



COMMEMORATING

100 YEARS OF SERVICE OF
THE PETERBOROUGH POLICE

1857 - 1957

AND

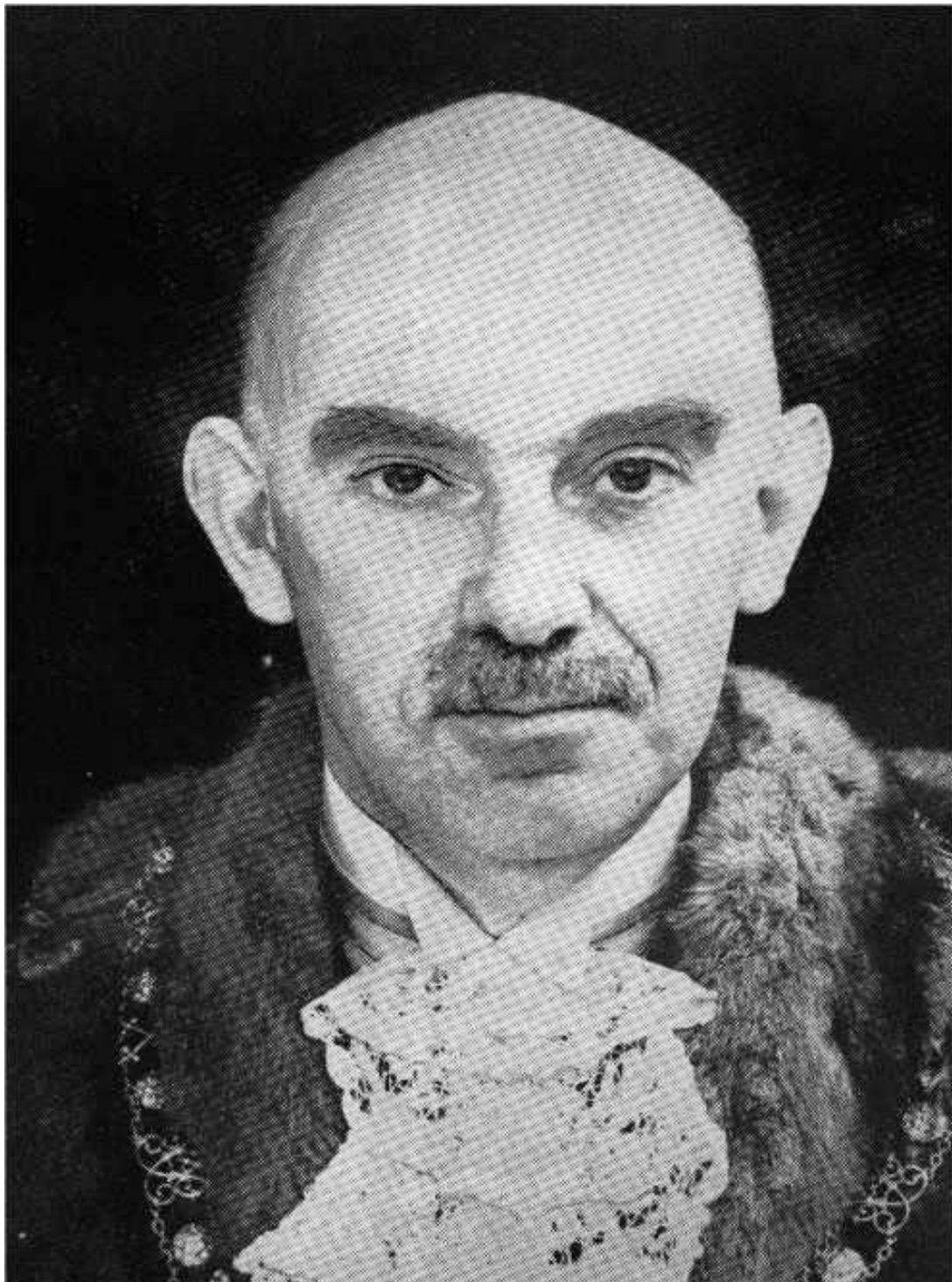
THE OFFICIAL OPENING

OF THE

NEW POLICE HEADQUARTERS

BRIDGE STREET - PETERBOROUGH

23rd MAY, 1957



ALDERMAN H.W. KELLEY, J.P.

Chairman, Peterborough Combined Police Authority

Mayor of the City of Peterborough 1943-44

The Peterborough Combined Police Authority

April. 1957

Members elected to the Peterborough City Council

ALDERMAN	J.A. BARTRAM
ALDERMAN	G.R CHAMBERLAIN
ALDERMAN	G.C HALL
ALDERMAN	H.R HORRELL
ALDERMAN	R. C HOWARD
ALDERMAN	H.W KELLY, J.P (CHAIRMAN)
ALDERMAN	E. V MARTIN
COUNCILLOR	LADY G.M BENSTEAD J.P
COUNCILLOR	R.W NORTH
COUNCILLOR	G.A SMITH

Members elected by the Soke of Peterborough County Council

COUNTY ALDERMAN	J.R HALL J.P.
COUNTY COUNCILLOR	THE HON. P.E BRASSEY, J.P
COUNTY COUNCILLOR	A COLLINSON

Members elected by the Liberty Justices

A.J DILLINGHAM, HSQ., J.P. (Vice-Chairman)
A. MARCUS NEAL, Esq., JP
G. W. WISBEY, Esq., J.P

Foreword

It is a coincidence that the opening of a new Headquarters should occur exactly one hundred years after formation of a Police Force for the Liberty of Peterborough

Both events are important milestones in the history of the Police in this area and it is to mark these occasions that this booklet has been produced.

The members of the Force all appreciate the fact that at last they are to have a proper Headquarters from which to carry out their duties and on their behalf I would like to extend our warmest thanks to all the persons and authorities that have made the provision of the new building practicable.

It is hoped that this short history will be of interest, and in placing the story of the Police in this area on record, it is not desired in any way to cast reflection on the efficiency of the Force in by-gone days. Rather it is intended to show the developments which have been made to meet changing circumstances and particularly to show the efforts made to keep abreast of modern police requirements since the inception of the Combined Police Authority, to whom I would like to express my thanks for making this progress possible.

F.G. MARKIN,

Chief Constable.

ROLL OF HONOUR

First World War

Charles M. Head

Killed in Action with the Welsh Regiment

Second World War

John Henry Wyborn
Alfryn James Jenkins

Killed in Action with the Royal Air Force
Killed in Action with the Royal Air Force

CONTENTS

ROLL OF HONOUR

FOREWORD

I—THE SOKE OF PETERBOROUGH AND
LIBERTY QUARTER SESSIONS

II—BEFORE 1857

III—The HISTORY OF FORCE HEADQUARTERS

IV—THE LIBERTY OF PETERBOROUGH CONSTABULARY

V—THE PETERBOROUGH CITY POLICE FORCE

VI—THE PETERBOROUGH COMBINED POLICE FORCE AND
A SHORT RECORD OF POST WAR PROGRESS

ILLUSTRATIONS

	Page
The Chairman of the Combined Police Authority	1
The Peterborough Police (circa. 1874)	15
The Peterborough City Police Force, 1900	15
The Police Radio Vehicle Fleet. 1957	16
Police Dogs “Pat” and “Ace”	16
Officers and sergeants of the Combined Force. 1957	17
The Old Police Station and House at Eye	18
The New Police Station and Houses at Eye	18
Operational plans of the New Headquarters, Bridge Street, Peterborough	28,29,30
The New Police Headquarters, Bridge Street, Peterborough	31
The Old Headquarters, Milton Street, Peterborough ...	32

CHIEF OFFICERS OF THE PETERBOROUGH POLICE FORCES

1857

THE LIBERTY OF PETERBOROUGH CONSTABULARY

CAPTAIN HENRY LAMBERT BAYLY *

(1857—)

1874

THE LIBERTY OF PETERBOROUGH CONSTABULARY

CAPTAIN HENRY LAMBERT BAYLY *
(1857—1876)

THOMAS ORDE HASTINGS LEES*
(1876-1881)

J.D. KELLIE McCALLUM*
(1881-1931)

THOMAS DANBY
(1931-1943)

FRANCIS GEORGE MARKIN
(1943-1947)

THE PETERBOROUGH CITY POLICE FORCE

WILLIAM HURST
(1874-1889)

JOHN WILLIAM LAWSON
(1889-1909)

JOHN EDWARD KER WATSON
(1909-1915)

THOMAS DANBY
(1915-1943)

FRANCIS GEORGE MARKIN
(1943-1947)

1947

THE PETERBOROUGH COMBINED POLICE FORCE

FRANCIS GEORGE MARKIN

(1947-)

*Also Chief Constable of the Northamptonshire Constabulary

Quarter Sessions

To all interested in police matters, the origin of the term “The Soke of Peterborough” and the peculiar powers of the Liberty Justices in Quarter Sessions must have some significance.

The word ‘Soke’ is derived from an old Anglo-Saxon word Soc’ or Sac,” which means that a privilege was granted to the Abbot and Convent to exercise certain extraordinary legal rights. It actually dates from the time of King Edgar in 927 and carries with it the power of Gaol Delivery and punishment by death.

A similar jurisdiction was obtained at St. Albans but this was abolished under Queen Victoria and the Liberty of Peterborough is the last county franchise which retains such a privilege.

The Liberty Justices in Quarter Sessions have thereby long held powers in excess of those of most other Quarter Sessions, They can try and decide many serious crimes, including treason and murder, which normally can only be heard and determined in a Court of Assize, Not in view of the special powers of the Liberty Justices, a Judge of Assize has no power to act in the Liberty of Peterborough.

Until the time of the dissolution of the Peterborough Monastery in 1539, the Abbot had been empowered to appoint Justices of the Peace for the Hundred of Nassaburgh which was also known as the Liberty of Nassaburgh.

