

History of Policing in Lancashire

The Early Years

The Anglo-Saxons

The Saxons brought tribal customs to this country, including their system of policing, the keeping of order and abiding by laws. The members of each settlement were held responsible for their own conduct and that of their own conduct and that of their families and neighbours. If someone broke the law, he had to reckon with the members of his community. Each householder was therefore a police officer. A community of about ten families was under the control of a senior man called a tythingman. Senior to him in pre-Norman England was a hundredman, as a geographical area occupied by a hundred or so families was called a "hundred". In Lancashire there were six "hundreds" - Lonsdale, Amounderness, Leyland, Blackburn, West Derby and Salford. In this early society it was the responsibility of the tythingman to get the villagers to behave properly towards each other, to detect any crimes committed and to bring those responsible, through him and the hundredman to the "shire reeve" or sheriff. If a community failed to do this, a fine was imposed on it, and each member was responsible for paying it. When the land became settled under one king, he promised them, in return for their conduct, a state of peaceful security throughout the kingdom. This was called, and still is, the King's (Queen's) Peace, or simply, the Peace. So today a person may be taken to court for "causing a breach of the Peace". Linked to this social responsibility was the obligation on all over 12 years to join in and pursue someone who had committed a felon (serious crime). This was called "the hue and cry".

The Normans

After the conquest, the Normans introduced their French system of keeping order and also modified the Anglo-Saxon system. They introduced the "frankpledge" which was a system of requiring individuals, through their townships, to promise to be of good behaviour. It carried with it a punishment if the promise was broken, and is the forefather of today's bail system.

It was in early Norman times that the "constable" first appeared. It was from a Latin phrase "comes stabuli" (a master of the stable), and was a very high office in Norman society. However, a century or so after the Conquest and certainly up to the Middle Ages, there were men called constables taking over the role of the tythingman. In 1166, it was made law that villages were to report to the sheriff's tourn (court) anything they thought suspicious about their neighbour, as well as about others who were about at night or who didn't appear to work for their living.

Manorial (or leet) courts gradually took over from the sheriff's courts, and it elected those who were to serve for a year on duties for the common good - ale tasters, bread-weigher and constable. The latter was responsible for bringing wrongdoers to the court. Thus, and to the end of the 13th century, the constable was appointed by a local court but had responsibilities for keeping

the King's Peace and laws. This is a good moment to introduce the modern definition of a constable, as we can see its historical background:

"A constable is a citizen, locally appointed but having authority under the Crown for the preservation of life, the protection of property, the maintenance of order, the prevention and detection of crime, and the prosecution of offenders against the Peace."

Statute of Winchester

In 1285 came a milestone in the history of order in the United Kingdom. The Statute of Winchester introduced a system of "Watch and Ward", through watchmen in towns which had walls. The watchmen could arrest strangers during darkness. All the townsmen had an obligation to act as watchmen when called, and failure to act resulted in a spell in the stocks, where those arrested were kept. It also revived the "hue and cry" system, making the whole population responsible for pursuing a fugitive, and thirdly it required all males between 15 and 60 to keep arms at his house, to be used whenever the High Constable of a Hundred might order. The type of arms depended on a man's social standing. The poor would have bows and arrows, the rich had to have a horse, a sword, a knife and helmet, and these would be inspected twice a year by the two high constables appointed in each hundred. These high constables were also responsible to the sheriff of the county for selecting petty constables and watchmen.

Thus a structure of law enforcement was established which was to last until 1829 when the Metropolitan Police were founded. For 600 years the Statute of Winchester was the only important piece of legislation affecting the running of society, except for the Justices of the Peace Act 1361, which created the system of those responsible for the good order of society, which the constables and watchmen were there to operate.

The link between the "Justices of the Peace", or magistrates as they came to be called, has been important since the Middle Ages, was very important at the time of setting up the "new" police forces and continues to be important to society to this day. Long may it continue to be so.

Downhill

In the 600 years following the Statute of Winchester, it has to be said that the system went into disrepair and disrepute, particularly towards the end of the 18th century. This was because of several factors, including the fact that the population was growing fast, industrialisation and technology were creating previously unforeseen problems - particularly in the fast-growing towns - and even though railways had not yet arrived, transport by canal and new turnpikes was becoming faster each day.

In addition was the point that many high and petty constables, appointed to the post for a year as a matter of public service, did not want the job, preferring to pay someone to do it for them. The people they chose were often

motivated only by payment, and if a man would do the job cheaper than another, he got the job no matter how capable he was and how much responsibility he felt.

At the lowest end of the scale, watchmen were often old men who preferred to sleep in their boxes at night rather than arrest strangers. These enforcers of the laws of the land were often of the poorest quality, doing a poorly paid job.

Society was getting what it paid for. Crime was increasing tremendously, people would not travel on the roads for fear of being robbed, and feared that their house would be burgled. Some private-enterprise schemes, the equivalent of today's private security companies, were operated and some self-help groups, similar to vigilantes, were founded to give the members better protection against felons. In addition, some magistrates were corrupt and had to be replaced by stipendiary magistrates - ie magistrates paid (a stipend or salary) to ensure their integrity.

Against this background, the Metropolitan Police was founded, guided by the Home Secretary, Robert Peel, a man of Lancashire background. He is the father-figure of the police service.

Lancashire in the 1830s and 1840s

Lancashire was the first industrial society in the world, the place where anything and everything was made, and where coal was mined. It was the birthplace of the factory system and it needed a big population to operate the mines and factories. The first canal in the world was here, with more canals and railways following it by the early 1830's. The workforce needed was far bigger than the existing Lancashire population, and had to be imported from elsewhere in the country, from Ireland and from Scotland. These men and women came from rural areas to live huddled together in the cities and the villages fast became towns. Sir Peter Fleetwood-Hesketh was planning a brand new town from land he owned by the River Wyre's estuary - Fleetwood was to become Lancashire's first "new town".

Blackpool was a hamlet reached after a tortuous coach ride from Preston. Most of this industrialisation was taking place in the southern half of the county, below a line driven east from Preston. The county stretched from the Westmorland boundary, north of Lancaster, (and also Westmorland) to the Mersey, Rochdale, Oldham, Ashton-under-Lyne and Eccles. The county's population increased by 201 per cent between 1801 and 1851.

Crime statistics, first introduced in 1805, show that Lancashire had a considerable crime rate compared with the rest of the country. Between 1827 and 1831, 2,215 each year were tried by the higher courts, with one in every 600 of the population being so tried. There were five main prisons in the county, (four being controlled by the county magistrates) holding 1,500 at any one time.

In 1836, 2,568 Lancastrians were convicted or tried for indictable (serious) offences. Eighty-nine per cent were for larceny (theft) and crime of gain.

In the 1830s there was much public agitation against the Poor Law and for reform in the factories. In 1831 at the St Helens Coal Strike, Special Constables were brought in but found to be "not of the slightest ability" and the Hussars had to be sent for. Bringing in the Army was the most common way of restoring public order.

