolled the area between Cockett and the Tawe would challenge this measurement, but the late Mr. Grant Francis states in his *Charters of Swansea*, that at this time a Welsh mile was equal to two English miles. In the Charter of 1158-1184 the Western boundary of the Cockett and Vivian streams was referred to as St. David’s Ditch. The “Purloke Brooke,” also called “Burlais Brooke,” was the stream which rose north of Townhill and flowed through Cwm Burlais (Cwmbwrla) across the Strand and into the Tawe just above the old Cambrian Pottery.

The meetings of the Burgesses which had formerly taken place in the common hall in the castle were in 1585 transferred to the newly built town hall, which is believed to have been erected near the junction of Castle Bailey Street and Worcester Place. The reference to this event in the Common Hall Book reads—“the Shire Halle of Swansey being fynisshede wiche hathe coste the makeinge thereof three skore pounds of the towne.” In the same year an order was made for the purpose of speeding up the administration of justice, as it had been reported that people were often arrested by the sergeants for “trifling plaints and actions” which was a hindrance to justice, causing justice in “weightie plaints” to be deferred. It was therefore ordered that where the value involved was less than two shillings, the sergeants, on receiving the complaint, should arrest the offender and take him before the Portreeve or his deputy to be dealt with. This was the first Court of summary jurisdiction and such authority of the Portreeve is retained by the Mayor to-day, who holds office as the town’s chief magistrate. In December, 1585, abnormal measures became necessary to ration and control the price of corn in the Swansea market, and in addition to the constables, four

men were sworn to enforce an order forbidding dealing in corn before 11.0 a.m. on Saturday, the market day, and to ration the amount purchased by each person to less than 2 bushels of wheat or oats and 1 bushel of barley. The penalty was to forfeit half the corn purchased to the Lord and half to the common coffer so it would seem that the Lord of the Manor was well provided for!

The common attorney combined the duties of town clerk and treasurer, and the office continued for several centuries. In the period before the Municipal Reform of 1836 there were two common attornies jointly holding office. The first reference to the duties of the attorney in 1589 was in unhappy circumstances, when it was reported that he was in arrears in his accounts and the Portreeve was authorised to enter the attorney's house and distrain.

The duties of the citizen in carrying out his work as constable were becoming more arduous and unpleasant as the population grew and disorders became more frequent. Typical of these was an assault upon the Deputy Portreeve and the constables in 1598 by a burgess Morgan ab Owen, when the constables were led by the Deputy Portreeve to apprehend Owen "for divers hurts, frayes and bludd sheds," but not being prepared to submit Owen "made rescue and stroke at the officers to the danger of their leif and would not obey the law." Despite his swordsmanship Owen was overpowered and was later fined and "excommunicated," which involved the forfeiture of all his rights and privileges as a burgess. He was "restored to his liberty" on 20th October, 1601.

Complaints were made at the Common Hall meeting that the constables were not supervising alehouses which resulted in disorder, and the entry in the Common Hall Book 1549-1665 speaks of "unlawful and disordered alehouses by overmuch mildness or slackness of our officers, whereby hath ensured not only sufferance of ungodly things, but great loss unto the burgesses that are bound to keep victuals and lodging and good rule and to pay 'syse ale' unto the Lord, by reason that lewd people do most frequent such places of liberty and misrule." It must be said that experience to-day confirms the wisdom of that complaint of 1603, for if proper supervision is not given to the conduct

of licensed premises, individual publicans prosper from an unsavoury type of trade to the disadvantage of the majority of licensees who wish to provide a service to the public.

Refusal to accept office as constable became more commonplace and on 23rd October, 1610, no less than eleven burgesses were disfranchised because they were "unwilling to keepe wache according to their oathe." One of these men, Jenkin Thomas, a lastmaker, was later re-admitted to his liberty as a burgess, when he arrested a smith named Thomas Luckings for an offence and brought him to gaol. Not only refusal to take office was penalised, but continued absence from the town meant disfranchisement as in the case of John Water, who "absented himself out of towne above twelve month and a day without maintaining watch and ward and serving of such offices as he was fit for."

The constables on taking up their duties received equipment and keys which they retained for the year. This was officially recorded in the Common Hall Book in the following manner, "Delivered unto the constables 2 paires of boults, 2 keys, one for the dark house and one for the wt (white?) chamber and one padlock." The term "dark house" referred to the gaol in the castle tower, and the grimness of the name is emphasised by an entry in the common attorney's account for 1789, "Straw for the darkhouse—1/-." The Quakers who were so outspoken in their beliefs in mid-17th century were well acquainted with the interior of this prison. Francis Gowler, a Cardiff Quaker, who was in Swansea at this time, has described how one, Elizabeth Holme and her companion spent some time there. On the second occasion of her incarceration in 1658, Holme was chained up and not only denied the necessities of life but had to drink through a cane put in at a hole in the door. By 1645 the constables' equipment included :—

"One chaine with a horselock and kaye to it. Two kayes for the darkhouse and one for the white chamber doors. One paire of boults. One other paire of boults with a hammer and prichell. Two kayes for the lower prison and one padlock for the cage. Three halberts."

The halberds have been carried by constables in Swansea on official occasions for centuries and can be seen when the Judges

are escorted to Church prior to the opening of Assize. It was believed by the historian, George Grant Francis, that those referred to in 1645, and again in 1661, were part of a set known to have existed in the time of Henry V. Those now in use (1957) are twelve in number, six of which are engraved and dated 1760, 1771, 1773, 1777 and 1780, the remainder bearing no dates. One of these was missed from its position in the Guildhall in 1951, and was recovered on the occasion of a University College students "rag" in 1956.

A careful inventory of the town's records, seals and measures was also prepared annually and a record made when the Portreeve handed over to his successor. If it were not for the care with which this was carried out, it is doubtful whether the irreplaceable records of the town would now exist. A typical list was the following of 1654 :—

The Town Records	One brasse gallon
The Hall Book	One brasse pint
Copy of the last Charter	Three iron scales
The Town Bonds	Three iron seals
Seal of Office	A cryers club
Key of the common coffer	A cryers bell
A small chest with key	A water bushell and stricke
Weights avoirdupois and troy	Two pecks and a stricke
One brasse yard	Four halberts
Two brasse quarts	

The Portreeve then accounted for his cash which included "the sum of £1.11s. 6d. whereof three haulfe crownes is suspected to be bad or brasse monie." It was also stated at this time that four pounds in money was received from the constables which they had taken from those that sold ale without a licence.

The fighting of the civil wars which preceded the government of the Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell, did not reach Swansea which was a Royalist stronghold, but his coming to power brought about some change in the life of the town. He appointed Colonel Philip Jones, a Swansea-born man who had fought with the Roundhead troopers, to be the town governor, although at that time Jones was not more than 27 years of age. In 1655 Cromwell granted a new charter to the town which was "adjudged, reputed and taken to be a free town and borough."

The portreeve was to be styled "Mayor" who was also appointed to be "keeper of the gaol," "Clerk of the market," to watch over weights and measures and enforce any provisions or restraints. By the same charter the first town clerk was instituted in the words "one fitte and discreete person to be Town Clarke and Clarke of the Peace within the said towne of Swansea to exercise and continue in the said offices for long as hee shall therein well demean himself." It was also ordered that the burgesses should meet on the Monday following 29th September each year to elect and choose two chamberlains and two chief or head constables, and such other officers and ministers as were requisite and necessary for performing the public service. The latter included seven "petty constables."

Little is known of the constables between 1656 and 1784, but it is probable that they were no longer an effective means of maintaining law and order. Nominally they were still elected annually, but in fact they paid deputies or watchmen to act for them who were often ignorant and illiterate and in whom the public had no confidence. In a treatise on the constables of the metropolis in 1796 it was said "They are aged in general, often feeble and half-starved, or they are persons who have undertaken the task of watchmen as a cover for their criminal activities." In 1834, the Vicar of Camberwell, giving evidence before the Parliamentary Committee, said, "It is the practice in Camberwell to send out paupers from the workhouse dressed in a sort of uniform, the beggars take them for constables though they had no authority." Vagrancy was a problem in Swansea, probably increased by the town's growing importance as a port. One method of dealing with this was to drive the vagrants out of town in the hope that they would take up residence elsewhere. Entries appear in the Common Attornies Accounts to confirm this, such as, "Ordered that the petty constables shall forthwith convey the two men and one woman out of town because they are strangers and likely to become burthensome," and again in 1733, "Paid 11/- to the constables for whipping two vagrants out of town."

Crime and other disorders were prevalent and the law was becoming powerless not only in Swansea but throughout

the country because of the failure to secure its enforcement. It was realised by the burgesses that some new method of preserving the King's Peace was necessary but so far the creation of a professional police force was not considered. A less costly expedient of ensuring the successful prosecution of known offenders was tried, no doubt in the hope that by making an example of the few, others would be deterred. On 15th March, 1784, it was decided that the common attorney should advance sufficient money from the town's funds to employ a barrister, Mr. Iltid Thomas, to commence the prosecution of several offenders who had been committed to the gaol to await trial at the Great Sessions. These men were alleged to have taken part in a series of "outrageous riots, disturbances and felonies," and such was the concern of the townspeople that they convened a special meeting of all the burgesses in the Town Hall. Despite their efforts disorder continued and in the same year the public whipping post was destroyed. Advertisements were put up in public places in the town offering a reward of five guineas to any one who could discover the offenders. This was ineffective and the post was re-erected beside the stocks outside the town hall and covered with a shelter. They were, however, again destroyed in 1790 by a man named John Owen who with others was prosecuted and punished. There is no record that the whipping post or stocks were replaced. A new measure was tried in 1786 when a public subscription list was commenced to create a fund for the prosecution of felons and other offenders within the town, and to which the Portreeve (it is noted that after Cromwell the title of Mayor ceased) on behalf of the Corporation subscribed five guineas. Little was now heard of the constables or watchmen with the exception of one Thomas Kempe who was paid a shilling to watch and guard the Parade each fair day. The Parade was a popular and fashionable resort leading to the Burrows, now known as Cambrian Place, and on these occasions there is no doubt that the more boisterous young men enlivened the district and made sure that Kempe well earned his shilling.

The only persons actively engaged in enforcing law and order were the two sergeants at the mace, who appeared to be in trouble from time to time. They had been paid £2. 2s. od. each

per annum as a reward for their work, but on 16th January, 1797, it was resolved “that the salary be not paid to them unless they give notice of hall days and do the other business of the Corporation when required by the Portreeve.” Shortly afterwards, by some mischance, they allowed a prisoner, John Hingstone, to escape from their custody and an action was commenced against them. They were eventually provided with counsel to defend them at the expense of the town, but not before a meeting of the burgesses had been held to decide in conjunction with the Recorder, whether it “would be prudent” to do so. Again in 1799, when Philip Carlton, a prisoner lodged in Swansea Gaol made his escape, the two sergeants at the mace were served with a writ, but were indemnified by the Corporation who “took the matter up with the castle keeper.”

At times the onerous duties of the sergeants were used to further local intrigues. An instance of this occurred in the case of Dr. Collins, a member of a family prominent in the affairs of the town from the early seventeenth century. He was a burgess whose very outspoken views on certain matters did not accord with the opinions of a number of his fellow burgesses. A scheme was hatched when these gentlemen conspired to nominate Dr. Collins for the office of sergeant at the mace, knowing that if he were appointed, he would have to choose between accepting the post, which would conflict with his professional duties, or refusing to do so and suffering the resultant penalty of being struck off the roll of burgesses. This would have silenced his voice in the affairs of the town, but unfortunately for the schemers, the Doctor had a friend in the Steward who did not accept the nomination.

The Recorder was an alternative name applied to the Steward of the Lord of the Manor, who was at this time Thomas Morgan, Barrister-at-law, and had been appointed by the Duke of Beaufort in 1786.

It was not until 1808 that the first real move was made to improve the position in Swansea, when the inhabitants at a local meeting resolved to press for an Act of Parliament to provide for “paving, repairing, cleansing, lighting and watching the streets.” Despite the pressing need for law enforcement it seems that

"watching" was placed last in the order of the services asked for. The public reasoning at this time was expressed in the Report of the Select Committee for the House of Commons, 1822, which reads, "It is difficult to reconcile an effective police system with that perfect freedom of action and exemption from interference which are the great privilege and blessing of society in this country." In 1809 the "Swansea Paving and Lighting Act" was passed. Under this Act there were fifty-four "pavement commissioners" who were sworn to implement the Act by "providing better paving, repairing, cleansing, lighting and watching of the several street and other public passages and places within the town and for removing and preventing nuisances, annoyances and obstructions therein." A rate of sixpence in the pound was fixed to meet the cost, and as a result a watch of seven men was formed whose duties were, however, confined to the night-time. These commissioners met regularly at the Town Hall, but apart from dealing with complaints concerning the state of the town ditch, the only reference to constabulary duty was that "David Thomas of the Castle was appointed on 7th November, 1810, to impound all stray pigs and receive a shilling for each." The records for the successive years were a repetition of complaints of the unsatisfactory state of lighting and watching, and in 1819, referring to watching, the *Cambrian* said, "It has become absolutely indispensable to the comfort and interest of the inhabitants and the morals of the lower classes that some general and liberal plan for the attainment of this subject should be laid down." There was no effective method of dealing with serious crimes, although at this time the Bow Street runners, if often adversely criticised, were meeting with occasional successes in London, one of which had a link with Swansea. In October, 1813, the Swansea Mail coach was travelling to London, when en route a parcel containing notes and bills to the value of £2,300 was stolen. As a result of investigation by a Bow Street runner named Vickery, the guard of the coach, William Weller, came under suspicion, and disappeared. He was later arrested in London when passing under an assumed name and confessed to the crime.

The main reason for the failure of the Commissioners to provide satisfactory watching was undoubtedly that of the ex-

pense of maintaining this and other services. Hitherto there had been few calls on the public pocket. The first measure of economy must surely have been unique when on 3rd November, 1819, the Commissioners asked the Governor of the House of Industry (the workhouse) to perform the office of town scavenger with the aid of the paupers, "taking the street manure as a remuneration and giving up his salary of £40, per annum in order to lessen the burden on the rates." (Paving Commissioners Minute Book 1809-1843.)

The first paid constable appeared in 1821, when, on 8th November, John Luce was appointed "constable with authority to seize all beasts or swine found wandering in the town and to impound them in the common pound." It would seem that a greater importance was attached to his duties in suppressing nuisances than in maintaining the peace which was still the prerogative of the historic unpaid constables. A resolution from the Common Hall Book in January, 1823, suggests that John Luce had commenced a new era, and with the other constables was for the first time gaining public confidence.

"In consequence of the increased population of the town and the increase of vagrancy it is become the duty of this Corporation to afford every support to the due maintenance of good order within the town. It is therefore agreed to vest in the hands of the Portreeve such sum as may be thought by him to be requisite to the due support of the police of this town, not exceeding fifty guineas, to be applied in apprehending persons suspected either of felony or wanton riot, but not in ultimate prosecution . . . "

It is seen that the responsibility of the public ended with the arrest of an offender, and the person injured had to meet the cost of prosecution. An interesting reference to this is made by H. L. Adam, author of "The Police Encyclopaedia":

"If a poor man had anything stolen from him, he had first to fee a constable before the law could be set in motion on his behalf. Even then the proceedings were risky and sometimes costly, for in the event of there being no committal the cost of the proceedings fell upon the shoulders of the man whose only offence was that of having been robbed. But even though a prosecution should be secured the prosecutor would sometimes find it difficult, if not impossible, to recover some of his out of pocket expenses. How

hardly the existing police arrangements dealt with the poor may be gathered from the details of the following case:—In the year 1853, at Devizes, a poor man had a pair of boots stolen from his barge. He gave chase and pursued the thief into Somersetshire, where he caught him and handed him over to the nearest constable. The latter brought the thief back to Wiltshire, where, in the following sessions, he was convicted and sentenced. The cost of the proceedings was embodied in the constable's bill, which was made up as follows:—

	£	s	d
To apprehending prisoner	0	2	6
Maintaining do. two days	0	3	0
Guard-watching -do- one night ..	0	2	6
Conveyance of prisoner at 9d. per mile and allowance to constable 8d. per mile (37 miles)	2	12	5
Three days' loss of time	0	15	0
Hire of conveyance, coach, etc. ..	1	1	2
	<hr/> £4 16 7 <hr/>		

Now it happened that the thief was a boy, and was convicted under the Juvenile Offenders' Act under which the maximum sum recoverable was forty shillings. Thus the man who had lost his boots was also called upon to make good the balance of £2. 16s. 7d." (*Police Encyclopaedia Vol. 1—Adams.*)

Following the support of the police by the Swansea Corporation in 1823, it was rightly considered that the money should be spent upon measures to prevent crime rather than any concern as to subsequent prosecution. The Common Attornies were ordered to get the names of the constables painted on boards "in large letters" and placed over the door of each constable's residence. Boards were also erected at the Turnpike gates of the town warning vagrants that they would be prosecuted if they entered.

These constables were not paid a fixed wage, but only for actual duties performed. In the Pavement Commissioner's report for that year it was stated that George Cornick was "abruptly discharged from his office of public constable" and that he was paid the sum of ten pounds in full for his services. The magistrates also exercised a measure of control over these constables, as for instance in 1824, following the receipt of a complaint of indecent

exhibition by bathers on the beach the magistrates directed that two constables should attend daily at the beach during the bathing season, but that the Corporation should remunerate the constables for this service.

At the present time when the care and welfare of a juvenile offender is foremost in the minds of those entrusted with the administration of justice, we are grimly reminded of the attitude of the Courts and the public in the past to juvenile delinquency. It was reported in the *Cambrian*, the local newspaper of Swansea, in 1825 that a girl, named Sarah Bones, age 13 years, had been sentenced to death and publicly executed for setting fire to an outhouse. In giving the details the newspaper commented, “From motives of humanity the prosecution instructed counsel to defend the unhappy prisoner.” Shortly afterwards, before the Swansea Court, two boys, Hewett and Johnson, age 10 and 13 years, respectively, charged with breaking a shop window and stealing handkerchiefs were sentenced to transportation for seven years. Such severity of punishment was a bad thing and defeated the ends of justice. As a result of the imposition of such heavy penalties, people were reluctant to give evidence or prosecute offenders, and when it is remembered that the cost of a prosecution fell upon the victim of the crime it is easily understood why the early constables received so little assistance or encouragement. Not that this lesson was to be learned for many years, for even in the Spring Assizes of 1843, a boy of twelve charged, with stealing coal, was sentenced to two months imprisonment and told by the judge that if he offended again he would be whipped and transported. In 1866 a boy of eleven years was sentenced at the Swansea Police Court to 14 days hard labour, twelve strokes of the birch and to be confined in a reformatory school for three years, his offence being one of stealing three pipes. In the same month a boy of seven years was charged with stealing two watches and sentenced to seven days imprisonment, to be once privately whipped and to receive twelve strokes with a birchen rod.

In 1825 a continuous night watch was organised in the town when the Commissioners appointed seven watchmen at a wage of 10/6d. a week, which it was commented upon at the

time would mean a fourpenny rate. They were issued with greatcoats and rattles, and housed in "watchboxes" at a cost of £40. 13s. od. Mr. Burrell, one of the town's constables, was given the command of the watch. He was, of course, not paid a wage as he held the office of constable by virtue of his election from the roll of burgesses, but he appears to have carried out his duties so satisfactorily that at the end of his year of office he was awarded an honorarium of £5. os. od. by the Commissioners. It is of interest to note that Mr. Burrell was by trade a carpenter, and evidence of his skill as such is to be found in the mahogany tables and chairs still in use at the Guildhall. The chairs can be recognised by the portcullis worked in the back rest. The watch was carried out by the division of the town into seven districts, each having a watchman who was ordered to make his report to Mr. Burrell each morning. Mr. Burrell, then styled "the chief constable," entered their reports into a book the purpose of which was "to enable the Magistrates to form a pretty correct opinion of individuals brought before them." Among the duties of the watchmen was that of impounding the many animals straying at night, and it was ordered that the money received by the Clerk for the pigs impounded be given to the constables for their exertions in keeping the streets clear. The main streets were now lit by gas lamps by a private company who were under a contract to keep the lamps burning between sunset and sunrise. Complaints were frequently made by the Corporation to the Gas Company that lamps were extinguished too early, and it was stated that the street lamps in the Strand were being put out at 3 o'clock each morning after the mail coach from London had passed.

