



A Short History
of the

MACCLESFIELD BOROUGH
POLICE FORCE

from its inception
19th January, 1836
to amalgamation with the Cheshire Constabulary
1st April, 1947.

Foreword

The Macclesfield Borough Police Force has been in existence for one hundred and eleven years. During that time there have been many changes in customs and manner of living, but the main object of the police force has not changed even if the methods of policing and general administration have differed through the years.

The police service was formed for the protection of life and property and in this connection we can assuredly be proud of the contribution which the force has made to the life of our ancient Borough. So many served in its ranks that by their individual efforts a good state of efficiency was reached and the inhabitants are justly proud of a force that has served them so well. Whilst the amalgamation of the force is regretted by us all, those transferred will render the Cheshire Constabulary conscientious and loyal service as given whilst in the Borough and so maintain the tradition of the proud British Police Service.

It has not been possible to obtain particulars of every incident connected with the administration of the force, but I trust that what has been recorded in this booklet will prove of interest and reveal a fair picture of the activities of the force since its inauguration.

W. G. SYMMONS,
CHIEF

*Borough Police Office,
CONSTABLE.
Macclesfield.
31st March, 1947.*

CHIEF CONSTABLES OF MACCLESFIELD 1836-1947

19th January,	1836 WILLIAM LOCKETT 1840
17th November,	1840 EDWARD ASPLEY STOCKWIN 1842
17th November, July,	1842 WILLIAM HARPER 1860
8th October, 9th March,	1860 JAMES ETCHELLS 1874
1st May, 25th December,	1874 WILLIAM SHEASBY 1903
21st December, 30th July,	1903 JOHN BERRY 1907 (Appointed Chief Constable, Barrow)
13th May, 14th February,	1907 HENRY SHEASBY 1942
15th February, 31st October,	1942 RONALD ALDERSON 1944 (Appointed Chief Constable, Luton)
31st October, 31st March,	1944 TOM BRAMWELL 1945 (Acting Chief Constable)
1st April, 31st March,	1945 WILLIAM GEORGE SYMMONS 1947

Macclesfield Borough Police Force, 1836—1947.

On the 1st April this year the Police Act of 1946 becomes operative. One of its provisions is the abolition of Borough Police Forces, numbering forty-seven, and thereafter they will form part of the county in which they are situated.

As a matter of interest the following is an alphabetical list of the police forces to lose their identity:

Accrington	King's Lynn
Ashton-under-Lyne	Lancaster
Bacup	Leamington
Bedford	Luton
Boston	Macclesfield
Carmarthen	Maidstone
Chepping Wycombe	Margate
Chesterfield	Neath
Clitheroe	Newark
Colchester	Newcastle-under-
Lyme	
Congleton	Penzance
Dover	Ramsgate
Folkestone	Reigate
Glossop	Rochester
Grantham	Salisbury
Gravesend	Scarborough
Guildford	Shrewsbury
Hartlepool	Stalybridge
Hereford Hove	St. Albans
Hyde	Tunbridge Wells
Kendal	Winchester
Kidderminster	Windsor

Special arrangements have been made respecting Cambridge and Peterborough.

According to the 1931 census, the total population involved is 1,609,025 : and from figures given in Reports of His Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary for 1939, the total authorised strength of the Forces is 2,428.

This is a step of some significance in the history of the Police Service and as my own Force is involved; I feel it opportune to publish a historical synopsis of some of the main events connected with the Macclesfield Borough Police Force.

Before proceeding with the story it would perhaps be appropriate to relate particulars of the town of Macclesfield in the very early days.

Macclesfield is described in the Domesday Survey of 1086.

The First Charter is believed to have been granted by Randle Earl of Chester (who died in 1232) creating a Borough of 120 free burgesses.

Charter granted by Edward, Earl of Chester in 1261, the 45th year of the reign of Henry III. The 1261

Charter and the following Charters are in the possession of the Macclesfield Corporation.

Charter granted by Edward III in 1334, confirming Charter of 1261.

Charter granted by Richard II in 1390 (missing).

Charter granted by Edward IV in 1465, confirming the Charters of 1261, 1334 and 1390.

Charter granted by Elizabeth in 1564, confirming the Charters of 1261, 1390 and 1465.

Charter granted by Elizabeth in 1595. Charter granted by James I in 1606.

Charter granted by Charles II in 1666. Charter granted by Charles II in 1684.

The origin of the Police Service is possibly not known to many members of the general public, and to-day we accept, as a matter of course, the duties undertaken by the Police, which Service is now fully acknowledged as one of the most important in our daily lives.

I therefore, as a guide, quote from information given at an Enquiry on the Police Service in 1919:

“From the earliest time the maintenance of law and order has been a local matter. Each Hundred or Parish elected one of their number to represent them, and bear responsibility in the matter, and these officers came to be known as constables. The service was obligatory, and the manner of appointment varied according to local custom. The constables afterwards assumed or were given by statute numerous other functions, just as now new duties are constantly being thrown on the police; but, as their primary duty was the preservation of the peace, they came to be regarded as Crown officers, and at least as early as the sixteenth century they were required on appointment to take an oath of service to the Crown.

“When Judges of Assize were first sent round, it was, with the object of keeping local authorities up to the work, and they had a lot of local officials before them. Up to 1827 the constables of Hundreds came up to Assizes and produced statements from constables of Parishes about the state of the Parish. They had to swear that their stocks were in good condition and ready for use if wanted. They had to swear that people went to church regularly, and that there was no tippling on Sunday, and so on. This emphasised the fact that the Crown saw that there was a peace officer in every parish to enforce the law. In 1827 those presentments were abolished and the central Government lost touch with the police altogether. By law the Boroughs had their own police forces, and when the county forces were started, the Secretary of State was given powers to make rules, and certain things were subject to his control ; but he had no power of enforcing them, and it came to really nothing until 1856, when first inspectors of constabulary were appointed to see that the forces were up to the mark, and also the first Government contribution was made, that is, one-fourth (subsequently increased to one-half) of the pay and clothing; and that was the lever by which the Crown could see that the local authorities did their duty.”

Prior to the passing of Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, there was in existence a watch known as " Charleys." " Charleys " were stationed at various centres throughout the town in watch boxes and used to carry large sticks with horn lanterns lighted with candles. In addition there were volunteer nightly patrols organised in times of public disturbances. Their numbers embodied all the respectable householders of the town and neighbourhood, irrespective of their profession or relative social position. Their duties were to patrol the streets which were divided into districts, in files of a half a dozen, through the winters of 1811 and 1812. They numbered in rank and file three hundred and correspond to the Special Constabulary of to-day.

Later in this booklet will be found a chronological list of the main events connected with the Force, but so many of them are to my mind, of such outstanding local interest that I have made a selection and amplified the details. The first Watch Committee was appointed on the 14th January, 1836, and comprised:

His Worship the Mayor, Samuel Thorp
Jeremiah Clark
Charles Corbishley
Richard Wych
John Stansfield
Thomas Airey
Thomas Jackson

The Borough Force was inaugurated on the 18th January, 1836, and William Lockett was appointed the first Chief Constable.

It has not been possible to find any personal details of Mr. Lockett, although strange to say, many men of this name served in the Macclesfield and neighbouring Forces in recent times, but apparently they have no connection with the first Chief Constable.

Suffice it to say, however, the first Watch Committee did not linger over recruiting the Force, for at their meeting on the 19th January, 1836, it was resolved:

THAT the Chief Constable have six efficient Constables, four for the day and two for the night, the day constables to take it in turns to be on duty with the night police, also ordered that the Chief Constable have the assistance of four special constables for Saturday nights and Sundays.

Uniform Tall hats with long silk fur, the crown of the hat being covered with patent leather with a narrow strip of the same material down either side. Double breasted swallow tail coats and white trousers.

The style of uniform appears to have followed very closely that adopted by the first Metropolitan Police Force, introduced by the late Sir Robert Peel. On a later page is a specimen of the uniform worn by members of the Macclesfield Borough Police Force in the period of 1836.