Irish immigrants were another piece in the social jigsaw. In 1829, some drunken Irish navigators attacked the Preston police and injured them. The Town Council was asked to double its force by the Chief Constable, Samuel Bannister. Councillors disagreed with his view, believing that a nearby garrison of militia was the answer, but no doubt having the cost of such an increase in mind.

In 1835, the Municipal Corporation Act obliged boroughs with large populations to organise their own police forces. Parliament was mindful of the effect of the Metropolitan Police force on life in London since 1829, as well as seeing the writing on the wall that the existing arrangements were insufficient to meet society's needs. Wigan and Bolton responded to this call. Preston and Lancaster had had their own force since 1815 and 1824 respectively. Outside these towns, the policing was undertaken by the high constables of the hundreds, and the petty constables and watchmen of the parishes and townships. Many of these officers were part-time, some were even nominal. The magistrates estimated there were 600 such officers, excluding those in the boroughs. These could be augmented should the need arise, by the military, and on occasions, a detachment of Metropolitan Police.

The situation in Bolton was a little unusual, as it was policed by two separate authorities, each claiming the right to police. The argument resulted in mass non-payment of rates. The Government stepped in and appointed a commissioner to take over and create a single force. In 1839 there was published "The first report of the Commission appointed to inquire as to the best means of establishing an efficient constabulary force in the counties of England and Wales."

This was a very important document and came shortly before the County Police Act. Robert Orrell gave evidence to the Commission on behalf of magistrates in Lancashire. He spoke of their levels of security and fear of violence. An early commercial traveller told of "ferocious highway robberies" around the neighbourhood of Bury, Preston and Rochdale, while he never used Blackstone Edge and Todmorden Vale roads because: "People there are barbarous to an unusual degree." The Commission concluded that crime was caused by want or destitution but by the ease of living off it "with a less degree of labour than by regular industry."

On 15 February 1840, a man wrote to the editor of the Preston Chronicle saying that he lived in a village nearby, but the turbulent state of the place made him wonder whether to stay. He complained that the rising generation

seemed: "To have gratification only in the exercise of turbulent, unnatural and malignant dispositions," and "The midnight work of plunderers, burglars and wanton and maliciously disposed persons," made him fearful. The editor assured him that: "The labours of the rural police will shortly commence in your neighbourhood." The desperate and lawless gang who had for so long been a disgrace to Longton and its vicinity would be watched by a vigilant eye. The following week, he informed readers that Captain Woodford was making very active preparations for organising into active service the rural police as soon as possible. He had learned that: "50 of them will appear in their uniform, and undergo the necessary drilling and disciplining preparatory to a detachment being sent to Blackburn. There is every prospect of the force being a very fine body of men."

The Chartists

Much mention is heard of Chartism in the 1830s and 1840s. In June 1839, the Bury magistrates sent for a party of 20 Metropolitan Police to bring order to the town after Chartist unrest. This led to street fighting and riots. The Bury newspaper described the officers as a: "Brutal, bullying and unconstitutional force." They favoured the previous police force in Bury, which amounted to one man. The Chartists were so named because they formulated their demands on a six-point charter: Universal manhood suffrage, annual parliaments, vote by secret ballot, abolition of the property qualification of MPs, payment of MPs, and equal electoral districts.

Plug Riots

Following on from, and very closely linked to the Chartist riots, but occurring when there were proper police forces, there occurred a series of industrial disturbances which involved mobs visiting factories and drawing the plugs from the boilers, thus depriving the factories of power and rendering them unworkable.

In the hot summer of 1842, industrial depression was at its lowest point. There was very high unemployment, and a reduction in wages brought strikes in the mills. Groups of 40-50 men were going to country houses demanding relief, intimidating the wealthy occupants by their numbers. People were begging in the streets. Troops were called in by the magistrates. Crowds were told by the political agitators that it was: "Better to die by the sword than to be starved to death." The main cause for concern was the feeling against the Government's Corn Laws, which made bread so expensive. The Anti-Corn Law group had decided upon the tactic of pulling out the plugs.

The group was very active in the towns around Manchester, and special constables were sworn in. Two thousand people marched from Rochdale to Bury and Todmorden, stopping all mills, works and coal pits on the way. The police appeared to be unable to do anything and for this reason the military had to be sent for. On 13 August, a mob moved through Haslingden and Accrington towards Blackburn. The Riot Act was repeatedly read. Thirty were arrested and soldiers fired on the mob. Woodford, with troops behind him,

went forward to speak to a mob a Preston. He was knocked down and kicked. A riot followed, and the troops opened fire. Within five minutes, the streets were empty. This proved Woodford was a man of high courage, as well as one with high morals and administrative ability. Lancashire was fortunate in having the finest chief constable in the land.

One event has entered folklore. PC Sam Norris of the Preston Borough Police is said to have made 26 arrests that day, but examination of the Quarter Sessions records reveal that Norris arrested only one - John Lowe. Also arrested that day was William Thompson, PC 450 in the county force until the previous week. He was charged with: "having attempted with other evil-disposed person to disturb the Peace."

In 1848, facing Chartism, Woodford ordered his men: "to be in readiness to assemble at such time and place as may be deemed expedient should their services be required to aid in the preservation of the Peace."

The New Rural Police

On 11 January 1839, the Home Secretary Lord John Russell sat at his desk in Whitehall and penned a letter to Lord Derby, the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire.

"I wish to draw, the attention of your Lordships and the Magistrates of the county to the state of the Constabulary force in that county. "The number and efficiency of the regular constables in many large towns inspire no confidence, and upon the slightest apprehension of tumult, the magistrates are induced to swear in special constables and likewise to call in the aid of the troops. The former measure is often inefficacious, the special constables having no method or discipline and being often either unwilling to understand their duties or timid in the performance of them. The latter expedient is one which is objectionable on many accounts. It has the appearance of governing by military force; it harasses the troops and often puts the discretion both of officers and men to the severest trials."

The letter was brought to a meeting of the county's magistrates in Preston Court House (now the County Museum) on Thursday, 21 January and discussed. Colonel Rawstrone said that all that could be said of the present system was that it was a cheap one. He thought the Government should contribute half towards the cost of the force. Sir Peter Hesketh-Fleetwood commented on the apprehension that existed about the Home Secretary's suggestions for improvements. Far from the recommended system being likely to interfere with the liberty of the subject, or with the privileges people enjoyed, the contrary would be found from the increased security that would be given to the protection of persons and property. The London Police force was much more efficient, and perhaps the best testimony could be rendered to its great usefulness and the satisfaction with which the force was regarded than they ready acknowledgement of thanks given by the poorest portions of the inhabitants. He then submitted a motion to the meeting: "That is the opinion of the magistrates of this county assembled that a more efficient and

well regulated constabulary system would add to the uninterrupted enjoyment of the liberty of the subjects as well as to the security and protection of persons and property."

The motion was carried unanimously.

In October that year, the magistrates sitting at the Michaelmas Quarter Sessions read the new Act for the establishment of county and district constables. In December adverts appeared in Lancashire newspapers to invite applications for the post of Chief Constable, superintendents and constables.