The initial success of this night watch did not last. Instances of drunkenness and brutality by the watchmen were alleged, but there is no doubt that their lot was not a happy one. Poorly paid, with long hours of duty, they were not of the necessary calibre to combat the growing disorder and crime, and the people were becoming more alarmed. On 22nd January, 1829, the Portreeve, John Grove, convened a meeting of the inhabitants "to take into consideration the most expedient and efficient means to prevent further outrages, and protect property." Mr. Henry Sockett, a prominent barrister, and other leading citizens proposed measures

for establishing “an additional and more effective police force and the formation of a new Society founded upon liberal principles for the more effectual prevention of crime and the apprehension and prosecution of thieves.” A few days later a committee was formed of thirteen residents who were sworn as special constables. The newly formed “Society for the Apprehension and Prosecution of Thieves” was supported by voluntary contributions and each member paid an annual subscription of two shillings and sixpence. Upon information being received that a person had been robbed the Committee offered a reward for the arrest of the offender. The Society also bore the cost of any subsequent prosecution which was conducted by their own Solicitor. The Society first went into action in February, 1829, when a woman taking watercress to market was robbed by two men in the Mayals. As soon as the robbery was known in Swansea, the Committee dispatched a special constable on horseback and directed him to search every public house “within ten miles of the place.” As this area embraced the whole of the town and a number of outlying villages, his search involved nearly two hundred public houses, certainly no mean task even to-day.

Swansea now had three different bodies enforcing the laws, namely, the day constables of the Pavement Commissioners, the night watch, and the special constables of the Society, and in November, 1829, an effort was made to co-ordinate their activities and bring them under one control. Firstly the Portreeve caused a watch house to be built “on the North part of the Market Place in the garden.” The site of this watch house is believed to have been later occupied by the Wesleyan Chapel in Goat Street, and subsequently demolished in the enemy air attacks in 1941. Secondly, the magistrates, in conjunction with the Society for the Apprehension and Prosecution of Thieves entered into correspondence with Sir Robert Birnie, the famous Bow Street Magistrate, for the purpose of obtaining his assistance in selecting a member of the Bow Street runners to take charge of the police at Swansea. In consequence John Sadler was appointed to the office early in 1830. It was reported in the *Cambrian* at that time that “the name of Sadler must be in the recollection of many of our readers as one of those officers whose intrepidity was so

conspicuous at the capture of the notorious Cato Street conspirators, an incident which took place under the personal direction of Sir Robert Birnie, who both planned the arrest of Thistlewood and his gang and led the party with the balls whistling about his head." The Committee of the Society in reporting the appointment said, "Your Committee having, in conjunction with the parish, engaged an experienced police officer as head of the police of the town, feel confident that this arrangement which has been effected at considerable but unavoidable expense, will not only have the effect of giving much additional importance to the Association, but will be the means of inciting all connected with it to additional exertions." This optimism was indeed short-lived! There is no doubt that Sadler was a good policeman, but one swallow does not make a summer, and even he failed to make use of the material under his command. Within a few months he resigned from his post, and the following entries in the town records tell their own story :—

4th January, 1832—"Resolved that Mr. Popkin be requested to superintend the conduct of the watchmen for one month and that he be empowered to suspend any of them if their conduct do not meet his approbation."

4th July, 1832—"That the whole of the watch commence their rounds in future in Wind Street and High Street at nine o'clock and continue that beat until eleven (not calling the hour until 10 o'clock) when they are to return to their beats for the remainder of the night."

5th September, 1832—"One watchman discharged and to deliver up his coat and rattle to Mr. William Powell, the Surveyor."

17th August, 1833—"Resolved that the whole of the watch be discharged—the surveyor to give notice to that effect."

This ended the era of the watchman, and one feels some sympathy for these poor, ill-paid and uneducated men who were expected to carry out a duty which carried a responsibility greater than that for which they were fitted. Their failure could be attributed to those in authority who had yet to learn that it was false economy to seek the cheapest means of securing freedom from crime and disorder. With the order for the payment of the sum of £15. 1s. od. for the seven watchmen's coats in 1833, the

total cost of policing the town for that year amounted to £117.

In August, 1833, there appeared in the *Cambrian* an advertisement for two efficient and able-bodied men to patrol, watch and guard the streets, lanes, passages and places in the Borough of Swansea, and on 18th September, William Lodwick and two others were appointed policemen under the Lighting and Watching Act, 1833. Their duties were to watch and guard the town during the day and night for which they received a wage of fifteen shillings per week on the understanding that they gave up all other employment. Following upon the Special Constables Act, 1831, the magistrates re-organised the special constabulary so that they were described in the local press as "an efficient constabulary force." The head of the special constables, to be known as the Chief Constable was also put in command of the three new police, and the following instructions were laid down for their guidance :—

"They shall report daily to the Chief Constable, weekly to the magistrates and monthly to the Commissioners. They are cautioned to be very watchful with respect to suspicious characters, vagrants, vagrants lodgings and public houses in the town. They are to call on any constable of the town for assistance, when required, and be desired to report immediately to the Chief Constable if they find any reluctance or backwardness to act on the part of the constables so called on."

The new police were each issued with a staff and rattle and the sum of £30. was placed at the disposal of the portreeve towards their equipment. From the newspapers and other records of this time it can be said that the "new police" were a success and a marked improvement over the watchmen. During the two years before the Municipal reform of 1835 there were no public complaints and William Lodwick, although he could neither read nor write did his duty so well that he was to become one of the constables to be appointed on the formation of the new Borough Police Force.

Chapter II

THE BIRTH OF THE SWANSEA POLICE FORCE.

THE year 1835 was one of important and lasting changes in the conduct of municipal affairs and especially the police. The Municipal Corporations Act repealed all the existing Acts, Charters and customs inconsistent with the Act, and created Corporations in towns with a Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses. It entrusted the business of the town to a Council freely elected by the householders, and a section of the Council presided over by the Mayor, known as the Watch Committee, was required to appoint constables, to make regulations for the management of the police and to control the discipline of the constables. They were also required to provide station houses, submit returns to the Home Office showing the number of men employed, the nature of their equipment and clothing, the wages paid and regulations made for their guidance. This Act was the natural outcome of the rapid increase in the trade and population of towns, coupled with the fact that the Metropolitan Police Force created by Sir Robert Peel in 1829 had brought about a migration of some of the criminal elements to provincial towns where such primitive methods of law enforcement existed.

Although the public were reluctant to accept the enforcement of law and order by means of professional policemen, regarding them as potential foes and oppressors, they were now willing to admit the failure of the old system, and public opinion in this matter was expressed in the *Quarterly Review*, a contemporary publication, which said, "There can be no doubt that the whole of the existing watch system ought to be mercilessly struck to the ground. No human being has the smallest confidence in it. Their existence is a nuisance and a curse."

In Swansea the last Portreeve, Calvert Richard Jones, ended his term of office on 31st December, 1835, and the next day Nathaniel Cameron was elected the first Mayor of the Borough since the short period of Cromwell's administration. The last comment in the *Cambrian* concerning the "old" constables and

special constables was contained in a description of the scenes on the first polling day. It was the first-hand account of an onlooker at the polling station.

"I observed one gentleman coming in to poll who perceived he was in danger, dexterously guard himself with his umbrella and kept the hunters at bay. The police and other peace officers at this crisis could not preserve their solemn gravity as wont to do when in the presence of higher orders, but took the liberty and courage to laugh most heartily at the ludicrous scene. At this time, I left the field of action deeply regretting that respectable, educated and intelligent men should forget that it was their duty to set examples of honour and good order."

The "Watch and Ward Committee," as it was then known, was elected on 8th February for the first time, and consisted of the Mayor (Nathaniel Cameron), Michael John Michael, Thomas Walters, Richard Aubrey, David Sanders, David Edwards and John Richardson. Later on, Thomas Glover and William Johns were added making a total of nine, which was the constitution of the Committee for many years. The Committee met immediately to appoint the new Borough Police Force which was to consist of an Inspector and six constables, and shortly afterwards the following announcement appeared on the public notice boards under the signature of the Mayor.

" BOROUGH OF SWANSEA "

NOTICE.

"The several persons whose names are hereunder written have been nominated and appointed by the Council of the above Borough, under the provisions of the Municipal Corporation Act, Day and Night Constables—and notice is hereby given, that the said constables will begin to act on Monday, the 4th day of April next.

Dated this 21st day of March, 1836.

N. CAMERON, Mayor."

William Rees—Inspector.

George Luce
William Lodwick
John Wooley

William Joseph
William Webb
Thomas Jones

So ended the constables of the hundred, and the watchmen or "Charlies." It is doubtful whether the people of Swansea who



A Group of Swansea Police, 1867.

reported to be endeavouring to procure accommodation for the Judges as it was hoped that the Great Sessions would shortly be held in the town. In 1833 a petition was presented to Parliament and the King, and in 1834, after thirteen years of effort by the town, it was confirmed that the Spring Assize would in future be held at Swansea. When the first Assize was held in the Spring of 1835, twenty-four special constables were sworn in especially to form a procession to escort the Judge on his arrival. This custom has been continued to the present day, when on the opening of Assize, a party of eight Borough Constables bearing the ancient halberds, escorts H.M. Judges to Divine Service at the Parish Church and then to the Guildhall.

For many years the Judges have lodged during the period of the Assize at the Mansion House, the official residence of the Mayor and it has been a duty of a constable to patrol the surrounding grounds during the night. An incident related in the Biography of Mr. Justice Swift was at the time of its occurrence said to have taken place at Swansea, although the biographer expresses doubt as to the actual venue. The Judge was sitting up writing at a late hour one cold night in the Mansion House. Finding that everyone had retired to bed and there being no one to post his letters, he muffled himself in a coat and scarf and went out to the letter box. Unrecognised as he passed the policeman on duty at the gate, the latter remarked, "What? Hasn't the old b - - - gone to bed yet?" The Judge said nothing, but posted his letters and returned to his room. Before retiring, however, he opened his window and called, "Constable! It's all right now. The old b - - - has gone to bed." (*The Life of Mr. Justice Swift*—E. S. Fay, 1939.)

One of the first necessities for the new Borough Force was a Police station, and, as a temporary measure, part of the town hall, which adjoined the Castle, was converted for this purpose, whilst the Surveyor prepared a plan for the new station house, to be built at the junction of Temple Street and Goat Street, opposite the Theatre.

That Inspector Rees and his men rapidly won the confidence of the people is apparent from the marked absence of criticism in the town records and the Press, which had for so long main-

tained a tirade against unrestrained lawlessness. There were of course occasional newspaper comments which indicated the nature of the duties the police were to undertake, such as the following, which appeared in the *Cambrian* in April, 1836. "What a pity it is to behold our once innocent recreative fair on the Burrows, the resort of the young and gay, now become an assembly of drunken sailors and labourers with gaming tables, the bane of all virtuous and inexperienced youth." A few days later there appeared a request that the new police should apply more vigorous measures to deal with the large number of dogs running at large, with the following editorial comment, "Some individuals might feel aggrieved if their lapdogs met with so ungracious a death as the policeman's pistol."

One of the first steps taken by the Inspector was to issue public warnings through the press in order to secure co-operation in preventing crime, an intelligent measure which has never ceased to be a most important part of police duty. There was at this time a menacing gang of criminals known as "The Swell Mob" who were travelling the country and breaking into banks and private houses. They were reported to be in South Wales and the public were warned to guard their property "as experience proves that locks are no security against the gang's depredations." Inspector Rees and Police Constable Thomas Jones were the first two members of the new force to give evidence at the Assizes, when two well-known local thieves were sentenced for stealing tools.

When it is remembered that in numbers they were no more than the watch which had existed for so long, it is to the credit of the new force that they were so quickly accepted by the public as a necessary service in spite of the long-standing prejudice. Inspector Rees, sometimes called "the superintendent," received £1. 8s. od. weekly, and each of the six constables 18/- of which one shilling weekly was paid into a "forfeit fund," to be returned to the constable every six months if he incurred no fines. An excellent set of instructions was drawn up by the Town Clerk for the guidance of the police. It is apparent that considerable foresight was shown in their preparation, and although it is likely that the instructions in force in the Metropolitan Police since

the formation of that force in 1829 may have served as a model, much of the advice given is the foundation of the training of the present-day policeman. Some of their initial difficulties are indicated in the following extracts :—“At the commencement of a new establishment, it is the more necessary to take particular care that the constables of the police do not form false notions of their duties and powers.” “The police are not to pay attention to any ignorant or silly expressions of ridicule that may be made use of towards them, all of which they must feel to be beneath their notice.”

In the first year of the force a new responsibility fell upon their already overloaded shoulders, the formation and manning of a regular fire-fighting force. Hitherto there had been no organised fire brigade, and the fire engines, provided by insurance companies were manned by volunteers usually under the direction of the Portreeve. In January, 1836, the only fire engine broke down whilst in use at a fire, resulting in some criticism in the local newspaper in which it was suggested that the insurance companies should be asked to provide a new one. This was followed by an offer from the Norwich Union Insurance Company to supply a first class fire engine if the Corporation would supply an engine house, which offer was accepted, and the new police station at Temple Street modified to include the necessary accommodation. This meant that the Inspector was now responsible for the fire engine and the police constables whose previous duties had been confined to giving free scope and assistance to the volunteers, were now the backbone of the fire brigade. The Inspector was directed to undertake the drilling and training of sufficient men, including volunteers, to work the new fire engine, and to see that it was kept in good order, the whole of the expense of training and maintenance being charged to the Police Committee. In 1838 the first fire plugs for drawing water were fitted in the streets by the Swansea Waterworks Company, and as these became a source of amusement to young people, who threw stones into the plugs or hydrants which were not covered, the police were directed by the Council to take the offenders into custody. The following year the position of the plugs was indicated by painting the nearest “basement plinths” a

distinctive colour, a method which was adopted once again in 1940 during the second world war. Inspector Rees soon earned the approbation of the townspeople for the manner in which he controlled the duties of the police and fire brigade, and at the Council meeting in March, 1839, an award of five guineas was voted "to our Inspector of Police as a reward for his very great exertions in his situation." His wage was raised from 28/- to 40/- per week. With the population having risen from 6,000 in 1801, and 13,256 in 1831, to a figure of nearly 20,000 at this time, the ratio of police to the public was one constable to nearly 3,000 persons, which compares with an average figure at the present day of approximately one constable to 700. Swansea was now a very busy seaport, with growing heavy industry which had brought a large Irish community to the town and no less than 162 inns and alehouses within the turnpike gates. The praise given to the police in their early years was therefore the more commendable.

Swansea now had two boundaries, one the Parliamentary boundary established by the Reform Act of 1832, and the other, the ancient municipal boundary. It was entirely within the latter that the Borough Police acted, so that Landore, Morriston and Llansamlet, with many collieries, iron and copper smelting works and rapidly becoming the metallurgical centre of the world, had no police protection. Consequently when the Glamorgan Constabulary was formed following the County Police Act of 1840, these large outer areas of the Borough presented a problem which the County Magistrates proposed to solve by themselves appointing constables to act within the Parliamentary boundary of Swansea. The legality of this proposal was challenged by the Town Council who caused the matter to be referred to an eminent lawyer, Sir Frederick Pollock, for his opinion. He advised that for the establishment of a police force, the Parliamentary and not the Municipal boundary must be considered as the boundary of Swansea Borough. He further held that the County Justices had no power to appoint constables within the Borough, and that if the Borough Council neglected to appoint constables within that boundary, a mandamus could be issued to compel them.

This was followed by a meeting of the County Magistrates

at Pyle on 11th August, 1841, when it was declared "That this Court are of opinion that it would be most desirable for the efficiency of the police of the County that the whole constabulary force within the County should be placed under the control of the Chief Constable, and that a Committee be formed to confer with the councils of the several consolidated Boroughs within the County with a view of effecting agreement for the consolidation of the County and Borough police establishments." This was the nearest that the Swansea Borough Police ever came to amalgamation with the Glamorgan Constabulary, for the offer was not accepted by the Swansea Council. It was not until 1843 that the Swansea Council decided to extend the supervising and patrolling of the police to the whole Borough. As was usual some doubt was expressed as to how the extra expense was to be met, and in the first instance it was decided to appoint twenty-one additional constables to act in the neighbourhood of Morriston and its works. Less enterprise was shown, however, by the following resolution that "these police are to wear some badge of office, to be paid like the Borough Police, but not to be clothed."!

An unusual method was at this time adopted by the Watch Committee in selecting the supplier for the police uniform clothing. A resolution was passed "that the gentlemen in the woollen drapery business be requested to send to the police committee a list authenticated by their respective signatures of their seniority in trade in Swansea, in order that they may be taken in that order as the parties to supply annually the clothing to the police." It was also decided that Inspector Rees should be supplied with a horse to enable him to supervise the additional areas of the Borough and on 8th April, 1842, that gas light should be provided in the police station. The minute read, "That two gas lights be immediately erected in the police station house, one at the end of the passage, and another in the inner room occupied by the officers. The gas lights to be what are commonly called 'batwings'."

Although the new force had many disorders to deal with since its formation, the first reported murder occurred on 27th August, 1842, at Bethesda Court, off High Street. The court, which was inhabited by some Irish families who were frequently

involved in gang fights, was on that night visited by a gang of men who started a fight in which two Irishmen were severely injured. At this time a man, John Bowling, arrived home to find his wife being attacked, and whilst protecting her, he was killed by a blow from a hatchet. Inspector Rees, with several constables, arrived shortly afterwards and conducted a search which resulted in the arrest of five men who were later charged with murder. A feature of the case at the Glamorgan Assize was evidence given by Inspector Rees of a conversation he had overheard between the prisoners whilst they were locked in the same cell at the police station. The verdict of the jury which was apparently considered to be in conflict with the summing up by the Judge, was one of manslaughter, and the five men were sentenced "to be transported beyond the seas for the rest of their natural lives."

The increased cost of the force, especially since the appointment of the additional constables, was the subject of regular complaints at Council meetings. The public by now were becoming accustomed to the protection afforded by the police, and the memory of the time when it took courage to traverse the streets after darkness was becoming dimmed. The new security was being taken for granted. It was much the same in Glamorgan where on 18th October, 1842, only two years after the formation of the force, ten petitions from parishes in the Hundreds of Newcastle and Ogmore, signed by three thousand ratepayers, were presented to the Magistrates at Quarter Sessions, asking for the abolition of the police force. The petitioners stated that they preferred the Parish Constables Act, which was less costly. In Swansea the constable's wage which in 1836 was eighteen shillings per week, was reduced in 1843 to sixteen shillings to offset the increased expenditure caused by the increase in the strength of the force, and a committee of the Council was appointed to "report as to what funds are applicable for paying a police force to watch the entire borough." This was followed by some discontent in the force and a petition was addressed to the Watch Committee and signed by the constables asking for the restoration of their former wage. The petition is interesting as it reveals their hours of duty.

To the Police Committee of the Borough of Swansea.

Gentlemen,

We, the undersigned policemen of the Borough of Swansea, beg you will take into your consideration the smallness of our wages, and the number of hours we are employed on duty, from 14 to 17 hours of every 24 hours, and whilst the County Police are only engaged during the daytime they receive 18/- and 20/- per week. We humbly submit that there are no policemen in the kingdom receiving so little wages and doing so much work. We therefore hope you will please allow us the same pay we formerly had.

his
William X Lodwick.
mark
Thomas Jones.
William Webb.
Robert Williams.
John Bowen.

Jeremiah Vaughan.
John Jeremy.
Noah Owen.
John Williams.
James Rees.