The first Chief Constable did not serve very long ; in 1840 he resigned and a Mr. Stockwin was appointed. He too only remained for a short period, resigning on the 17th September, 1842.

Mr. William Harper was appointed Chief Constable in place of Mr. Stockwin, but again there is no available history of his family, although he served for about seventeen years. During his service however, many improvements were made. The first Inspector, Inspector Norbury was appointed in November, 1842.

In the early part of 1843 there was an attempt at keeping some kind of records, and it is fortunate that the very first Charge Book of the force is still in existence. This book is stored with other historical documents in the Town Clerk's Department.

Perusing the pages of this old Charge Book (and one can spend many pleasant hours doing so), there are to be found what to-day would be considered amazing entries of the seemingly heavy

sentences imposed upon persons convicted of what might in this twentieth century be considered trivial offences.

No comment is necessary I am sure, when reading the following specimen particulars: -

Date	Charge	Sentence
22nd January, 1843	Youth-aged 19 years- Burglary	Transported- 10 years
30th January, 1843	Youth-aged 17 years- suspicion of breaking into Slaughter House and stealing 50 lbs. Pork and one sack	Transported- 7 years
16th February, 1843	Man-aged 24 years-steal- ing pair of Quarter boots	Transported- 7 years
27th February, 1843	Youth-aged 19 years- stealing a silver watch, 3 years	Transported- 7
11th July, 1843	blankets and a silver caddy spoon Man - 27 years – stealing four sacks, pair of trousers, velveteen jacket and quantity of horse hair	Transported- 7 years
9th July, 1843 set	Man - aged 43 years - drunk and disorderly	Fined 5/- and in stocks
22nd July, 1843 days each whipped on the seventh day	Two boys (aged 11 years each) stealing a rabbit	Fourteen and to be

Yes, indeed, times have changed, when we read of two boys, aged 11 years being sent to prison for fourteen days and also sentenced to be whipped on the seventh day for stealing a rabbit. Are those really " the good old days "?

I venture, however, to suggest that most of us would smile when reading of the drunken man being fined five shillings and placed in the stocks. There are frequent entries in the Charge Book referred to of the use of the stocks which were for many years on display in the West Park but they succumbed to the salvage campaign in World War II.

The following extract from Isaac Finney's "Macklesfelde in Ye Olden Time" provides interesting reading with regard to the description and use of the stocks in the town :-

"In many places the stocks were often so constructed as to serve both stocks and whipping posts, the post which supported the stocks being made sufficiently high, were furnished near the top with iron clasps to fasten round the wrists of offenders, and hold them securely during the infliction of the punishment. The stocks formerly used at Macclesfield were not so constructed, the plan adopted when a case of whipping or flogging occurred was to make use of the top of the steps leading into the Old Town Hall where the culprit (male or female, for both sexes were whipped) was secured to the railing previous to the infliction of the punishment, so that the iron rails served both for this purpose and also for hanging, as instance, the man or deserter that was hung from them at the time when the Duke of Cumberland passed through the town in 1745 in pursuit of Prince Charles Edward Stuart.

"The last case of whipping in Macclesfield occurred about the year 1831 when a young man was publicly whipped in front of the Town Hall.

"In alluding to the old stocks we may well remark that after their demolition in the year 1828, new ones were made of iron and placed under the balcony of the New Town Hall, and were occasionally used; but after a short time they were also dispensed with and put by as lumber so that now the punishment is altogether abolished."

The following items of expenditure have been extracted from the Mavor's Accounts with respect to the use of the Stocks, Pillory and Bridle, etc:

		s.	d.
1708-9	Spent about whipping a woman at the Rogues post		6
	Spent about bridling a woman	1	0
1709-10	Spent about whipping some lads.....	1	0
1711-12	Spent about putting a madman in Goale...		4
	Spent about bridling a woman		6
	Spent at setting a man in the stocks		6
	More at whipping another man	1	4
	At putting another man in Goale.....	1	4
	Spent at bridling a scolding woman		6
1737-38	Paid John Burgess for making Cuckstool...	10	0

(April 14, 1738)

1756-7	Paid Mr. Hulev for timber for Stock & Pillory	18	10
	Mr. Brown for work at ye Stock & Pillory ...	4	8
1757-8	Paid for a Lock and Key for the Stocks...		9
1794	Property of Mayor inter alia-2 Bridles for Scolds one in the Town Hall and one in the Workhouse and a portable Pillory.		



In writing of the stocks it is appropriate to refer to the ducking stool-girdle. It was apparently kept in a cellar at the Police Station until recent years. It is understood to have been in use in a pit in the vicinity of the present Central Railway Station and the street Cuckstoolpit Hill is said to be named in consequence. This also marks the space which provided access for spectators to witness the ducking of scolding women in the pit. Consulting the dictionary, it is found that ducking stool is also known as “cucking stool” and this may be synonymous with Cuckstoolpit Hill. The ducking stool-girdle is presently displayed in the Museum in the West Park, together with the Scold's bridle.

The police manpower shortage was prevalent in 1843 because in November of that year the force was increased by four constables.

Furthermore, during this year it is of importance to mention that capes were issued for the first time. Who introduced them or decided they were of such inestimable value to patrol constables is not known, but be that as it may, the cape, a vital article of police uniform clothing, is still issued, one hundred years later. There are few, if any, patrol constables, I am sure, who would contend that there is anything to surpass the cape for warmth and keeping out the wet. Many forces have experimented with Macintoshes, but they have, in most cases returned in favour of the cape.

In 1846, Mr. Harper, the Chief Constable, issued the first crime and offences report for the previous year (1845). Let the offences and figures tell their own story, here they are :-

Offence						Number of Convictions
Drunkenness & Drunk and Disorderly	...	...	...	...	...	236
Assaults on Police Officers	...	...	...	...	...	23
Common Assaults	...	...	...	...	...	205
Malicious and Wilful Damage	...	...	...	...	...	40
All other offences-chiefly larcenies	...	...	...	...	...	<u>386</u>
						<u>890</u>
Public House Convictions	...	...	...	...	...	15
Beerhouse convictions	...	...	...	...	...	10

Appended are similar figures for the year 1946, but it would not be fair to make a comparison :-

Offence						Number of Convictions
Drunkenness & Drunk and Disorderly	...	...	...	...	...	2
Assaults on Police Officers	...	...	...	...	...	0
Common Assaults	...	...	...	...	...	6
Malicious and Wilful Damage	...	...	...	...	...	5

Indictable offences	...	...	...	...	...	...	339
Non-indictable offences	by Summons	...	...	...	...	...	356
Do.	by Caution	...	...	...	...	...	396
							<u>1091</u>
							<u>1104</u>

Public House convictions	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Beerhouse convictions	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

Inspector Norbury resigned in February, 1847, and James Etchells, who was later appointed Chief Constable, was promoted Inspector after five years' service.

We find that in 1849 the cells were heated with hot water and the Chief Constable appointed supervisor of Hackney Carriages under the Hackney Carriage Act introduced that year.

The Force is still on the increase for in 1851, five more men were recruited.

It is not known where the first Police Station was sited and presumably as was customary in early days, it was in the basement of the old Guildhall. It is, however, fairly clear that during the existence of the Borough Force there have been four Police Stations, the first presumably in the basement of the Guildhall and the second in the reconstructed Guildhall Public House. These premises were purchased for £600 in September, 1853, and an entry in November, 1857, shows that the Guildhall Public House is for conversion into a Police Station, with living apartments for Inspector Etchells. The third Police Station was approved in 1874 on the present site, at a cost of £1,350. In 1895, owing to the front of the station being considered unsafe, it was resolved to rebuild the defective portion at an estimated cost of £120. This resolution was rescinded in July, 1896.