The magistrates decided to appoint 500 constables (the Act told them about relating the number of constables to heads of population). There were to be two assistant chief constables on salaries of £200, and 13 superintendents on £100 a year. The constables were to receive 18s, 17s or 16s a week, dependant on their class or length of service. Two men per division could be sergeants, on 25s a week. The Chief and his assistants were to be provided with a house, accountments and uniform suitable for the role. The Chief Constable also had a clerk.

On 18 December, 124 magistrates were present to interview the potential chief constables. Five of the eight applicants were present. The initial vote totalled 123, as one voting slip read: "A gentleman who wishes to show his contempt for the ballot." Further voting showed a majority in favour of Captain John Woodford of Preston. He was a captain and adjutant of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Militia, formerly of the Rifle Brigade. It was a wise selection.

Not everyone agreed that a new force was necessary. The editor of the Preston Pilot argued against it. His view was perhaps coloured through his connections in Preston, where the Town Council wanted nothing to do with the new force, as they had their own and didn't want to increase it. He didn't mention the term "blue butchers" which was the name for the Metropolitan Police, and by extension to all of the new police, given by a suspicious public.

Only the best men need apply

It was decided that the first appointees would be: "under 40 years of age, free from bodily complaint, generally intelligent, not a gamekeeper, woodranger, bailiff, sheriff's bailiff, parish clerk, hired servant or one who keeps or has an interest in any house for the sale of beer, wine or spiritous liquor by retail. He shall provide a certificate of character signed by one or more respectable persons who have had personnel knowledge of the candidate for the last five years."

Woodford bites the bit and takes the reins

Within days of being appointed, Woodford went off to London to see Colonel Rowan, one of the two joint Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police - one

was soldier, the other a lawyer, and gentlemen of these professions were to be Chief Constables of the Lancashire force until very recent times.

He held discussions with Rowan and with his subordinates of all ranks, and brought back with him not only advice on how to tackle the job of setting up the new force, but also some specimen copies of forms, rules and books. He was to model the force on what he had learned in London, using the skills and knowledge of an officer and gentleman. There was a bumpy ride ahead, but it was to be exhilarating. He worked hard and long, travelled the county in coach and on horseback, read newspapers, came to agreements with mayors and council officials, formulated his plans and appointed Lancashire's first policeman.

The first recruits

On 22 February 1840, 66 men were sworn in as constables, and five-days before the end of the month, another 40 joined them. Before March had blown in, they had been posted. Fifty went to Blackburn Higher and Lower divisions. Of that number, five were to die while serving, 60 were to be dismissed, five eventually pensioned, 36 resigned. A survey of their occupations showed that 23 were labourers, 48 came from the other police forces, including six from the Irish Constabulary, 13 from Liverpool, two from Preston, one from Bury, nine from Bolton, five from the Metropolitan Police. These figures include superintendents. Those occupations sending just one representative were: militia, wool comber, miller, musician, sheriff's officer, clog maker, ostler, haydealer, carrier, spinner, tobacco spinner, farrier and cabinet maker. Sixty-seven of them were married, 36 were Irish, seven were Scottish. Woodford wanted men with no local connections so that they could act totally impartially.

The first to be appointed, on 1 February, and given the Warrant Number One was John MacGuire, the Chief Constable's clerk. He had been clerk and governor at Hertford Prison and in the Metropolitan Police and was to serve the force for 39 years. Collar numbers were not issued until March 1849, when George Davidson, warrant number 214, was given collar number one and posted to Leyland. He was to rise to superintendent. It is possible that Woodford decided on having collar numbers after public or magisterial pressure and it seems difficult to understand why he didn't issue them from the word go.

The average age of recruits in the 1840s was 26 years. By the end of 1841, 660 men had been appointed, and a later survey showed that only 100 of them completed full service. 257 resigned, 330 were dismissed, including 146 for drunkenness. Of these 660, 238 were Lancashire men, 186 Irish, 43 Scottish and 193 from elsewhere.

It became clear to Woodford that it was not all plain sailing, and that discipline among the men was going to be a problem when he said: "I regret to say that since the force came into operation, I have been under the necessity of dismissing seven men for drunkenness and neglect of duty." The drink problem was to remain with the force for some years, as successive orders to the force

were to show in later years. Colonel Rawstrone said he felt he could not give his consent to all Woodford's suggestions in view of the scant information supplied. He pointed out that, of the 52 counties in the kingdom, only 13 had consented to the establishment of a constabulary force. It was agreed that the other counties be communicated with. Woodford ended by telling the magistrates: "It is with considerable satisfaction that I find myself enabled to report that the officers and men of the constabulary force have everywhere been favourably received by the respectable and orderly portion of the community."

Woodford reports on progress

Woodford was required to report to each quarterly meeting (called Quarterly Sessions) of magistrates. His first report in January 1840 was short and merely told of him having met Rowan in London. The one in April was much more interesting. He said that he had appointed and equipped two assistant chief constables, 15 superintendents and 330 constables. He had divided the county into divisions, each under a superintendent, coinciding with the boundaries of the petty sessions. The link with the magistrates was established, or rather it was strengthened. He had stationed his assistants at Blackburn (Captain MacDonald) and Prescot (Captain Willis).

He reported that there was no scale of rank or pay and suggested the force be formed upon the Metropolitan Police model, and that in addition to the two assistant chiefs, it should consist of:

- ? 20 inspectors @ 28s per week;
- ? 45 sergeants @ 25s per week;
- ? 180 constables 1st class @ 18s per week;
- ? 137 constables 2nd class @ 17s per week;
- ? 100 constables 3rd class @ 16s per week;
- ? totalling £22,552. 8s 0d per year.

He asked that the principal station-house of each division be provided with a lock-up, stabling and residence for the superintended and his men, and that station-houses be provided which, when equipped with bedding, could be rented to the constables. The superintendents should have a horse provided. Also, there should be a horse-drawn van, for the conveyance of prisoners, kept at the principal stations. He had rented a house in Preston for an office and stores at £31.10s per year, and said he felt the business of his office could not be dealt with by less than two clerks. This house was 7, Stanley Terrace, off Fishergate Hill, close to where the County Hall would later be built and where the force was to be run from. His assistant, Sheppard later took over 5, Jordan Street, a street which was to play a big part in the affairs of the force. In 1845, an office in Grimshaw Street figured prominently in police matters. It is difficult to understand just which of these earliest offices was regarded as Headquarters. On 29 February 1840, Woodford wrote his ninth order to the force. It told those constable selected to serve in Lower Blackburn Division to hold themselves in readiness and to leave the Preston Office at 8:00am on 2 March to go to Blackburn. Five of them would act as sergeants.

He impressed on them: "Your chief efforts should be directed to the prevention of crime," which he underlined and to make themselves accustomed with the local magistrates. At Blackburn they would be under the control of superintendent Burke, who was the first superintendent to be appointed to the new force.

The Blackburn Standard reported that Mr Burke and 35 men arrived later that day and would probably remain for some days, until it had been ascertained how many of them would be needed in the town and how many could be drafted off to the neighbouring townships.