When the Monastery was dissolved the Abbot was made the first Bishop and the following year, Henry VIII granted three Commissions of the Peace to the Liberty of Peterborough. They were:-

(I) The Commission of the Peace for the appointment of Justices to sit in Petty sessional Courts and exercise the ordinary duties of the magistracy;

(II) The Commission for Gaol Delivery, and

(III) The Commission of Oyer and Terminer—that is to hear and determine—which empowers the Justices of the Liberty to hear assize offences at Quarter Sessions.

The last Commission gives to the Justices of the Liberty, power to enquire more fully “... by the oath of good and lawful men of the Liberty of Peterborough, by whom the truth of the matter may be better known and by other ways, means and methods by which

they shall or better know, of the treasons . . . insurrections . . . rebellions, counterfeitings, clippings, wastings, false comings . . . murders, felonies,

manslaughters” . . . and many other grave offences mentioned therein which in other counties are only triable by a Judge of Assize, and the Justices are commanded at days appointed for this purpose to make diligent enquiries into and to **hear and determine** the above mentioned offences.

In 1877 Queen Victoria confirmed these Commissions and endorsed the ancient privileges of jurisdiction of the Liberty Justices and at the same time excluded the Sheriff of the County of Northampton from exercising his authority in the Liberty.

The Commissions of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery were not renewed by the Monarchs immediately succeeding Queen Victoria and in 1920 the Court of Criminal Appeal squashed a conviction recorded at Peterborough Quarter Sessions. It was held that three of the Liberty Magistrates adjudicating at the hearing were not in order as the Assize Authority of the Court then derived from Commissions granted during the reign of Queen Victoria. The three Justices in question had been appointed to the Commission of the Peace subsequent to her death and only Justices appointed during her reign were in order in adjudicating at such a Court.

This resulted in a renewal of the Commissions in continuation of the ancient Assize jurisdiction, and an announcement was made at the Easter Quarter Sessions in 1921 that “whatever may have happened as a result of a recent case in the Court of Criminal Appeal by authority of this Commission now granted, this Court will continue to exercise this ancient jurisdiction in the same manner as it has done under similar commissions since the days of Charles I.”

In fact, the Justices of the Liberty do not exercise their full powers although they have always been jealous of their special and historic privileges. In 1949, the Marquess of Exeter who was then the Lord Paramount of the Liberty moved an amendment in the Lords to the Justices of the Peace Bill. This was necessary to safeguard the special position of the Liberty jurisdiction as the new Bill provided there should be a separate commission of the peace for every administrative county and county borough and **not for any other area.**

Accordingly, an amendment was accepted by the Lord Chancellor and the following paragraph was included in the Act:—

SAVING FOR SOKE OF PETERBOROUGH: The Justices for the Soke of Peterborough shall, by virtue of the Commission of the Peace and without any further commission, have within the county the same jurisdiction as before the coming into force of Section 10 of this Act the Justices for the Liberty of Peterborough had within the Liberty by virtue of the commissions of oyer and terminer and gaol delivery customarily issued to those Justices, but as respects any matters within their competence as Justices of the Peace, shall act as such and not as Justices of Oyer and Terminer or Justices of Gaol Delivery.

In accepting the amendment the Lord Chancellor said that in murder cases this ancient jurisdiction had survived all these years only because it had never been exercised and he added, “if the Justices ever appear to act upon the powers they possess, I shall be the first to come and remove those powers for them.”

Before the institution of municipal and county councils, the Justices in Quarter Sessions were responsible for the administration of their areas, but in 1790 a body called the Peterborough Improvement Commissioners was formed to be responsible to administer the City.

There is little record of the means of policing which was in force at that time, but there were undoubtedly a number of Parish Constables. In 1831 in particular, there was a scare in the neighbourhood and twelve men were sworn in by the Justices. They were employed by the Improvement Commissioners to act as nightly watchmen in the City and suburbs against incendiaries.

Another person with what appeared to be at least quasi-police responsibilities at this time was the Beadle. He is described as a most important person whose main duty apparently was to see the tramps out of the town. What was more, he was paid by results and presented the Justices at Quarter Sessions with a bill showing the number of vagrants he had shown out of the City—e.g. "a man and woman sent out Stamford Road," etc. The Magistrates then made him an allowance according to his services. He had no powers of arrest and had to resort to "fidgeting" the unwanted out of the area. He was appointed by the Feoffees, who were the Freeman of the City and, no doubt for reasons of economy, he appears to have been chosen with special reference to his age and infirmity. Nonetheless, he was provided with a rather resplendent uniform consisting of a long robe, knee breeches and a cocked hat, in addition to the mace.

Previous to this in 1781, the citizens had formed an association for the prosecution of all persons guilty of felony, with particular mention of horse stealing and there is record of a similar if not the same organisation holding its annual meeting at "The Bull" in Westgate in 1816. The yearly subscription to this association was then 3s. 6d. and the association was prepared to advertise losses and give rewards for information.

Later, in 1832, there was formed the "Hundred of Norman Cross and Liberty of Peterborough Association for the Protection of Property." The annual subscription to this organisation was 5s,

Everyone knows that the first real police in the country were Sir Robert Peel's "Peelers" or "Bobbies," the names given to the men appointed to act as police for London, following the passing of the Metropolitan Police Act of 1829.

The formation of this force in London drove many of the criminals away from the Metropolis to carry on their trade in the provinces and because of this and the general lawlessness throughout the country at the time, the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 and then the County Police Act of 1839, made it possible for municipal

boroughs and county justices to appoint a paid police for their own areas.

The Justices of the County of Northamptonshire took advantage of this and established their own force for the county, but the Liberty Justices, like a good many more, did not—probably because the need in this particular area was not so dire as elsewhere. In any case, it was not until the County and Borough Police Act of 1856 made it compulsory for Justices to appoint a police force to cover their jurisdiction that any action was taken in the Liberty of Peterborough and it was as a result of this that the Liberty of Peterborough Constabulary came into being the following year.

The History of Force Headquarters

To briefly trace the history of the buildings which have served as Headquarters for the Forces in this area over the past century, one must commence with the Gaol in Thorpe Road, for it was from there that the Liberty Force was controlled by the local superintendent from the time the Force was formed in 1857.

An Act of Parliament was obtained in 1840 to permit the building of a new Gaol for Peterborough and the Liberty Gaol was built in the year 1844. It costs, as the record says "upward of £8,000, stands on 2 acres, 2 roods, 30 poles with deep gravel soil and abundant pure water and is in every respect well situated from a sanitary point of view." It had accommodation for 28 males and 10 females "on the separate system" with cells for debtors and ample accommodation for the Governor and other officers. There was a Court House attached with Courts for Petty and Quarter Sessions and there were also waiting rooms and a library. The Lord Paramount, Lord Exeter, who in 1795 had been indicted for allowing the previous Gaol building, to fall into decay, subscribed £500 towards the cost and was thereby discharged of all dues and services respecting the new Gaol. The building was closed as a Gaol in 1878 and from then on, prisoners had to be sent to Northampton or Cambridge.

A police officer of the Liberty Force always lived on the premises from the earliest days and an office was kept by the Liberty Police in the building right up to the time of the formation of the Combined Police Force in 1947.

With the granting of the Charter of Incorporation to the City in 1874, and the formation of a separate Police Force for the City, the Headquarters of the Force was established in a building in Milton Street. This building was originally erected as a residence, but in 1822 it was taken over as the "Infirmary" and maintained from monies originally subscribed from the "Stock Fund" of the Volunteer Defence Corps when they were disbanded after the Napoleonic Wars. The "Infirmary" was moved to the buildings in Priest-gate which are now the Museum in 1856 and the Milton Street building was eventually taken over by the Corporation in 1874 to accommodate their new Police Force.

Even at that time, the City Council were not at all satisfied with the building and when they were considering the proposed agreement for the tenancy it was unanimously resolved that in view of the dilapidated state of the building the Watch Committee recommend that the draft agreement for the tenancy be not approved. However, the Force moved into the building which was used both as a Headquarters and as a residence for the Head Constable.

Twenty-three years later, the Head Constable reported to the Police Authority on the accommodation at the Police Station which he stated had become inadequate. That was in 1897, but in spite of the growth of the town and the extra work of the police, the building was still occupied as a Police Headquarters until the year 1949.

Some years previously in 1942, the necessity for additional space had made it essential for the Chief Constable to move, and the part of the building previously occupied by him was converted into offices. A year or so later, additional cells had to be added at the rear of the building to accommodate female prisoners, for whom previously there had been no separate accommodation. Two of the existing cells in the main building were declared by the

Medical Officer of Health to be quite unfit for occupancy by human beings and to accommodate

various extra stores and facilities required during the War, a building had to be erected in the yard between the main offices and the street. A wooden hut had to be

erected in the small remaining space in the front yard to provide a place where the men could parade for their duties.

A few years later, one officer had his leg slip through the floor of an upstairs store, fortunately without serious injury, and very shortly afterwards the one decent sized room in the building which was used as a C.I.D. Office, also had a floor give way under the weight of one of the burlier plain clothes men and the Building Inspector declared that room to be dangerous and unusable. The Detective Inspector of a few years later had the dangerous state of the building brought home to him rather sharply one morning when a large and weighty piece of the stonework of the front porch way fell with a resounding crash just behind him. The blueness of the atmosphere immediately after this unnerving incident was not entirely due to the usually well stoked pipe of the officer concerned.

The building was totally unfit for its purpose as the restricted accommodation allowed for no proper facilities for the members of the Force either to wash or to cook or partake of their refreshments and the accommodation for the administrative and operational work of the Force was entirely inadequate.

The Police vehicles had to be kept in garages rented from a local tradesman in separate premises on a weekly tenancy.