It will be seen that the first signatory was unable to write, which was not uncommon up to 1850. Instances are to be found in the police court minute books, where the constables being unable to sign their names, affixed their mark to the note of their evidence. Nevertheless there is no doubt that what they lacked in education was amply compensated for by their excellent physique and the good tempered manner in which they did their duty, which was particularly essential at that time.

The year 1843 was notable on account of the "Rebecca" rioters whose activities alarmed the country and gave the police of Glamorgan and Swansea their first real test in quelling serious disorder. It may be recalled that "Rebecca and her daughters" was the title given to a group of men and their leader, who, disguised in women's clothing, rode the countryside on horseback, wrecking the numerous toll or turnpike gates which they had sworn to destroy. There is evidence that the large number of such gates imposed a heavy burden on all travellers and particularly farmers bringing their produce into town. Swansea borough was surrounded by eight toll gates and within six miles of the town there was another line of "county gates." It was said at the time that in Swansea one could not go a hundred yards from his house without having a toll to pay. Nevertheless, the action of the

rioters, directed against one form of injustice was an expression of their angry discontent with the evil social conditions generally, and which were so clearly described in *The Rebecca Riots*, by David Williams (University of Wales Press). Even so, violence and lawlessness can never be the legitimate means of righting a wrong and as is the case on such occasions, the police, wherever their personal sympathies might lean, must maintain order and restrain those who break the Queen's peace. Many serious clashes occurred which resulted in loss of life and serious injuries before the rioters arrived in the Swansea district in July, 1843, and on 29th July, the incident occurred which involved both the Chief Constable of Glamorgan, Captain Napier, and Inspector Rees of Swansea. On that day a man gave information to Inspector Rees that he could supply the names and addresses of the men who destroyed the toll-house at Bolgoed. Mr. Rees took the man at once to two County Magistrates, who having heard the man's story issued warrants for the apprehension of William and Henry Morgan of Llandilo, and Matthew Morgan and David Jones of Tymawr, Llangyfelach. That night Captain Napier, the Chief Constable of Glamorgan, Inspector Rees of Swansea, and two constables, armed with swords and pistols, left Swansea to execute the warrants. The account of their adventure is best related as it was reported at the time.

"About two o'clock on Sunday morning they arrived at Pontardulais, where they put up their horses and about half past four they succeeded in apprehending Matthew Morgan in his house. At five o'clock they apprehended David Jones. They then returned to town with their prisoners, whom they lodged in the Borough Police Station, and took the precaution of placing a sentinel at the door. At half past seven the party again left Swansea for the purpose of apprehending William and Henry Morgan. The former they succeeded in taking, and Captain Napier and Mr. Rees left him, ironed, with the two constables, while they proceeded to apprehend Henry Morgan. Upon arriving at his residence, Cwm Cillefach, near Velindre, he instantly suspected the nature of their visit and feigned illness. When shown the warrant he protested that he was unable to move, and could not be brought to understand that it was necessary that he should accompany them to Swansea. Captain Napier, in a firm and decided manner, requested him to submit, and to accompany them peaceably, otherwise they would reluctantly be required to use

force. The scene at once changed. The invalid who had previously been unable to stir without pain, suddenly sprang up, his family surrounded him and expressed their intention of resisting his capture, at the same time making use of bloody threats, desiring the officers of justice to stand off at the peril of their lives. Captain Napier and Mr. Rees then laid hold of the man and tried to drag him from the house. Two men and two women then laid hold of the Inspector, felled him to the ground and held him there. The rest of the family, four in number, attacked Captain Napier. He again laid hold of Henry Morgan and succeeded in dragging him from the house, but the instant he got outside he was violently thrown to the ground. Henry Morgan's father stood over him with one foot on his stomach and one of the sons stood on the other side and endeavoured to turn the muzzle of Captain Napier's pistol towards his stomach and to fire it off. Fortunately the pistol was not cocked. After a lengthy struggle Captain Napier succeeded in turning the pistol towards them and, conceiving his life to be in the utmost danger (his assailants being armed with hatchets, sickles and hammers), he fired and hit John Morgan. The latter, finding himself wounded, started back for a second or two, and then advanced again, attacking Captain Napier with the utmost fury. A third brother armed with a mason's hammer, advanced towards Captain Napier, aimed a blow at him which he avoided and knocked the fellow down. Captain Napier then closed with him, wrenched the hammer from him and finally threw him. Mr. Rees, in the meanwhile, had a hot and hard engagement with his opponents who having thrown him down endeavoured by tightening his neck cloth to strangle him. Being a powerful man and accustomed to defend himself he succeeded in regaining his feet. He had pistols with him and presented one of them at different individuals, but did not fire. One of the women then attacked Captain Napier with a sickle and inflicted a very severe wound on the side of his head. The other women seized a saucepan of boiling water which she threw at the officers. The struggle had now lasted several minutes, and both Captain Napier and Mr. Rees, having to contend against such odds, were becoming exhausted, when succour arrived in the person of Constable William Jenkins. He, finding Captain Napier bleeding at all points, and Mr. Rees' condition much the same, drew his sword, forced the crowd back, and rescued his superior officers from certain death. After a great deal of trouble, difficulty and danger, the officers of justice succeeded in securing John Morgan, the young man who was shot, and brought him and the other prisoner to Swansea, and lodged them at about half past ten in the station house." (*Rebecca and her Daughters*—Henry Tobit Evans, J.P.).

News soon spread that several of the Rebeccaites had been taken and vast crowds surrounded the station house during the day, and expressed the liveliest sympathy with the young man who had been wounded. An operation was performed on the wounded man at the police station by the police surgeon. Captain Napier and Mr. Rees were taken to have their wounds dressed.

On the afternoon of the following day a party of police, fully armed, accompanied by a detachment of the 73rd Regiment went to Pontardulais to arrest the men and women who had assisted in the attack on the police, and they were secured and brought to town. During the morning the space of ground in front of the station house and the street leading to it were crowded by an excited mob. Later Superintendent Peake and Sergeant Bennett of the Glamorgan Constabulary arrived at the station house with two more prisoners, Griffith Vaughan, the landlord of the Pontardulais Inn, and David Lewis, both of whom were alleged to have been involved in the Bolgoed affair.

This was not the last clash between the police and the rioters, for in August that year, an attempt was made to wreck the tollgate at Pontardulais. Information had been received of the threat and Captain Napier planned to capture the gang. He was joined at Loughor by Superintendent Peake, two sergeants and four constables, and a party of magistrates including Dillwyn Llewellyn, Lewis Dillwyn, William Chambers, Mathew Moggridge and Mr. Attwood, the Justices' Clerk. At 1.0 o'clock on the following morning the police party came into conflict with a party of horsemen consisting of about 150 men who were advancing towards the tollgate. There was an exchange of fire and several of the rioters fell wounded. Among those captured was John Hughes of Llannon, Carmarthenshire, who was believed to be the leader "Rebecca." Hughes and a number of others were later tried at the Glamorgan Assizes and sentenced to 20 years transportation. Describing the action a newspaper of the time commented, "The conduct of the small police force in opposition to so numerous a mob has excited considerable astonishment and admiration."

Within a few days of the conclusion of the Rebecca Riots,

industrial trouble within the Borough again tested the effectiveness of the new police force. Considerable unrest prevailed among the copper workers in one of the town's most important industries. Demands for an increase in wages had brought about a strike, and on 12th August, 1843, between 1,000 and 1,500 coppermen marched into the town in an angry mood. In High Street they were met by the Borough Police and the Mayor, Dr. Bird, who warned them that orders had been received from the government to forbid numbers of men marching in procession "to the endangerment of the public peace." He persuaded the men to return to a field above the Hafod Copper Works where they stated their grievances, and after some discussion, dispersed. The strike continued and on the 23rd August, some violence and disorder occurred whereby considerable damage was done in the Landore district. On the following day hundreds of the strikers assembled on the hillside above Grenfell's Works, Middle Bank. Because of their menacing attitude, the Mayor, a magistrate and a number of police went to the scene, but by this time disorder and violence had again broken out, and before order could be restored it was necessary for the magistrate to read the Riot Act. The strikers then broke up and no further incident occurred before the dispute was settled. It is to be noted that the Mayor, as the Chief Magistrate took an active part in quelling disorder, and was himself an active "peace officer." He even carried his responsibilities into his every day life, and an amusing illustration of this was recorded in the minutes of the Swansea Police Court in December, 1844, when the Mayor was presiding on the Bench. A seaman had been charged with drunkenness and assaulting a police constable in Calvert Street. The Mayor when passing sentence, remarked that he himself had been in the Strand on the night in question and personally warned the prisoner who was then drunk, not to enter a public house. "If you had taken my advice," said the Mayor, "You would not have kicked against the policeman's club." The club obviously refers to the staff or baton carried by policemen as part of their equipment, which was at this time gaily painted with the town's coat of arms, and bore the Royal cipher. There is evidence that some of the police were armed with firearms, and in 1844, the Watch Committee

issued an instruction to the Inspector which stated, "The Inspector must be particularly careful on no account to suffer men to be placed on beats where arms are necessary, who have not always evinced a command of temper and those qualities which render them fit to be entrusted with such weapons." The constables were by this time earning a good reputation for the calm and level-headed manner in which they went about their duty. It would be difficult to quote a better instance of this than the command of temper shown by Constable Noah Owen in 1847, who was heard to say, when being attacked by a number of drunken hooligans in Salubrious Passage, "This won't do gentlemen. I cannot allow you to disturb the inhabitants in this way and you shall not do it on my beat." He then took them all into custody.

The growth of the town with its industrial environments and as a seaport, increased the fire risk, and emphasised the importance of the duties of the police fire brigade and volunteers. A serious fire occurred at the Quay in December, 1844, which was a real test of their efficiency, and when the Town Council met a few days later they expressed their appreciation of the efforts of all concerned and placed the sum of £20 at the disposal of the Mayor to be distributed in rewards. Of the police, they said, "This meeting think it right to express their entire satisfaction at the conduct of the police on this occasion." It was apparent though, that the fire equipment was inadequate to deal with large conflagrations, and the Town Clerk was instructed to communicate with different Insurance Companies requesting them to indicate the sums they would contribute to improve the equipment of the fire brigade. A month later a new engine was purchased and "a fire gang of men were instructed into the right mode of working same." The turncock of the Swansea Waterworks Company was paid to keep the hose in good condition.

Early in 1844, the Swansea Police were responsible for the arrest of a well known coiner named George Bangnon, and ended a nation-wide hunt. Bangnon, who was described in the press as a "notorious smasher" was the principal of a gang of coiners carrying on their activities from Liverpool and Birmingham to such an extent that they had become a source of anxiety to the

Royal Mint. To avoid impending arrest by the Liverpool Police, Bangnon sailed to Swansea, where he was traced by the local police to a house kept by Mr. Tyte, a watchmaker in Rutland Street. Together with a Superintendent from Liverpool, Inspector Rees and Sergeant Bennett arrested Bangnon on 20th January, and he was subsequently tried and sentenced in Birmingham. It was recorded that his arrest had ended a pursuit by Mr. Powell, an Inspector of H.M. Mint, that had taken him more than 3,000 miles.

The force was by now very much below an efficient strength. The additional constables for Morriston had not been appointed, and the whole of the new industrial area was an added responsibility of the small Borough force.

In 1844 a minor re-organisation was approved and the strength was brought up to one Inspector, one first sergeant, one second sergeant, five first class constables and six second class constables. The Inspector was required to report to the Watch Committee on the conduct and efficiency of the force, and for this purpose the Committee which in fact comprised the whole of the council met at the Temple Street police station every Friday morning. There was no official police court, and the Magistrates conducted their business and dealt with offenders in the office of the Magistrates' Clerk at Mount Street, where it was the practice for the Inspector to take all charges and prisoners at the end of the day. This office was used by the Magistrates for the last time on 18th March, 1847, when a Police Court was completed at the new Police Station in Temple Street. The last case to be heard in the old office was prosecuted by Police Constable John Jenkins, who said, "Between 12 o'clock in the night of Saturday and 1 o'clock Sunday morning, I was on duty in High Street when I heard a great noise in the beer shop known by the sign of the Ivy Bush and kept by the defendant William Dean. I went into the house where I saw several men and women drinking beer. There were about twelve persons in the kitchen. I told the landlady it was after 12 o'clock and she said that as soon as the parties had finished drinking their beer they should go out of the house. The doors were wide open when I went in." The landlady was fined 20/-. By a coincidence Constable Jenkins was also the first

to give evidence at the New Court on 31st March, 1847, when he related how a certain Elizabeth Elsworth came from her house at midnight and emptied the contents of a chamber in Frog Street. Following the time honoured custom on his first appearance in Court, the Mayor, Mr. T. B. Essery, celebrated the event by dismissing the case.

Reference was also made in evidence at this time to the *Police Gazette* which had already been in circulation for several years, when a constable effected an arrest as the result of a description he had seen in that publication. Without any means of communication apart from the London Mail Coach which daily left the Mackworth Arms in Wind Street, it is probable that the *Police Gazette*, formerly known as the *Hue and Cry*, was of inestimable value at that time, when telephone, teleprinter, and radio were beyond imagination.

Meritorious conduct of policemen was rewarded by monetary grants from a fund under the direction of the Watch Committee. The fund was maintained by the Borough Treasurer who paid into it all fines imposed on constables, or gratuities received by them. By 1850 the Force had given fourteen years' service to the public and, apart from a few minor complaints, had received nothing but praise for the manner in which law and order had been maintained; a happy state of affairs which the public scarcely deserved, for the grievances as to pay and conditions brought to their notice in 1843 had not been heeded. A typical instruction issued to the force by the Watch Committee at this time was that all sick men who were able to walk should parade at the Station House at 9.0 a.m. each day and be marched by the Sergeant to the house of the Surgeon. It is not likely that there were any malingerers in such circumstances. These conditions resulted in resignations from the force which were filled by men of a much lower standard. Cases of insobriety among constables were unfortunately too frequent. One unusual incident of this kind occurred when a constable, Benjamin Lloyd, brought a man to the station on a charge of drunkenness. The sergeant on duty formed the opinion that the constable was drunk and the prisoner sober, whereupon he refused to accept the charge and ordered the prisoner to leave the station. The prisoner refused to leave and

after offering violence, had to be put in the cell. He was convicted at the police court the following day. Of another constable whose services were being terminated, it was said that “he oscillated between the extremes of the pledge and the barrel.”

The turn of the half century now found the police facing severe criticism from the public and the press. Publications in the *Cambrian* exposed the various shortcomings in the force and condemned the local method of appointment, which resulted in candidates being selected from the least suitable types. Oddly enough the basic cause of the trouble, the low standard of living to which a constable was subjected, received no mention. From a letter published in 1850 it would appear that at least one constable was endeavouring to augment his wage. The letter read,

“I understand one of our police is paid to prevent and detect nuisances, and this very person is now constructing the most miserable dwelling house near the Wickliffe School at the bottom of Clarence Street. I believe the policeman alluded to is very active and deserving as an officer of the law, but truly unconscionable as a builder, setting aside that he is paid to prevent such a complaint.”

This decline in discipline inevitably brought about a collapse of efficiency in dealing with crime which was once more on the increase. The state of affairs was worsened when on the 18th June, 1850, the South Wales Railway opened at Swansea, forming a direct link with the Metropolis, for the town soon became acquainted with a new class of visitor, the travelling criminal.

The small force, inexperienced in dealing with other than local thieves, was incapable of meeting this crisis, which oddly enough was precipitated not by thieves using the new railroad, but those travelling the highways on foot. A series of burglaries occurred in the town during October of that year, when in succession the homes of the town's leading citizens were ransacked, and a large quantity of plate and other valuables stolen. No arrests were made locally, but had Inspector Rees used the means at his disposal to circulate information to neighbouring counties, he might have prevented the resultant criticism which brought about his resignation, and a reorganisation of the force. As it transpired, the alertness of a Glamorgan County police officer, Superintendent Saddler of Bridgend, so much in contrast



The Swansea Police Fire Brigade, 1882.



The Swansea Police Force, 1897.

with local action, brought about the arrest of the criminals, and he was commended by the Swansea Council and Local Society for the Prosecution of Felons, who each made a grant of £10 to Mr. Saddler as "an expression of their satisfaction." A few days after the last of the Swansea burglaries Superintendent Saddler was returning on horseback to his Headquarters at Bridgend, after attending Cowbridge Petty Sessions, when nearing Bridgend he passed three men on the road carrying large bundles, but having no particular reason to stop them, he made a mental note and continued his journey. On arriving at his office, he perused his mail for any information of possible crimes, and although there was no letter from Swansea, he read in a letter from his men at Neath that there was said to have been a large quantity of silver stolen in Swansea. With that instinct which is so often found in a good policeman, Mr. Saddler returned in pursuit of the strangers and brought them back to town, when he found that their bundles contained silver which was obviously the stolen property.

As was to be expected, when this story became public, comment upon the efficiency of the local police was scathing, but the *Cambrian* in a leading article of 18th October, 1850, went to the root of the trouble when that paper said,

"Our object is to war, not against the force individually, but against a system which cries aloud for change and reformation. The whole force is under the command of the Inspector, but subject to the directions of the Watch Committee. This patronage vested in the Committee we look upon as operating most prejudicially to the discipline and ability of the force. When a vacancy occurs, the candidates are usually the idler, the dissipated and the illiterate and little attention is paid to the possession of those important qualities essential to the office. If we compare the appearance, intelligence and activity of our police force with the force under the command of Captain Napier, what a contrast is visible. The time has come for an alteration in the system. The first change which ought to be made is to allow the Inspector to select his own men. It should not be forgotten that the principal officer himself should be one of tact, intelligence and used to command. The great object sought by the establishment of a police force is the prevention of crime; our system is lamentably defective. Let the authorities, without delay, place the town under the regime of strict police discipline, which its rising importance so imperatively demands."

Inspector Rees resigned from the force in January, 1851, and was the first to receive a pension. At a subsequent meeting of the Town Council, it was said of him, "Like other men he had his faults, but perhaps his faults arose chiefly from those inseparable from the present system."

It would seem, in retrospect, that the Council had a share of blame for the shortcomings of the force by failing to improve progressively that small body with the development of the town. This was an age when those in authority clung grimly to the past. How well this was illustrated when, as a result of the arrival of the new railway at Swansea, it became necessary that all local public clocks should show Greenwich time. Hitherto, the local time had been calculated from the geographical position of the town, sixteen minutes after the standard time used by the railway. A proposal at the Town Council that all public clocks should conform to this time met opposition, and the *Cambrian* published a letter which said,

"Henceforth all the Corporation Clocks at least, are to tell a monstrous fib. What fantastic tricks are these men, dressed in little brief authority, playing—making new laws for nature—calling it noon when the sun is sixteen minutes short of the meridian? The regulation of time is not within their province and I trust the public will discountenance the alteration."

Stirred by the recent events, some Council members advocated that the Swansea Police should now be merged into the County Force under Captain Napier, but after considerable discussion, it was resolved to appoint a Superintendent to command the force, and on 14th February, 1851, Chief Inspector Henry Tate, of Bath Police was selected. He was an experienced policeman who had previously served in 'Y' Division of the Metropolitan Police and his wage was fixed at £2. 15s. od. per week.

Apparently influenced by the newspaper criticism, the Council decided to alter the constitution of the force. Firstly, of the Superintendent's duties, the Watch Committee directed, "It is not wished to lay down any precise course for the Superintendent, nor to say how much of his time is to be passed in active performance of his duties, but he will feel the importance of visiting some parts of the Borough at uncertain hours by day and

night." Another important change was a decision to allow the Superintendent to appoint his own men, and an immediate increase in the strength of the force was authorised, bringing the numbers up to one Superintendent, one inspector, two sergeants, one detective, four first class constables, six second class constables and four third class constables, a total of nineteen. It is interesting to note that the comparative strength of some other forces at this time were, Cambridge, twenty-two, Ipswich nineteen, Carlisle twenty-three, and Gloucester sixteen, so that for a town of its size, population and industry, the Swansea figure still fell short of the average.