"The men, in their smart blue uniforms, have created quite a sensation in the town, for the inhabitants are unused to the sight of such perpendicular individuals pacing up and down the streets." We know that they stopped in Blackburn until 24 March because a man recorded in his diary that the first policeman came to Accrington at 3:30pm that day.

That Woodford wished to be seen to be acting properly can be seen from the fact that in mid-march he authorised that PC Woodall be taken before the Blackburn magistrates after a complaint was made against him that he had robbed a man. The case was dismissed when the complainant making the allegation admitted it was untrue. It was uppermost in Woodford's mind that his men should be seen as of high standing and integrity. In many cases they were, but often they were not. By April he was telling the force that he had had to dismiss 21 constables for "the crime of drunkenness".

This was to remain a problem for successive chief constables for many years. The very Act under which the force was constituted placed penalties on publicans who harboured or entertainment a constable on duty, and Woodford had to specifically tell the early recruits that they could not lodge in public houses.

The spring of 1840 was a very busy one for Woodford. He was busy sending out detachments of men all over the county. He had his troubles. Several constables simply left the job without notice, and he had to prosecute one as an example to the others.

In June 1840, a man calling himself "an old farmer" wrote to the Preston Chronicle to say he found it hard to believe that there were now 500 of the new rural police whose only employment is "to walk about the village, arrayed in splendid suits of blue, white gloves and other appendages." He went on to say that these men would be better employed on repairing the roads, as their present spy business was as low as men could possibly descend to. These views were commonly held at that time. The rural police had yet to prove their worth.

In April 1840, the editor of the Preston Pilot wrote that "adopting a gendarmerie system" was becoming more and more a question of the most doubtful policy, adding that 13 of the 52 counties of the kingdom thought it provident to accept its questionable advantages. He was convinced that

ratepayers would rather that its continued existence (ie the Lancashire Constabulary) was a matter of doubt. "The present constitution of the force affords no proper stimulus to exertion, there being no prospect of promotion or any increase in pay." He went on to ridicule Woodford's proposals to save money and improve efficiency. Those earliest constables were not subjected to the type of training seen in more recent times, and this is obvious when reading of two constables seeing a man hiding some property by the river in Penwortham, near Preston. They didn't know what to do, and had to ask Captain Woodford. It had by this time transpired that the property came from a nearby house, which had been burgled. As a result of Woodford's advice to keep watch on the property, two were arrested when they returned to collect, and were taken to court on 11 March 1840.

In May 1840, Woodford again reported to the magistrates. He was congratulated by Reverend Thursby for sending to the Burnley district a very intelligent and efficient superintendent and 14 active, well-behaved and respectable constables. The Penwortham representative complained that his parish contributed £100 in rates, but only got the services of one constable. The Chief Constable outlined his plans for the force, which included having a different pay structure and rank structure. The magistrates thought they couldn't appoint sergeants and inspectors because the 1839 Act didn't cater for it. He went on to say that he was paying £3,000 a year for the hiring of gigs to convey prisoners to court, and it would be far better to buy some. All his requests were granted.

In July 1840, Woodford reported that he had remodelled the force by appointing inspectors and sergeants and by classifying constables. These ranks were not officially recognised until 1856.

The force then comprised of:

- ? 1 Chief Constable;
- ? 2 assistant chief constables;
- ? 15 superintendents;
- ? 12 inspectors;
- ? 34 sergeants;
- ? 271 1st class constables;
- ? 271 2nd class constables;
- ? 125 3rd class constables;
- ? A total of 460.

They were posted:

- ? North Lonsdale 13
- ? South Lonsdale 12
- ? Garstang 11
- ? Preston 14
- ? Higher Blackburn 34
- ? Lower Blackburn 46
- ? Leyland 32

- ? Bolton 40
- ? Middleton 42
- ? Ashton 11
- ? Ormskirk 9
- ? Kirkdale 25
- ? Warrington 27
- ? Prescott 41

In the period 1 March to 22 June 1840, his men arrested 1,556 people. He had dismissed 51 men (30 for intoxication), there had been seven resignations, and he had reduced nine in rank. By the time the Wigan Borough Police was a year old, all the six initial officers had been sacked. The Wigan Brewing Company complained of policemen being found drunk in their store rooms. The selection of officers in the borough forces, where financial control was tighter, seems to have been made at this time on the principle of "poacher turned gamekeeper."

Leigh Feight - 18 August 1839

Severe social unrest over unemployment, the high cost of living and the demands of the Chartists resulted in a strike and a rout, which is a riot involving a mass movement of the participants, involving more than 2,000 in the streets of Leigh. The militia was called out, special constables sworn in and the Riot Act read. Much fighting took place and some arrests were made by the small contingent of police. It had similarities to the events at Manchester just 20 years before which have become known as the Peterloo Riots.

Having authority under the Crown

Those early policemen took an oath on appointment, and Woodford later had it printed in a book of instructions: "So that the solemn obligation for a correct and impartial discharge of duty shall never be absent from the recollections of both officers and men." It was taken before a magistrate and ran: "You shall well and truly serve our Sovereign Lady the Queen in the office of constable for the County Palatine of Lancaster. You shall execute all precepts and warrant to you directed, and do all other matters and things relating to your office according to the best of you skill and ability, and without any manner of partiality. So help you God." Present day recruits take a similarly-worded oath set out by the Police Act of 1964, Section 18.

Woodford's maxims

Woodford had given a great deal of thought to what he expected to the men of the county constabulary, and he soon issued to them a set of "maxims" or guidelines, dealing with their personal and professional conduct. They were:

1. Constables are placed in authority to protect, not to oppress, the public;
2. To do which effectually, they must carefully and systematically exert themselves to prevent crime;

3. When a crime had been committed, no time should be lost, not exertions spared, to discover and bring to justice the offenders;
4. Obtain a knowledge of all reputed thieves, and idle and disorderly persons;
5. Watch narrowly all persons having no visible means of subsistence;
6. Prevent vagrancy;
7. Be impartial in the discharge of duties;
8. Discard from the mind all political and sectarian prejudices;
9. Be cool and intrepid in the discharge of duties in emergencies and unavoidable conflicts;
10. Avoid altercations and display perfect command of temper under insult and gross provocation to which all constables must occasionally be liable;
11. Never strike but in self-defence nor treat a prisoner with more rigour than may be absolutely necessary to prevent escape;
12. Practice the most complete sobriety one instance of drunkenness will render a constable liable to dismissal;
13. Treat with the utmost civility all classes of Her Majesty's subjects, and cheerfully render assistance to all in need of it;
14. Exhibit deference and respect to the magistracy;
15. Promptly and cheerfully obey and superior officers;
16. Render an honest, faithful and speedy account of all monies and property whether intrusted with them for others or taken possession of in the execution of duty;
17. With reference to the foregoing, bear especially in mind that honesty is the best policy;
18. Be perfectly neat and clean in person and attire;
19. Never sit down in a public house or beer shop;
20. Avoid tippling;
21. It is the interest of every man to devote some portion of his spare time to the practice of reading and writing and the general improvement of his mind;
22. Ignorance is an insuperable bar to promotion.