During the intervening years consideration had been given to the question of providing a new Headquarters. Tentative plans were made for offices to be provided in the Council buildings when the premises in Broadway were taken over in 1921. After that, consideration was given to various premises including St. Peter's College, a large house on Lincoln Road in Boroughbury, a site on the Bishop's Garden near the junction of St. Peter's Road and Bishop's Road, and eventually in the middle 1930's the site in Bridge Street adjoining the Embankment Road was purchased for the purpose.

Plans were drawn up and with the Home Office pressing the need for a new building right up to the time of Dunkirk in 1940 arrangements were in hand for the building to be provided. However, the serious turn of events in that year inevitably led to a further postponement and of course the difficult building conditions in the years following the Second World War made it impossible to make any immediate progress, although the scheme was given priority by the Home Office.

By 1948 the position was becoming serious. The increasing area of the City of Peterborough which was being built up and the extensions in the industrial and business areas of the City, together with the increase in crime which was a national feature, and the increasing traffic problems, the work of the Police was becoming more and more complicated and demanded new measures to meet the situation. It was impossible to bring these into operation until some more suitable accommodation was found, and in 1949 after a good deal of protracted negotiations, the various buildings on the Westwood Aerodrome site were made available as a temporary measure. The occupation of these buildings allowed a certain amount of re-organization to take place, but at the best, the dispersal of the work of the Force among so many buildings could only be regarded as a temporary improvement and plans for the new Station in Bridge Street were pressed ahead until now, a 100 years after the Police in Peterborough were first formed, the Force is to have a proper Headquarters for the first time.

The Liberty of Peterborough Constabulary

With the coming into law of the County and Borough Police Act of 1856, the Justices for the Liberty had to take steps to establish a proper Police Force for their area, which at that time also included the City.

In the report of the visiting justices to the Peterborough Gaol in January, 1857, the following passage occurs— “. . . at a time when the frequent occurrence of crime of heinous magnitude has induced the Legislature to make the introduction of a Constabulary Force no longer an optional but a compulsory measure, our district has been unusually free from offences of any aggravated nature and the number of prisoners altogether not excessive.”

At the previous Michaelmas Quarter Sessions, the Justices had adjourned the Sessions to the 25th November 1856, to consider and determine the number of constables needed within the Liberty to carry out the act of the last Sessions and the rates of payment which it would be expedient to pay.

Thereupon a Committee of Magistrates was appointed to consider the matter and this Committee consisted of the Reverend William Strong, Thomas Life, Esq., Robert Mein and Arthur William English, Esq., and Edward Augustus Skrimshire, Esq. So on the 10th day of March, 1857, the Justices in Quarter Sessions approved a “Book of Rules and Regulations for the Government and Guidance of the Peterborough Liberty Constabulary.” Captain Henry Lambert Bayly, Chief Constable of Northamptonshire was appointed also as the first Chief Constable of the Liberty of Peterborough.

The first constables were sworn in on the same day and by the end of the month, 12 men had been appointed. Some of them however, did not last long and by the end of that year, seven of the original members of the Force had resigned.

The new Force was responsible for 24 Parishes, including Peterborough and in addition, the hamlets of Pilsgate, Southorp, Woodcroft, Deeping Gate, Gunthorpe, Walton, Werrington Dogsthorpe, Eastfield, Longthorpe, Newark and Ashton.

The police area covered some 55,084 acres and there was a population of 26,294— 15,496 of whom lived in Peterborough, Dogsthorpe, Eastfield, Longthorpe and Newark.

The area was organized as a police district with a Superintendent in charge and responsible to the Chief Constable who was stationed at Northampton in connection with his duties as Chief Constable of Northamptonshire.

The Superintendent was stationed in Peterborough and his residence was attached to the Headquarters of the Force at the Gaol, Thorpe Road. He was assisted by two sergeants, one at Headquarters and the other one at Helpston. In addition to the constables working from the Headquarters there were resident constables stationed at Barnack, Castor, Eye, Northborough, Newborough Werrington, Eastfield and Wansford.

The conditions of service were somewhat restrictive. For instance, a constable could not exercise any other employment, serve in any division where he was connected by birth or marriage, frequent public or beerhouses, leave the force before completing 3 months service without paying the sum of five shillings, carry an umbrella when in uniform, or appear in public out of uniform except when on leave of absence or in disguise.

The Constabulary as constituted consisted of one Chief Constable acting jointly as Chief Constable of Northamptonshire and of the Liberty of Peterborough, one

Superintendent, three Sergeants and sixteen Constables, a total strength of twenty-one.

The actual strength of the Force varied during the years, but never seems quite to have reached the total number allowed. In 1868 there was a total of 18 men. The pay was then £7 10s. per month for the Superintendent; £5 12s. 8d. per month for the Sergeants and between £4 0s. 2d. and £4 19s. 8d. per month for the Constables.

Immediately before the division of the Force upon the granting of the Charter to the City of Peterborough, the old Liberty Police Accounts show a strength of 20, with slightly improved rates of pay. After the City Force had been established, the Account for the month of December, 1874, shows a strength of 1 Inspector, 1 Sergeant and 6 Constables, a total of 9 men including the shared Chief Constable.

In March, 1892, the Inspector had become a Superintendent and there was also 1 Sergeant and 7 Constables, making a total of 10 including the Chief Constable.

At this time of course, whilst there was a separate Force for the City of Peterborough, the boundaries of the City were much smaller than they are today and the villages of Dogsthorpe, Werrington, Newark and Longthorpe, were all still policed by the Liberty Constabulary.

The Justices on the 19th October, 1871, received a Memorial from the St. Martin's Bench, which then tried offences committed in the parishes of Barnack, St. Martin's and Wothorpe, Ufford and Wittering. This asked for an additional constable to protect that part of the Liberty which immediately adjoined Stamford Town. The Justices resolved that as they had been informed that a large iron works was soon to be opened in that area they were of the opinion the proprietors should pay any additional cost necessary for police supervision.

This apparently did not find much favour with the owners of the proposed iron works for on January 4th, 1872, the Justices received a further Memorial from the St. Martin's Bench and it was then proposed that Lord Exeter would provide half the cost and lodging for an additional constable and this was agreed. Until quite recent years, the constable stationed at St. Martin's was still known as "The Marquess' Policeman," and he was in fact an "additional" constable to the establishment and was paid for by the Marquess of Exeter so far as no charge for him fell upon the rates.

Captain Bayly, the first Chief Constable of the Liberty of Peterborough, retired on pension in 1876, and the new Chief Constable of Northamptonshire took over the office at a salary of £50 per annum plus travelling expenses. He was also allowed the sum of £10 per annum for the services of a clerk. The new Chief Constable's name was Thomas Orde Hastings Lees, and he took his oath of office with the Liberty on the 2nd February, 1876.

On that day too, the pay of the police in the liberty was raised to fall into line with the pay being received by the police in the Northamptonshire County Force and a constable then commenced at 22s. per week rising to 26s. per week and eventually to 29s. per week. A sergeant's pay was 29s. per week on promotion and rose to 30s. per week. An inspector was paid at the rate of £105 per annum.

In April of that year also, the Justices accepted the proposal of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners that they should build a house for the policeman stationed at Castor and that it should be let to the Force at an annual rental of £8 7s. 6d. This house incidentally, remained as the Castor Police Station until the new house was completed in 1950.

13

On the 11th April, 1878, a Memorial was received by the Liberty Justices from the rate-payers of Stibbington which is in the county of Huntingdonshire. This requested that the police of the liberty be allowed to act in Stibbington. The Court decided that it

had no power to agree to this but drew the attention of the Chief Constable to the facts related in the Memorial.

In 1888 the Local Government Act resulted in the formation of the Soke of Peterborough County Council and the appointment of a Standing Joint Committee which comprises both elected councillors and the justices, and from that time that Committee of the County Council became the Police Authority for the Liberty of Peterborough.

There is not much record of the actual work of the police in these early days, although at Bridge Fair in 1869, it was known that 60 card sharpers and pickpockets were operating. At this Fair, the police arrested 11 people for gaming, 3 for watch stealing and 2 for housebreaking and it was not until the close of the 1921 Fair that the police were able to report that for the first time there had been no complaints of pocket picking.

In those days, indictable offences, which are now termed as crimes, were known by the perhaps more descriptive name of Outrages. In their Book of Regulations, the constables were enjoined to attend at the scene of any Outrage immediately and report the facts to their superior officers. The old Outrage Book shows that crime in the Liberty varied between about 20 and 30 annually until the 1980's when it rose into the 40's.

With the extension of the boundaries of the City, the establishment of the Liberty Force was revised as from the 1st April, 1929, and was then fixed at 9 men plus the Chief Constable shared with the county of Northampton. The ranks allowed were 1 Superintendent, 1 Sergeant and 7 Constables with the provision that the rank of Superintendent should lapse on the retirement of the person then holding the post.

During this time, the Headquarters of this small Force remained at the Gaol, Thorpe Road, but with the retirement of Superintendent Hamps in 1931, the Chief Constable of the City of Peterborough, Mr. Thomas Danby, was appointed also as Chief Constable of the Liberty Force. For all practical purposes, the Headquarters of the Force were then removed continued to occupy an office in the Gaol Buildings but the sergeant who was in day to day to the premises occupied by the City Police in Milton Street. The Liberty Force, however, control of the work of the Force, did his office work mainly from Milton Street, although this officer lived in the house attached to the Gaol Buildings.

The administrative work of the Force was performed mainly by the staff at the City Police Headquarters and an allowance was paid to the Chief Clerk of that Force. The Liberty also relied upon the services of officers of the City Police for assistance and specialist help in cases of emergency, but it was of course still a completely separate Force with its own police authority and the Chief Constable had all the powers over the personnel peculiar to chief officers of a County Force which vary in a marked degree to those of a Chief Constable of a Borough Force.