One interesting feature of the new organisation was the appointment of the first detective whose duties were defined as follows:—"To watch and detect thieves, visit low lodging houses, serve summonses and execute warrants, to attend the police court and generally perform such duty as the Superintendent may direct." He was obviously to be a man of great ability and Police Constable Noah Owen who had served in the force almost since its formation had the distinction of becoming Swansea's first detective. His was not an easy task for the employment of police in plain clothes was still against public opinion as had been clearly demonstrated a few years earlier in London. A policeman named Popay sent in plain clothes to a political meeting of an extreme nature went beyond his instructions and, under an assumed name represented himself to be a member of the party and became an active agitator for the purpose of obtaining information which he thought might be useful to his superiors. Some months later, when his true identity was revealed to the public, an uproar followed which resulted in the affair being discussed in Parliament. Subsequently a Committee of the House of Commons reported

"With respect to the occasional employment of policemen in plain clothes, the system as laid down by the heads of the Police Department affords no just matter of complaint, whilst strictly confined to detecting breaches of the law and to preventing breaches of the peace. At the same time the Committee would strongly urge the most cautious maintenance of those limits, and solemnly deprecate any approach to the employment of spies, in the ordinary acceptation of the term, as a practice most abhorrent

to the feelings of the people, and most alien to the spirit of the Constitution."

It was not until 1842 that a detective department was instituted in London and attached to Scotland Yard. The total strength of that department was twelve men on its formation.

The policemen's uniform had changed very little from that worn by John Luce, and up to 1856, references were occasionally made in evidence at Court, which showed that the cravat was a regular source of trouble when dealing with violent prisoners, whose grip on the cravat sometimes threatened to choke its wearer. After 1850 a three-quarter length coat was worn with a belt, and the constable's number displayed on the upright collar surrounded by embroidery. This embroidery was removed in 1855, following the Sunday Trading Riots in London, when complaints were received of difficulty in identifying individual constables. The "Stove pipe" hat still remained, the whole uniform being carefully distinguished from those worn by the armed forces in deference to public opinion. This was again to be observed in an order to the Swansea Constables, issued by the Watch Committee that all constables should "give the wall" to persons passing in the street and "touch their hats on meeting a superior and any gentlemen who addressed them on a subject connected with their duty."

Not long after his appointment Superintendent Tate achieved some distinction by his personal arrest of a notorious highway robber, William Brown, in Back Street, recognizing him from a description which had been circulated by the police at Aber-gavenny. Mr. Tate was a man of strong character and ability, whose efforts to bring the force to a higher standard of efficiency were continually defeated by lack of man power, accommodation and equipment. When he used his powers to attack some of the local social evils, particularly ill-conducted public houses, he received little support. At the Brewster Session he opposed the renewals of the licences of such premises as, for instance, the "Lower Lamb," which he described to the Justices as, "a house of most disreputable character, being a rendezvous for all the navvies and prostitutes of the neighbourhood." Unfortunately a number of these houses were owned by certain of the magistrates, who

did not share the Superintendent's views.

The magistrates, who before the Municipal Reform had exercised a measure of control over the constables and watchmen, had been superseded in that respect by the Watch Committee, and incidents occurred which revealed a conflict of opinion between those two bodies, sometimes with strange ideas as to their respective powers. In August, 1851, two navvies were charged with assaulting Sergeant Francis Edwards, who related in his evidence how he was obliged to use his staff in self-defence on account of their violence. Although this was supported by independent evidence, the Chairman of the Magistrates expressed an opinion that the prisoners had been too severely punished and that a police officer, even in self-defence, was not entitled to use his staff to such a degree. The charge was dismissed. Superintendent Tate took the case to the Watch Committee, and they, after hearing the evidence again, disagreed with the Justices verdict, stating that they considered the constable's conduct to have been highly praiseworthy. They then directed the police to take the case back to the magistrates, who after a re-hearing, sent the two offenders to prison. Surely a rare instance of a police committee assuming the function of a superior court of law!

In 1852 the Mayor remarked on the orderly state of the town, ascribing this happy condition to the active Police Superintendent and his men—"also taking a little credit to myself for the mode pursued by me in my magisterial capacity." He added that a share of praise was due to the press, for public exposure had a tendency to check offenders—an observation which at the present time is often discussed by those concerned with juvenile delinquency and the restrictions laid down in the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933, as to the publication of names and addresses of the offenders.

The optimism of the Mayor was short-lived, for the public were once again alarmed, not only at the growth of crime, but in particular, the increase in the numbers of juveniles involved. Not only in Swansea was this a source of anxiety, for a national newspaper reported, "Legislation must yet be in its infancy, since murder, adultery, brutality, theft and drunkenness are on the increase, and the young are oftenest principals in the large number

of crimes mentioned." Of the youth of Swansea the *Cambrian* said in May, 1853, "The town is infested with a number of juvenile thieves whose petty larcenies baffle even the astuteness and activity of that very essential adjunct to our police force—the 'detective.' The scent of this officer is, however, too keen to be long put off the track of the depredators."

There is no doubt that this crime was bred in the evil slum conditions which then existed in the town, and had already given rise to serious epidemics of cholera and typhus with heavy toll of life. This state of affairs, though not being remedied, was at least attracting official notice and in March, 1853, Superintendent Tate, with a number of magistrates, visited the town's worse slums. Among their reports they described a lodging house in Michael Row, Greenhill, stating, "The floor of one room was strewn with straw on which we found no less than twenty-two human beings passing the night. This number was composed of married and single, old men and women, young men and females, and children of both sexes."

Crime statistics for the whole of the country were first published in 1850, and are interesting inasmuch as they show the nature and extent of punishment at that time.

Committed for trial	..	..	..	26,672
No true bill	..	..	..	1,458
Acquitted	..	..	..	4,639
Detained insane	..	..	..	38
Sentenced to death	..	..	..	49
Sentenced to transportation	..	..	..	2,578
Sentenced to imprisonment	..	..	..	17,602
Fined	..	..	..	307
Pardoned	..	..	..	1

Police duty had its happier aspects, especially when taking part in the ceremony of "beating the bounds." This took place at intervals of three years and was an occasion of boisterous celebration. The Mayor, Aldermen, some corporation officials and a number of policemen, starting early in the morning, perambulated the Borough boundary, well provided with wine and ale, cake and cheeses, tongues and brawn. The festivities and incidents which occurred at various points on the route helped all, particularly the young people who joined in, to remember

the location of the boundary. An interesting account of one of the last of such ceremonies which was held on Michaelmas Day, 1854, appeared in the *Cambrian*. It described how the Mayoral party accompanied by Superintendent Tate and six police constables, "bearing wands of office tipped with gold" set off on the journey. There was a considerable amount of ragging from onlookers, and the account reads, "A young man secreted himself with a large jug of water behind a wall, awaiting his opportunity to slouch the contents of the jug in the face of some poor unfortunate straggler in the rear. Superintendent Tate, however, seeing the design of the individual, noiselessly crept up behind him and, with one blow of his staff, shattered the jug in a thousand pieces. At Weig Fawr, Police Constable Sherstone was rolled into a ditch and when helped out presented anything but the appearance of a man in blue, being literally covered with yellow mud." All this must have had its compensation for at a luncheon which followed on the summit of Townhill, the party consumed a round of beef weighing sixty pounds, one hundredweight of bread and biscuits, and thirty-six gallons of XXX ale.

The Parish Constables Act of 1842 empowered the Justices to choose from a list of able bodied men aged between twenty-five and fifty-five years, a number who were required to be sworn as parish constables. These men could be called upon to serve at any time to supplement the regular constabulary, and although there were exemptions for certain classes of professional men, those enrolled had to be ratepayers and of good character. The provisions of this Act were not used in Swansea until 31st March, 1855, when the Justices considered that the force should be augmented, and at a special sessions at the Temple Street Police Court, they appointed forty-five parish constables for Swansea. Some of these are ancestors of people who now take an active part in the life of the town, and a list of their names is given in Appendix I. By an Act of 1872, no more Parish Constables were appointed as it was deemed that an efficient police force was being maintained.

Superintendent Henry Tate resigned in 1857, after six years service with the force. Although without any noteworthy incidents, his period of service was troubled by a marked increase in

crime, which did not escape the notice of the press. His successor, Superintendent James Dunn who had served for fifteen years with the Colchester Police Force, was appointed on 4th December, 1857. At this time an editorial article appeared in the *Cambrian* which drew attention to the large number of robberies and burglaries in the town, and the numerous undetected crimes of the previous two years. It was hoped that the newly appointed Superintendent would bring the force to an efficient level. Although expressing the opinion that the Superintendent's powers were cramped, the editor described how he and a newspaper correspondent accompanied two policemen on their rounds by night and found in one street only four coal shutes were secured. This publicity had an unfortunate result for only a week later the newspaper described "the most daring burglary ever committed in the town," which took place at the premises of Mr. Rayner, a jeweller in Castle Street, only fifty yards from the police station. The thieves got away with £1,200 of stock, having entered and left the premises by the coal shute!

In 1856 the Council again complained of the increasing expenditure in the force, although the town, particularly the outer areas, needed more adequate policing. The cost of the force for that year was reported at £1,386. 14s. 1d. or 10½d. per head of the population of 31,461.

Supervision of the outer districts was maintained by the use of a horse which was shared between the Superintendent, Inspector and occasionally a Sergeant. On 18th November, 1856, the Superintendent reported that "the horse died on Sunday last and another horse should be immediately purchased as patrol duty of the outer districts is neglected." This problem of transport arose again in 1861, when the Watch Committee sold the horse on the ground of expense, although admitting that it travelled twelve miles each night for the Inspector to visit the outer districts. It was then decided to hire a horse for this purpose three times weekly, but ultimately this proved more costly and another police horse was bought. This reluctance to incur expense of any kind which could be avoided, whatever the need, had been the dominant feature of the Council Meetings for many years. Consequently, the social services of the town and in particular the

police, worked under a serious handicap which restricted the efficiency of the force. Even when Davies, the town crier, who depended upon fees for his livelihood, asked for a small wage, "owing to the uncertain and fluctuating profits of his office," the Council recommended that he be given advice that "if he paid less attention to the bottle and more to the bell he would get on much better."

The duties of the constables in 1856 were very strenuous, involving long hours of duty. Conditions of service were unsatisfactory because no authority existed outside the local police committees to ensure that a proper level of efficiency was maintained. Of the sixteen constables, eleven were employed on night duty from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. the remainder being on duty by day, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. without leave of any kind. One order required the Inspector on night duty to attend the police court each day at 10 a.m. to give any information which the magistrates might require concerning charges. The men depended for their medical attention upon the police surgeon who had been first appointed in 1845 at a salary of £10 per annum. In 1856 efforts were made to terminate his services to reduce expenditure. Dr. Bird, a prominent citizen and councillor, fought successfully to retain the services of a police surgeon, and said of the force, "Their duties are onerous. They not only have heavy night work but are exposed to illness from a variety of circumstances. They are also exposed to much danger from day to day and are not in a position from want of means, to pay anything out of their pockets."

There is little doubt that the Police (Counties and Boroughs) Bill of 1856, was long overdue, with its proposals to appoint Her Majesty's Inspector to inspect the establishment of the forces, and subject to a certificate of efficiency to pay a grant of one quarter of the cost of the force to the local authority. The enthusiasm at the prospect of a financial grant was dimmed by some more sceptical councillors, who realised that efficiency must mean an increase in establishment. Some went so far as to say that they had entirely lost all control and given up the power they had over the police force. Among the immediate measures brought about as a result of the County and Borough Police

Act, 1856, was an increase in the force of twelve constables, police houses with cells built in Landore and Greenhill, and cells added to an existing police house in Morrision.

The police still comprised the main body of the fire force and the equipment consisted of two engines purchased by the corporation, and the old 'Norwich' engine. The efficiency of this body was limited by the inadequate water supplies, as in the case of a serious fire in a shop adjoining the Bush Hotel, High Street, in November, 1856, when no water was obtained from hydrants for over an hour. As was the practice at that time when a large outbreak occurred, the whole of the force was called to duty and the Mayor and Aldermen were present to assist and advise. A constable was injured when the roof of a shed behind the Bush Hotel, from which he was directing a hose on to the fire, collapsed. The precarious nature of the constables' livelihood is seen from the fact that a special resolution of the council was necessary to authorise the continued payment of the constable's wages during his absence from duty.

The conduct of the police in dealing with the numerous fires which occurred at this period was often praised by the public and the press, but the opinion was widely held that the fire brigade should be a separate body, leaving the police free to cope with the crowds. The Watch Committee held the view that it was the duty of the Insurance Companies to provide a staff of firemen while the police were at liberty to attend to the protection of property. The efforts of the police on these occasions were hampered by influential local residents who strutted about giving indiscriminate orders. The police were under a serious handicap owing to inadequate equipment and a police report in 1858 referred to "A tin box affixed to the fire engine containing oakum, grease and twine to stop the leaks in the hose." When the Insurance Companies refused to contribute to the maintenance of a fire brigade, the Council decided to establish a brigade of 12 men under a Superintendent, in exercise of powers under the Swansea Improvement Act, 1844. The brigade functioned from 1858 to 1862 when it was disbanded on account of the excessive cost which had amounted to £584 during that time. Once again the responsibility for fire fighting rested on the police and re-

mained so for the next 80 years.

These frequent emergencies brought about a need for a reserve of constables who could be available at short notice. Superintendent Dunn rented a former public house, the 'Whitby Castle,' in Caer Street, as a section house in which the fifteen unmarried constables were obliged to reside. Unfortunately this experiment failed as it was reported to the Watch Committee that brawls were frequent and the bill for breakages was heavy. The section house was discontinued after a discussion in which one councillor said "unless a great change occurred they would soon require another police force . . . to keep their own in order." (*Cambrian*, 10th July, 1863.) The continual difficulty in finding suitable recruits, coupled with the growing responsibilities of the police, was often the subject of comment at the police committee meetings. As an inducement to would-be recruits, the commencing pay was increased to 20/- weekly, in 1858. The duties of that busy man, "the detective" called for "exclusive attention to marine store dealers, lodging houses, vagrants, investigation of crime, watching arrivals of strangers to the town by packet and rail." Consequently he had to be relieved of his duties in connection with the service of summonses and execution of warrants.

The police court daily dealt with a surprisingly large number of cases for a town of the size of Swansea, principally arising from drunkenness, disorder and vagrancy offences. Magistrates found their duties burdensome and it was often necessary to dispatch police officers to hunt the streets and places of business in search of a Justice before the Court could commence. So controversial did this subject become that it was reported in a newspaper that "one magistrate effectually eluded the vigilance of the police until the Court had broken up for the day," and quoted instances where more serious crimes had for convenience been altered to charges of simple drunkenness, so that they could be disposed of by one magistrate.

The first inspection of the force by H.M. Inspector of Constabulary was in 1857, when the Inspecting Officer, Captain Willis, reported favourably on its efficiency.

On 14th February, 1858, a Greek seaman belonging to a ship

the ‘Penelope’ was murdered in the Strand by two Greeks named Alepis and Selopatane, who were arrested by Superintendent Dunn within an hour of the crime. The circumstances of the murder had no unusual features, but the subsequent public execution of the two men outside the prison walls, as described in the local press, was an occasion of anxiety and responsibility for the police. The account, dated 26th March, 1858, related how on the day before the execution, “thousands of the lower orders” flocked into the town, and in the district adjacent to the scaffold, many score of showmen, boothsmen and gamblers took up their station for the night.

“We regret to say that the major part of these people seem to flock to such scenes as though they were about to witness some great national sport of former days—their levity and profane demeanor is disgusting and disgraceful to very true-hearted Englishman. One showman reaped a considerable sum by suspending over his show a painted board containing the words, ‘correct portraits of the murderers may be seen within.’”

The day of the execution arrived, the sun shone forth brightly and the aspect of nature was strongly contrasted with the awful event about to take place. Amongst the motley crowd were women with children in arms, many lads, whose shoeless feet, scanty clothing and tattered appearance at once distinguished them. Many of the better class of society were also present. Thus the crowd continued to swell in numbers until it is computed not less than 18,000 to 20,000 persons had assembled for the sole purpose of witnessing the awful spectacle of two fellow human beings suddenly launched into eternity. The scaffold was erected the previous evening opposite the infirmary and Union House. The brick field and every inch of ground on the sands and turn-pike roads were covered with closely packed spectators. Some had climbed up into the trees and on the roofs of houses. There followed a description of events including preparation of the prisoners by Calcraft, the hangman, and the scene at the moment of execution.

It is of interest to recall that the last public hanging of a murderer in Britain took place at the same spot on 12th April, 1866. Robert Coe, a young blacksmith from Mountain Ash,

was executed for the murder of his friend. On this occasion it was estimated that a crowd of 15,000 were present and trains from Mountain Ash, Merthyr and Aberdare brought thousands into the town. Towards the evening before the execution, the town was reported to have presented the appearance of some public rejoicing or festive sport. The usual collection of showmen set up their stalls and it was said that some drove their carts right up to the gallows and removed the wheels which were then hidden so that the police could not move them on next morning. The whole of the Swansea Police were marshalled to the ground under command of the Head Constable, Mr. Allison and Inspector Crockford, and on the morning of the execution they had great difficulty in maintaining order. Four women armed with knives climbed the gallows platform as if to attack the condemned man, and they had to be forcibly removed by the police. In the surging crowds women and children were trampled underfoot and 120 injured. The reports of this scene caused a public outcry against capital punishment and was instrumental in bringing about the decision to carry out executions in private.

Superintendent Dunn introduced the use of photography to police work in March, 1859, when he sought to identify the body of a child found in Burrows Lodge grounds. The force did not possess a camera, but he engaged a photographer to "strike off several well-executed photographs" which were posted in various parts of the town. Another innovation was the appointment to the force of a woman to act as a "searcher" at a wage of 2/- weekly.

The crime statistics for 1858 included an unusual item "Known depredators at large in the Borough."—

Under 16 years	..	Males 69.	..	Females 71.
Over 16 years	..	Males 168	..	Females 332.

In the same year 1,145 males were proceeded against as compared with 553 females, the noticeably high proportion of female offenders being probably due to the high incidence of prostitution and drunkenness at this time.

Although the House of Correction had been moved from Swansea Castle since 1826, to a site adjoining the "Union House near the Bathing House Turnpike Gate," the old goal in the

castle was still used in 1858 for debtors. The conditions in the castle gaol gave rise to criticism in several quarters, and are best described in the words of one who had been held there for a debt. "I had no fire and was often alone. I was confined for ten weeks. There was no communication with the gaoler by night. There is no water on the premises, even for the gaoler. When females are confined, there is no provision made for separating them from the men. When I went to prison there was no bed to lie down on, I had to sleep for nights on the stone floor." A very unusual practice existed in this prison at the beginning of the 19th century, by which incarcerated debtors were allotted a place outside the gaol wall to expose personal articles for sale to obtain sufficient monies to secure their release.

E. Donovan, F.L.S., in his *Tour*, 1805, writes :

"An indulgence extends to any debtor confined in the prison of Swansea Castle, by virtue of which they have the opportunity, if their debts be small, with a little exertion, prudence and economy to liberate themselves from the horrors of gaol. Having obtained this indulgence, which on proper representation it is in the power of the high bailiff to grant, they are allowed to expose whatever articles their slender funds may enable them to muster for sale in the open street on that side of the market fence next to the Castle. The limits of this bailiwick was distinctly pointed out by a range of small stones down the highway, and within this boundary the debtors are as secure from the molestation of their creditors, as though they were confined to their dismal cells within the walls of the Castle."

So long did the less fortunate remain in the gaol, that a Lieutenant Sayce of the Royal Navy was detained there thirty years! In a report by H.M. Inspector of Prisons in 1845, the Swansea Prison was used for debtors and was of four rooms, each twelve to fifteen feet square and without bed or bedding. There was no food, but in the case of those unable to support themselves the parish allowed 6d. per day. The sole gaoler lived on the opposite side of the street and a horn was left in the gaol for the prisoners to call him in case of sickness or emergency, otherwise they were visited by the gaoler thrice daily. At the time of the report, September, 1845, one man had been there for six months.