The Anti Police Movement

Resentment to the rural police came for many sources, "Justicia" wrote to the Preston Pilot in February 1840 complaining that he had heard that the new uniforms were to be made in London, and thought that the tradesmen of Preston should have been given the business.

The early days of the new force were difficult. Not only were there problems of mass demonstration, but there was resentment against their very existence from most stratas of society. The poor objected to them because they were seen as brutal and oppressive, the servants of an oppressive government, and the better-off objected to them because they were unnecessary and expensive.

In May 1840, colliers at Middleton overpowered the police and took their truncheons and rickers (rattles). Information was sent to Heywood and other

stations, and the next day two men were apprehended. A few days later a man and his son were arrested for assaulting the police. The father was lodged in the lock-up, the son in the station-house. At Lancaster Races in July 1840, a riot took place. It was anticipated by Captain Ridge, who had got an extra 23 men from Preston. They were probably recruits. At the following assizes, ten men were prosecuted. Three were found not guilty. After the Races, PC Lodge had been walking away when he had been set upon and beaten. He managed to crawl into a house, the windows of which were then broken with stones. He heard cries of: "Turn the rural out" and the occupiers did turn him out, whereupon the mob beat him and left him for dead. The riot appears to have been about the presence of police.

Colne, an industrial township in the north east of the county was probably typical of many places where the working classes felt strongly against the new police, seeing them as agents of the employers. In the very early days of the force there was rioting there, and not for the last time. In April 1840, General Gordon, commander of all troops in the north, wrote: "The Colne affairs so far over that the troops have marched back, but the people told them they will not have the police." In May 1840, "an outrage of a serious nature and a gross attack on the new police" took place at Colne, where a detachment of men had been stationed. The lawless population of the district did not like Superintendent MacLeod and his 16 men, "and every day subjected them to every species of annoyance and insult. Not one of them could pass along the streets or highways without being hissed or hooted at, or pelted with stones or wood". At a Chartist meeting held at Easter, the organisers resolved to "adopt more determined measures for the annihilation of a set of men who were a check upon the evil doings of the barbarous district in question ... and as soon as daylight disappeared an attack was made upon them ... by a mob which now amounted to some thousands ... a desperate affray ensued ... the extinguished every lamp in the place and set to work with large stones ... to assault the police. After a long and terrible struggle, the police succeeded in routing their assailants and clearing the streets." MacLeod was knocked out by a stone and had his arm broken. Information was passed to the Assistant Chief Constable, Captain MacDonald at Blackburn and he set off with Superintendent Burke and 20 constables. They "found the place in a state of utmost alarm and excitement," but managed to disperse the mob. Later a detachment of soldiers arrived from Burnley, but were not needed.

This situation came to a head in August when 70 special constables had to be sworn in to assist the 27 constables who had been sent there. All were armed with a truncheon, to quieten the crowd of between 200 and 300. The constables were split into small groups and in a skirmish, Special Constable Halstead was clubbed to death. PC Harrison saw it happen and saw the culprit run away. He later saw him in the custody of Sergeant McDonald and identified him as the murderer. He was tried at Lancaster and the capital sentence was later reduced to transportation to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). Writing in his diary at this time, General Napier said: "The Colne chaps have killed a constable and thrashed the police, several are wounded; the police have resolved to resign unless they get guns ... The riot has been

political. The police must be armed; if they are to be protected by the soldiers they are of no use."

The six constables "complete with top hats" sent in to police Burnley were soon under the fire of the Town Council there. The council dismissed their own constable, thus saving money, but passed a resolution that:

- ? the protection given by the new constabulary force was not commensurate with the cost of it;
- ? the new police, being strangers, were inefficient because they do not know the people should get; and
- ? that the deputy chief constable could do the job much better than the new police.

They determined that a petition was to be presented to the Lieutenants of the county, praying them to use their influence for the abolition of the county constabulary. At the same time "a churchman" wrote to the Blackburn Standard, suggesting that a fund be set up to provide a bible and prayer book to every new policeman in Blackburn: "It is quite unnecessary to go into any argument to show how beneficial my suggestion might be made."

The situation at Burnley and Colne was repeated to some degree throughout the county. The main cause for complaint was the cost involved.

In July 1840, the Blackburn newspaper reported: "Haslingden is in a state of great disorder in consequence of the ill feeling which is evinced by all the lower classes of its inhabitants towards the rural police." In November that year, the Haslingden parish constable, 'Owd Bob Ashworth, and his son were taken before the Blackburn magistrates accused of rescuing from the police a prisoner they claimed as their own. They had been doing all they could to influence people against the police and make them unpopular.

In March 1841, Woodford received what must have been a body blow. Superintendent Burke, one of the cornerstones around which the force was being built, was discovered to have been embezzling funds paid to him by constables and magistrates' clerks for police services. He was dismissed. Woodford was very conscious that he had to be seen to be acting fairly and firmly.

"Get rid of the new police"

The new force was not two years old, when in September 1841, a resolution was put to the county magistrates in session at Preston that it be abolished. The move that Burnley and Rochdale had started had gained momentum, especially in the Northern half of the county. The motion's proposers spoke of the expense. Among those speaking was Colonel Rawstrone, who lived at nearby Hutton Hall. One speaker said he derived no more benefit from the Lancashire force than he did that of Middlesex. It was noticeable that those from Salford and West Derby hundreds were, in the main, happy with the situation. The towns were better policed than the villages, and the situation

much more so in the southern area. It was decided to look at the situation again in six months. Captain Woodford's job and that of his men, was on the line. In March 1842, 126 magistrates met again and voted upon the motion that the force be abolished. It was carried by 81 against 55. However, the County Police Act said that there had to be a three-quarters majority before abolition was possible. Woodford was saved. A compromise was reached, in that it was agreed that each of the 16 petty sessional (and police) divisions would determine how many constables they wanted, and pay for them, although they would remain under the control of the Chief Constable.

Bearing in mind this resolution, and that the County Police Act said that there should be one constable for every 1,000 population, it was soon decided that the force's manpower would be reduced by 147. This left 355 men still serving. Lancashire was to appreciate this reprieve, and wonder what would have happened if the force had been abolished. When the motion had been implemented, the rates levied ranged from 1/4d (south Lonsdale had a total of three men) to 1 3/4d (Ashton-under-Lyne with 13 men under the superintendent).

Even after the reduction in manpower, there were those who complained. In April 1842, "a constant reader" wrote to the Preston Chronicle that the force was a burden on those who could least afford it, namely the farmers. He suggested that able-bodied pensioners be given the job, at a saving in wages of between £10 and £20 a year, thus saving £10,000 a year from the county. This would have the effect of making men join the army instead of the police. This view was still widely held, and would not be got rid of until the force, now three years old, was much older. The letter was replied to by Robert Hindle, the County Treasurer, who gave him some details from the balance sheet. In 1842, with the strength of the force rising steadily, Woodford said it was: "Favourably received by the respectable and orderly portion of the community". Clearly, it wasn't by the rest.

The expense of it

Nothing has changed in more than 150 years. The Police Authority of today are no different than their magisterial ancestors in that they want the county policed efficiently and cost effectively. They keep an eye on what the Chief Constable spends.