On the 15th November, 1897, approval for sanction of the Local Government Board to a loan of £2,500 was made for building a new Police Station; the present station was rebuilt on the old site in 1900. This comprised one large parade room, Chief Constable's Office, Inspector's Office and Clerks' Office. In July, 1943, on the recommendation of Mr. Alderson (Chief Constable) the Home Office approved structural alterations to provide for partitioning the parade room into offices. The two recreation rooms on the first floor were taken over from the Town Hall in December, 1940, for Police recreation purposes.

In 1854 it was ordered "that a stretcher be provided to convey persons found drunk and incapable and to be used in case of accident," and also "for a bell man to be appointed a special constable to keep order in the Court."

The time had obviously arrived for ensuring the orderly parading of the force, for in July, 1857, drill was ordered three times a week.

To avoid guessing the height of prisoners, a standard was provided in November of the same year to ensure correct measurements of delinquents.

Colonel Woodford, His Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, is reported as having inspected the Force on the 18th January, 1859. This appears to be the first Government Inspection and the Inspector reported the force as " inefficient."

The resignation of the Chief Constable, Mr. Harper. was accepted in July, 1860, and in October, Inspector Etchells was appointed to the vacancy. Incidentally, Mr. Etchells, the well known butcher presently carrying on business in Mill Street, is the son of the late Chief Constable.

An unsuccessful attempt to establish a Police Superannuation Fund was made in 1864, it was said that "the fund was to be accumulated from cash in the hands of the Treasurer since the discontinuance of fees paid to the Police in respect of the execution of warrants, etc." In addition, each member of the Force was to pay one penny weekly, but this proposal was rejected by the Town Council.

During the next few years there were three changes in the Chairmanship of the Watch Committee. In 1869 helmets and belts were issued, the helmet no doubt for the first time, and in substitution for the top hat.

Mr. Etchells resigned his position as Chief Constable in March, 1874, and the Town Council voted £100 to him "for his past and faithful services as Chief Constable for nearly fourteen years."

In April of the same year, Mr. William Sheasby who was previously a Detective Inspector in the Coventry Police Force was appointed. He commenced his duties on the 1st May, 1874.

On the 13th June, 1874, Jonathan Hall was appointed Sergeant Clerk and three years later he became the Chief Constable of Congleton.

Mayor's Sunday, 18th November, 1874, was one of considerable excitement in the town ; whether during the service or afterwards it is not clear, but most probably during the ceremonial procession, Mina Jury, a witness in the famous Tichborne case was a prisoner in the lock-up on charges of larceny. She escaped from police custody and after a " hue-and-cry " was arrested at Leek. There must have been some defect in the accommodation for prisoners at the Police Station because as a result of this escape, new police cells and offices were installed.

The first Government Efficiency Certificate was issued in 1875 after an inspection by His Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, and these certificates have since been received annually. Presumably H.M. Inspector on this occasion

concerned himself with the strength of the force because in May, 1875, there was an increase in establishment from: -

1 Chief Constable
4 Sergeants
13 Constables
to
1 Chief Constable
2 Inspectors
5 Sergeants
28 Constables

Police duties were obviously on the increase as two years later two further constables were added to the authorised establishment.

Doctor Bland was appointed Police Surgeon in 1876 and two years later his salary was increased from £10 to £20 per annum and to include attendance on prisoners.

Early in 1882 an attempt was made on the life of Mr. William Sheasby. Mr. Sheasby lived in Great King Street, and was walking there when he was attacked with a knife by a man who had been lying in wait at the corner of Catherine Street. Mr. Sheasby sustained serious injury and at the Chester Assizes on the 24th July, 1882, the man concerned was sent to penal servitude for life.

To-day the Mayor occupies the important position of Chairman of the Watch Committee and I find this system was first introduced in the year 1888.

Instruction in "First Aid to the Injured", an integral part of the modern policeman's training, was introduced in to the Force in 1890. Incidentally, in the same year it was decided to purchase a "typograph (Duplicator) at a cost of forty-five shillings, for police use. A resolution passed in 1892 is repeated hereunder and this surely speaks for itself: -

Electric bells fixed in the firemen's houses to enable them to be called to a fire with greater speed and without collecting the crowd of persons usually gathered by the sounding of Church bells to the hindrance of the Fire Brigade.

The discipline of the force appears to have been vested in the Chief Constable under the direction of the Watch Committee, and upon that officer rested the decision as to what constituted a breach. There were no regulations governing the matter and on the 15th April, 1901, the Chief Constable was given power to impose a fine, not exceeding £1, on any member of the Force for any breach of discipline. All such fines exceeding five shillings were to be reported to the Watch Committee.

Printed matter was fast taking the place of those who produced good legible handwriting and there was an invasion into the police office as it is recorded that the first typewriter for the police was purchased in 1902.

Mr. William Sheasby resigned his Chief Constablenesship on the 25th December, 1903, and Mr. John Berry was appointed his successor. Mr. Berry only remained for a few years having, in June, 1907, been appointed Chief Constable of Barrow-in-Furness.

In May, 1907, Mr. Henry Sheasby, son of William Sheasby was appointed Chief Constable, and so commenced the long and faithful service of this Officer, who retired in February, 1942, after being Chief Constable of Macclesfield for a period of 34 years.

It is pleasing to record that in 1939, Mr. Sheasby was honoured by being awarded the King's Police Medal. The combined service of William and Henry Sheasby as Chief Constables was 64 years, and so for more than half its existence the Macclesfield Borough Police Force was under the leadership of a Sheasby.

Inclusive of their periods in the Coventry and Cheshire Forces respectively their total Police Service amounted to over 90 years.

This history would not be complete if the introduction of the weekly rest day was not mentioned. On the 19th July, 1910, the Provisions of the Weekly Rest Day Act came into operation and this necessitated the appointment of four additional constables.

The name Bramwell is closely associated with the Police Force. Inspector Samuel Bramwell retired in December, 1914, after completion of 39 years service. The Watch Committee recorded " Their appreciation of his high character, excellent work and meritorious conduct during his long service as a member of the Police Force." Inspector Bramwell was awarded the King's Police Medal, Coronation Medal in 1912.

Chief-Inspector Tom Bramwell, who retired on the 28th February, 1947, completed 28 years' Police Service. Inspector Samuel Bramwell was his uncle. Chief-Inspector Tom Bramwell's service is worthy of high praise as he carried out his duties in a conscientious manner and a common sense outlook. He won a place of high esteem in the hearts of the local inhabitants by his courteous, quiet, and efficient demeanor. His services were rewarded by the Watch Committee, who appointed him Chief Constable in succession to Mr. Alderson, but unfortunately the Home Office would not acquiesce.

His resignation was accepted with regret by the Watch Committee in January, 1947, and they recorded their appreciation for the efficient and valuable contribution made to the Police Service by Mr. Bramwell.

In September, 1916, Sergeant T. Rawson was appointed Inspector and Chief Clerk at Huddersfield. He subsequently became Chief Constable of Hereford City, Swansea and Bradford City respectively, and is presently engaged by the Home Office in connection with the District Training Schools.

William R. Wilkie, of Dumfries Burgh Police Force, was appointed Sergeant Clerk in place of Sergeant Rawson. Mr. Wilkie was later promoted Inspector and in January, 1922, was appointed Chief Constable of Glossop.

The post-war years of 1919, 1920 and 1921 appear to have been mainly concerned with the settling of the new conditions for the Police Service. A Committee known as the Desborough Committee was appointed to consider and report whether any and what changes should be made in the method of recruiting for, the conditions of service of and the rates of pay, pensions, and allowances of the Police.

A mass of evidence was given and it is as the result of these deliberations that the Police Service to-day enjoys conditions which are of considerable improvement in all respects to those obtaining in pre 1919 years. This Committee recommended the merger of the smaller Police Forces.

Electric light was installed in the Police Station early in 1925 and the first constable (P.C. Ridgeway) to undergo training under modern conditions, was sent to the Manchester Police Training School for a period of two months' training. Since that time all recruits to the Force have been through the Manchester Police Training School.