The new gaol was built by the County Magistrates on a piece of land held by the Corporation of Swansea under a 99 years lease from 1763. A curious and humorous situation arose in 1862, when the owner of the land, Mrs. Sarah Bippert, desired occupation at the expiration of the lease and caused to be issued a writ of ejectment against Mr. Cox, the Governor of H.M. Prison, and the Mayor of Swansea. Only a Gilbertian plot could have imagined the law being invoked to put the prison governor, and presumably his prisoners, out of the gaol! So the action came before the High Court and the counsel for Mrs. Bippert described the occasion as "a graceful opportunity for the defendants to show their appreciation of the property by making a provision for Mrs. Bippert's declining years." He was afraid "the Corporation required a little stimulus to do such a thing." The action ended when the Corporation agreed to pay the lady £200 for her interest in the House of Correction, the Infirmary and the Union Workhouse, all of which were on her land.

Lt. Colonel John Lambrick Vivian, who had served as a Superintendent at Carmarthen and later in the Metropolitan Police, was appointed Head Constable of Swansea on 4th March, 1863, following the transfer of Superintendent Dunn to Preston. Colonel Vivian, who had served in the Crimean War and had experience as a Colonial Magistrate, was only 33 years of age on coming to Swansea. He was not connected with the well-known family of that name in Swansea, but belonged to the Vivian family of Bodmin and St. Columb. He remained at Swansea for three years, being later appointed Head Constable of Plymouth. This period was comparatively uneventful. One is reminded of the difficulties in keeping discipline in the force at that time, when upon the Mayor commenting on the number of disciplinary cases coming before the Committee, Colonel Vivian replied, "There has lately been some very severe weather and probably the men have taken a little drop too much on that account."

Incidents of bravery shown by constables were often recorded. On 16th March, 1864, a serious fire broke out on the sailing ship "Mysore" in the North Dock at which the Head Constable and a large number of the police were engaged. Constable John Holden "performed a feat of almost heroic bravery

when at the height of the fire he ascended the rigging and put out the burning ropes, so preventing the foremast from falling." His action checked the spread of fire and the ship was ultimately saved.

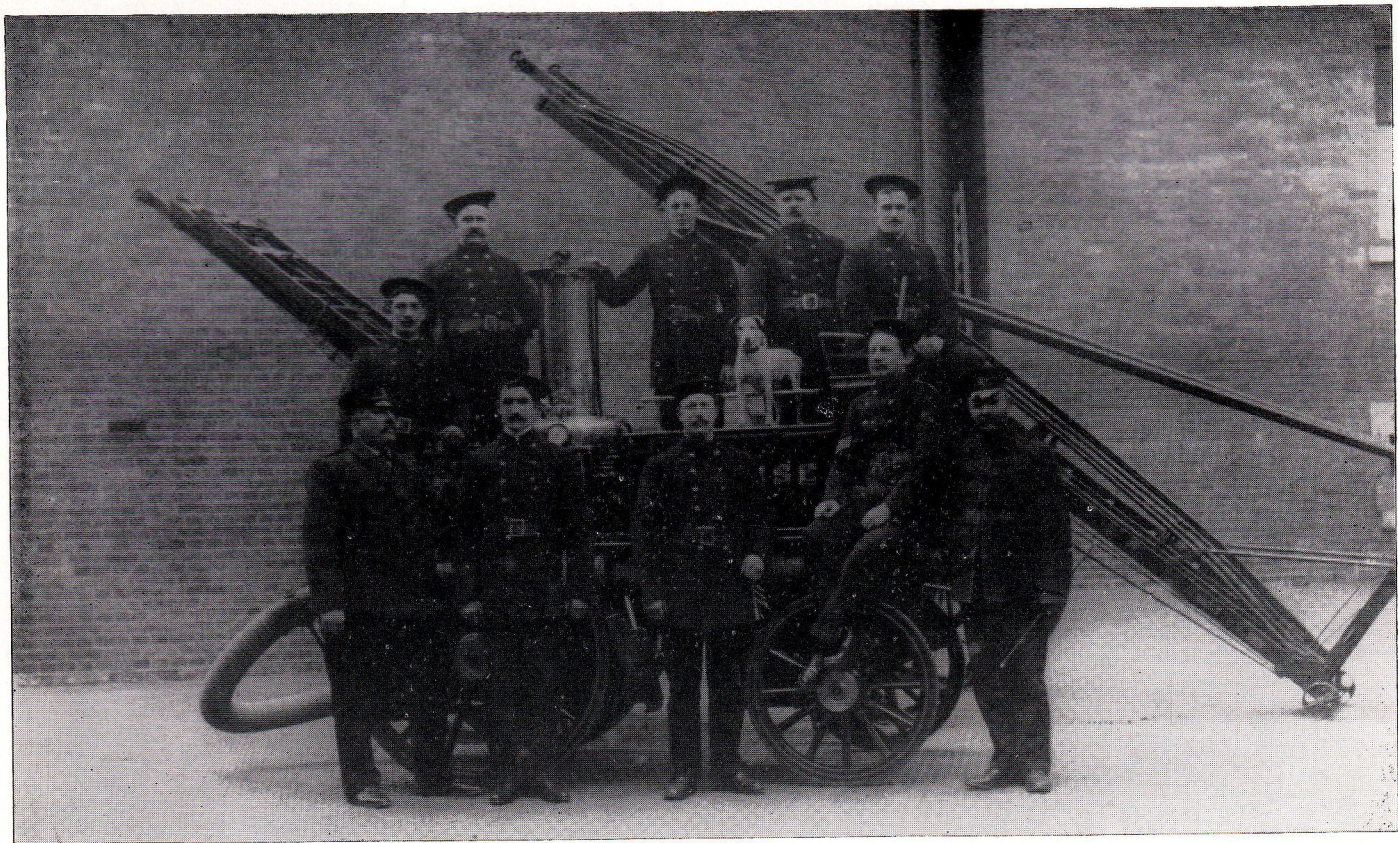
John Allison was appointed Head Constable on 28th November, 1865, and served until November, 1877. He was formerly Head Constable of Lancaster for eight years. Aged 39 years, he had ten children, and commenced duty at Swansea at a salary of £175 per annum. When Mr. Allison applied for an increase in 1867, it was said at the Council Meeting, "The only reason he had in making the application was the high price of provisions, and having a large family to maintain." His salary was raised to £200. His first annual report to the Watch Committee in July 1866, revealed some interesting facts

The population of Swansea (5,400 acres) was 45,000. The force comprised 47 men in all :

- 1 Head Constable.
- 2 First Class Inspectors.
- 2 Second Class Inspectors.
- 5 First Class Sergeants.
- 5 Second Class Sergeants.
- 32 Constables.

Cardiff with only 2,321 acres and a population of 36,000, had a force of 45 men and 20 Dock Police. Mr. Allison again asked for a horse to be provided for supervising purposes and was authorised to select an animal for the approval of the Mayor. Total offences dealt with during the year were: Summary Offences, 1,073 males; 485 females. Indictable Offences, 116. He stated that there were 199 known prostitutes in the town and 85 houses of ill-fame.

Under the scale of wages fixed in May, 1866, the weekly wage of an Inspector was 32/- and that of the constables on appointment 19/-. The Government Grant towards expenditure remained at one quarter of the total cost. Additional duties continued to be given to the police and the Council appointed the four Police Inspectors to be Inspectors of nuisances for an additional payment of 2/- weekly, to replace the existing Inspectors of Nuisances who cost from £150 to £200 a year, and



The Swansea Police Fire Brigade, 1913.



Funeral of Mr. R. D. Roberts (Chief Constable), 1929.

on 16th August, 1867, hackney carriages were first brought under the supervision of the police.

Prosecution of offenders was still an expensive matter for those who had recourse to the law, and the "Association for the Prosecution of Felons" stated in their report at Swansea on the 1st February, 1867 :—

"In the existing state of the law, no allowance is made out of County Funds for any expense incurred by a prosecutor previous to committal of the offender. Therefore in the event of a person being robbed, unless he is a subscriber to this Society, he had better bear his loss and take no action in the matter, rather than be at the expense of prosecuting."

The annual subscription was 2/6d.

The law was certainly not dispensed in comfort, for in that year, it was approved that "in view of the increased water pressure and the consequent removal of the necessity to keep the fire engine in the room under the Police Station, that this room should now be used as a police court!" This, of course, referred to the Temple Street Police Station. Later, in 1873, it was decided to remove the Court to the Guildhall, so as to effect an increase in revenue to the Corporation of £200 per annum, by letting the existing premises. This decision caused many objections from the public, one being that prisoners would have to be taken a greater distance through the streets to the Court and that a carriage would be necessary.

The story of the Police at this period continued as a conflict between the Head Constable with the minority who sought to improve the effectiveness of the force and the majority of the council who challenged any item of expenditure to a degree that defeated any possibility of progress. Despite this, the Head Constable reported that with the population increasing, crime was decreasing, and there was a marked improvement in the efficiency of the men. The annual reports of H.M. Inspector were complimentary and when in July, 1871, the Inspector, Captain Willis, inspected the parade in the Corn Exchange, Swansea Market, it was reported, "He made a careful examination of them and expressed the opinion that they were well and cheaply clothed."

The fear of the Fenian riots spreading to Swansea brought about the re-forming of the Special Constabulary in January, 1868. The dignity of the prominent local citizens, anxious to serve, had to be respected, and it is noteworthy that Colonel Vivian, Major Francis, Mr. J.W. James, Dr. Thornton Andrews and Mr. Edward Bath were all appointed Superintendents of the newly formed body and each empowered to appoint sub-officers to act under them. When two years later the fear of rioting had passed, there was a proposal to reduce the strength of the regular force by six constables, which was defeated by the Mayor quoting statistics for the preceding six years, showing that as the strength of the force had gradually increased from 43 to 57, so indictable offences has been reduced from 120 to 86 annually.

Public opinion at this time might be gauged from a newspaper comment in August, 1871, an extract from which reads :

"As a stranger enters the town from High Street Station, his notice is drawn to a crowd of unfortunates in dirty tawdry rags strolling through the streets or huddled in doorways—drunkenness, sin and crime blare their hideousness in open day. He then observes our able and numerous police force. We have a burden in supporting such an army in our midst. We deplore the necessity of keeping such an efficient force for the performance of such work as watching public houses, prosecuting prostitutes and their associates. If it were not for the existence of public houses, the police force would be a sinecure. The force is a fine, orderly and intelligent body and the Chief Constable a splendid valuable officer and gentleman." (*Cambrian*.)

The extent of drunkenness in Swansea might be judged from the proceedings against habitual drunkards in 1871 which included 84 males and 40 females.

The Guy Fawkes celebrations, always a time of nuisance to the police and public, assumed serious proportions locally and the following descriptions of scenes on November 5th, 1871, appeared in the *Cambrian*. "To have a squib snapped in one's face, nerves shattered and dresses spoilt in making a British holiday is too much for patient endurance, but when it comes to putting a "bobby" in a blazing tar barrel or rolling him in the mud as if he were a holocaust to the exuberant wickedness of the mob . . . For nothing more serious than a spree, the Swansea

boys bearded the lion in his den and assembled at the Police station. They only wished to startle the Inspector, but miscalculated the power of their explosives and caused unanticipated damage." At the following meeting of the Watch Committee it was agreed that fault could not be found with the police, but the affair was attributable to the illness of the Chief Constable, and the fact that there was no one in authority under him to carry out such measures as were necessary to put down such disturbances! An item of expenditure appears in the accounts—"To refreshments for the police on 5th November, £2. os. 8d."

On 22nd July, 1872, Mr. J. C. Fowler, the first Stipendiary Magistrate of Swansea, took his seat on the Bench. There had been considerable opposition to this appointment, but the manner in which he administered justice soon met with the public approval. He endeavoured to check the increasing drunkenness by inflicting more exemplary penalties on those who came before him, but this problem was one which needed a revision of the Licensing Laws, and a stricter supervision over the licensed premises. The following figures show the alarming increase :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Prosecutions for Drunkenness</i>
1869	249
1870	307
1871	312
1872	406
1873	685

The figures for the later years represent 1 in 74 persons of the population.

The insobriety of the police, which had long been a troublesome problem had now improved so that the Mayor commented "No evil consequence resulted from the police outing, and although a fire occurred the same night, the police were there, showing that they had not over-indulged themselves." Since 1859 the Watch Committee had had under consideration the erection of a Police Station with lock-ups particularly in the industrial area of Morriston. Difficulties arose in finding a suitable site and it was not until August, 1877, that a new station was opened in Morriston. In the meantime in 1874 a new Central Station was opened in High Street owing to the inadequacy of

the Temple Street Headquarters. The new station stood at the corner of High Street and Tontine Street, close to the district of Greenhill or “Little Ireland” where the services of the police were so often required.

Chapter III

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FORCE.

CAPTAIN Isaac Colquhoun, was appointed Chief Constable in November, 1877. Formerly a captain of the 17th Regiment of Foot, he had also served for eight years with the Carmarthenshire Constabulary. A gentlemanly character with a fine bearing, and an excellent horseman, he soon won the affection and confidence of the townspeople and during the thirty-five years that followed, he did much to add to the dignity and prestige of the force.

His first efforts were directed at improving the amenities of the Police Stations and raising the efficiency of the fire brigade. The following extract from his report to the Watch Committee in May, 1880, in which he advised the provision of a Central Fire Station, reveals the difficulties of the police.

"Two officers are on duty at the High Street Police Station. One, an Inspector, details men for duty and is responsible for all occurrences in the town, also that the fire escape and appliances are at a fire when required. The second officer works under his orders, keeps the station and cells clean, mends fire appliances and is often sent to disturbances in the town. When a fire occurs he has to telegraph to other stations. Both then leave for the fire with their equipment, picking up constables in the streets. The town is then left entirely unprotected and during the fire the Police Station is left in charge of a person not in the police force, when frequently there are several prisoners in the cells."

(This report is reminiscent of evidence given before a Royal Commission in 1839, when it was said that in Trant, Sussex, there was no place to which a prisoner could be remanded in custody nearer than Lewes, consequently the magistrates had been obliged to hire a man and handcuff him to the prisoner, and they were obliged to live in a public house.)

The Chief Constable's Report to the Watch Committee on 2nd May, 1882, contained an account of a fire in which several lives were saved by the police, but which emphasised the handicap

under thich they worked through inadequate equipment and man-power.

“At 4.7 a.m. on 19th April, 1882, P.S. Eynon was in Oxford Street when he saw smoke issuing from the front of Mr. Eva's Drapery Establishment. He knocked the door and Mr. Eva appeared at a top window. The sergeant told him to arouse the occupants as the shop was on fire, and then despatched a constable to give the alarm at Oxford Street Police Station. Very shortly Mr. Eva re-appeared at the window and said he could not come down owing to the smoke and fire, and he was told by Sergeant Eynon to bring all the inmates to the room he was in. The sergeant and a constable ran for a ladder which had been placed to meet such an emergency alongside the market wall. The ladder could not reach and by this time Mr. Eva, his child and three assistants were at the window calling for help. The sergeant then pulled down the shop blind and by this means got them to safety. At this time a hand reel arrived from the Police Station and Constable Harris went to the top room and brought down two assistants. Constables Bowman and Williams then went up and brought down a male assistant who they found on the floor partly suffocated . . I may say that all the men worked well and credit is due to them for the assistance they rendered. The fire escape did not arrive until after all the inmates of the house were got out and then had to be brought by three men and had it not been down hill all the way they could not have brought it at all. Even had it arrived in time it could not have worked until the arrival of six men. This is one of the difficulties under the present system of the Fire Brigade which I have so often pointed out to your Committee.”

In January the following year, Captain Colquhoun reported another fire involving an oil shop at the corner of Oxford Street and Beach Street in which two children lost their lives although gallant efforts were made to reach them by several constables. Unfortunately the force of water was totally inadequate and the flames repeatedly forced the men back, but Constable James Dee managed to stand on the shoulders of another constable and spring through a window into a blazing room to recover one young boy who succumbed shortly afterwards. Constable Dee was badly burned as a result of his efforts which were subsequently recognised when H.M. Queen Victoria awarded him the Royal Albert Medal. The Corporation also made him an award of £50 and the Society for the Protection of Life from Fire, £4.

A recommendation to the Watch Committee to promote men solely on efficiency at first met with opposition. Hitherto, seniority had been the only quality sought, but in February, 1878, the Committee agreed to promote Constable David Morgan, having twelve months' service, to the rank of Sergeant. That Captain Colquhoun's judgment was sound can be assumed from the fact that Sgt. Morgan was promoted to Inspector two years later, and in 1883, with six years' service, became Head Constable of Honiton, Devon.

In March, 1878, the Police Band was formed, consisting of twelve performers, who, it was said, refused public help and purchased their own instruments. The formation of the Band met with much interest and publicity in the town, and the band made a public appearance in September on the occasion of the civic parade and celebrations marking the opening of the Public Library. The Annual Band Concert which has become established through the years as a feature of the town's social and musical events, was inaugurated with a concert given at the Swansea Music Hall on December 11th, 1879. The concert was very successful and the local press commented, "The band played well together, in capital time and spirit. The brass needs balancing with a few more reed instruments and it would be well if here and there the intermediate instruments between the air and the bass were not quite so self-assertive. Even so, the band is a credit to the force and the town." A photograph of the band in its second year is reproduced, and at the time of writing, this musical combination continues to maintain a high standard, after a continuous history of nearly eighty years.

Stray dogs in the town became a serious nuisance and the police were handicapped in this matter by lack of accommodation. After a direction by the Committee for some action to be taken, the Chief Constable made the following report at a later meeting:

"In accordance with instructions from your Committee, I ordered a constable to take in all dogs found in the streets and put them under proper control—on the 21st ultimo there were fifteen dogs in the house on the Quay, but in consequence of the filthy state of the house I moved them to the Engine House at the back of the Town Hall, where they made so much noise that the Town

Clerk requested me to release them, which I did. I wrote to Mr. Cousins requesting that the Dog House might be cleaned out, but he replied that as he had not put anything in the estimates for this purpose, he was unable to do so."

In June, 1875, telegraph lines were fitted between the Police Stations at the Guildhall, High Street and Lower Oxford Street, together with 'telegraph instruments.' When one considers the vital importance of speedy communication in police work, this was an outstanding event in the history of the force, for up to this time there had been no link between the districts, except by horse or on foot. It was on 5th April, 1881, that the Chief Constable reported to the Watch Committee, "In order to test whether the telephone is suitable for police purposes, I have caused telephones to be attached to the existing police telegraph wires, and I am able to report that the experiment was highly satisfactory and an improvement upon the present telegraph system. The Swansea Telephonic Exchange Co., Ltd., will instal telephones between Police Stations for £26. 5s. od." At first this was turned down by the Police Committee, one member expressing his view that this was an unnecessary expense. Within a short while, however, a further request by Mr. Colquhoun succeeded.

The following statistics for the year 1879, make an interesting comparison with present day cost and crimes figures. The total cost of the force was £6,645. 5s. 10d. of which nearly half was met by Exchequer Grant. The number of persons indicted was 33 males and 26 females, and among the more serious crimes were one attempt to murder, one wounding, two bigamy cases, three burglaries, twenty-three thefts from the person, seventy-seven petty larcenies and three frauds. Summary offenders amounted to 1822 males and 659 females, including no less than 225 prostitution offences. Another surprising figure was that 167 men and 76 women were classified as habitual drunkards.

The visit of the Prince and Princesses of Wales on 18th October, 1881, was the first Royal Visit to Swansea calling for extraordinary police arrangements and with a total strength in Swansea of 72 men, the Chief Constable was obliged to call for aid from a number of other forces. It might appear by present standards

that an abnormal number of police were engaged, but it must be remembered that modern transport was not available to move parties of men quickly from place to place. Furthermore, without the alternative interests of television, radio, and cinema, such a Royal Visit was a public holiday, bringing a huge concourse of people into the town from the surrounding areas. Altogether 750 extra police were employed from Glamorgan, Carmarthenshire, Cardiff, Neath, Newport, Gloucestershire and Bristol, whilst detectives came from as far as London, Liverpool, Bristol, Birmingham and Cardiff. Fifty mounted men were engaged, including twenty from the Metropolis. On this occasion, the whole of the detailed arrangements were, upon the instructions of the Watch Committee, made by Captain Colquhoun, who was responsible not only for the police control, but for the reception of the Royal Party and marshalling of the procession and organisations lining the routes.