During the late 1930's, the number of crimes or outrages in the Liberty rose to about 70 per year, but they dropped ~gain on an average during the years of the Second World War except in 1942, when there were 91. In 1931, the strength of the Force was altered to include 2 sergeants and 7 constables with 1 additional constable employed at the expense of the Marquess of Exeter. One of the sergeant's posts however was kept vacant until 1940 when war conditions made it necessary to appoint an officer to take charge of the section covering the western area of the Liberty and the Great North Road. The other sergeant continued to operate from the Gaol but his duties also included the issue of civil defence stores and equipment for

the Liberty and other matters such as the Air Raid Precautions training of the Police, Special Constables and Wardens in the villages.



THE PETERBOROUGH POLICE (CIRCA. 1874).



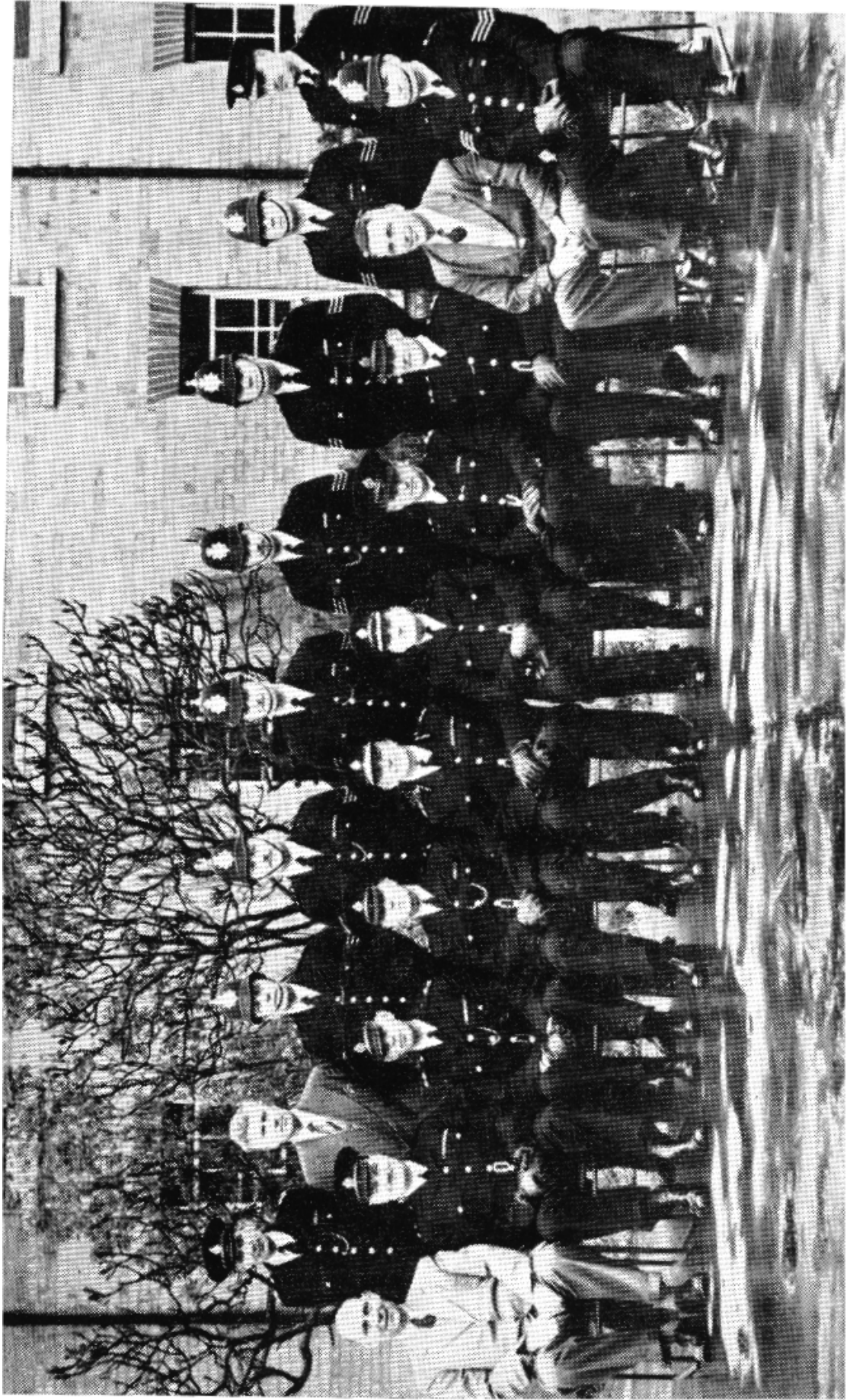
THE PETERBOROUGH CITY POLICE FORCE, 1900.



THE POLICE RADIO VEHICLE FLEET, WESTWOOD, 1957



POLICE DOGS "PAT" AND "ACE"



OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS OF THE COMBINED FORCE, 1957



THE OLD POLICE STATION AND HOUSE AT EYE



THE NEW POLICE STATION AND HOUSES AT EYE

The Force remained thus until 1947. The previous year, the Police Act of 1946 had made possible the amalgamation of the smaller police forces and in fact, non-county borough authorities under 100,000 population had their forces taken from them and merged with the County in which they were situated.

In this, as in many other cases, the Liberty of Peterborough was in a peculiar position in as much as the Borough was the much larger of the two authorities, though still only quite small by the standards envisaged in the new Act. An exception was especially made in the Act precluding Peterborough from the general provisions and the Standing Joint Committee of the County Council and the Watch Committee of the City Council very sensibly decided that it would be in the best interests of everyone if the two Forces were amalgamated. They therefore took advantage of the section of the Act which provided for voluntary schemes of amalgamation and on the 1st April, 1947, both the City and Liberty Forces ceased to exist as such and they became the Peterborough Combined Police Force administered by a Combined Authority comprising representatives of the City and County Councils and of the Justices.

The Peterborough City Police

From the short foregoing history of the Liberty of Peterborough Constabulary, it will be seen that until 1874, the City of Peterborough was policed by that Force which was itself under the direction of a man who was also Chief Constable of Northamptonshire. He was, of course, mainly concerned with that county. He had no local associations and particularly bearing in mind the difficulties in traveling and communications in those days, he could not be extremely well acquainted with local happenings and requirements.

This was not at all satisfactory to the civic leaders of the City and they thought they should have some control and representation over the Police and their activities, other than having to act through the Justices in Quarter Sessions.

When the City applied for its Charter of Incorporation in 1873, this fact was used as one of the main arguments in support of the case and as Mr. W. D. Gaches said at the inquiry “.....Where is there another Borough with a population of **20,000** where the Police are beyond the control of the Town....” The population of the City at this time was about **21,000**.

However, the Home Secretary of the day was not very enthusiastic, despite this plea, and only acceded to the City having a Police Force of its own when it was stressed to him that to obtain control of the Police was one of the main reasons for applying for Incorporation.

The Charter was granted to the City in **1874** and the Council were then required to appoint a Watch Committee comprising one-third of the elected members of the Council plus the Mayor. This Committee met first on the 16th June, **1874**, and formally decided to appoint a Police Force for the City and Municipal Borough of Peterborough.

At the same meeting, the strength of the Force was decided upon as 1 Chief Officer who was to be known as the Head Constable, **2** Sergeants and **12** Constables. On the following day the Town Clerk informed Captain Bayly, the Chief Constable of the Liberty Constabulary, that the Watch Committee were prepared to accept applications from the men of his Force then serving in Peterborough to transfer their services to the Peterborough Corporation.

On the 22nd July, **1874**, James Hurst was appointed as the Head Constable and Joseph Scotney and William Moyses as Sergeants with 6 other men as Constables.

All was not clear water, however, and on the 30th July. the Home Secretary informed

the Committee that he did not consider the proposed strength of the new Force, amounting to 15 officers of all ranks, to be a sufficient establishment for a Borough

maintaining a separate Force of its own. He further informed the Council that he would not be prepared to certify efficient maintenance of the Force in Peterborough unless the establishment be based on an average strength of at least one constable for each thousand of the population. He also considered there should be three sergeants and not two as suggested.

To those unacquainted with Police administration, it may seem strange that the Home Secretary should exercise such control, and the implications of the threat to withhold his certificate that the Force was efficient, will not be fully realised. The fact is, that since the days of the formation of proper paid police forces, a proportion of the cost has always been provided by the Exchequer to assist the ratepayers in providing this service. Up to the year 1874, the grant from the Central Government was one-quarter of the cost of pay and clothing. The Police Expenses Act of 1874 raised the grant to one-half of the cost of pay and clothing and at the end of the First World War this was raised to one-half of the total cost of the Force per annum. All these payments from the Treasury, are, however, dependent upon the Home Office certifying the Force to be efficient and for this purpose the Forces are all inspected annually by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary.

It will thus be seen that if the Home Secretary did not agree that the Force was sufficient in numbers to be efficient then the ratepayers of Peterborough would have had a good deal more money to find in order to keep control of their Force.

The Watch Committee then had to think again. They had a meeting on the 28th August to consider the Home Secretary's letter and decided—by no means unanimously — that the proposed establishment should be increased by one sergeant and two constables. It will be noted that this still did not reach the requirements of one constable per thousand persons as such play had been made of the fact that the Borough was over 20,000 in population at the enquiry held to consider the grant of a Charter Incorporation. The total suggested strength of all ranks was now 18. The new proposals were forwarded to the Home Secretary, stressing to him that the arrangements for the occupation of the Police Station and the Police dwelling had been completed and that the Council were satisfied that the proposals, made after discussion with the Home Office, would prove thoroughly efficient and satisfactory. The Home Secretary appears to have conceded the point as there is no record of any further discussions over the initial establishment of the Force and at the same meeting the Watch Committee decided to advertise for constables at wages of 20s. 6d. per week with clothing provided. The standards to be required of candidates were that they should not be less than 5ft. 8ins. in height and not under 21 years of age nor more than 30.