Amalgamation was in the air again in 1931/32, and the local Watch Committee took appropriate action to oppose the proposal to amalgamate the Borough Forces.

The Select Committee on Police Forces (Amalgamation), 1932, which reviewed at length " the question of the amalgamation of small police forces in England and Wales with larger units of Police administration," came to the conclusion that the case for the merger of the police forces of boroughs with a population of less than 75,000, county borough and non-county borough alike, had not been made out. The Committee was informed that outside the Metropolitan Police District there were 80 county boroughs and 251 non-county boroughs. Of these, all but 8 of the county boroughs have separate police forces, and 19 county boroughs which maintain a separate police force have a population below 75,000 (1931 census). Of the 251 non-county boroughs, only 49 had separate police forces of their own in 1931. Two of the latter (Tiverton and Bridgwater) were later merged by voluntary agreement and 14 lost their separate existence in the war-time amalgamation in 1942.

The Select Committee in 1932 was not aware of any precedent for depriving a county borough of any powers which it already possesses, but recommended legislation providing for the merger of non-county borough police forces with a population of less than 30,000 (with the exception of the Royal Borough of Windsor).

To economise in police personnel and provide for the ever increasing road traffic, automatic traffic signals were installed at Chestergate and also Park Green in 1933/1934.

I venture to suggest here that the time is not far distant when traffic signals will be instituted at the Market Place at the junction of Chestergate, and the Market itself removed to another more suitable position. With the continued heavy increase in road traffic, the years ahead will, I feel sure, prove that such a step will be a positive necessity to avoid the existing chaotic traffic conditions on Market days.

Incidentally, whilst on this subject, soon after my appointment, I formulated a plan for a " One-Way " traffic system with particular reference to Chestergate and a possible gyratory " One-Way " system for public service vehicles entering and leaving the town. With the approach of amalgamation, however, I felt it was futile to proceed with my proposals, but I am confident that the only solution to the difficult traffic conditions in the town, is the introduction of a system on the lines I have indicated.

With the introduction of the Road Traffic Act, it was essential for all Police Forces to have motor patrol, and in Macclesfield in 1931, this was introduced with the use of a Matchless Motor Cycle Combination. Later, in 1935, the first Police Motor Patrol car (an Austin 16-index number CLG 244) was purchased, and Constable J. Pickard (now Inspector) was employed solely on motor patrol duties.

1935 was jubilee Year and Constables J. Jeap, J. Hammond and C. Johnson represented the force at the jubilee Inspection of Police in Hyde Park, London, by his late Majesty, King George V.

To commemorate the occasion the Chief Constable (Mr. H. Sheasby) Inspector Whittaker and Detective-Sergeant J. Bailey were awarded the jubilee Medal.

Coronation Medals were awarded in 1937 to the Chief Constable (Mr. H. Sheasby), Inspector Whittaker and special constables H. B. Godwin J.P. and D. M. Catlow J.P. (now deceased).

In 1936, the use of wireless was an important aid in crime detection, and for the speedy transmission of urgent police communications. A receiver and

transmitter, to deal with messages from the Police Regional Radio Station, were installed in the Police Station during this year.

The threat of War was upon us in late 1937, and within the Force there was considerable activity, with particular reference to Air Raid Precautions. The Chief Constable was appointed Co-ordinating Officer for A.R.P., under the County Police, who were the Scheme Making Authority. Training in anti-gas measures was added to the police curriculum as well as the air raid warning system and many other duties which would be devolved upon the Police Service if War really came. But Munich gave us a breathing space and to many the confident hope that War had, after all, been avoided.

It was not, however, very long before our hopes for a peaceful world were dashed to the ground. Evacuation, issue of respirators, digging of trenches, erection of air raid shelters, issue of identity cards, ration documents, etc., were the order of the day. Before the Prime Minister made his announcement on 3rd September, 1939, a vast amount of preparatory work had already been accomplished by those concerned, and the Police had their important part to play in the scheme of things to come.

The First Police Reserve and Special Constabulary were called for duty. The Police War Reserve (a new Police Auxiliary) was recruited and trained measures had been taken for the protection of important buildings with blast walls, etc., and the provision of armed Police and Military Corps, as well as arrangements for alternative accommodation in the event of air raid damage. Many of us will not need to be reminded of their first aid raid warning. The streets were cleared and everything outside came to a complete standstill, but this did not continue for long. As the War developed and air raids became so frequent, folk went about their respective businesses and took cover or shelter as occasion and circumstances demanded.

The premises in Whiston Street were requisitioned for A.R.P. purposes. Early in 1939 Constable Pickard was seconded to the A.R.P. Department and was promoted Sergeant, and in May, 1939, Inspector Tom Bramwell was seconded to that Department to undertake the organisation and administration. Sergeant Pickard continued as training and stores officer. Later, in 1940, Inspector Bramwell left the department to take charge of Police War Emergency duties and Sergeant Pickard took full charge of the department. He was in turn succeeded by Sergeants Manifould, Bray and Wilson and finally Sergeant Manifould again, who "wound-up" the Department in 1945.

Councillor W. F. Allen (the present Mayor) was Deputy Head Warden of the A.R.P. Department.

The prosecution of the War to a victorious conclusion was uppermost in all minds, and the Police, in common with other services and civilian organisations, were mainly occupied in this connection. Ordinary peace-time duties, whilst not entirely forgotten, were subjugated to deal with emergency regulations and conditions brought about by a state of war. The Police Regulations were amended in many ways, e.g., recruiting ceased, weekly and annual leave suspended, right to retire suspended, temporary ranks introduced, War Duty and cost of living allowances inaugurated, secondments to A.R.P. and later Civil Affairs Organisation, etc.

One thing the War did bring forward was the value of women in the Police Service, not only for police duties, but also for employment as drivers of motor vehicles, maintenance and repair of police equipment, clerical work, telephone-wireless work and canteen work. In the past controversial views were held as to the prospective value of women police, but with the large influx of Allied troops into the Country, together with the many of our own men and women who were directed into the Armed Forces and essential War Industries, had created a position in which it was imperative that women police were an obvious necessity to deal with the multi-various matters introduced as a consequence.

Early in 1944 the Home Office strongly urged all Police Authorities to immediately consider the need for appointing police women or increase the number already appointed, in-order to deal with the situation created by the concentration in certain areas of the Country of large numbers of members of the Armed Forces. It was pointed out that the War created a situation which justified the immediate employment of police women. The Watch Committee was given authority to recruit four police women, it, was, however, not possible to fill all the vacancies, but Mrs. Constance Virginia Ashton was appointed on the 19th June, 1944, and Miss Jean Riseley (who was at that time serving in the Women's Auxiliary Police Corps) was appointed a police woman on the 14th July, 1944. These officers are still serving and have now become a valuable addition to the regular Police Force.

In December, 1946, after completing a Course in C.I.D. Training at the West Riding School, Mrs. Ashton was appointed Detective Constable, the first appointment of its kind in the force.

The Women's Police Auxiliary Corps was introduced in 1939 at the same time as the Police War Reserve. Those who were required to undertake similar duties to regular police women were attested constables but in most cases the candidates were required for administrative and driving duties which did not require them to be attested.

The first W.A.P.C. was Miss Mellor, who was appointed in April, 1942.

Uniform was supplied and their conditions of service were subject to regulations. In the larger forces at a later date the rank of Leading Auxiliary was introduced.

The following served in the Macclesfield W.A.P.C. from 1942 until its cessation in March, 1946, when those remaining were transferred to the civilian staff under conditions appropriate to those of the Local Authority.

W.A.P.C. Mellor, Thomson, Riseley, Lowe, Nield, Berry, Voss, Perkin, Clarkson, Devrey and Mottershead.