Let us look at the balance sheets:

The first accounts were prepared for the period December 1839 to March 1840, and show the force cost £6,148 18s 7d. The following year this rose to £35,165 17s 5d. It included payments for hats, boots, embroidering collars, and making suits for constables. The following year it fell slightly to £28,693 19s 0d. The following year's accounts show that the reduction in manpower had saved the county about £6,000. The whole of this expense fell on ratepayers' shoulders, and it wasn't until 1856 that the Government stepped in to pay half the costs. This exchequer grant has been payable ever since, but

is paid only to those forces which, in the opinion of the inspectors of constabulary, are efficient.

The situation was improved so far as finance was concerned in 1840, by an Act, which amended the 1839 Act so as to allow for a Police Rate, separate from the County Rate. This created a fund which could provide the station-houses and lock-ups needed. Of course, the money had to come from the same pockets.

Looking outside for a moment at Preston's Borough force, we see that the town was exempted from the 1839 Act. The town council paid only £1,000 for the superintendents and 16 men. The editor of the Preston Pilot thought that this would increase tremendously if the Act was implemented there, as they would have to increase the force to 30. He devoted 18 inches of editorial to a bitter attack on the new county force.

Woodford's displeasure

Soon after the Blackburn town council had formed their own force (1852), and in so doing reduced the police of the town from 22 to 13, rioting was anticipated there, and Woodford was asked for assistance. He declined to lend his men to help, and the mayor had to send for the military. When later questioned about this, he admitted he had done as he did to show Blackburn his displeasure, and added: "... they would have acted more wisely to have remained under our charge." This was an early indication that Woodford believed in a single Lancashire force.

A well-paid job ?

In 1853, Oldham PCs paraded with placard, urging fair dealings and better pay. Four years previously, the Oldham Town Council had formed their own force and were probably paying less than the county force. The Watch Committee threatened to sack those who refused to accept what the public was paying for crime before their arrival, and the miserly wages suggest one explanation of the poor quality of the various Lancashire forces. The public was getting what they paid for. By about 1860, PCs were earning just over £1 a week. Miners were earning 25s, bricklayers 18s - 21s, and so the policeman was not well paid for the long oppressive hours he had to work (15 hours was not uncommon) and the conditions imposed on his private life. Small wonder they took to liquid refreshment!

Rioting in Wigan 1853

In November 1853, a riot connected with strikes over poor wages occurred in Wigan. It was not the only serious outbreak in that town or elsewhere in Lancashire. These were troublesome times in the field of industrial relations, particularly in mining areas. At this time, Lancashire had the largest county force (509), and the Lancashire boroughs employed more than a quarter of the nation's policemen. Already Lancashire was described as a pioneer region for police work. The Illustrated London News carried a report about the riot

lasting for four hours on a Friday (market day) evening: "The Mob held complete possession of the place ... The Chief Constable of the borough came up with his small force - six or seven - and endeavoured to persuade the mob to disperse quietly, but they, finding that the object of their displeasure had escaped, turned upon the police and began to pelt them with oyster shells, macadam stones, etc. Finding the presence of the police only tended to excite the crowd the more, the Chief Constable marched his men off to the police office, amidst the cheers of the mob, who followed them..."

They returned, reinforced by 20 special constables and made arrests. The military were sent for by messenger on a special engine to Preston, backed up by a message on the electric telegraph. The rioting continued, but on the arrival of 150 soldiers, the streets soon returned to normality, although a few days later a colliers meeting turned into a mob. Inspector Gillett and a detachment of men had been brought over from Bolton Division. He and his men took on the 350-strong mob, aided by guards armed by the colliery owners. Again, the military were on hand to control the situation.

Woodford moves on - and up

In 1856, the County and Borough Police Act came into being, empowering the Home Office to appoint Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary. Woodford, the county's top policeman, was made one of them, with responsibility for the Northern District. Originally there were two, but soon after a third, Captain Willis, was appointed. He had been Assistant Chief Constable in Lancashire before being appointed Chief Constable of Manchester. The die was cast.

This is Lancashire Today

The county of Lancashire is 51 miles long, stretching from the boundary with Cumbria in the north to the Merseyside and Greater Manchester boundaries in the south.

Its maximum width is 41 miles from the Fylde coast to the boundary with West Yorkshire.

Lancashire shares common boundaries with five police forces - Cumbria, North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, and Merseyside.

The total area to be policed by the force covers some 2,000 square mile. It is a county of contrasts with 124 miles of coastline in the west, large rural areas, two newtowns in central Lancashire and Skelmersdale, and four major conurbations in Blackburn, Blackpool, Preston, and Burnley.

There are five motorways in the county covering a network of some 256 miles. The M6 runs the entire length of the Constabulary from north to south, with a daily traffic flow of around 150,000 vehicles.

The population of Lancashire is nearly 1.5 million, with up to 40,000 more people travelling in to work each day.

Structure of the Constabulary

Policing in Lancashire has seen many changes over the years. Between 1969 and 1974, the county Constabulary was the largest outside London, covering areas which are now policed in Cumbria, Cheshire, Greater Manchester, and Merseyside.

Following local government re-organisation in 1974, the Constabulary's area was reduced by half, and split into territorial divisions. Since then, there have been a number of changes with the county currently split into six large divisions.

More than 3,200 police officers and almost 1,800 support staff work for the Lancashire Constabulary. They are supported by a further 500 special constables.

A Typical Day

On a typical day, the Constabulary's staff:

- ? receive 7,254 telephone calls
- ? deal with 324 crimes
- ? attend 16 injury road traffic collisions
- ? respond to 1,758 incidents
- ? handle 43 breakdowns on the motorway
- ? carry out 63 breath tests
- ? make 190 arrests
- ? solve 110 crimes
- ? recover £38,757 worth of stolen property

Uniform

1839: Tall hat, dark green dress coat - similar to today's evening dress "tails" coat - with white embroidery and numerals. The buttons were black. Black belt buckle. Armlets worn when on duty. White trousers in daytime and fine weather, otherwise trousers similar to coat. PC carried a truncheon, a night stick, a lamp and a rattle, and wore white gloves.

1844: Metal numerals, a bright metal belt-plate with the County (Duchy) arms and bright buttons.

1847: The Class of Merit introduced, the badge being worn on the left arm below the elbow. Worn in the same place was the Sergeant's badge of rank - a single chevron with an ornamented scroll.

1848: The pattern of the dress coat altered, becoming similar to a frock coat. It had three buttons in line and 16 on the sleeve, with white piping, and almost knee length. The cap was worn for ordinary duty, but the tall (top) hat still for special occasions. This cap had a badge - a bright metal rose about one-and-a-quarter inches in diameter. Numerals on the collar (numbers are still called

collar numbers) were fixed in pairs and surrounded by an ornate frame of white metal.

1850: Superintendents had to wear greatcoats which were uniform in design (presumably they were not uniform in design previously). It had to be loose, double breasted with front pockets on each side and a breast pocket on the left.