The Headquarters of the Force were established in a building in Milton Street.

At the October 1874 meeting of the Watch Committee, the weekly pay bill of the Force was presented for confirmation and this amounted to £19 17s 5d. In December, the Committee decided that, in order to keep well acquainted with the work of the Force, the Occurrence Book and the Charge Book should be produced by the Head Constable at each meeting of the Committee.

The first twelve months of the history of the Force was not a particularly happy one so far as the discipline of the personnel was concerned. One man was fined for not keeping his conference point and for losing his cape, lamp and handcuffs whilst on duty; another was dismissed for impertinence to the Head Constable and another constable was dismissed after appearing before the Magistrates on a charge of being drunk and disorderly. A colleague of this man refused to attend court to give evidence against him and he was required to resign, which he did forthwith.

20

The Committee also had other things to exercise their minds. At the February meeting in 1875, a bill for the winding up of the Police Station Clock for the previous year was presented. This amounted to the sum of five shillings, and after a good deal of

discussion, an amendment that in future the constables should wind the clock themselves was defeated by a substantial majority.

In June of the same year the minimum height for recruits was raised to 5ff. 9ins. The Committee also decided that six men should be allowed to attend the Agricultural Show on duty and that a charge of 3s. 6d. per man be made which was to be divided among the Force.

In August, the Committee agreed to ask the Chief Constable of Huntingdonshire for the loan of 12 men for 3 days for duties in connection with Bridge Fair.

The main excitement in those early days of the Force appeared to centre on election time. At the Election in 1880, Special Constables were sworn in for duty on Election Day and as the Peterborough Force then numbered only 18 all ranks, a contingent of men was borrowed from the Northamptonshire Constabulary. These men paraded the streets in sixes and little damage occurred. The 1885 Election was a bit more robust and what are described as scenes of great disorder and riot took place at at least one pre-election meeting, but there is no record of any serious clash between the police and the public. The Polling Day of the 1889 By-Election produced the much-talked of tar barrel episode when at one time there were no less than 16 lighted tar barrels rolling around the streets in the centre of the town. Three constables were guarding the end of Narrow Street, but after a very determined attempt the crowd managed to get one of these lighted barrels past them and it was heeled over on to the steps of the Angel Hotel where some of the occupants threw water on to the crowd and others turned a hose pipe upon them. This resulted in more disorder and the crowd tried hard to get a lighted barrel into the building, but the landlord and some of his guests gave a good account of themselves, although when the barrel was smashed up lighted staves from it were thrown through the hotel windows.

For the Election of 1892, the police made special plans but these did not prevent serious trouble. A mob hurled stones, broken bottles and other missiles at the police and several constables were badly cut and bruised and windows of nearby buildings were smashed.

The mob grew until over 800 people, many of them drunk, were milling on the Market Place and a serious clash with the police resulted in another three constables being taken off to the Infirmary.

Some of the accounts of the occasion say that the calmness of the police infuriated the crowd, but if that be so the action they took on a later occasion to restore order infuriated a lot more people. However, eventually the police made a baton charge upon the crowd, forcing them back, and at one o'clock in the morning as they had still not dispersed, the gas lights were put out in the streets and eventually they went home.

At the 1895 Election there was more trouble. A large crowd of roughs assembled on the Market Place. They were armed with sticks and home-made truncheons and the inevitable tar barrels were again set rolling towards Narrow Street. The mood of the crowd caused the Chief Constable to call out 20 Reserve Police and eventually a force of 35 constables made a baton charge upon the crowd in an attempt to clear them. The crowd retaliated by throwing all sorts of missiles and the police again charged. It is reported that several people were severely trampled. Blood marks on the Market Place and broken windows in the vicinity the following morning revealed the severity of the disorders and some 900 people signed a Memorial and presented it to the Watch Committee complaining of the brutality of the police.

21

A public enquiry was held and it was then decided there had been a determined attack upon the police on the night in question, that the police had not charged before missiles were thrown at them or before the crowd had been warned by the Chief

Constable to disperse. The Committee held that the Chief Constable had been justified in calling out the reserve men and in charging the rioters.

The Chief Constable at this time was Mr. John William Lawson. The first Head Constable, Mr. William Hurst had resigned in January, 1889, and had died the following April. Mr. Lawson was appointed by the Watch Committee on the 22nd February, 1889, and resigned in March, 1909. He was succeeded by Mr. John Edward Ker Watson who had been a chief inspector in the police force at Barrow-in-Furness, and on the 12th August in the same year, Mr. Thomas Danby, who was then serving as a detective sergeant in the Barnsley Police Force was appointed as senior inspector in the Peterborough City Police.

By 1912, the authorised establishment of the Force had increased to a total of 39 men of all ranks, There was 1 Chief Constable, 2 Inspectors, 1 Acting Detective Sergeant, 4 Sergeants and 31 Constables. The population of the City had risen to 33,578, and 94 indictable crimes were reported to the police in that year against 97 the year before and 100 in 1910. Fifty-six persons were proceeded against for indictable offences so the percentage of detections appeared to be fairly satisfactory.

The main class of indictable offence was theft in one form or another, and 80 of the crimes reported in that year came into this category, including 12 offences of breaking into houses and other buildings. Fifty-seven cases of theft were detected and the amount of property stolen was estimated at £266 12s. 6 1/2d. and the amount recovered was £195 0s. 1 1/2d. There was 1 case of malicious wounding, 1 case of indecent assault on a Female and 1 attempted suicide.

Three-hundred and forty-one people were prosecuted for non-indictable offences and 280 of them were convicted. This was of course before the days of the Road Traffic Acts and the copious legislation now affecting the use of vehicles. The main offences in 1912 were common assaults, for which 30 people were taken before the court and drunkenness, for which 46 persons including 11 females, were prosecuted. Twenty-two people were before the court for breaking bye-laws and a further 31 for offences to the annoyance, obstruction or danger of residents and passengers in the various offences under the Town Police Clauses Act. Twenty-two people were before the court for begging, 5 for sleeping out and ~8 for gaming.

In 1913 the number of crimes rose to 116 but the following year they fell to 88 and no doubt the outbreak of War would have some effect on these figures. It is recorded in this year that owing to riotous scenes exhibited against a German Pork Butcher's premises and others early in August after war was declared, 123 Special Constables were sworn in to assist the police maintaining order. Between then and the end of the year, the strength of the Special Constabulary was further increased to 211 to cope with the possibility of invasion. The Chief Constable paid a tribute to these men in his annual report of that year saying that wherever they had been employed they had been of the greatest assistance to the police and carried out the duties assigned to them in a praiseworthy manner.

By 1914, the actual strength of the Force was 36 men against an establishment of 39, the 3 vacancies being caused by constables having joined the Colours and their places were filled by Police Reserves. At this time a constable's pay was 25s. per week and

in addition, those men employed on street duties received an “oil allowance” of 3d. per week for fuel for their duty lamps.

Mr. Thomas Danby the Senior Inspector resigned his position on the 31st August, 1912, on his appointment as Chief Constable of the Borough of Congleton in Cheshire, and when the Chief Constable of Peterborough, Mr. Ker Watson. resigned on the 30th April, 1915, to take a similar post at Preston, the Watch Committee appointed Mr. Danby to be Chief Constable of Peterborough, and he took up his duties on the 1st May, 1915.

During the First World War, the strength of the Force varied considerably with vacancies caused by absences on service being filled by Reserve Police and other duties performed by Special Constables. Altogether, about one half of the regular force saw service with the Colours. The actual number was 17 and of these 1 was killed in action and 1 was discharged from the Army with wounds which rendered him unfit to resume police duties. One member of the Force was awarded the Military Medal.

In the years immediately following the First World War, the Police Force did not appear to be a particularly attractive career, as although the establishment was kept at 39 for several years, it was not possible to reach this figure. The number of vacancies at the end of each year varied between about 5 and 6 men—a considerable proportion of the small total strength, although ‘in those days the City only covered an area of 1,878 acres.

In 1926, the number of crimes known to the Police had risen to 195. In that year the Force was 1 Inspector, 1 Sergeant and 4 Constables short of its strength.

In 1928, the Home Office agreed to the reduction in the establishment by 1 Inspector, but with the extension of the city boundary on the 1st April, 1929, the establishment was increased to 40 all ranks, and by the following year the Force was only 1 man short of requirements.

The City had now been extended to cover some 10,002 acres against the previous area of 1,874 acres and the population was then 39,551. In 1931, the Force was up to strength and at the census taken in that year the population of the police area was recorded as 43,558. In that year too, the number of crimes known to the Police reached the highest figure so far then recorded. Three-hundred and sixteen such reports were received and these resulted in 61 persons being dealt with for criminal offences. A further 309 persons were prosecuted for non-indictable offences. It was in 1931 also, that the Superintendent in charge of the Liberty Police retired, and Mr. Danby was appointed to be Chief Constable of that Force as a joint appointment with that of the City.

By 1937, the strength of the Force had risen to 47 and in the next 2 years was further increased to a total of 55. At the outbreak of the Second World War in September, 1939, the Force was only 1 man short. Crime had then increased to 485 per year of which just over half were detected.

During the early years of the 1939—1945 War, the Force was depleted by the loss of the younger members to the fighting forces and their places were taken by First Police Reserve

and War Reserve Officers. These were necessary to undertake the additional commitments imposed on the police in enforcing the emergency legislation and lighting restrictions and in the guarding of vulnerable points and other war time

duties. During these years, as always in time of stress, many members of the public volunteered for service in the Special Constabulary, and this auxiliary body again proved of inestimable value in assisting the police in their duties.