Consequent upon the retirement of Mr. Henry Sheasby on the 15th January, 1942, Inspector R. Alderson, of Lancaster City Police Force was appointed Chief Constable of Macclesfield. As previously mentioned Mr. Alderson was responsible for the structural alterations to the police station which provided for partitioning the large Parade Room into offices. He also introduced a Sub-Station Scheme and four sub-stations were opened in London Road, Beech Lane, Congleton Road and Chester Road. The Stations were inspected by H.M. Inspector of Constabulary and members of the Watch Committee on 13th June, 1944.

In August, 1944, Mr. Alderson was called for service with the Civil Affairs organisation and remained there until he was appointed to his present position of Chief Constable of Luton in October of the same year. During his absence in Civil Affairs Chief Inspector T. Bramwell was Acting Chief Constable.

In February, 1945, as the result of the Home Office not agreeing to the appointment of Chief Inspector T. Bramwell as Chief Constable, Chief Inspector W. G. Symmons, Deputy Chief Constable of Bedford Borough was appointed Chief Constable of Macclesfield and he commenced his duties on 1st April, 1945.

The year 1945 will rank as one of the most important, not only in police history, but also in the history of our Country. During this year Victory in Europe and later Victory in Japan, commonly known as V.E. Day and V.J. Day respectively, were celebrated.

May 8th, 1945 (V.E. Day) whilst being a memorable one was also one of hard work and long hours of duty for members of the police force. There were considerable administrative arrangements to provide for the largest concourse of people ever assembled in the Market Square. Here the Prime Minister's Speech was broadcast and later the Declaration read by His Worship the Mayor (Alderman A. E. Brees). In the evening the townspeople celebrated and let their spirits free in front of the Town Hall and Parish Church. Both buildings were beautifully illuminated. The festivities continued with dancing and singing until the early hours of the morning and it is more than pleasing to write of the excellent spirit of co-operation which existed between the public and members of the force.

The following Report submitted to the Watch Committee on the 14th May is printed to sum up the position. The Watch Committee resolved that the Report be recorded in the Minutes.

"I am sure the Committee will be gratified to learn that during the two days of celebration for V.E. Day, no offences were committed by residents, and I made this fact known to the Magistrates on Friday. Having regard to the historic occasion the citizens of the Borough are to be congratulated on their splendid conduct and spirit of co-operation which enabled the police to carry out their obviously onerous duties on these two memorable days, with that pride and spirit for which the British Police Service is so well renowned.

Having, presumably, like most members of the Committee, witnessed the very large concourse of persons assembled in the vicinity of the Town Hall on these two great nights, it was a unique spectacle to observe the good humour of the crowds and their obvious desire to enjoy to the full and in a co-operative spirit, the blessings of the cessation of hostilities in Europe, further, it gave me a keen sense of pride and gratitude in the knowledge that I was the Chief Constable of this Force, and to notice the excellent manner in which the men performed their several duties. They exercised tact and understanding, thus enabling the celebrations to be enjoyed by the population in the best possible way, and without undue interference by the "man in blue."

The arrangements for the two days entailed considerable extra work for the police, and I feel the occasion demands some form of acknowledgment by publishing particulars of this report, and any recommendation which the Committee may be pleased to make, in the Council Minutes as a tribute and future record for the services so well rendered by your force.

The members of the Force had no holiday, in point of fact, it meant hours of extra duty. The Sunday Thanksgiving Service necessitated men who had performed a full tour of night duty, parading again at 9-15 the following morning so that the processional arrangements could be successfully accomplished. It was, of course, regrettable that the weather was not suitable for the procession.

The members of the Special Constabulary, under their admirable Commandant, Mr. Wadsworth, are worthy of praise by foregoing part of their holiday to come to the assistance of their regular comrades.

A letter of appreciation has been received from His Worship the Mayor and it afforded me pleasure to publish its contents in police orders for the information of all members of the Force. "

Consequent upon the cessation of hostilities in Europe steps were taken to reduce and finally close down the Civil Defence Services and relative organisations.

The Final Parade of all Civil Defence Services was held on the afternoon of Sunday, 10th June, 1945, and His Worship the Mayor (Alderman A. E. Brees) attended. The Parade coincided with a similar service held in London and attended by His Majesty the King. P.C. James Heap represented the Macclesfield Force and upon his return he reported that he was on the flank of the parade and H.M. the King, who was accompanied by the Queen and Princess Elizabeth, stopped and spoke to him.

In Macclesfield the Mayor took the Salute at the Town Hall and later the parade assembled at the Majestic Cinema where they were addressed by the Mayor and Chief Constable.

V.J. Day (15th August, 1945) followed very quickly after V.E. Day and once again there were similar arrangements for celebrations which were in the form of two days holiday.

As on V.E. Day crowds gathered in the Market Square midst decorations and illuminations to hear the official declaration and later celebrated. Members of the public co-operated and behaved magnificently and I was able to reiterate my previous report to the Watch Committee.

The Order restricting the retirement of members of the force was partly lifted by the Home Secretary in January, 1946, and the final revocation of the Order was later made which enabled regular policemen or auxiliaries free to leave the service if they wished with effect from the 1st January, 1946.

The following members of the force retired on pension between the lifting of the Order and the amalgamation of the force on 1st April, 1947:-

Constables Heaps, Hammond, Plumb, Steadman, Mottram,
Lockett, Shaw, Greenall, Pierpoint, Williams and Moss.

Sergeants Battersby, Manifould, Skeggs, Norbury.

Inspector F. H. Dent.

Chief-Inspector T. Bramwell.

On the 9th July, 1946, the Chief Constable and Mrs. Symmons were honoured by an Invitation from Their Majesties to attend a Garden Party in the grounds of Buckingham Palace.

The last meeting of the Watch Committee as the Police Authority for the Borough was held on Monday, 17th March, 1947, when His Worship the Mayor (Councillor W. F. Allen) along with other members of the Committee referred in appreciative terms to the valuable and faithful service rendered by the Chief Constable (Mr. W. G. Symmons) and below is a copy of the Committee's resolution:-

" THAT this Committee places on record its sincere appreciation of the efficient and able manner in which Mr. W. G. Symmons has carried out his duties as Chief Constable of the Borough since his appointment in February, 1945, during which period his courtesy, integrity and ability have earned for him the respect of all with whom he has been brought into contact, and whilst regretting that circumstances have made it necessary for him to sever his connection with this Committee, the members extend to him their very best wishes for his future success in the Police Service."

The Chief Constable presented to His Worship the Mayor the first Charge Book of the force (referred to previously in this publication) so that it may be preserved with other historical documents relating to the Borough.

The Members of the Committee together with the Chief Constable and Town Clerk were entertained to tea in the Mayor's Parlour by the Mayor, who was thanked for his hospitality by the Deputy Mayor (Alderman J. Hill, J.P.), Alderman T. M. Abraham, J.P., and Alderman F. Baron. A photograph was taken and is reproduced on the next page.

One of the most enjoyable social functions of the Force was held at the Stanley Hall on Thursday, 28th March, 1947, when serving and past members of the regular force, 1st police reserve, war reserve, and special constabulary were present at a re-union supper and entertainment before the merging of the Borough Force with the Cheshire Constabulary.

Guests included His Worship the Mayor (Councillor W. F. Allen), The Deputy Mayor (Alderman J. Hill, J.P.), the Town Clerk (Mr. Walter Isaac), the Clerk to the Magistrates (Mr. H. Harrison), Drs. H. Holden and S. F. Clegg, Mr. Henry Sheasby and Commandant W. R. Wadsworth.

Addresses were given by the Chief Constable and His Worship the Mayor who said that on behalf of the town and the Watch Committee he wished all success to those being transferred and hoped they would always maintain the traditions of police efficiency which had characterised the force in Macclesfield.

Excellent entertainment was provided and as a climax the whole company linked hands singing "Auld Lang Syne."

To enable all members of the force to be present at this function the Borough was, for that evening, policed by members of the Cheshire Constabulary with the kind permission of the Chief Constable of Cheshire.

