

Here is another 'blast from the past', which might be an interest from those of my era. The photo was given to me by my uncle, former Inspector Edgar West. It was taken on the roof of the old central police station in Orchard Street, Swansea sometime in the mid 1930's. Many were still serving when I joined the force in 1954.

Top left is Les Punter who had risen to the rank of Inspector. Third left is my uncle Edgar West. On the left of the polo-necked drill instructor is Ted Thompson who was, I remember, a keen cultivator of tomatoes. On the far right, on the top, is Wilf Harris – a noted local sportsman who resigned to open his own sports shop in St Helens Road, Swansea. Middle left is Charlie Millis who, I remember as an Inspector. The Instructor. Sergeant D V Turner, had risen to the rank of Chief Constable when I joined.

In the centre, bowler-hatted, is the (then) Chief Constable F J May who Edgar described as a 'strict disciplinarian'. Extreme right, middle row is Ned Parker who became Detective Superintendent of Swansea CID. Bottom left is Frank usher who banged the big drum in the Swansea police band – who kept us all in step when we marched to funerals or Mayor making ceremonies.

Bottom right is Dick Smale who was at one time my sergeant and was an internationally acclaimed radio ham. Top right of the picture, and to the right of Wilf Harris, is someone described as P C 12 Asher of Neath. I would be interested to know if we were training Neath Borough men at that time and if indeed that force existed – what was its strength. I am sure some of my former colleagues might have the answer.

Perhaps you could pass this on to the editor of our newsletter – it might be of some interest.

Yours truly,



Brian Pounder