The first occasion that members of the Swansea Borough Police acted as constables outside the Borough was in February, 1874, when a contingent under two Inspectors was loaned to Cardiff, to police a district during a general election. Since then, under a mutual aid agreement, police have been loaned from time to time to various forces in emergencies, and, on occasions of Royal Visits, International football matches, and following the enemy bombing attacks in 1941, police from other forces, including Glamorgan, Breconshire, Carmarthenshire, and Monmouthshire Constabularies, served in Swansea.

Swansea can claim to be the nursery of a number of policemen who ultimately attained the rank of Chief Constable in various towns in England and Wales and a list of these is given in Appendix III. The unusually rapid promotion of David Morgan in 1883 was followed in 1887 by the appointment of Sergeant Thomas Smith as Head Constable of Carmarthen, and in 1888 by the even more remarkable progress of Police Constable No. 31 Philip Stephen Clay, a clarinet player in the Police Band. P.C. Clay made a written application for the vacant post of Head Constable of Brecon, signing his letter "P.S. Clay." It is believed that due to a misunderstanding by the selection committee who interpreted the name, "Police Sergeant Clay," he appeared in the

short list of applicants, and his personality and appearance so impressed the committee, that he was appointed. Mr. Clay later became Chief Constable of Southampton and ultimately Nottingham, retiring in 1912. At Nottingham he formed a police band, for which he composed music, and personally conducted from time to time. He was the author of several books published for police use, and the concluding words of advice to young constables in his book *Police instructions for the Government and Guidance of Police Forces* (1902) were “. . . and always remember there is plenty of room at the top.” In his retirement he lived at Newstead Abbey, the former home of Lord Byron.

Captain Colquhoun reorganised the force and by 1882 had obtained an increase in the authorised strength by one sergeant and ten constables, so that the total personnel numbered eighty-eight. Among the new duties which were added to that of preventing and detecting crime, were the inspection of weights and measures, inspection of dairies and shops, inspection of contagious diseases, petroleum and explosives. This work entailed considerable time and a report of 1882 shows that in that year alone, 31,900 weights and measures were tested, stamped and adjusted by the police.

Under Captain Colquhoun's administration, the force enjoyed a long period of tranquillity. Untroubled by major wars or industrial disputes, the Borough Constabulary, well disciplined and efficient, acquired a high reputation among the townspeople. Their outward appearance improved with the introduction of helmets to replace the “cheese-cutter” caps, and a smart tunic of the “Guards” pattern was a distinctive change from the former three quarter length coat.

In physique they were an outstanding body of men. In 1891 the force entered the field of sport with a football team, reputed to be the first police rugby side, whose average weight exceeded fifteen stone. The late ex-police constable Tom West, who died in 1953 at the age of 86 years, was a member of the team, and he has told how on the occasion of their first big match against a strong side, known as the Swansea Butchers, the team was driven through the streets of Swansea in a “four-in-hand” preceded by the Police Band.

By the beginning of the new century, the force was 101 strong, including those constables employed on fire brigade duties, six mounted constables and a detective department of four. The fire engines were drawn by horses hired from Bullins' Stables in Heathfield Street, and it was the duty of constables on night duty to wheel out the extension ladders, one which was left at "Bunkers Hill" or Banc Caer Street (since built over in the reconstruction of the town) and the other in front of the former "Monument" in Wind Street. These were returned to the station each morning. The horse-drawn public ambulance was also controlled by the police, and in 1908 a motor ambulance was purchased with the financial aid of various industrial concerns and a substantial sum which was raised by the Swansea Police Recreation Club. This ambulance was presented to the town by the Chief Constable and was the first motor vehicle driven by the police. It was more than twenty years later that motor cars were introduced into the force for police work. The arrival of this new form of transport on the highway was viewed with much concern by the police, and it is clear they quickly recognised the new peril on the road, but never envisaged the problem as it was to appear fifty years later! The Chief Constable recommended to the Council in 1909, "that notice boards be placed in the main roads leading into the Borough, warning motorists of the danger of driving fast through the streets." A census of traffic was taken at Mumbles Road, opposite the "Slip," between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. on Whit-Monday, 1911. The total traffic comprised 37 motor cars, 34 motor cycles, 219 horse drawn vehicles, and 1,160 pedal cyclists. An early "Safety First" measure was the posting of a constable for duty as a school crossing patrol near St. Joseph's School in Llangyfelach Street in the same year.

A posse of police was sent from Swansea to the Rhondda Valley in 1911, to assist the Glamorgan Constabulary in dealing with the serious riots in the Tonypany district. A contingent of Metropolitan Police was also drafted to the area and many people thought these police reinforcements would restore and maintain order, but on the arrival of troops, serious fighting again broke out with loss of life. The Swansea men were sent to Tonypany under a mutual aid agreement among forces. Later in the year

another posse of police went to Caernarvon to assist the constabulary at the Investiture of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. The year 1911 brought many difficulties. Trade disputes spread and following the railway strikes, the Chief Constable made efforts to revive the special constabulary which had long ceased to function. Captain Colquhoun's recommendation to keep a permanent body of "Specials" had the support of the Home Office, but strangely enough was opposed by the Town Council. In September a strike at the Swansea Wagon Works resulted in riots in the Port Tennant district and the Chief Constable asked the Watch Committee for permission to request the loan of fifty men from the County Constabulary. This was refused with the observation that "we have decided not to introduce any strange police into the town." This attitude no doubt was brought about by the then common belief that the high feeling leading to the recent Tonypandy riots was aggravated by the movement of London Police into the area. Later, further disorders occurred and after an abortive attempt to set fire to the works, the rioters caused considerable damage and several policemen protecting the works were injured. The Chief Constable, acting on his own initiative, asked the County Police for assistance, a decision which evoked no adverse comment after order was restored.

Captain Colquhoun retired on 27th July, 1913, having served in the Army and the Police Force for a total of fifty-seven years, including thirty-five years as the Chief Constable of Swansea. His successor was Captain Alfred Thomas, a native of Swansea, who had previously served in the Nottingham City Police as Chief Inspector.

The outbreak of the European War in 1914 quickly depleted the force. Many of the constables were reservists and including those who volunteered, no less than 75 out of a strength of 153 left to serve with the Colours. Fifty special constables were immediately recruited, this being the first occasion for 46 years that an emergency had brought about a reorganisation of that body. By the end of 1917 the Special Constabulary had a strength of 256 and in the same year Mr. Alexander George Moffatt, the sectional commander was honoured for his services by the award of the Order of the British Empire. Each special

constable performed eight hours duty weekly, including four mounted patrols in the outlying districts. At this time 13 special constables were paid for carrying out full time duties with the regular Force.

Against a background of rising prices and increasing wages in industry particularly those earned in munition work, the police were now grossly underpaid. All ranks of the Force found their standard of living falling much below that of other workers. Those who continued to serve were all over military age. A few left the service to take up more remunerative work, but let it be said the majority continued to give loyal service until the cessation of hostilities. Members of the force who lost their lives while serving in the armed forces were :—

P.C. 90 A. Appleton	.. Dorset Regiment.
P.C. 119 W. A. Jones	.. Royal Engineers.
P.C. 75 W. Holland	.. Welch Regiment.
P.C. 138 F. R. Helson	.. Welsh Guards.
P.C. 26 A. A. Smale	.. Welsh Guards.
P.C. 132 J. R. Birch	.. Welsh Guards.
P.C. 30 F. Coffey	.. Welch Regiment.
P.C. 150 J. Inman	.. Welsh Guards.
P.C. 144 W. J. Rapsey	.. Military Police.
P.C. 121 P. Shea	.. Irish Guards.

In 1919 an incident unique in police history occurred, when a number of London policemen supported by a few of their colleagues in the larger cities ceased duty as a protest against the pay and conditions of the Service. Much as this strike must be regretted, there is little doubt that it was the means of bringing about a public enquiry under the Chairmanship of Lord Desborough, K.C.V.O., to investigate the ever mounting grievances of the Police Service. The Desborough Report, when published, resulted in the passing of the Police Act of 1919, and the making of new Police Regulations. The effect of the new rates of pay given, as well as the improved conditions, became quickly evident, and brought many recruits to the force which was increased to a strength of 189. This augmentation of police personnel was necessary to give coverage to the newly enlarged area of the Borough, the extension of which, in 1918 added

15,934 acres, making the Borough 21,600 acres with a population of 148, 788 (1911 census).

The Chief Constable, "Captain Alf" as he was known to a wide circle of friends, died suddenly on 16th May, 1921, and was succeeded by Mr. R. D. Roberts, then serving as Superintendent. Mr. Roberts was the first Chief Constable of Swansea to rise through the ranks from constable, having joined the force in 1889. Mr. Roberts had been an enthusiastic member of the police band, and in his new office he sought recruits from the bands of the Services. During his Chief Constablenesship he built up a combination which achieved and maintained a high musical standard. An outstanding event was the first broadcast of the Band after the opening of the B.B.C. Studio on the corner of Oxford Street and Lower Union Street. Under the direction of Mr. A. Shackleford the Band subsequently became frequent broadcasters. Mr. Shackleford retired in 1931, and was succeeded by Mr. William Gumbley of the Hampshire Regiment who also conducted the Band at a number of broadcasts from the Cardiff studios, and the new Swansea Station opened in Alexandra Road. The present bandmaster, Mr. C. Owen Parker, formerly of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, succeeded Mr. Gumbley upon his retirement in 1948.

Such was Mr. Roberts' regard for his band, that he frequently found time to sit and listen attentively to rehearsals, quickly praising or criticising the playing. It was on the 1st August, 1927, whilst listening to the band at the Royal Welsh Show in Singleton Park, that he collapsed and died on the following day from a heart attack. The senior Superintendent, Mr. Richard Bowen, O.B.E., took over the command of the force until a new appointment could be made.

In the emergency of the 1926 general strike, a large number of local citizens volunteered for duty as special constables, and one of the first to enrol was Sir Arthur Whitten-Brown, the pioneer Atlantic flier, who was then residing at West Cross. Despite the nation-wide extent of the strike, the local citizens behaved extremely well, and apart from dealing with a few minor disturbances, the police had no difficulty in preserving good order in the Borough.

Mr. Thomas Rawson, who had been Chief Constable of Hereford for several years, was appointed to command the Force in 1927, and a new era of re-organisation and mechanisation commenced. He soon introduced the Police Box system and the Automatic Traffic Signals, both the first of their kind in Wales. The internal administrative methods and record system were thoroughly modernized by him, and a new air of efficiency pervaded the whole force. Some of the older members found the pace difficult at first, but all ranks quickly accepted a higher degree of discipline than that to which they had been accustomed.

The Fire Brigade, still under the control of the police, was also brought up to date in equipment. The personnel now consisted of twelve police constables wholly employed on Fire Brigade duties, who combined their duties with the maintenance of the town ambulance service and police transport.

In their fire duties they were augmented by twenty single police constables resident in the Central Police Station, and who, in addition to normal police work, were on call at all times. They were divided into First Class and Second Class Firemen, and received an additional remuneration of 2/6d. or 1/6d. per week. The equipment of the brigade was sorely in need of replacement, no important item having been purchased since 1913. On the Chief Constable's recommendation an 85 foot turntable escape, and motor pumps were acquired by the Corporation in 1928.

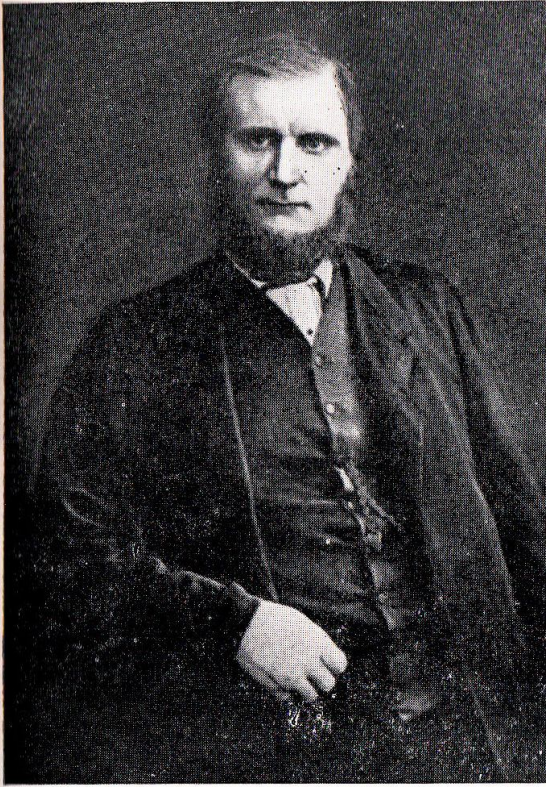
In the same year large scale unemployment, especially in the mining industry, caused serious unrest, which was openly exploited by the Communist Party. When the Trade Union Congress took place at the Elysium Hall, efforts were made by the Communists to organise an army of some 20,000 hunger marchers to come to Swansea for a demonstration with the stated intention of disrupting the Congress. Ample measures were taken by the police who let it be widely known in the mining valleys that any attempt to interfere with the Congress would be resisted. Most of the marchers dispersed before arriving in Swansea, and a party of less than 500, led by Mr. Tom Mann, which endeavoured to carry out the plan, were prevented in an attempt to enter the hall by a strong body of police, and were persuaded to take a much-needed rest in Victoria Park, with a promise that the

T.U.C. would receive a small deputation later in the day. Although their representatives failed to obtain satisfaction from the T.U.C. the unfortunate supporters were no longer prepared to demonstrate, and dispersed to their homes.

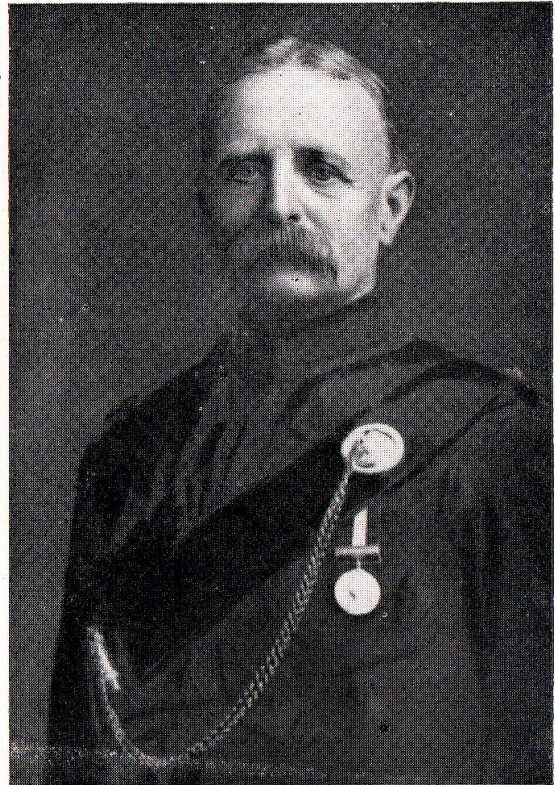
Training of recruits to the force now follows a carefully planned course of study, both in theoretical and practical police duties, in one of the Regional Training Schools set up after the second World War by the Home Office in conjunction with local Police Authorities, but for almost a century after its formation, the Swansea Borough Police, like many other forces, depended upon individual instruction given by an experienced officer during occasional hours when the recruit could be spared from beat duty. In the early days when some constables could neither read nor write, they gathered their knowledge from a recitation of police instructions and orders when on parade.

Among those larger forces which were pioneers in Police training, Birmingham City Police Force had a training school at Digbeth where constables received twelve weeks instruction of a very comprehensive type, and recruits to the Swansea Force were sent there for their training from 1923 to 1929. In April, 1929, Mr. Rawson set up a Police Training School at Swansea, following the style and syllabus of the Birmingham School, but combining local knowledge and practical beat working under the guidance of trained constables. Sergeant Robert James, later Chief Constable of Congleton, and after amalgamation, a Superintendent of the Cheshire Constabulary, was the first instructor in charge of the new school, which for a number of years gave a fundamental training, not only to Swansea recruits, but also those from Carmarthenshire, Carmarthen Borough, Neath Borough, Herefordshire, Hereford City and Merionethshire Constabularies.

Mr. Rawson left Swansea in 1931, on his appointment as Chief Constable of Bradford. During his four years at Swansea, he had brought about a marked advance in efficiency and discipline, social welfare and recreation. In particular he will be remembered for the inception of the Children's Annual Christmas Party, which has continued as a regular feature of the social life of the force. A generation has grown up from the babies of the



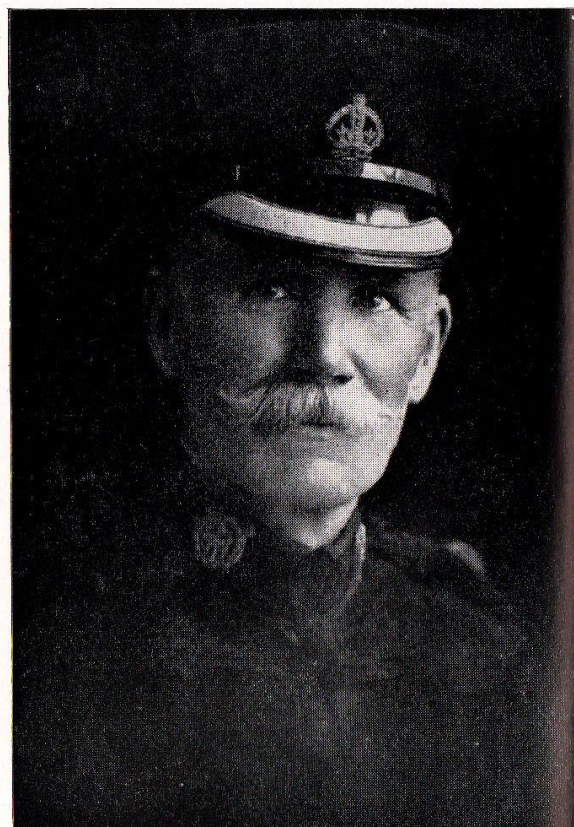
Mr. JOHN ALLISON
Chief Constable, 1865—1877



Captain ISAAC COLQUHOUN
Chief Constable, 1877—1913



Captain ALFRED THOMAS
Chief Constable, 1913—1921



Mr. RICHARD D. ROBERTS
Chief Constable, 1921—1927

Children's Party to adult men and women of 1957, many of whom are in the services and some serving as policemen and police women in Swansea. Before Mr. Rawson retired from the service, he became an Assistant H.M. Inspector of Constabulary, and was particularly concerned with post-war training of the police following the Second World War.

The new Chief Constable, Mr. Frank Joseph May, was appointed in 1931, having previously served as a Superintendent at Sheffield. The national crisis of 1931, with the inevitable economy cuts in police expenditure, partially checked the progress which had been made in the previous five years, and the introduction of a lower scale of pay for new entrants to the police service which followed, was viewed by all as a retrograde step towards the pre"Desborough" days, for a constable's wage no longer compared favourably with that of an average unskilled labourer. The commencing wage was now 62/- weekly, which was subject to a further economy cut of 6/2d. weekly. Even so, these disappointments did not affect the loyalty or efficiency which remained a feature of service in the force. A new recreation club was formed which brought under the control of an Executive Committee all the social and athletic activities which had hitherto been separately organised, and the pooling of resources enabled some of the less fortunate but equally essential forms of recreation to continue. It was also possible to widen the scope of recreation, and at present the Club caters for no less than twelve different activities, and maintains the police library.

Members of the Swansea Police Recreation Club have on many occasions been selected to play for British and Welsh Police Rugby and Soccer football teams, and other distinctions have been gained by individuals. A list of those in recent years is given in Appendix II.