During the evening the opportunity was taken to make presentations to ex-Chief-Inspector T. Bramwell and ex-Inspector Dent who had recently retired after completing 28 years' service.

It is perhaps appropriate to mention here that Inspector Dent was the last man to retire from the Borough Force.

At midnight on 31st March, 1947, the Borough Force became part of the Cheshire Constabulary, under the control of Superintendent J. Taylor, with Chief-Inspector R. J. Potter, in charge of Macclesfield.

WAR SERVICE.

The under mentioned members of the Force, who were serving in the Force at the outbreak of the 1914-18 War, were called up for Service in the Armed Forces :

Det.-Sergt. J. Bailey	...	...	...	served in the Army from 1915 to 1918
Sergt. C. Alanifould	...	...	...	served in the R.A.M.C 1915 to 1919
P.C. W. J. Hammonds	...	...	...	served in the Army from 1915 to 1918
P.C. J. Hammond	...	...	...	served in the R.A.M.C. from 1915 to 1918
P.C. J. Heap ...	...	...	...	Grenadier Guards, 1915 to 1919
Sergt. Battersby ...	...	...	...	R.A.M.C 1915 to 1919
P.C. I. L. Cornford ...	...	...	...	Army 1915—1916 and 1919

The under mentioned served in Armed Forces before joining the police :-

Chief-Inspector Bramwell ...	...	...	...	Army 1915 to 1919
Inspector Dent. ...	...	...	...	Army 1912 to 1919
Sergt. Skelley... ..	...	...	...	Army 1914 to 1919
Det.-Sergt. Fearick ...	...	...	...	Army 1915 to 1919
Sergt. Norbury ...	...	...	...	Army 1914 to 1919
Sergt. Skeggs ..	...	...	...	Canadian Army 1916 to 1919
P.C. Pierpoint ...	...	...	...	R.A.M.C 1915 to 1919
P.C. Moss ..	...	...	...	Army 1918 to 1919
P.C. Greenall ...	...	...	...	Army 1915 to 1919
P.C. Ring ...	...	...	...	R.A.M.C 1915 to 1919
P.C. Shaw ...	...	...	...	Army 1917 to 1919
P.C. Mottram... ..	...	...	...	Army 1918 to 1919
P.C. Arrandale ...	...	...	...	Army 1918 to 1919
P.C. Williams... ..	...	...	...	Army 1914 to 1919
P.C. Wright ...	...	...	...	Army 1918 to 1919
P.C. Lilley ...	...	...	...	Army 1917 to 1920
P.C. Plumb ...	...	...	...	Army 1915 to 1919
P.C. Lockett ...	...	...	...	Army 1914 to 1919

The under mentioned served in the Armed Forces during 1938-45.

Sergt. Bray	...	...	...	Civil Affairs
P.C. Woodman ...	...	...	...	R.A.F.
P.C. Bradley ...	...	...	...	R.A.F.
P.C. Barton	...	...	...	R.A.F.
P.C. Hamlet ...	...	...	...	Army
P.C. A. J. Barber	...	...	...	Army
Det-Const. Jones	...	...	...	Army
P.C. Mason	...	...	...	Navy

Det-Const. Whittaker Royal Marines

The undermentioned served in before joining the Police Force:

P.C. Wilkins R.A.F.

P.C. Fuller Navy

P.C. Gibbons Army

P.C. Broadhurst Army

P.C. Foster Royal Marines

P.C. Johnson Royal Navy

P.C. Murdock R.A.F.

P.C. Boney R.A.F.

P.C. Wilson parachute Regt. (Arnhem)

P.C. Slater Army

P.C. Hudson Army

P.C. Bailey Army

P.C. Braine Merchant Navy

According to available records the following is a list of men who have held the rank of Inspector in the Force since its inception :

Name	Date Appointed	Promoted	Retired or Resigned
A Norbury		17.11.1842	10.2.1847
James Etchells	--, --, 1842	10.2.1847	9.3.1874 (as C.C)
George Swindells	6.3.1865	27.8.1877	18.12.1879
Thomas Bullock	1.10.1866	27.5.1878	26.5.1898
William Smallwood	8.1.1868	16.3.1890	28.2.1902
Edward Dale	30.10.1872	16.5.1898	28.2.1902
Alfred Gillard	13.3.1875	18.4.1901	25.9.1903
Samuel Bamwell	12.6.1875.	24.2.1902	1.1.1915
Joseph Sigley	26.3.1878	24.2.1905	9.7.1909
Frank Robinson	4.5.1888	15.7.1907	29.7.1920
William Henry Hooley	31.1.1887	17.6.1909	1.8.1921
Dennis Sproston	6.5.1890	1.1.1915	6.5.1921
William Robinson Wilkie	15.11.1918	17.5.1921	9.1.1922 Appointed C.C. Glossop
Thomas Whittaker	15.3.1901	1.8.1921	23.1.1939
James Henry Slack	19.10.1903	2.2.1922	25.1.1934
Tom Bramwell	21.2.1919	15.1.1934 30.7.1942 (C.Insp)	28.2.1947
Frank Henry Dent	25.3.1919	23.1.1939	25.3.1947
Julian Francis Hudson	7.5.1926	5.9.1939	Still serving (1947)
Joseph Pickard	17.8.1921	1.3.1947	Still serving (1947)
John James Lewtas	20.2.1931	26.3.1947	Still serving (1947)

Special Constabulary

The special constable can claim to be the direct descendant of the earliest known English police officer. In Saxon days every freeman was bound by oath to assist in preserving the peace and repressing crime, and the modern special constable is a citizen who voluntarily takes upon himself the same duties. In the course of time, the police work once performable by the freemen, devolved on the constable who, before the modern professional police officer came into being, was a local man appointed every year to carry out police duties in his parish under the orders of the justices.

When additional police assistance was needed, it was customary for the justices to appoint special constables. These were residents who were sworn in as constables for special occasions and for such occasions they had all the powers of constables.

The power of appointing special constables still exists, and in addition, under statutory powers, special constabulary reserves are in existence throughout the country, consisting of citizens who are enrolled as special constables and who are ready at any time to turn out to assist the regular police force.

The Special Constables Act, 1831, allow the nomination and appointment of special constables in times of emergency ; the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, directs the appointment of special constables in every Borough ; and the Special Constables Order, 1923, authorises the formation of a permanent Special Constabulary Reserve in any police district.

Arising out of civil strife, we have records of special constabulary work in our town during the years 1811 and 1812 when what were known as voluntary nightly patrols were organised, embodying all the respectable householders of the town and neighbourhood, who patrolled the streets in files of half a dozen, to enforce law and in the year 1854 the " bell-man " was appointed as special constable to keep order in the Court.

Special constables were regularly used in connection with elections both municipal and parliamentary, to assist the regular police in the polling booths.

The Special Constabulary came into prominence nationally, in the 1914-1918 war in augmenting and assisting the regular Force. After the conclusion of the Great War they remained as a semi organised body but were not called upon to perform any duties until May, 1926, on the occasion of the General Strike.

In 1937 the Coronation Medal was awarded to the undermentioned members of the special constabulary:

Special Constable H. B. Godwin, J.P.

(the late) Special Constable D. M. Catlow, J.P.

Thirteen years went by as far as the Macclesfield Special Constabulary was concerned, without performance of any duties, and in April, 1939, a general parade was called of the Special Constabulary Reserve and a series of lectures organised in order to bring the Force up to date in the duties which they might be called upon to perform. The then Chief Constable (Mr. Henry Sheasby), outlined the duties of the modern Policeman, and the administration of the local Special Constabulary was carried out by Sergeant A. Norbury.

From April until the outbreak of war in September, lectures in first aid by the Police Surgeon, in defence against gas attacks by specialised officers, and drill parades were held every week. A number of the members of the Force were given special appointments Mr. G. Beaumont being the first Inspector and a number of sergeants appointed. In the few days prior to the outbreak of war, there were many enlistments into the Special Constabulary which at that particular date numbered 150.