In October, 1943, Mr. Thomas Danby retired from his office of Chief Constable after having given the City 28 years of keen and devoted service and he was succeeded in the post by the present Chief Constable, Mr. F. G. Markin, B.E.M., who had previously served as a Superintendent in the Salford City Police.

At the end of the War, the establishment of the Force had been raised to 56 men plus 8 policewomen and there were actually serving 53 men including 4 police war reserve constables, plus 4 policewomen.

The crimes known to the police had risen to about 700 per year and the number of people prosecuted for non-indictable offences to about 450.

During this War, 2 members of the Force were killed in action with the R.A.F. One man was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, and another serving policeman was awarded the British Empire Medal for the manner in which he rescued 2 people from a demolished building at a local air raid incident.

The Peterborough City Police Force ceased to exist on the 31st March, 1947, when the Combined Police Force came into being. The Forces covering the Liberty and the City of Peterborough were amalgamated and all serving personnel transferred to the new Authority.

The Combined Police Force

It was in the period of instability following the cessation of the War that the Police Act of 1946 was passed and with it coming into force so many of the smaller forces had their identities merged with those of the larger units.

During this time when the personnel of the Force was continually changing as the reserve men left to take up their normal peace time occupations and the members of the regular force were returning from the armed forces, the two police authorities for the Liberty and the City of Peterborough decided that they would voluntarily amalgamate the two forces.

At this time, the City Force comprised 53 men and 4 policewomen and the Liberty Force consisted of 8 men.

The Peterborough Police (Amalgamation) Order of 1947 brought a combined police authority into being as from the 1st April of that year and all personnel of the two forces were transferred to the new Force which was to be known as the Peterborough Combined Police Force. Mr. F. G. Markin, the then Chief Constable of both forces was to be the first Chief Constable of the new Force.

The authorised strength of the Combined Force was to be 68 men and 8 women, but later in the same year the Home Office approved an application of the new Police Authority for a revised establishment which was then fixed at a total of 85 men and 4 policewomen.

The new Police Authority consisted of representatives of the City and County Councils and also representatives of the Justices.

The new organisation made possible by the unification of the Forces considerably facilitated the work of the various departments and plans for the future development of the Force to keep it abreast of modern requirements were put into operation forthwith.

At the time of the amalgamation, the country was still of course very much in the throes of the aftermath of the Second World War, but immediate plans were put into being to bring the Liberty area of the Force under the control of 2 sergeants, each in charge of a section of 4 men. New houses with offices attached were built to replace the out of date and inconvenient places which were used as village police stations at that time. These old houses which were rented by the police from private owners, had no modern facilities and particularly no office accommodation. The policeman stationed there had to do all his official work and take his prisoners into his own private dwelling quarters.

Between 1950 and 1953 9 new houses and offices to act as village police stations were erected and occupied at Castor, Wansford, Wittering (2), Barnack, Helpston, Peakirk and Eye (2). An office was added to the comparatively modern house owned by the police and used as a police station at Glington.

The housing needs in the City were no less urgent. At the end of the War the police owned only one house which was the police station for the officer working the Werrington, Gunthorpe and Paston areas. With the return of men from the armed forces, many of whom had married in the meantime, and also the number of married recruits who needed houses, it was a very important matter that police accommodation should be made available at the earliest opportunity. A housing programme was decided upon and between 1947 and 1956, 29 new houses were built and occupied by police officers in various parts of the town.

Altogether, since the War, the Police Authority in this area have provided their men with 38 new houses and the Authority now owns 40 houses, which, taking into account the size of the Force, can I think, be looked upon as a very satisfactory achievement.

Whilst these developments were in progress, recruiting continued to be a matter of some importance and although it was not as fast as would have been wished, yet in 1948 it was felt that the Force had then reached an actual strength which would justify the Police Authority giving further consideration to re-organisation and an additional establishment to cover the increasing police commitments of the fast growing industrial, business and residential areas of the City.

A scheme for re-organisation was accordingly approved and in 1949 the establishment of the Force was fixed at 106 men and 5 policewomen.

, With these numbers it was possible to plan for a proper departmentalisation of the Force. A Traffic and Communications Department was set up to cope with the increasingly important duties of traffic patrols and communications. At this time, wireless communication between forces and mobile sets for cars became available and an Information and Control Room was initiated on the Headquarters of the Force moving to the temporary accommodation at Westwood. The C.I.D. strength was increased to cope with the rise in crime.

25

It was at this time that the Force moved from Milton Street, and if the additional accommodation had not become available it would have been quite impossible to carry out these improvements in the very restricted space available at the Milton Street building.

From the early days after the War, the unification of the forces allowed a system of motor patrols to be inaugurated which ensured that the whole area of the Police

Authority was covered by patrol cars, and with the availability of two-way wireless on the cars in 1949, the new system of patrols enabled the police to give immediate attention to any matter of urgency with the least possible delay.

The Communications of the Force were also much improved in the City. In addition to the wireless cars, a start was made as soon as national conditions allowed, for an extension of the police pillar system. There had been only 3 pillars previously. One at the Market Place, 1 at the Town Bridge and 1 at the junction of Dogsthorpe Road and Lincoln Road. Over the past years this number has been increased to 29 points from which the police or public can contact the Control Room at Headquarters direct and be assured of receiving immediate attention to any complaint or emergency.

Twelve of these points are police pillars, 9 are from pillar units fitted into police boxes and 8 are from pillar units fitted at police houses.

In addition to the Enquiry Office in the Old Guildhall on the Market Place, the Police Authority have now provided 8 complete and new Police Boxes where the men can partake of refreshment or to where they can take persons for the purpose of making reports or taking complaints or statements.

More recently, wireless has become available on motor cycles and now both the sergeants covering the Liberty area have motor cycles fitted with two-way wireless so that they can keep in touch with all police matters arising in the district and also be in a position to give their constables immediate assistance and advice and generally supervise their areas far more easily.

Two motor cycles are also on patrol throughout the area for 12 hours each day and they are available by means of the wireless for immediate deployment to any matter requiring police action and in addition they carry out valuable traffic patrol work.

I feel it is a matter upon which the Authority can look with satisfaction, when in retrospection they appreciate that since the War, all members of the Force requiring accommodation have been housed in modern houses; that all outstations have been provided with modern houses and office facilities away from the private quarters; that there is a proper fleet of vehicles, all equipped with wireless both out on patrol throughout the area and available at Headquarters for immediate use in attending to any emergency; that there is also a fully trained and equipped criminal investigation department and a photographic department together with an information and control room to ensure that all police circulations and messages are properly and fully distributed and that they receive all the necessary attention at the earliest possible moment.

There is also a police dog section with two handlers who are on call at any hour of the day or night and who, with their dogs, have carried out a good deal of useful work in connection both with crime and with searches for missing persons.

All this has been accomplished in the face of a very real difficulty, namely the fact that the Force had no proper Headquarters. The Milton Street buildings, even with the Chief Constable's residence taken into use for police purposes, was quite inadequate, and the buildings occupied temporarily in 1949, whilst they have permitted some re-organisation in an attempt to keep abreast with modern requirements, have never been more than a make shift arrangement with the very real disadvantage that many of the departments are operating from different sets of buildings and in different parts of the town.

Now at long last in the history of the Peterborough Police there is to be a Headquarters building, properly designed for the purpose and from which all administrative and executive work can be controlled and co-ordinated. Operational plans of the new Headquarters are included in the back of this booklet, and the following are briefly the details of the lay-out of the new building.

The basement is used chiefly for storage and the heating plant, but there is also a room for billiards and table tennis, although these rooms are so designed that in any emergency, they could be used as some form of protected accommodation for war duty purposes as it would be essential to provide some degree of safety for those engaged in operational control of the Force and in charge of communications. On this level and facing the yard are the garages and workshops for housing and repairing the 4 cars, 4 vans and 4 motor cycles which are now operated by the Force.