1859: Whistles on chains introduced. There had been no mention in Orders of rattle since 1848. The whistles cost 2/1d each and were issued after the Chief Constable had noticed some men buying and using their own. Black woollen gloves replaced the white ones.

1964: The first helmets issued. They had a "cockscorn" on the crown, and sported a bronze badge. The helmet's front brim was round without a peak. The choice of the helmet in those days shows that chief constables of all forces were wanting to introduce a military appearance and influence. It was smart and would help with discipline, as well as being protective to some degree in the frequent public order situations the men found themselves in.

1865: At some time between 1839 and 1865, the uniform had become blue rather than green, but in 1875 more green clothing was issued, but worn for only ten months before blue was reverted to.

1867: Firearms and cutlasses made more easily available, but not issued to the force. However, uniform belts were adapted to carry them.

1869: Following a petition from the force, Chief Constable Robert Bruce allowed the men of the St Helens Division (only) to wear moustaches.

1870: The moustache concession was granted to the whole force.

1875: A new set of numerals issued. They were metal and worn on the collar alongside a shield (the three lions of the arms of the Duchy, bearing the words "Lancashire Police" and surrounded by a crown).

1881: Following a superintendent receiving injuries in an affray, helmets were issued to superintendents and inspectors.

1882: Inspectors dress-coats changed in pattern. They became almost knee length with a stand-up collar braided at the top. The braid was also used on the coat front. A cap was issued to superintendents and inspectors, and the chief constable informed them they no longer needed to provide themselves with a silk hat.

1883-5: Between these years there were many changes in uniform. Leather leggings were issued to protect men from the clogs of striking miners. Sergeants began (1884) to wear their single chevron, stitched onto the helmet, under the badge and (1885) three chevrons on the right arm, replacing the single chevron with a scroll worn previously. The use of the

single helmet chevron did not last long. Glazed waterproof capes were issued, to be carried rolled and strapped to the waist belt. PCs Merit badges moved to the right arm.

1886: Caps issued to constables as extra to their helmet. Ambulance badges began to be worn on the left arm by those qualified in first aid.

1889: Clerks (the same rank as constables but seen as a higher grade by officers and men alike) provided with a different style of cap, rather like a pill-box, with buttons on the top and with a straight peak.

1894: Style of tunics altered to become smarter and more military in appearance.

1897: Senior officers to wear brown leather gloves and finally to discontinue wearing black silk hats.

1901: Good Conduct Badges issued to those receiving Good Conduct pay. This was a single stripe worn on the right lower sleeve. There were some men eligible to wear two such stripes. This was discontinued in 1921.

1902: Inspectors cap changed style again, becoming similar to the superintendents, but without badge or braid.

1902-13: In this period, collar shields (also called "collar dogs") were taken out of use, as was the belt buckle plate bearing the county arms. A black "snake" belt replaced it in 1903. White metal whistle chains replaced the black ones worn previously. The style of senior officers caps changed at least twice, as did the badge of rank worn on them. The whistle chain had to be hooked onto the top button of the tunic.

1913: A new style of helmet introduced. It had a white metal badge, and the top, formerly a rose, changed to the present pattern. Black helmet plates were still worn on night duty.

1919: An embroidered crown replaced the embroidered rose on superintendents cap. Chief inspectors (a new rank) then wore a rose and inspectors a white metal badge on their cap.

1927: Some grey coats issued. This was Chief Constable Lane's doing, but he died this year, and the few that were issued were only worn on night duty.

1934: The force adopted the Home Office 1934 suggestion for the standardisation of uniform, though implementation was not immediate. The helmet remained the same shape, but the helmet plate (badge) changed to the present pattern, and the use of helmet chevrons was discontinued.

1949: A start was made about this time on changing the style of tunics from dog-collars to open-necks, but the changeover was not complete until 1957-8.

Latterly, dog-collars were worn only on nights. Collar number moved to the shoulder with the introduction of open-necks.

1958: White tops for caps were issued to motor patrol personnel. This set them apart from other cap wearers, and went well with their white and coloured cars.

1960: Shoulder epaulettes, to be worn when in short sleeves, first issued. "Shirt Sleeve Order" was not introduced until the early 1950's. A waterproof coat made of Gannex material was issued about 1960. It was neither smart nor popular, and did not continue in use for very long.

1960s: In the early years of the decade, helmets with a black edge and white centre and black top were worn on night duty. Later, large collar badges appeared on tunics, to be replaced after a few years with the smaller ones now in use.

1963: Nylon waterproof coats issued to replace the rubber mac.

1969: Amalgamation brought about not only the discontinued use of some fine helmets, far smarter than those of the county force, but it also introduced on 1 April the chequered hat band which up until then had only been in use in Scottish forces and in Newcastle.

1975: Whistles handed in. This was because of them being used only on isolated occasions due to the advent of personnel radio. It was seen that it would be necessary to purchase additional whistles whenever there was an increase in strength, and they then cost 40 pence. Fifty whistles were kept at Fleetwood divisional headquarters and perhaps elsewhere, for use in connection with searches.

1982: Truncheons first issued to policewomen. These were 10.25" long, compared with the regular one at 15.5" and the 24" one for Mounted Branch.

1996: CS incapacitant spray first issued to police officers in Lancashire.

Lancashire Police Officers Roll of Honour

In memory of those police officers of the Lancashire Constabulary and former Borough forces who have lost their lives in the line of duty

Compiled by Sergeant Anthony Rae

1840: SC Joseph HALSTEAD Beaten to death with an iron bar during anti-police riots at Colne.

1858: PC Matthew SHARP Drowned in the canal whilst going on patrol on a very dark night at St Helens.

1860: Supt John SELLERS Thrown out of his conveyance when returning from business at Liverpool.

1862: PC William JUMP Shot dead attempting to arrest armed suspects at

Ashton-under-Lyne.

1867: PC Lord PICKUP Fatally injured when run down by a horse on crowd control at Manchester Races.

1868: PC Joseph GREENHALGH Drowned when he fell in the canal whilst on patrol at night at Wigan.

1868: Supt Richard PICKERING Died as a result of severe head injuries received in disturbances at Rochdale.

1869: PC John PARKER Died from hydrophobia after being bit by a rabid dog on duty (Preston Borough).

1872: Sgt William HOBAN Died from severe injuries received in the execution of his duty at Kirkdale.

1876: PC Nicholas COCK Shot dead when attempting to arrest an armed burglar at Whalley Range.

1878: Sgt Jonah SEWELL Shot dead by a suspect he had stopped and was questioning at St. Helens.

1880: PC John LONG Accidentally run down by a train whilst on patrol at St. Helen's.

1884: PC John BROWN Run down by a horse drawn bus he was attempting to stop (Accrington Borough).

1884: PC Thomas HAZELDEN Died as result of a fall while cleaning the police station windows at Bootle.

1886: Sgt William COUTTS Accidentally killed on the railway after visiting a Constable at Farnworth.

1887: Sgt Alexander MITCHELL Drowned in the canal whilst visiting beats at night at Wigan.

1893: PC George LOCKWOOD Killed by the collapse of a wall while fighting a fire (Burnley Borough).

1893: PC Noah JACKSON Died from blood poisoning contracted at a post mortem on a horse at Prescott.