In 1933 a social duty was voluntarily undertaken by members of the Swansea Police in the formation of a boys' club, catering in particular for those boys of the town for whom few such facilities were to be found. An old printing works was rented and with assistance of some interested citizens who provided both practical and financial help, the building was transformed into a centre of activities, recreational and cultural, in which the boys

enthusiastically engaged. The success of this effort can now be assessed from the new club building which was erected in 1938, on Mayhill, at the cost of £12,000, which sum was raised by organised efforts and activities. The prowess of its members in the field of sport has been outstanding, and in particular the gymnastic section which has been represented at the Olympic Games, the British Gymnastic team and held the Welsh Championship.

The total strength of the force in 1932 was 193, which included eight permanent members of the Fire Brigade who were sworn-in as constables. These were augmented by twenty-two auxiliary firemen normally performing police duties and resident in the single men's quarters at the Central Police Station, Alexandra Road. On 20th November, 1932, the Swansea Police Fire Brigade was called to a disastrous fire at a furniture store in High Street. Whilst at work on the fire from positions in the narrow Tower Lane, some constables were buried when the side of the building collapsed. Constables 45 Edward Gethin Harris, and 52 Harold Bulley sustained injuries from which they later died. Constables 104 William Drury and 152 Fred Morris were badly burned in removing Harris and Bulley from the burning ruins.

Three constables 74 Hugh Rawlings, 124 Ebenezer Jones and 152 Frederick Morris were subsequently awarded the bronze medal of the Society of the Protection of Life from Fire, for their conduct in this incident.

The mutual aid agreement between Swansea and Glamorgan Constabularies was again used in 1935 at the time of the industrial trouble in the mining valleys, which was known as the "stay in" strikes. A contingent of fifty officers and men under the command of Superintendent Francis was sent to Blaengarw and Pontycymmer as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order. That they successfully accomplished this without any difficulty is shown from the subsequent visits to Blaengarw by the rugby football team, when a welcome was extended to the Swansea Police and a dance organized in their honour.

Chapter IV

WAR DUTIES.

IN the years preceding the First World War it became more apparent than ever that to maintain efficiency the police had to improve the means of communication and transport. The increasing road traffic with an alarming toll of accidents called for mobility in the force to deal with offenders. The use of motor vehicles in connection with crime meant that the police had to be equally well equipped. A mobile section was formed, first with motor cycle patrols and later by a small fleet of cars. Swansea was among the first of the provincial police forces to experiment with wireless telegraphy, and in 1936 a one-way transmission to the cars was maintained from the Central Police Station. Of course, this system had its limitations as one could only surmise that a message transmitted had been picked up by the patrolling car, and two-way transmission was later installed. Particularly in dealing with such incidents as stolen cars, directing assistance to serious accidents, or controlling the flow of traffic on important occasions, wireless transmission has proved of great value and has become indispensable, but the telephone remains the most valuable general means of communication for police purposes.

Preparation in case of an outbreak of war began to affect the duties and administration of the force in 1938. Recruiting of special constables became a matter of first importance and Sunday afternoon classes were held to teach them the basic principles of police duties. Mr. F. H. Treharne-Thomas became the new Commandant of the Special Constabulary. A new body, the Auxiliary Fire Service was formed to supplement the regular fire brigade, which was still a branch of the police force and under the control of the Chief Constable.

By October, 1940, this Auxiliary Service consisted of 247 officers and men. The Fire Brigade work falling upon the police had increased considerably, the fire protection covering not only the County Borough but Llŵchwr Urban District and Gower Rural District. Members of the force were trained in the measures

to combat war gases, to deal with incendiary bombs and other air-raid precautions. Plans were made for bringing about a blackout in the shortest time in the event of air raid warnings, by utilising the services of motorists to take the lighting attendants to the switches controlling their different areas, a measure which quickly became obsolete when the absolute blackout during the hours of darkness was enforced.

In 1939, Civil Defence exercises commenced to co-ordinate newly formed services and the regular police force, and the security branch kept a thorough control on the record and movements of aliens. Members of the force were required to register for military service under the Military Training Act, but during all these diversions with their extra duties and responsibilities the normal police functions were unaffected, and from the continual efforts to prevent and detect crime to the most trivial of their manifold duties, the force never failed to fulfil its public service. In the days immediately prior to the declaration of war, orders were issued so frequently that it was difficult to readily comprehend all the new instructions. Issue of steel helmets, respirators and anti-gas clothing, new measures to restrict all kinds of lighting, mobilisation measures, billeting of troops, and a continuous flow of Defence Regulations, showed all ranks of the force the shape of things to come, and the daily tour of duty was extended to 12 hours. This extension of duty was necessary to provide the personnel for the policing of certain places of vital importance to the national effort of defence which were termed "Vulnerable Points." This duty brought about the necessity for arming the constables so engaged, being one of the rare occasions in the history of the force when any weapon other than a staff was carried. The first Police Reserve, a small force of retired police officers, was recalled to duty, but these were insufficient to meet the losses in the regular force due to the calling up of reservists, and early in 1940, a new auxiliary to the force was recruited known as the Police War Reserve. Formed by men who for reasons of age, or physical unsuitability, were not then liable for military service, this reserve after three or four weeks training in the Police School, was accepting the duties of a constable under conditions which were never more difficult. Their occupation in civilian life ranged

from stockbroker to a Cockney coffee-stall proprietor, from pianoforte tuner to a Jewish commercial traveller, and it was remarkable that they so quickly adapted themselves to the discipline and self-restraint of a policeman. Although air-raid incidents had occurred when bombs were dropped in Kilvey and Morriston, the first direct enemy action on the Borough, in which serious casualties resulted, occurred in July, 1940, when in daylight a plane flew in from the sea and dropped bombs in the Kings Dock area. This isolated incident had the effect of quickly dispelling a general impression that Swansea was unlikely to be the target of an attack. The Police and Civil Defence services were not called upon to do duty under air-raid conditions until the evening of Sunday, 1st September, 1940, when a sharp bombing attack took place, resulting in considerable damage and a number of serious casualties. Among the latter, Constable 161 Jack Harold Jenks, was the first policeman to lose his life, being struck by a splinter from a bomb which fell in Union Street. This was the test of the training which the force had received to meet such an emergency, and subsequent reports showed that they carried out their grim duties with credit. Furthermore, they were handicapped at an early stage in the raid, by a breakdown of all telephonic communications, due to a bomb destroying the main cables. The Chief Constable issued the following order after the raid.

"I desire to convey to the officers and all ranks of the Regular Police Force, First Police Reserve, Police War Reserve, Special Constabulary, Civilian Staff, Regular Fire Brigade and Auxiliary Fire Brigade, my deep appreciation of the efficient manner in which they discharged their duties during the incidents which took place on the night of Sunday, 1st September, 1940. Their loyal devotion to duty, combined with the resource and initiative which they displayed, were highly creditable, especially having regard to the most difficult circumstances under which the various duties had to be carried out. I am personally grateful to each and every man for the splendid example shown, and the public of Swansea should be justifiably proud of the work which they accomplished."

At the Central Police Station, where the police control room was situated a further handicap resulted from the loss of the main lighting system and a generator which had been installed for such

an emergency was put into operation. Unfortunately, the lighting circuits to all offices in the building from this generator were not fitted with independent switches, and as all the windows and blinds on the East side of the building had been blown out by a bomb which fell in Orchard Street, pandemonium arose when, with enemy aircraft overhead, the Police Station suddenly became illuminated from every window!

Experience showed that means of communication which were of such vital importance during air raids must extend beyond mechanical aids which were liable to breakdown, and to supplement the police mobile constables who were far too few to meet the situation, a Police Messenger Service was formed in December, 1940. The messengers were recruited from youth organisations and sea cadets, and were responsible for taking messages by hand when normal communications failed, between police assembly posts, auxiliary fire station and the police control room. These young men, some not more than sixteen years of age, did grand work, and showed courage of a high order in getting their messages through. It was during the performance of this duty that a similar messenger, attached to the Wardens Service, Joseph Martin Burke, 16 years, was killed by a high explosive bomb in High Street.

During the autumn and winter of 1940, continuous air raids and “alerts” in which all police were mobilised at their assembly points, imposed a considerable strain on all ranks, but like the public who remained in the town, their morale was high, and a lull which took place over the Christmas season gave a well-earned respite to all. Any hopes that this would last were rudely dispelled early in 1941, when on the night of 17th January, a particularly vicious attack was made on the town, with high explosives and incendiary bombs, resulting in a heavy loss of life and many casualties. Almost before the last bombs had fallen, a heavy snowfall occurred which added to the task of rescue work. The most severe test came with the heavy raids on the nights of 19th, 20th, and 21st February, when the most extensive damage was done to the town, destroying the shopping centre and causing considerable damage to the residential areas, particularly Townhill and Mayhill. The death-roll of over 200 for these three nights

was miraculously light when one surveyed the destruction, which was intensified by fire resulting from incendiary bombs, when the water supplies had been cut by high explosives. The deaths included sixteen street fire watchers. These were civilians who voluntarily engaged in extinguishing incendiary bombs and resultant fires.

During the raid on the night of the 21st February, Sergeant William Bolton Flitter and Constable Stephen Jones were carrying out their duty in Orchard Street, when a high explosive bomb fell nearby, as the result of which Flitter was killed instantaneously and Jones received severe injuries, involving amputation of his leg.

The police and fire brigade services, regulars and part-time, performed their arduous duties with commendable coolness and unflinching courage. The concentrated nature of the attacks created many dangerous and devastated areas, and ignoring personal risks, members of the force unhesitatingly answered calls for assistance in accordance with the best traditions of the service.

The force was honoured by the following awards or commendations given to some members, whose work was brought to official notice :—

Mr. F. J. May, Chief Constable	..	Order of the British Empire.
Constable 89 F. H. Dart	..	British Empire Medal.
Inspector F. T. Price	..	H.M. the King's Commendation.
Constable 128 S. Baker	..	H.M. the King's Commendation.
Constable 35 E. D. Price	..	H.M. the King's Commendation.
War Reserve Constable 60 N. Powell	..	H.M. the King's Commendation.
Sergeant 38 G. H. J. H. Cooper	..	Commended by the Chief Constable.
Constable 19 D. G. Bevan	..	Commended by the Chief Constable.
Constable 61 E. G. Thomson	..	Commended by the Chief Constable.
Constable 189 R. F. Evans	..	Commended by the Chief Constable.

Constable 194 W. D. Thomas	..	Commended by the Chief Constable.
War Reserve Constable 31 S. G. Trick	..	Commended by the Chief Constable.

After these raids it was necessary to obtain assistance from the military, and from the Glamorgan and Carmarthen County Constabularies, under the Regional Police Reinforcement Scheme. With so much bomb damaged and unprotected property, the prevention of looting for which special provision had been made in the Defence Regulations, kept the force particularly busy, and the town centre was completely closed to all except the services on duty and specially authorised persons. The danger from unexploded bombs necessitated some further measures of evacuation and traffic diversion.

On 19th March, 1941, their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visited Swansea and moved freely amongst the people, speaking to and shaking hands with many of those who had suffered, an occasion which did much to maintain the morale of the public.

With the formation of the National Fire Service on 18th August, 1941, the Borough Police relinquished their centuries old responsibilities for fire fighting and handed over the equipment and control to the new service. Some police officers, whose duties had been wholly concerned with the Fire Brigade, transferred to the National Fire Service and the Chief Constable, Mr. F. J. May, who retired on pension from the force at this time, was appointed Fire Force Commander for the No. 21 area, which comprised the Swansea District.

On 3rd September, 1941, Mr. David Victor Turner, then Superintendent 'A' Division of the Force, was appointed Chief Constable, having served through the ranks. Prior to joining the force in 1920, Mr. Turner served with the forces during the First World War and was a commissioned officer in the 1/90th Punjab Regiment in India. His first-hand knowledge of the prevailing conditions in the town, coupled with a wide experience in the administration of the force, enable him quickly to take over the command at a time when an efficient police service was never more necessary to cope with the ever increasing duties

and responsibilities.

In October, 1941, women were appointed to the force as auxiliary constables, and were the first women apart from the matrons, to serve in the force. By 1943, there were thirty women auxiliaries, mainly employed in administrative and communication duties, thus releasing men for outside patrol duties.

Apart from an enemy attack on the Borough in February, 1943, resulting in loss of life and property, no further serious incidents occurred, though the members of the force spent many long hours at the alert when hostile aircraft passed over the area to targets in the north west.

It is noteworthy that throughout those dark days when the police carried out so many varied, responsible and at times, grim duties, the normal routine of the force changed but little. It was typical, for instance, when during a heavy raid and with bombs falling on the town, a telephone call was received by War Reserve Constable Davies from the Hafod Police Box asking for a conveyance to be sent to collect a stray dog. What contrasts were to be found in the Occurrence Book recording summaries of police reports!

P.C. 153 Hinton reports five persons killed by H.E. Bomb at Llanerch Road.

P.S. 168 Protheroe reports motorist failed to produce his driving licence.

Inspector Griffiths reports removing eleven persons from an air-raid shelter at Neath Road, Plasmarl. Five dead.

P.C. 74 Rawlings reports a householder for displaying a light.

P.C. 165 Grove reports parading for duty at White City Dog Track. Racing cancelled.

P.C. 101 Allen reports assisting to evacuate Folland and Dyer Wards at Swansea General Hospital, after incendiary bombs had fallen on wards.

P.C. 75 John reports wastage of water at Cross Street.

In this manner the successive entries recording the tragic and the trivial continued day by day to tell the story of a war as seen by a policeman. Police Courts sat at the appointed times to deal with the usual minor offenders, including many and varying infringements of Defence Regulations and Orders. Discipline was

maintained at the usual high level. The police band rehearsed when compatible with their duties and gave several concerts. On two occasions the band assisted the American Forces by providing the music for the Independence Day Parades, including playing the "Star Spangled Banner" and being honoured with an inspection by an American general.

These troops encamped at Morriston, Singleton Park and Manselton, increased in numbers until shortly prior to the Allied landings in France there were some 20,000 American personnel in the Borough. They included several thousands of coloured men, and like those who came from the great Alaska Road, many were unused to the ways of life in a Welsh town, giving the police some trying moments. The borough constables were augmented by the American military police patrols, and offences were dealt with by military courts which sat at the Magistrates Court. The procedure in these Courts with the latitude given in cross-examination and admission of hearsay so much in contrast with our own, was disconcerting to the police officers who were required to give evidence! When shortly before 'D' day the large convoy streamed out of Swansea Bay, there was an emptiness in the town, and the good wishes of the townspeople went with the American soldiers with whom so many friendships had been made.

The peace celebrations were welcomed by all, but brought added responsibilities to the force after years of war in which civil defence duties had been a dire necessity, when crime and acts of violence had to be dealt with under black-out conditions, buildings and places of vital importance to the nation given special protection and a multitude of Defence Regulations and Orders enforced. This had been a period without parallel in the history of the force and Mr. J. Chuter Ede, the Home Secretary, expressed his appreciation in the following tribute to the forces, which was received by the Chief Constable.

"It is a source of very great pleasure to me that, so soon after taking office as Home Secretary, I should have the opportunity of sending this message of thanks to all ranks of the regular and auxiliary police of England and Wales for their work on the two Victory days.

I know that you ask no thanks for a job which, you will say was "all in a day's work;" but I think it right that the police should know how great is the appreciation of the good-tempered efficiency with which they discharged their heavy, and sometimes difficult, duties on this occasion.

At a time of national holiday, you had to remain on duty. At a time when the country as a whole was taking a rest from its labours, your burdens were increased. You did your duty splendidly, despite your depleted numbers, the physical strain involved by your long hours of duty and your natural regret at being unable to join in the celebrations with your families and friends. You kept your heads and your tempers, and your work on the days of victory fittingly crowned your great history of war-time achievements.

J. CHUTER EDE."

Mr. D. V. Turner was one of the three Chief Constables from England, Scotland, and Wales selected to head the police contingent which took part in the Victory Parade before Their Majesties the King and Queen, in London on 8th June, 1946.

A memorial window at the Central Police Station bears the names of the following members of the Force, who lost their lives in the Second World War :

P.S. 37 W. B. Flitter.

P.C. 28 C. A. Johnson.

P.C. 161 J. H. Jenks.

P.C. 184 W. T. G. Pridmore.

Cadet Clerk W. A. Hughes.

Cadet Clerk J. C. Carpenter.

Cadet Clerk L. L. Williams.

Chapter V

POST-WAR RE-ORGANISATION.

As abnormal war duties ceased, the police could not relax their efforts in the prevention and detection of crime which was steadily increasing. War conditions had brought about a lowering in personal standards of honesty, due in some respects to rationing and other controls, or lack of guidance and discipline in the home caused by the absence of one or both parents. Attention now turned to the post-war re-organisation of the force and the foremost problem was that of recruitment and training. The disbanding of the Police War Reserve coupled with an accumulated number of retirements, created a shortage of man-power which could not easily be restored. Of the reasons put forward there is no doubt that it was the unfavourable pay and conditions of service, compared with those offered in industry, which most affected recruiting from young men of the necessary education and calibre. A wise decision was made not to lower the standard of recruit desired, for the sake of rapidly restoring the strength of the force. Even so, the intake of new constables in all forces was sufficiently large to create a new problem in providing sufficient training facilities, for in addition to initial training courses, refresher courses were vitally necessary for serving constables who were being demobilised after years of absence from police work.

This problem had been foreseen by the Home Office, and in conjunction with local authorities, Regional Training Centres were set up, capable of dealing with large scale training. Instructors seconded to the centre from different forces were men who had attended a Home Office Instructors' Training Course and been found to possess ability in that direction. The County Borough of Swansea came within No. 8 District, comprising the police forces of Wales, Monmouthshire and Herefordshire, and the Training Centre was established first at Bryncethin in Glamorgan, and later at the Bridgend Headquarters of the Glamorgan Constabulary. At first a quota system was necessary, based on the

numerical strength of each force, to allocate the vacancies in the centre.

The training facilities available soon widened and Swansea made use of the numerous specialised courses, such as the Detective Training Courses offered by the Metropolitan Police at Hendon, the West Riding Constabulary at Wakefield, and the Birmingham City Police. The need for an extremely high standard of police driving was recognised and met by the driving courses held by the Lancashire, Staffordshire and Glamorgan Constabularies, to which members of the mobile section were sent. Suitable constables were sent to London for instruction in photography and fingerprints, whilst others attended courses in various aspects of civil defence. Local instruction was given following up the recruits training during the two years' probationary period, and classes and discussion groups arranged for men preparing to take promotion examinations. In 1948 the Police College at Ryton-on-Dunsmore was opened and selected officers were sent from Swansea to take advantage of the courses offered, giving them a training on a higher level with special emphasis on mind broadening.

Crime was next in focus and it was soon apparent that new methods would have to be considered to reduce the advantages afforded the criminal, especially in rapid transport.

The introduction of the '999' emergency call system to Swansea, in November, 1946, proved very effective in bringing quick police action in a number of cases of crime and other emergencies from the commencement, and the public quickly put it to use. There were, of course, a number of false calls for police, ambulance and fire brigade, but not such as to cause undue difficulty, and in many cases the offenders, who were usually juveniles, were caught and dealt with. At first some members of the public found difficulty in recognising the difference between an emergency for which the call was intended and a normal matter requiring police attention. However, the police could not be too critical of such errors, lest the ordinary citizen should be afraid to use the emergency service. Among such '999' calls recorded, the following are worthy of mention :—"This is the Shoulder of Mutton public house, will you tell Detective - - that

we can manage cold meat and pickles for supper." It transpired that the call was made in response to an earlier request as to whether they could provide a visiting police escort with a meal. Another appeal to the police was, "Will you tell the Pastor of . . . Chapel that Will Jenkins has passed away, and ask him to offer a prayer."

Although such misuse or abuse of this facility occasionally occurs, which tends to reduce its effectiveness, excellent results have been obtained due to the directness with which '999' calls are received in the Police Communications Room. One typical instance occurred soon after the emergency telephone system was installed when the occupier of a flat adjoining business premises dialled '999' to give information of unusual noises in the shop. By a wireless message a patrol car was directed to the scene where it was found that three men had broken into the shop. When subsequently dealt with it was disclosed that the men concerned were part of a gang responsible for no less than 31 cases of shop-breaking in the Borough involving losses amounting to £3,000.