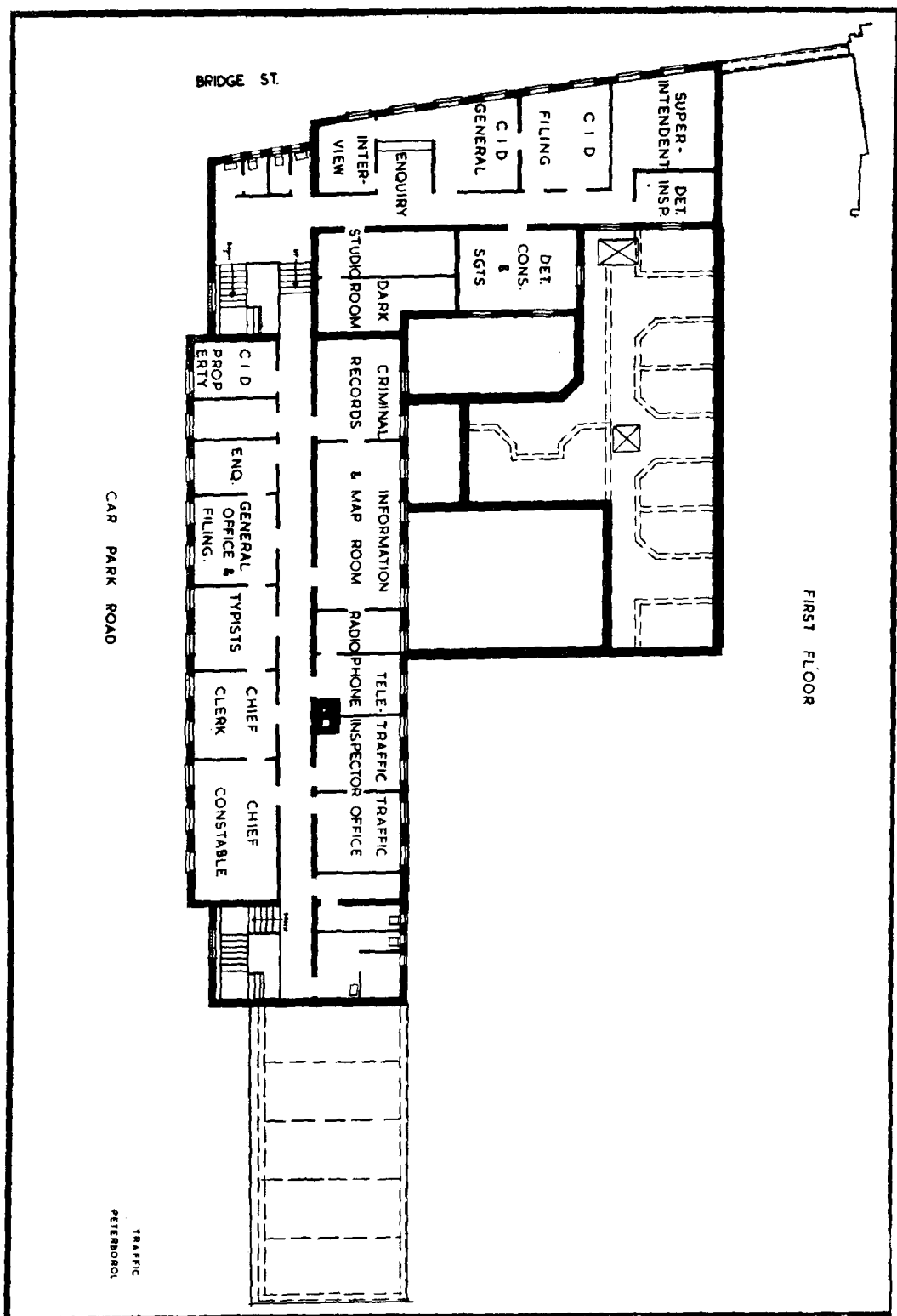
From the ground floor plan it will be seen that the complete cell block is a self-contained unit on the north side of the building, and that within this unit is housed the Charge Office, Male and Female Cells, Juvenile Detention Room, Police Surgeon's Room, a room suitable for holding Special Courts and also a photographic studio for taking prisoners' photographs and fingerprints. Immediately adjoining the Female cells are the rooms for the Police Matron and Policewomen.

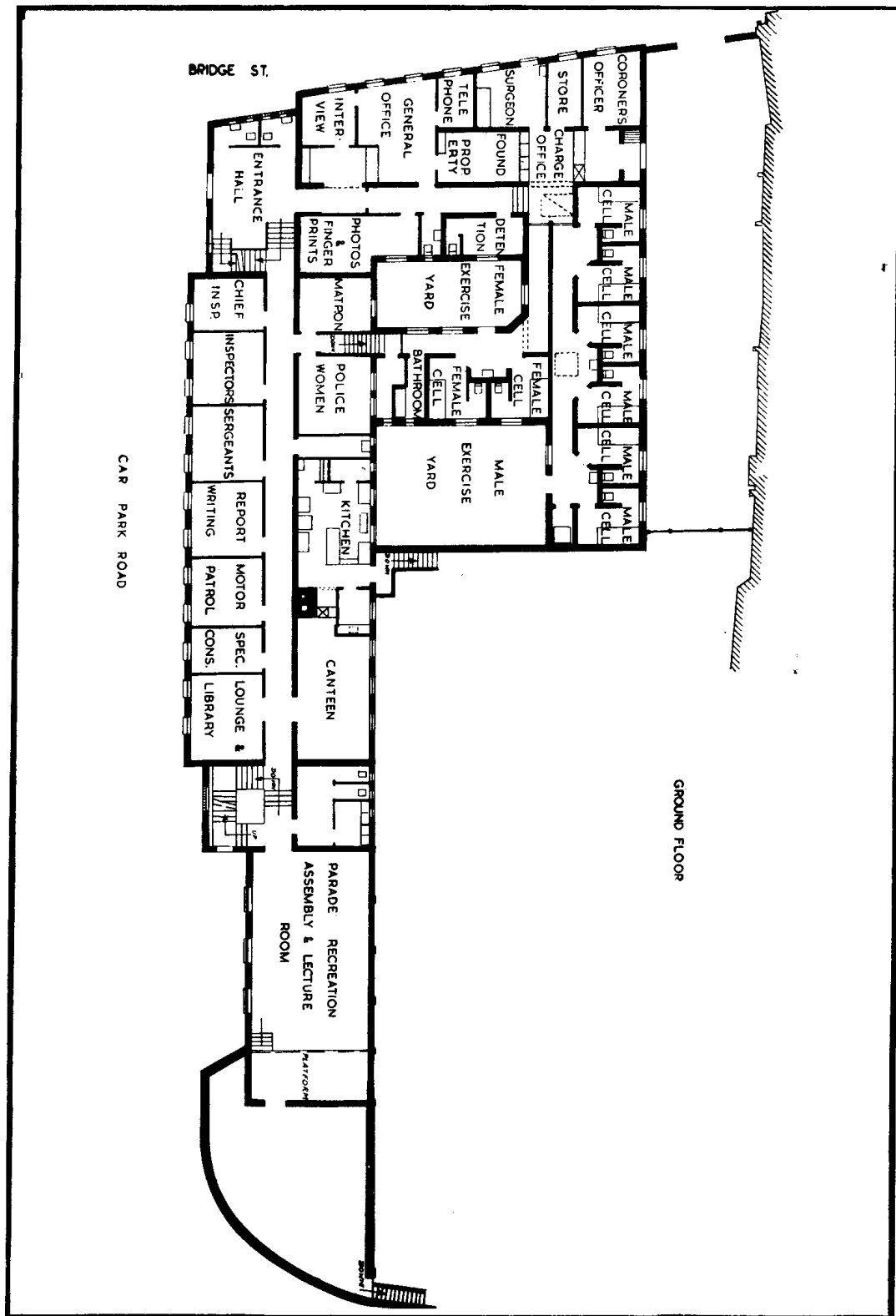
Immediately inside the main entrance is the General Enquiry Office from where all callers can be directed to whichever department they wish to contact, and the remainder of the ground floor from the main entrance hall consists of offices for the patrol inspectors, sergeants and report writing rooms for the men with a separate office for motor patrol personnel and Special Constables. All these offices are immediately adjacent to the Parade Room where men will parade on and off duty, and on the same floor on the opposite side of the corridor is the canteen. There is also another room suitable for use as a small lounge or rest room.

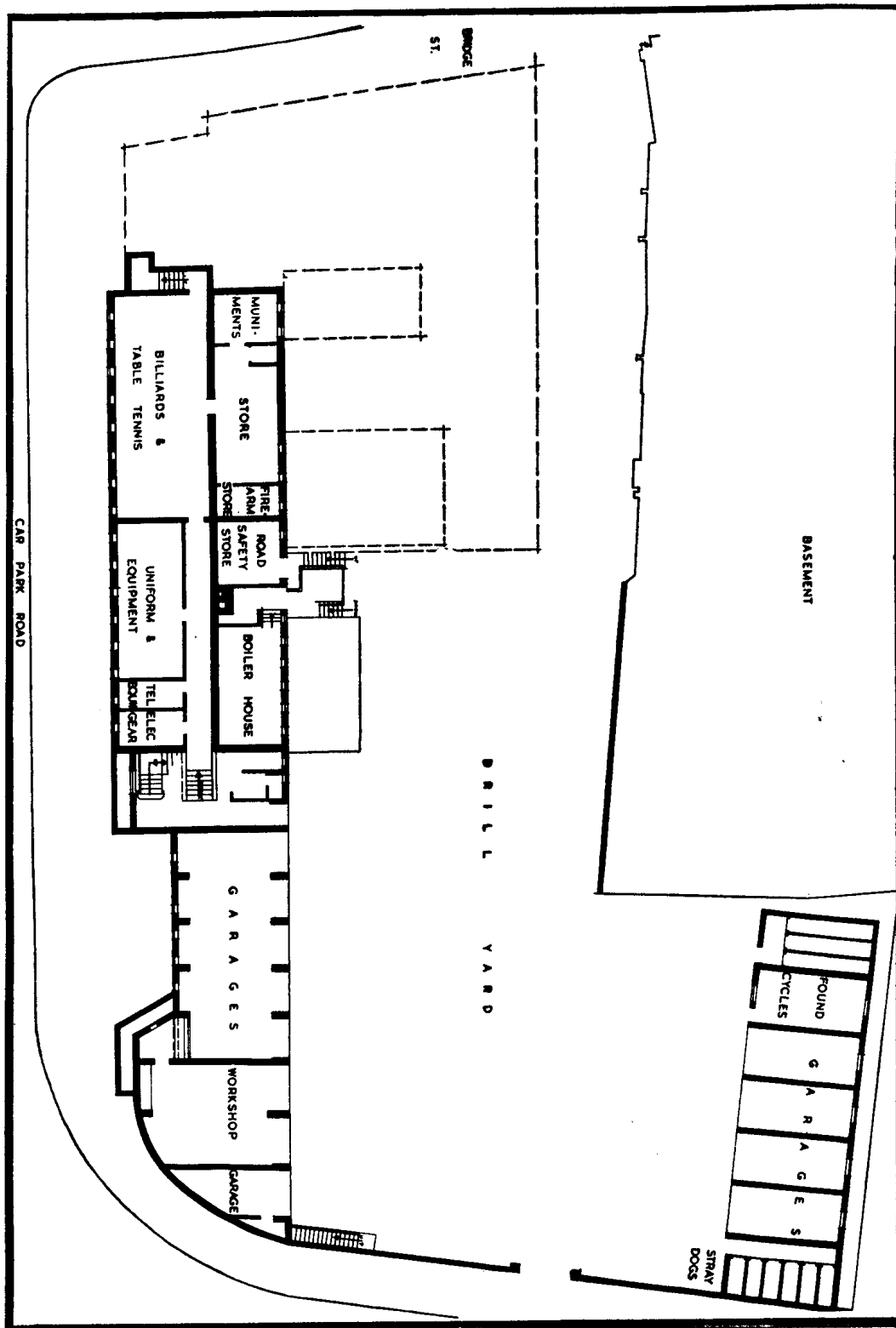
These offices and the Parade Room with cooking facilities in the Canteen, have all been arranged to provide the most convenient and efficient working conditions, and it will be seen that all the executive personnel of the beat and patrol strength of the Force are housed in this particular part of the building.