1893: PC William GRANT Fell coming down an unprotected staircase whilst on duty at Leigh.

1894: PC Robert COOKSON Killed by falling out of a fire escape he was demonstrating (Blackburn Borough).

1897: PC George O'DONOGHUE Fatally injured in a fire engine crash returning from a fire (Burnley Borough).

1897: PC George NUTTALL Buried by the collapse of a roof fighting a fire in a cotton mill (Burnley Borough).

1898: PC Alfred MARSH Thrown into the hold of a ship during dockyard disturbances at Fleetwood (Railway).

1899: PC Frederick SMITH Died from injuries received stopping a runaway horse and lorry at Rochdale.

1901: PC Abraham SUTCLIFFE Drowned in the canal whilst on foot patrol on a freezing night at Failsworth.

1905: PC Lewis BOOTH Collapsed and died while arresting a burglar at Seaforth.

1906: PC George HODSON Died from injuries received in a fall when chasing suspects at Audenshaw.

1907: PC Stewart WHILLIS Died as a result of assaults upon him whilst in the execution of his duty.

1911: PC Alfred PEARSON Drowned attempting to rescue a woman from the

canal at Litherland.
1917: PC James HARDACRE Killed by an explosion whilst fighting a fire in a munitions factory at Church.
1918: Sgt Thomas BELL Fell from a wall while trying to locate a light during an air raid warning at Grange.
1921: PC William PRENDERGAST Died from injuries received when thrown from a horse on mounted duty.
1921: Sgt Francis WALLBANK Knocked down by a motor car whilst on foot patrol (Preston Borough).
1924: Sgt Hartley WILKINSON Died from severe exposure sustained in the sea rescue of a boy (Blackpool Borough).
1930: Supt Thomas BLANCHARD Killed in a collision between a police motorcycle combination and lorry at Burscough.
1931: Ch/I George RIPLEY Hit by a car while investigating the scene of a previous fatal accident at Tarleton.
1933: Sgt Frank DYSON Fatally injured when he fell from his cycle whilst on plain clothes duty at Ulverston.
1935: PC Harry FORREST Knocked down by a car while on crowd control on Jubilee Day at Nelson.
1937: Insp Henry WOODHEAD Struck by a car and killed while investigating an accident scene at Lea
1940: SC Llewelyn WALFORD Killed by a bomb whilst assisting the public during an enemy air raid at Seaforth
1940: SC Henry HEATON Killed when Old Trafford Police Station was destroyed during an enemy air raid.
1940: PC Herbert BERRY Killed when Old Trafford Police Station was destroyed during an enemy air raid.
1940: PC John BURNS Killed when Old Trafford Police Station was destroyed during an enemy air raid.
1940: Ch/I William CHIPPENDALE Killed when Old Trafford Police Station was destroyed during an enemy air raid.
1940: RPC John LAW Killed when Old Trafford Police Station was destroyed during an enemy air raid.
1940: PC Ian STEEN Fatally injured when Old Trafford Police Station was destroyed during an air raid.
1940: SC Harry DAVIES Fatally injured dealing with an incendiary bomb in an air raid at Old Trafford.
1941: PWR David ROBERTS Fatally injured when Old Trafford Police Station was destroyed during an air raid.
1941: PC Gerard GASKELL Killed on duty during an enemy air raid at Stretford.
1941: SC John HARROP Killed on duty during an enemy air raid at Stretford.
1941: SC Clifford DAVEY Killed on duty during an enemy air raid at Stretford.
1943: PWR John TOWERS Fatally injured when he was assaulted by a disorderly man (Blackburn Borough).
1945: PC Arthur RICHARDSON Died of injuries sustained in rescuing an unconscious woman in a bath at Fleetwood.
1951: RPC John POUCHER Killed when he was struck by a drunken driver while on bicycle patrol at Cleveleys.
1952: PC Rivers SHERWOOD Killed when knocked off his bicycle by a car

while on patrol at night at Rainhill.
1956: PC Ivor OATES Fatally injured during physical training as a recruit at police training centre Bruche.
1956: PC John GILLETT Knocked down by a car and killed while examining a lorry rear light at Cloughton.
1956: PC Isaac TAYLOR Fatally injured when his patrol car crashed during a vehicle pursuit at Middleton.
1957: Ch/I Thomas WALKER Killed when his traffic patrol car crashed on icy roads at Penwortham.
1958: DI James O'DONNELL Shot and fatally injured attempting to arrest an armed suspect (Blackburn Borough).
1958: PC James BRINDLE Died of burns after an accidental explosion at the police garage (Blackburn Borough).
1961: PC Philip GIBBARD Killed in a road accident while on motorcycle patrol duty at Fulwood.
1962: PC Ernest SOUTHERN Collapsed and died while dealing with a violent street affray at Kirkby.
1965: PC David BROWN Fatally injured in a road accident whilst on duty at Kirkby.
1965: PW Myra WALLER Died after her traffic patrol car crashed attending an emergency call at Lancaster.
1966: PC George HIGHAM Killed when struck by a car while investigating a road accident at Kirkby.
1967: PC Graham ROUGHLEY Killed when his patrol car crashed swerving to avoid a pedestrian at Ashton-u-Lyne.
1969: PC Stanley MOORE Drowned during an underwater search for two missing children at Warrington.
1971: Supt Gerald RICHARDSON Shot and fatally wounded attempting to arrest an armed robber at Blackpool.
1972: PC Kenneth FLETCHER Killed in road accident while on an advanced motorcycle course at Turton.
1976: PC George SPENCER Killed when his patrol car crashed attending an emergency call in fog on the M61.
1978: PC Roland McGOWAN Killed when an observer in a patrol car which crashed on an emergency call at Bacup.
1978: A/Sgt Walter LACEY Collapsed and died during the arrest of a resisting prisoner at Colne.
1979: PC David WHITTLE Killed in patrol car crash while driving a second officer and prisoner at Blackburn.
1979: PC John BROMILOW Fatally injured in patrol car crash while escorting a prisoner at Blackburn.
1979: PC John HARWOOD Died as a result of an accident on advanced motorcycle training at Charnock Richard.
1979: PC Robert MILNE Collapsed and died dispersing a disorderly crowd while off duty at Lea.
1982: Sgt Gerald CHARNLEY Killed in a fall while taking police cadets adventure training on Helvellyn mountain.
1983: WPC Angela BRADLEY Drowned with two other officers attempting a sea rescue at Blackpool.
1983: PC Gordon CONNOLLY Drowned with two other officers attempting a

sea rescue at Blackpool.
1983: PC Colin MORRISON Drowned with two other officers attempting a sea rescue at Blackpool.
1987: PC Ian WOODWARD Shot dead when checking an armed suspect while off duty at Chorley.
1989: PC Ronald ANSELL Collapsed and died during public order training warm up exercises at Inskip.
1990: PC Peter BURNETT Collapsed and died while dispersing rioters attacking police at Barnoldswick.

Notes: SC = Special Constable, RPC = Reserve Police Constable, PWR = Police War Reserve, PW = Police Woman.