With the outbreak of war, the " Specials " came into full operation, taking over regular patrols both foot and mobile, and assisting in the many increasing duties which were placed on the Police Forces of the Country. On the 23rd, September, 1939, Mr. E. R. Clark was appointed Inspector, vice Mr. G. Beaumont who joined the War Reserve.

During 1940, uniforms were issued to 117 special constables. It was found that a number of the older members could not perform the duties that were required of them, due to age and physical conditions, whilst younger members were going into H.M. Forces. In this year there was the evacuation of school children to Macclesfield and assistance was rendered during this time. The Home Office was looking into the strengths of the Forces of special constables in various areas and Macclesfield was given an authorised strength of 110.

In 1942, Inspector E. R. Clark. resigned on his appointment as justice of the Peace, and Inspector W. R. Wadsworth who had been appointed an Inspector on the 23rd September, 1940, became senior Inspector. Up to this time the administration of the Special Constabulary had been carried out by Sergeant Norbury, but it was decided by the Chief Constable (Mr. R. Alderson) that the Special Constabulary should be responsible for its own organisation and administration, subject to the Chief Constable's supervision. At this time the Force was at its full authorised strength and consisted of one Commandant, three Inspectors and 92 Constables. It was during 1942 that the specials had their first opportunity of taking over for a short period the full policing in every department of the Borough.

During 1943, and 1944, and up to May, 1945, regular duties were performed by all the members. During these years, many members of the Special

Constabulary were awarded long-service medals, first long-service bars and second long-service bars, some of the members having been in the Force from the years 1914, 1915, 1916 onwards with continuous services.

In May, 1945, after V.E. Day, the duties were very considerably lightened and in September of the same year the Home Secretary issued the Order releasing special constables. In consequence of this release, 19 of the members consisting of the older ones and those with heavier business responsibilities, resigned after having done a very good job of work.

On 8th June, 1946, Special Sergeant J. N. Noble was elected to represent the Force in the Victory Parade, held in London on that date.

Since that time, miscellaneous duties have been performed from time to time in relief of the regular Police Force, in addition to a short period of regular duties at a time when the regular Police Force was very much under strength.

A very large number of the Special Constabulary, both past and present, have been awarded the Special Constabulary Long Service Medal and Bars.

The medals are awarded after nine years service and the recommendations are made by the Chief Constable. Bars are awarded for each completed ten years' of service after presentation of the medal, and many members are in possession of second bars.

During the two World Wars each year of war service counted as three years peace-time service.

Chronological List of Main Events

- 1836 (14th January) First Watch Committee under Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, was appointed, comprising :Samuel Thorp (Mayor), Jeremiah Clarke, Chas. Corbishley, Richard Wych, John Stansfield, Thomas Airey and Thomas Jackson.
- 1840 William Lockett resigned Chief Constablenesship. Mr. Stockwin appointed Chief Constable.
- 1842 (17th November) Mr. Stockwin resigned Chief Constablenesship. Mr. Harper appointed Chief Constable. Inspector Norbury appointed.
- 1843 (January-) First attempt at keeping records. Charge book still in existence.
(6th November) Force increased by four Constables.
Capes provided for first time.
- 1846 First issue of report of crime in the Borough.
- 1847 (10th February) Four additional night constables appointed for winter months.
Inspector Norbury resigned.
James Etchells appointed Inspector after five years service.
- 1849 Cells heated with hot water.
Chief Constable appointed supervisor of Hackney Carriages under the Hackney Carriage Act, 1849.
- 1851 Force increased by five men.
- 1853 (12th September) " Resolved to purchase the Guild Hall Public House for £600 for the purpose of improving the Market Place."
P.C. Lomas superannuated at 6/- per week.
- 1854 Ordered " That a stretcher be provided to convey persons found drunk and incapable and to be used in case of accident."
The bellman was appointed a Special Constable to keep order in the Court.
- 1856 Mr. Samuel Higginbotham appointed Chairman of the Watch Committee, held this Office till 1865.
- 1857 (31st July) " Ordered that the Police be drilled three times a week."
(November) " That a standard be provided for the purpose of measuring the height of prisoners."
Converted Guild Hall Public House into a Police Station and living apartments for Inspector Etchells.
- 1859 (18th January) Force inspected for first time by Col. Woodford, H.M. Inspector of Constabulary, who reported the Force inefficient.
- 1860 (8th October) Inspector Etchells appointed Chief Constable.
- 1864 Unsuccessful attempt to establish Superannuation Fund.

- 1865 Mr. Oldham appointed Chairman of the Watch Committee in succession to Mr. Higginbotham.
- 1866 Mr. Higginbotham re-appointed Chairman of the Watch Committee.
- 1869 Helmets and belts issued as uniform.
Mr. Bury succeeded Mr. Higginbotham as Chairman of the Watch Committee.
- 1870 Mr. Dawson succeeded Air. Bury as Chairman of the Watch Committee.
- 1871 Mr. Bullock succeeded Mr. Dawson as Chairman of the Watch Committee.
- 1874 (9th March) Mr. Etchells resigned Chief Constablenesship.
(15th April) Mr. William Sheasby appointed Chief Constable.
(May) Town Council voted Mr. Etchells £100 For his past and faithful services as Chief Constable for nearly fourteen years."
(13th June) Jonathan Hall appointed Sergeant Clerk-
(Subsequently became Chief Constable of Congleton).
- (18th November) Mayor's Sunday.
- 1875 H.M. Inspector of Constabulary reported the Force efficient for the first time.
(31st May) Force increased from one Chief Constable, four Sergeants and thirteen Constables to one Chief Constable, two Inspectors, five Sergeants and twenty-eight Constables.
Superannuation Fund established.
Sergeant George Swindells appointed first Inspector under the new regime; his colleague being Inspector Thomas Bullock.
- 1876 Doctor Bland appointed Police Surgeon at a salary of £10 per annum.
- 1877 (10th August) Detective-Sergeant Jonathan Hall appointed Chief Constable of Congleton.
Chief Constable appointed Inspector under the Explosives Act,
1875. Duties of Inspector under the Silk Act taken over by the police and the Inspector appointed under that then serving Act, made a member of the Police Force.
Police "Litter" (i.e., wheeled stretcher) provided.
- 1881 Authorised strength of Force increased by two Constables.
Salary of Police Surgeon increased to £20 per annum and to include attendance on sick prisoners.
- 1882 Attempt on life of Mr. William Sheasby (Chief Constable) by a man with a knife in Great King Street.
- 1888 Telephone installed—Macclesfield and Bollington section of Lancashire and Cheshire Telephone Company.

- Resolved that Mayor be Chairman and Ex-Mayor Vice-Chairman of Watch Committee.
- 1889 Electric bell fitted in house of Captain of Volunteer Fire Brigade-connected with Police Station.
- 1890 Telephone installed from Police Station to residence of Captain of Corporation Fire Brigade. " Trypograph " (i.e., Duplicator) obtained at cost of 45/.
Ambulance instruction (First Aid) given to members of Force for first time.
- 1892 Electric bell installed for communication between cells and Police Station.
Electric bells fixed in the Firemen's houses.
- 1895 Owing to front of Police Station having become unsafe, it was resolved to rebuild front of Police Station at estimated cost of £120. (Rescinded on 20th July, 1896).
- 1896 (16th November) Doctor Averill appointed Police Surgeon at a salary of £25 per annum.
- 1897 (15th November) Application for sanction of Local Government Board to a loan of £2,500 for building a new Police Station.
- 1900 New Offices and Parade Room built at Police Station.
- 1901 (15th April) Chief Constable invested with power to impose fine not exceeding £1 on any member of Force for any breach of discipline all such fines exceeding—5/- to be reported to the Watch Committee.
- 1902 First typewriter purchased for use of Police.
- 1903 (21st September) Resignation of William Sheasby, Esq., Chief Constable, who retired on 25/12/03.
(23rd November) Mr. John Berry appointed Chief Constable and commenced duties on 21/12/03.
- 1904 (18th April) New conditions of service-as prepared by Chief Constable-approved by Watch Committee.
(17th October) Set of finger print appliances purchased.
- 1905 Two bicycles purchased for Police use.
- 1907 Physical Culture class instituted-dumb bells, etc., provided by Watch Committee.
Electric bells installed in Police Station.
(30th June) Mr. John Berry resigned to become Chief Constable of Barrow-in-Furness.
(13th May) Mr. Henry Sheasby appointed Chief Constable.
- 1910 (19th July) Provisions of Police (Weekly Rest Day) Act, 1910, came into operation-four additional constables appointed.