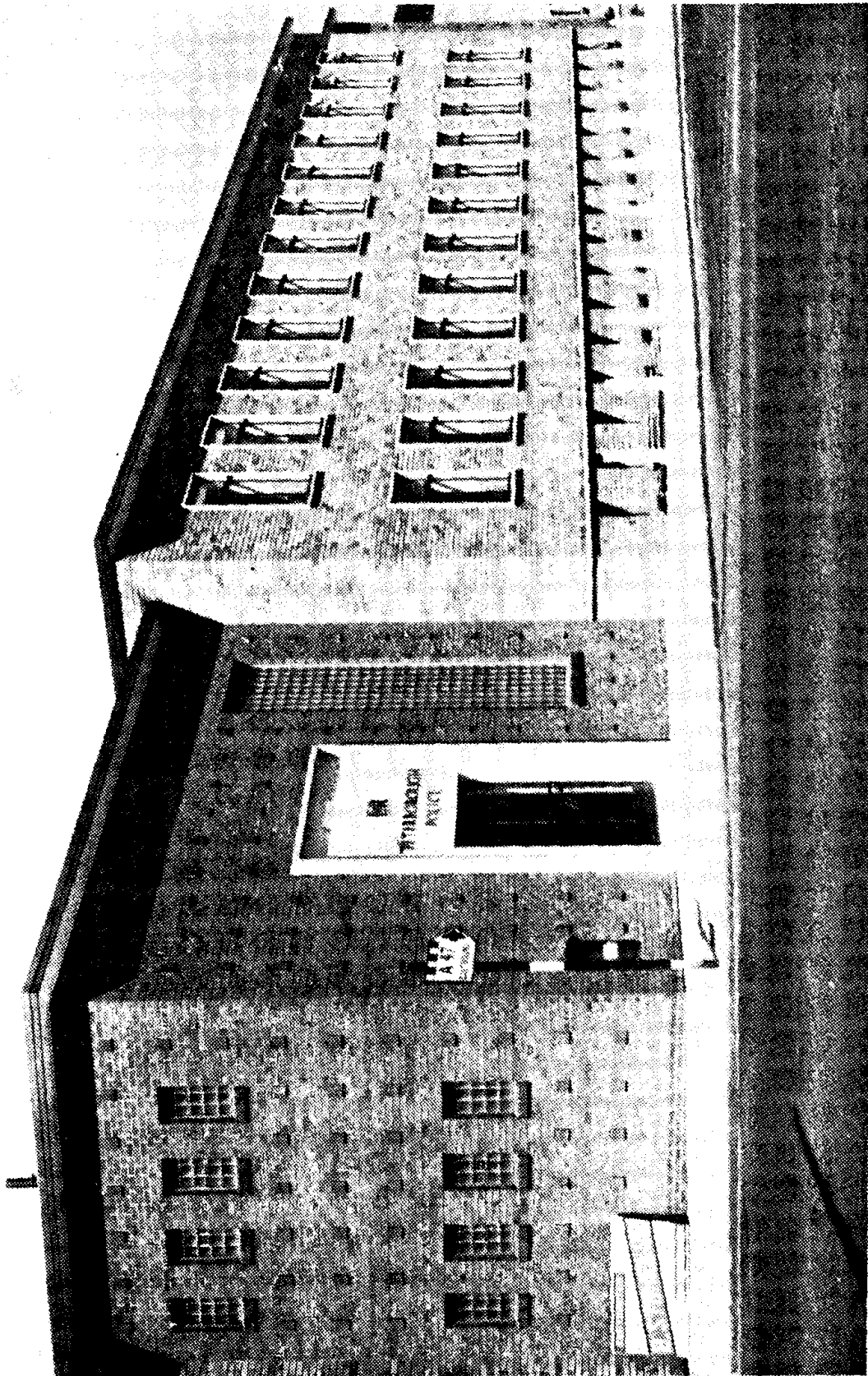
The first floor accommodates the Administrative, Communications and C.I.D. Departments and on the south of the building are the offices of the Chief Constable and administrative staff. On the opposite side of the corridor is the Telephone and Communications Department, with a Traffic Office, and a office for the Traffic Inspector situated between the Traffic Office and the Wireless and Telephone Rooms. On the other side of these rooms is the Information Room which controls the disposition of the Force when dealing with any emergency and answering calls for Police attention, and immediately adjoining this room is the Criminal Records Office wherein is kept records of all persons wanted and other information likely to assist the police in preventing and detecting crime.

On the western side of the building immediately at the top of the staircase is the C.I.D. Enquiry Office with separate offices for those engaged in clerical work in this Department, and at the end of the corridor are the offices of the Deputy Chief Constable and the Detective Inspector. On the opposite side is the Conference Room for the Det-Sgt. and Detectives and adjoining this, is the photographic studio and dark room. It is considered that this lay-out provides accommodation suitably placed to give proper co-ordination and control over all the departments and work of the Force. The main contractor responsible for the building of the new headquarters was Bernard Stokeley Limited, the industrial building specialists of Eastfield, Peterborough.

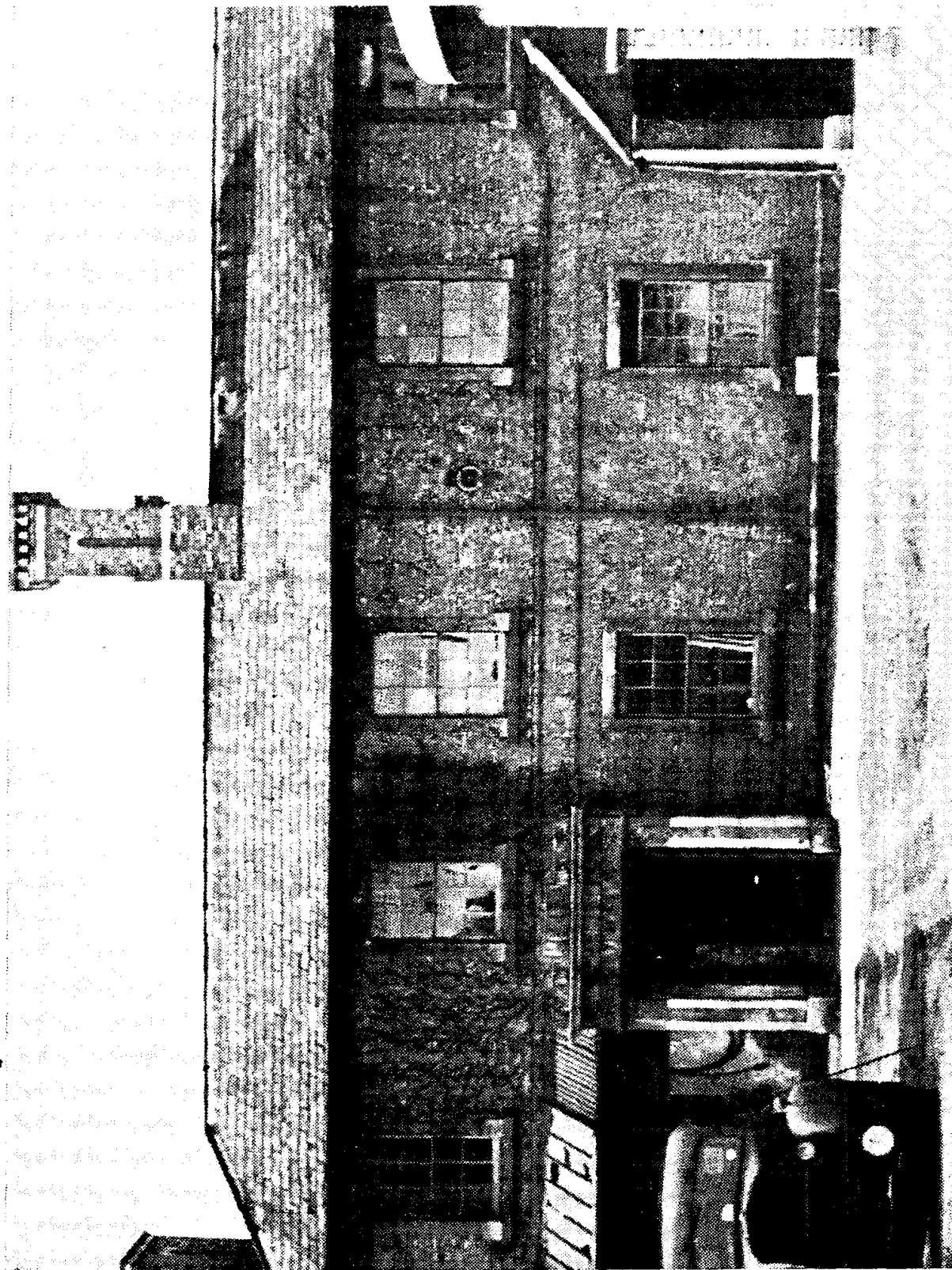








NEW POLICE HEADQUARTERS, BRIDGE STREET, PETERBOROUGH
(SOUTH ELEVATION)



THE OLD POLICE HEADQUARTERS, MILTON STREET, PETERBOROUGH