In another case a '999' call was received at 3.24 p.m. that a motor car had been stolen from Queens Road, Sketty. The message was transmitted by radio to a police patrol car at 3.25 p.m. and four minutes later a wireless message was received from the patrol that the car had been recovered and driver arrested at Treboeth, nearly four miles from Sketty.

In April, 1946, the Home Office took over the ownership and maintenance of the police wireless apparatus which was retained on a rental basis. In that year alone a total of 9,925 wireless messages were received at the Central Police Station, of which 8,168 were in respect of crime, traffic and accidents.

With the disbanding of the Women's Auxiliary Police Corps in 1946, came the appointment of the first regular Police Women to the force, who were sent to a Regional Training School where they underwent a full course of training. At the commencement they consisted of two constables but are, in 1957, a section of seven women constables under a woman police sergeant. No longer confined to administrative work these women have proved their usefulness in all aspects of police work, in-

cluding patrols, enquiries, assistance to women and children found ill, injured, or destitute, protective work with girls in bad company or moral danger, supervision of and escorting women prisoners and juvenile delinquents, tracing missing females and absconders from homes and hostels. They also form an important link with various welfare organisations and in their daily work have unique opportunities to render a most useful public service.

As the new shopping centre developed, bringing a greater influx of people from outside the town than ever before, and new traffic problems, so the outer districts which were formerly rural in character, became new housing estates. To meet the increased work the force was expanded in 1948 to a total of 251, to be attained during the following five years. The improved conditions of service and pay brought about following the acceptance by the Government of the findings of the Oaksey Committee in July, 1949, did much to assist recruiting to the force, and in 1949, new methods of policing districts were tried with a view to increasing efficiency and to bring more variety to the duties of the beat constable. The most successful of these was the mobile police team which consisted of a sergeant and three constables patrolling in a radio-equipped car. The rapid movement of constables from one area to another where they left the car and patrolled on foot, under the direction of the sergeant or in response to messages transmitted from headquarters, proved most effective, especially in dealing with outbreaks of disorderly conduct and rendering assistance following serious accidents. The 'team police' as it came to be known is also an excellent training for the younger constables. Instances of the successful work of this team in combating crime are numerous and the following case is quoted because it also illustrates the great value of a policeman's local knowledge.

At 11.15 p.m. on 25th October, 1955, Police Constable Evans was patrolling his beat in Oxford Street, when he saw a man wearing a blue shirt with black and gold shoulder epaulettes. The man's appearance being somewhat unusual, even for a seaport town, the constable took a particular note of his description and continued his patrol. Some time later P.C. Evans heard a sound of breaking glass and hurrying in the direction from which

it came, found a large plate glass window broken in the arcade of a ladies' outfitters and that a fur coat had apparently been stolen. An immediate search of the area revealed no sign of the culprit and a message was telephoned to the Central Police Station. He also gave the description of the man previously seen by him in the vicinity, which was instantly recognised by a detective constable as that of a man with a long criminal record who had been seen by him similarly dressed on a previous occasion. A radio message was at once transmitted to the sergeant of the team police car, who left a constable at the suspect's home to await his possible return, while the rest of the team continued to search. At 1 a.m. the following morning, Constable Baldwin arrested the man as he arrived home with the stolen property. He was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment and a further 6 months imprisonment for malicious damage, at the Quarter Sessions.

When an alarm is given by a constable, or received from any member of the public, that a crime is being committed, the whole organisation of the force in the area is keyed up to a high standard of alertness, all available men being despatched to the scene and team police cars directed by radio. Sometimes the scene of the crime consists of a whole block of shops and when this occurs at night, the constables resident in the Central Station are hurriedly called to assist in the police action. An instance of this happened after midnight on 3rd March, 1956. Two constables examining premises in the town centre met in Union Street, when they heard a sound of breaking glass coming from a large block of business premises consisting of a theatre, cinema and a number of stores and shops. One constable climbed a wall and reported that he could see what appeared to be a man on the roof of an office block. Keeping observation he despatched his colleague for assistance, and when the message was received at H.Q. all available help, including the resident constables from their beds, as well as patrol cars, was despatched. Whilst a cordon of police surrounded the area, pursuit of the man commenced over the roofs of the buildings in some cases to a height of eighty feet, in darkness and heavy rain, and he was ultimately arrested behind the screen of a cinema where he had hidden. In the course of the



Mr. THOMAS RAWSON
Chief Constable, 1927—1931



Mr. FRANK JOSEPH MAY, O.B.E.
Chief Constable, 1931—1941



Mr. DAVID VICTOR TURNER, O.B.E.
The present Chief Constable

chase one constable fell through a roof on to some machinery about twelve feet below, but fortunately escaped injury. As a result of this arrest, two men were found guilty of no less than 25 cases of shop-breaking and sentenced to 2 years and 18 months imprisonment, respectively.

This case is not an exception and is quoted to illustrate the manner in which the police respond to an alarm.

The post-war years have brought new problems to the police service, not the least of which is the tremendous increase in traffic on the roads. Entirely new ideas have been necessary with a degree of tolerance which would have been unthinkable a few years ago. The very traffic conditions of which so many complain are the gauge by which the town's prosperity can be measured, and a balanced judgment has been very necessary in approaching the problem.

A plan initiated by the Chief Constable was approved by the Town Council and the Ministry of Transport after some local opposition in 1955. The scheme embraced a system of One-way streets, new 'bus routes and termini, parking places, limited waiting places and 'no waiting' places, and proved to be the most successful step taken to attain a reasonable measure of control. It is clear, however, that the continuing increase in the number of vehicles using the road leaves no room for complacency, especially in parking facilities, and if the police are going to maintain the freedom of the Queen's highway in the future, they will need the support of all responsible departments and the public.

The nation-wide alarm at the high number of road casualties has been recognised in Swansea, and particularly since the end of the Second World War, the police and the public, through various committees and organisations, have joined in efforts to reduce the local toll of accidents. The highest yearly totals of accidents in the Borough were in the years 1938 and 1939, with 1,663 and 1,596 accidents respectively. The post-war figures commenced in 1946 with 968 and have maintained a steady yearly increase to a total of 1,172 in 1955. When due recognition is given to the greater and increasing road traffic compared with the year 1938, it can be accepted that the efforts being made by all

are meeting with some success. Within the traffic section of the force a sergeant has been appointed to co-ordinate all road safety matters but it is recognised to be a specific duty of every constable to participate. Every accident is carefully analysed with a view to ascertaining its cause and deciding upon any action which can prevent a recurrence. The special care given to school children has been supplemented by the appointment in 1950 of school crossing patrols selected from suitable men and women who are able to attend at particular crossings when children are going to and from school. Instruction of propaganda value has been given by members of the force to children in their schools with the co-operation of the Education Authority, and efforts are made by printed appeals and loud speaker announcements to the general public whenever the opportunity affords. It is in this direction that the police women have proved to be invaluable and their control of traffic and pedestrians at busy junctions has received admiration and glowing tributes of the general public. It might be of interest to mention that more than one police-woman has received a proposal of marriage whilst carrying out this duty, and it speaks well for their unruffled calm that no accident has resulted.

Provision was made in the Criminal Justice Act, 1948, for the setting up of "Attendance Centres," places at which certain young offenders are required to attend by an order of the Court for periods outside school hours and be given appropriate occupation and instruction. Swansea was among the first local authorities to make provision for such a centre and arrangements were made with the Secretary of State for the use of the building belonging to the Swansea Boys' Club for the purpose, with the consent of the Club's committee, in August, 1953. Boys sent to the centre are given twelve hours training in six two-hourly periods, and carry out tasks designed to improve their personal appearance and conduct, as well as teach them the proper use of leisure time. An Inspector of the force is responsible for the conduct of the Centre and the training, this being one of the few occasions when the police carry out any measure ordered by a Court after an offender has been dealt with. Probably the only earlier instance was before 1938, when the remand home was

supervised by a constable whose unpleasant duty it was to inflict corporal punishment on juvenile offenders when directed by the Justices.

Experience has shown that Attendance Centres have a definite deterrent and reformatory effect upon offenders, but the facilities of the Swansea centre are not freely used by the nine Petty Sessional Divisions which it is intended to serve.

The duties of the police are not solely concerned with crime and public order, and some of the most vital functions, though fortunately not too frequent, are major disasters involving serious loss of life or damage. It is on these occasions that the police in furtherance of their fundamental duty to protect life and property, are required to organise rescue and first-aid, attend to the welfare of survivors, prevent extension of the danger including evacuation when necessary, prevent theft, organise control of traffic, and finally, collect all available evidence for a subsequent enquiry. By the very nature of its duties, dispositions and systems of communication, the force is able to accept this responsibility, but it is with gratitude that the help of the specialist organisations, such as the Fire Brigade with its manpower and equipment, the welfare officers and other public and voluntary services is acknowledged.

Since the end of the war when so many incidents were dealt with by the police and civil defence organisations, three serious disasters have occurred in Swansea, when the police have taken a large part in the subsequent rescue work. In September, 1950, three dwelling houses in Prince of Wales Road, which were built on old warehouses in a lower street level, collapsed in a heap of debris some 30 to 40 feet below, together with twenty-two persons residing in the houses. Fifteen of these were rescued by teams organised under a police control, and seven others were dead when recovered from the debris. Apart from the measures taken in rescue, first-aid and shelter, evacuation of ten adjoining houses had to be carried out, and at later times these similarly collapsed, without further injury.

The police who took part in this incident were commended both by members of the public and the Chief Constable, for the manner in which they discharged their duty. Since then explosions

and fire have occurred on two large ships, the "Atlantic Duchess" in 1953, and "Olaf Ringdal Junior" in 1954. Both these vessels had arrived at Swansea with cargoes of crude oil and apart from loss of life on board, considerable danger existed of further explosions, owing to the position of similar vessels and oil installations. The Fire Brigade took a major part in extinguishing the fires and the police set up a control centre, recovered the bodies, assisted the injured and other survivors, and subsequently collected evidence for the coroner's and official enquiries.

Important occasions, such as visits of members of the Royal Family, International Football and Cup Matches and important shows such as the Royal Welsh Show or the Bath and West Show, require considerable planning of police arrangements for the safety and control of crowds and traffic. At such times the force is fully extended and it is sometimes necessary to call for assistance from other forces. In the post-war years visits of this kind have been made to the Borough by Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, the Princess Margaret and the Princess Royal. At the opening of the Usk Reservoir in August, 1955, by H.M. the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, the area of the dam and approach roads, forming part of the Counties of Brecon and Carmarthen, was policed by the Swansea Borough Constabulary.

On 2nd June, 1953, a detachment of the Swansea Police, comprising one Inspector, two Sergeants, ten Constables and a Policewoman, were on duty in London on the occasion of the Coronation of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty held a review of the police in Hyde Park on 14th July, 1954, in which 10,000 men and women police took part. Swansea was represented in the parade by an Inspector and twenty-three other ranks of the force.

Having commanded the force since 1941, the present Chief Constable, Mr. D. V. Turner, has had a greater task than any of his predecessors. The difficult war years followed by the period of reconstruction and planning, with its new methods and the problems of re-building the force to meet the demands of the age have required a balanced judgment, and the award of the King's Police Medal for distinguished service in 1949, was later



The Central Police Station, Swansea (built 1912).

followed by the conferring on the Chief Constable of the Order of the British Empire.

At the commencement of 1957 the total strength of the force was 272 officers, other ranks and police women. With motor transport, radio communication, forensic science laboratories, specialised training and all the other advantages of the modern age, the force has travelled a long way from its humble beginning in 1836 with Inspector Rees and his six men. The County Borough covers nearly 34 square miles, with a large dock area, heavy and light industries, and extensive residential areas. The outer districts, at one time rural in character are steadily being replaced by new housing estates. The 1951 census figure of population of 160,988 does not take into consideration the many thousands of people coming into the town for business and shopping purposes from the surrounding county districts and the industrial valleys.

Much of old Swansea with its narrow, congested streets has disappeared and is replaced, under the Corporation's re-development plans by wide modern thoroughfares and large contemporary blocks of shops and offices. It is not without regret that the older members of our community have seen the extinction of so many shops bearing the names of families who have served generations of Swansea people. The last remnants of the old castle, once the heart of the town's affairs, look out into a new age of steel and concrete, but the fundamental duties of the police remain unchanged.

This brief history has been an endeavour to trace the course of law enforcement in Swansea through five and a half centuries. It is a record which tells of early difficulties and mistakes, as well as the fewer occasions when the good work of the force received public recognition. In its infancy the force had few friends, and the thousands of hours of vigilant patrolling by night and day, in the preservation of the peace, the protection of life and property and prevention and detection of crime, passed by without comment.

The stories of individual loyalty, courage and conscientious effort of constables throughout the years could not be contained in a book of this size if they had been recorded. Of one thing the writer is certain. Since the Swansea Police Force commenced in

1836, there has always been a deep-rooted sense of public duty among its members, and apart from whatever equipment and aids science provides, it will be this quality by which its efficiency will be measured in the years to come.

Appendix I

LIST OF PARISH CONSTABLES APPOINTED IN 1855 UNDER PARISH CONSTABLES ACT, 1842.

Nicholas Bue, a currier, Oxford Street.
 Edward Adams, shoemaker, Castle Street.
 James Edward Burgess, baker, Strand.
 George Thomas Couch, sailmaker, Union Street.
 David Edward Couch, sailmaker, Adelaide Street.
 Robert Woolacott, founder, The Strand.
 Nathaniel Williams, joiner, Park Street.
 Evan Williams, quarryman, Sketty.
 Robert Townsend, book-binder, Oxford Street.
 Henry Edward Taylor, brazier, High Street.
 William Rayner, builder, Belle Vue Street.
 Henry Townsend Arnold, brazier, Temple Street.
 William Phillips, Lodging House keeper, Orchard Street.
 John Neat, painter, Oxford Street.
 John Brader, music seller, Wind Street.
 Daniel Gregory, cabinet maker, Caer Street.
 David Jones, fireman, Belle Vue Street.
 Henry Dodd, grocer, Union Street.
 Alfred Matthews, grocer, Castle Square.
 Charles Fuller, cabinet maker, High Street.
 David James, weaver, Union Street.
 Joseph Derrick, confectioner, High Street.
 John James, builder, Heathfield Street.
 William Richards, grocer, High Street.
 James Collins, drayman, Mysydd Street.
 William Jenkins, weaver, Carmarthen Road.
 Joseph Guppy, carrier, Pell Street.
 John Bennett, tobacconist, Wind Street.
 George Godbeer, storekeeper, Mount Pleasant.
 William Hanson Thomas, baker, Rutland Street.

George Slivens, shoemaker, College Street.
George Conybear, tea-dealer, Marlborough Place.
Thomas Jones, tailor, Castle Street.
David Davies, draper, Castle Street.
Richard Harman, grocer, Back Street.
Frederick Bennett, painter, Quay Parade.
David Walters, grocer, St. Mary Square.
George Bowen, haulier, Adelaide Street.
Samuel Ward, broker, Castle Square.
Joseph Richards, builder, Cradock Street.
William Jones, draper, Temple Street.
John Osborn, hairdresser, Castle Street.
Thomas Williams, gardener, Waun Wen.
George Ace Bevan, agent, Pier Street.

Appendix II

LIST OF SOME OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF MEMBERS OF THE SWANSEA POLICE RECREATION CLUB.

Constable 2. Wilfred Harris	.. British Police XV. Captain of All Whites.
Constable 54. Eddie Morgan	.. Captain of British Police XV. Captain of All Whites. Welsh and British Internationals
Constable 16. Bryn Evans	.. British Police XV. Welsh Police XV. Captain of All Whites.
Constable 28. D. Johnson	.. British Police XV. Welsh Police XV. Welsh International. Captain of All Whites.
Constable 93. E. Davies	.. British Police XV. Welsh Police XV. All Whites and Aberavon.
Constable 75. W. Bratton	.. British and Welsh Police XV. All Whites.
Constable 81. T. Crabbe	.. British and Welsh Police Soccer XI.
Constable 18. T. D. Evans	.. Welsh Police XI.
Constable 177. K. R. Owen	.. Welsh Police XI.
Constable 131. R. R. Simons	.. Welsh Police XI.
Constable 66. P. L. Lloyd	.. 200 yards breast-stroke Championship, Police National Championships, 1957, and European Police Championships, 1957.

Constable 90. H. Thomas has promoted physical culture in the force and has held many titles in that field, including :—

Mr. Britain, 1956. Mr. Wales, 1949, 1950, 1953.
 Britain's Perfect Athlete, 1951 Body Builder of the year, 1951.
 Runner-up—Mr. Europe, 1951.
 3rd place in Mr. Universe (World Physique Championship) 1951,
 1952.
 British Weight Lifting record as 'pullover at arms length' lift.

Appendix III

MEMBERS OF THE SWANSEA BOROUGH POLICE WHO HAVE OBTAINED APPOINTMENTS TO THE RANK OF CHIEF CONSTABLE.

- 1883. Sergeant David Morgan to Head Constable of Honiton,
Devon.
- 1887. Sergeant Thomas Smith to Head Constable of Carmarthen.
- 1888. Constable Philip Stephen Clay to Head Constable, Brecon,
Southampton and Nottingham.
- 1899. Inspector William Henry Jones to Chief Constable, Stockport.
- 1905. Superintendent William Thomas to Chief Constable, Bre-
conshire.
- 1922. Superintendent Arthur Stanley Michael to Chief Constable,
Radnorshire.
- 1921. Superintendent Richard Drwydd Roberts to Chief Constable,
Swansea.
- 1925. Sergeant Percy Douglas Keep to Chief Constable, Neath.
- 1933. Inspector Henry James Vann to Chief Constable, Lancaster,
Maidstone and Birkenhead.
- 1931. Sergeant Robert W. James to Chief
Constable, Congleton.
- 1934. Sergeant William George Symmons to
Chief Constable, Macclesfield and
St. Helen's
- 1941. Superintendent David Victor Turner to Chief Constable,
Swansea.

} after appointments
to Inspector at
Bedford.

Appendix IV

CHIEF CONSTABLES OF SWANSEA.

Mr. William Rees, Inspector and Head Constable	..	1836 - 1851
Mr. Henry Tate, Superintendent and Head Constable		1851 - 1857
Mr. James Dunn, Superintendent and Head Constable		1857 - 1863
Lt. Col. John Lambrick Vivian, Head Constable	..	1863 - 1865
Mr. John Allison, Head Constable	..	1865 - 1877
Captain Isaac Colquhoun, Chief Constable	..	1877 - 1913
Captain Alfred Thomas, Chief Constable	..	1913 - 1921
Mr. Richard D. Roberts, Chief Constable	..	1921 - 1927
Mr. Thomas Rawson, Chief Constable	..	1927 - 1931
Mr. Frank Joseph May, O.B.E., Chief Constable	..	1931 - 1941
Mr. David Victor Turner, O.B.E., Chief Constable	..	1941

DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENTS.

George Holland	..	1878 - 1889
David Jones	..	1890 - 1894
Thomas Jones	..	1895 - 1896
W. M. Thomas	..	1896 - 1905
James Gill (Deputy Chief Constable)	..	1905 - 1914
Richard D. Roberts (later Chief Constable)	..	1913 - 1921
Thomas Hayse	..	1917 - 1924
Richard Bowen, O.B.E.	..	1921 - 1929
Harry Fox	..	1923 - 1931
Henry John Gunston (Deputy Chief Constable)	..	1929 - 1937
Frederick William Gubb	..	1931 - 1937
William Francis	..	1934 - 1938
David Victor Turner O.B.E. (later Chief Constable)	..	1937 - 1941
Daniel Aubrey Cooper (Deputy Chief Constable)	..	1939 - 1943
Joshua Thomas	..	1941 - 1946
David Edgar Morgan, M.B.E. (Deputy Chief Constable)		1941
Walter William Hunt	..	1946
Edward Honbrook	..	1946 - 1954
Ebenezer Jones	..	1954