

caravan window and got the persons onto the roof. Wading back to the bank, PC Baumber tried to construct a raft, but because he was numb with cold was unable to do so. However, he obtained a boat and by this means, rescued those people who had escaped to roof tops.

EAST SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

For Gallantry :

DUNNETT, Leslie George, awarded **The Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct** as Sergeant.

'For rescuing people trapped by the floods at Felixstowe'.

REEVE, Lewis William, awarded **The Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct** as Constable.

'For rescuing people trapped by the floods at Wherstead'.

For Meritorious Service :

LING, Leslie George, awarded the **British Empire Medal** as Special Constable.

ESSEX CONSTABULARY

For Gallantry :

BATCHELOR, Joseph, awarded **The British Empire Medal for Gallantry** as Special Constable.

SC Batchelor reported for duty at Jaywick in the early hours of the morning and throughout the day he helped to man the boats and assist in the rescue operations. On many occasions he carried survivors to waiting ambulances through the water, which was chest deep. He continued to carry out rescue work under appalling conditions until sent to hospital for treatment.

HARMER, Donald Percival, awarded **The Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct** as Constable.

'For rescuing people trapped by floods at Jaywick'.

For Meritorious Service :

HOWES, William Edward, awarded the **British Empire Medal** as Sergeant.

WOOD, Norman John, awarded the **British Empire Medal** as Inspector.

KENT CONSTABULARY

For Meritorious Service :

BROWN, James Charles Frederick, awarded the **British Empire Medal** as Chief Inspector.

FOWLER, Norman William Frederick, created an **Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)** as Assistant Chief Constable.

SETTERFIELD, Charlie William Thomas, awarded the **British Empire Medal** as Inspector.

And what then? By the early hours of Sunday 1 February, the storm was on the Dutch coast, with a central pressure of 972 millibars. It rampaged through Belgium and The Netherlands, where an incredible 1,864 people, and an estimated 30,000 animals were drowned. And it is this enormous death toll which ensures that the 1953 storm is permanently etched into Dutch folk memory as the 'Watersnoodramp' - 'The Great Flood Disaster' - in complete contrast, it seems, to that of the British.

Reference :

1. Grieve, Hilda *The Great Tide : The story of the 1953 flood disaster in Essex* Essex County Council, 1959.

Polar Policeman.

Paul Dew

Edward McKenzie joined the Metropolitan Police just before the First World War on 1st December 1913 as a PC 475 on Y div with the warrant number 103469. The Y Divisional Ledger entry provides more details, he was 25 when he joined, born at Winterton near Great Yarmouth, 5' 7½" tall and his previous occupation was seaman.

His career with the police began in the Seven Sisters Road area but shortly after the outbreak of the First World War he joined the Guards and served for 6 months in a machine gun regiment until a special transfer brought him back to the Met. At the end of the war he transferred to Mounted Branch at Limehouse then in 1920 to North Woolwich.

As befits a former seaman he joined Thames Division in 1930 (as PC 'TA 140') serving at Wapping, Blackwall and Erith until his retirement 1938. However in 1939 he rejoined as a War Reserve PC, staying until 3rd January 1941 when he retired on medical grounds. His home was in Sheerness and it was there, next door to his son's house, he died in 1973.

These 'bare bones' of a police career however exclude his claim to fame, revealed in a January 1942 issue of Police Review. In the article it says that McKenzie was a member of Scott's famous expedition to the South Pole (1911 - 1912). The story of this, Scott's journey to the South Pole, return towards the coast, death before reaching safety and the suicide of Oates who feared being burden on his companions is quite well known.

McKenzie's part in the expedition (he was a Leading Stoker on the expedition ship Terra Nova) is not often mentioned in books but in the film Scott of the Antarctic Sam Kydd took the role of McKenzie who asks Scott if the ship's cat can be taken to the pole. However, indirectly he is very famous as he was the model for the melodramatic painting, now at the Cavalry and Guards Club in Piccadilly, by John Charles Dollman (1851 - 1934) of Oates leaving the tent during a blizzard. Immediately before then Oates had said 'I am just going outside and might be some time' and it is this painting and incident that, to many, epitomises the spirit of the pre First World War polar explorers. Why McKenzie was chosen is a mystery; although the painting does not show the face in detail presumably it was thought someone who had been to Antarctica would add a touch of authenticity, know exactly what it is like to move against high wind in the bitter cold and snow and be familiar with the correct clothing.

In common with the other members of the Scott Expedition he was awarded the Polar Medal. Finally it is worth adding that he was skilled at making models of ships and a model of the Terra Nova (the expedition ship) made by him was presented to the Science Museum.

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Sources

Police Review 9.1.1942

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