- 1914 (15th September) Special meeting of Watch Committee decided to make public appeal for part-time Special Constables for war-time duties (1914-1918 War).
(18th December) Inspector Samuel Bramwell retired after 39 half years service. Force augmented by one Constable.
- 1916 (19th June) Chief Constable appointed by the Council as censor of films for the Borough.
- 1918 (16th September) Sergeant Rawson appointed Inspector and Chief Clerk of Huddersfield County Borough Police Force.
(30th October) Mr. William R. Wilkie, Dumfries Burgh Police, appointed Sergeant Clerk in place of Sergeant Rawson.
- 1919 (16th June) Resolution of Watch Committee opposing proposal of Departmental Committee (Desborough) for merging of smaller forces.
(18th August) Desborough Scales of pay for Sergeants and Constables adopted-retrospective from 1/4/1919.
(28th August) Desborough scale of Inspectors' pay adopted as from 1/4/1919.
(20th October) Desborough suggestion of pay for Chief Constable adopted as from 1/4/1919.
- 1920 (13th December) Police Regulations, 1920 came into operation.
- 1921 (31st January) Police Constable 11 Fearick presented with silver medal of R.S.P.C.A. for courageous conduct in stopping two runaway horses attached to a lorry in Waters Green.
- 1922 (9th January) Inspector Wilkie appointed Chief Constable of the Borough of Glossop.
(21st August) Watch Committee resolution opposing consolidation of Police Forces under Economy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.
(16th October) Dwelling house number 46, Broken Cross, purchased for Police purposes.
- 1923 (16th July) Police Force augmented by one Constable. Office records-card index system introduced.
- 1924 Telephone box installed in Police Station.
(15th December) Watch Committee resolution to install electric lighting in Police Station. (Installation completed in March, 1925.
- 1925 (19th October) " Wootton " police electric lamps first issued to Force.
Constable Ridgeway completed two months training at Manchester City Police Training School-first recruit to undergo such training.
- 1926 White mackintosh coats and white armlets issued to traffic duty Constables.

- 1928 Home Office approval obtained for alterations to Police cells, provision of Matron's Room, Prisoners' bath, etc., facilities, as recommended by H.M. Inspector of Constabulary.
- 1931 Motor Patrol Section formed and Matchless motor cycle combination purchased.
(21st December) Watch Committee resolution of opposition to proposed merger of small Borough Forces.
- 1932 (28th January) Deputation from Non-County Boroughs Association to Home Secretary-included Mayor, Town Clerk and Chief Constable of Macclesfield.
(18th April) Watch Committee statement of objections to merger forwarded to Association of Municipal Corporations, Non-County Boroughs Association, etc., for preparation of statement of evidence to be given before Select Committee of House of Commons.
- 1933 Automatic traffic signals installed at Park Green.
- 1934 Automatic traffic signals installed at Chester Road.
Photography Department set up and Sergeant Norbury attended course of instruction at Derby.
- 1935 First Motor patrol car purchased.
- 1936 Wireless telegraphy receiver and transmitter installed at Police Station and in patrol car.
- 1937 Force augmented by three Constables.
(20th December) Chief Constable appointed Co-ordinating Officer for Air Raid Precautions.
- 1938 Force augmented by one additional Sergeant for Air Raid Precautions purposes.
Police telephone pillar scheme workings introduced and reorganisation of beats.
- 1939 Chief Constable (H. Sheasby, Esq.) awarded King's Police Medal.
Force augmented by one Sergeant.
Inspector Bramwell seconded to A.R.P. Department.
(5th September) Force augmented by one Inspector and two Constables.
First Police Reserve called up for War Duty. Police War Reserve recruited, trained and called up for duty.
Special Constabulary called up for duty.
- 1940 (23rd August) Inspector Bramwell took over Police War Emergency duties.
(16th December) Two rooms of Town Hall over Police Station taken over for Police Recreation purposes.
- 1941 (18th August) Portion of premises of Messrs. Frost & Sons, Ltd. Park Green, adopted as alternative Police Headquarters in the event of damage to Police Station by enemy action.

- (3rd December) Chief Constable H. Sheasby, Esq., tendered his resignation.
- 1942 (15th January) Inspector R. Alderson, Lancaster City Police, appointed Chief Constable.
- (13th April) Corporation Ambulance Service taken over by Police.
- (10th May) Authorised strength of part-time Special Constabulary fixed by Home Office at 110.
- (15th June) Authorised strength varied so as to include one Chief Inspector and Inspector Bramwell promoted to that rank.
- (20th July) New authorised establishment :
- | | |
|--|-----|
| Regular Police | 47 |
| Whole-time male auxiliaries of whom 15 may be War Reserves | 19 |
| Part-time Special Constables | 110 |
| Women's Auxiliary Police Corps | 5 |
- (25th August) Special meeting of Watch Committee relative to Government proposals for amalgamation of Forces under Defence (Amalgamation of Police Forces) Regulations, 1942. Resolution of protest framed and decision taken to support the opposition to the Regulations.
- (14th December) Revised authorised strength of whole-time auxiliaries :
- | | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| First Police Reserve | 2 |
| Police War Reserve | 19 |
| Women's Auxiliary Police Corps ... | 8 |
- 1943 (11th February) Structural alterations to Police Station authorised, providing for partitioning of Parade, Room into Offices, etc.
- (15th February) Chief Constable's scheme for inauguration of Substation working, approved by Watch Committee.
- (19th July) Home Office approval for structural alterations at Police Station to provide war duty room in basement partitioning of Parade Room, etc., to provide additional office accommodation; also Police Substation scheme.
- 1944 (15th May) Home Office approval for appointment of four Policewomen.
- (13th June) Police Sub-station scheme inspected and inaugurated by H.M. Inspector of Constabulary.
- (19th June) First Policewomen appointed (Mrs. Ashton and Miss Riseley).
- (7th August) Chief Constable called for service with Civil Affairs.
- (23rd October) Mr. R. Alderson appointed Chief Constable of Luton.

1945	(14th February)	Mr. W. G. Symmons appointed Chief Constable
	(8th May)	V.E. Day.
	(10th June)	Final Parade of Civil Defence Services.
	(15th August)	V.J. Day.
1946	(1st January)	Order restricting retirement of members of the
force		was partly lifted.
	(29th May)	Final Inspection of Force by Major M. J. Egan,
O.B.E.,		H.M. Inspector of Constabulary.
	(9th July)	Chief Constable and Mrs. Symmons attended
Garden Party		at Buckingham Palace.
1947	(1st January)	Revocation of Order restricting retirements.
	(28th February)	Retirement of Chief-Inspector T. Bramwell.
	(1st March)	Inspector Hudson promoted Chief Inspector.
	Do	Sergeant J. Pickard promoted Inspector.
	(17th March)	Final meeting of Watch Committee as Police
Authority for		the Borough.
	(25th March)	Retirement of Inspector F. H. Dent.
	(26th March)	Sergeant J. J. Lewtas promoted Inspector.
	(28th March)	Re-Union Supper of serving and past members
of Force		held at Stanley Hall.
	(31st March)	At midnight Force handed over to
Superintendent J. Taylor,		Cheshire Constabulary.
Chief Inspector R. J. Potter to be in charge of Macclesfield Division.		