



Smith was survived by his widow, three sons, all in the Forces and a daughter. Tributes were paid at St James' Church, Sutton which was attended by civic dignitaries, corporation officials and police chiefs from The East Riding, Durham, North Yorkshire, Leeds, and Bradford. The Police Inspectorate was also represented as were Mr Smith's many friends and colleagues. ACC Smith is commemorated on the bronze plaque at Police HQ, Priory Road which was previously at Queens Gardens Police Station. The plaque was dedicated in February 1951 to those from The City Police who gave their lives in both World Wars. He is buried in Hedon Road Cemetery.

The Author

Graham Borrill is a Humberside Police Sergeant stationed at Preston Road Police Station in Hull. He has researched this story after interviewing James Smith's son, Frank who is now 86.

Cheshire's Hero

The 'Gallant' Gentleman'

LT. COLONEL. PULTENEY

MALCOLM. C.B.E. D.S.O. M.V.O. A.M. K.P.M.
CHIEF CONSTABLE CHESHIRE CONSTABULARY
1910~1934.

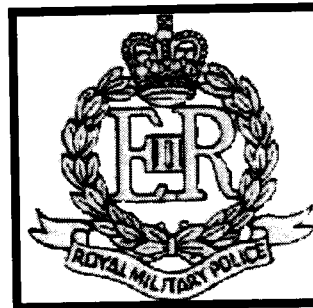
This synopsis cannot pay tribute enough to the life a most 'Gallant Gentleman'. Pulteney Malcolm was born on the 16th August 1861, in Sholapur, East India, son of the late General Sir George MALCOLM G.C.B., Bombay Army. He was educated at Summerfields, near Oxford; Burney's at Gosport; Wellington College and Sandhurst. He entered the British Army on the 11th August 1880, and joined the 2nd Battalion Royal Fusiliers. He was promoted Lieutenant at Kandahar, Afghanistan on the 1st July 1881. In 1886 he was transferred to the Indian Army, and was posted to the 2nd Battalion 4th Goorkhas (Ghurkha) then being raised. He received in the ALBERT MEDAL for Gallantry in 1887, the citation reading, "The Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the "Albert Medal of the Second Class" upon Lieutenant Pulteney Malcolm, 4th Goorkha Regiment, in recognition of the conspicuous gallantry displayed by him on the 10th June 1887, in attempting to save the life of a comrade who had fallen over a precipice near Dalhousie, East India". The actual statement made by the Commanding Officer of Lieutenant Malcolm shows, "On the 10th June 1887, the late Lieutenant Trevor of the Yorkshire Regiment, was returning to Dalhousie (in the Himalayas) from Kajiar. He was riding along a narrow road and at the most precipitous part of it, his horse, which was a fresh one, and which had been sidling along got it's hind legs over the side, and fell carrying it's rider along with it down the precipice. The Officer who was with Lt. Trevor at the time of the accident went back for assistance, and on the road met Lt. Malcolm and the latter hearing of the occurrence, at once ran to the spot and at the immediate risk of his life, commenced the descent. Lt. Malcolm managed after tremendous exertions, by dropping from

ledge to ledge (causing him much exhaustion and considerable laceration of the feet) to get down to Lt. Trevor, who was lying 300 to 400 feet below, and had the sad satisfaction of supporting him until he died and rendering him such assistance as was possible under the circumstance. Some other officers tried to go down to Lt. Malcolm's aid, but as appears from the evidence taken at the inquest they could not do so, it being described as a perpendicular precipice of an apparently inaccessible nature. There seems no doubt that Lt. Malcolm ran a great risk in climbing down; as had he made a single false step he must have been dashed to pieces". He served in the Chin Lushai Expeditionary Force, from 1889-1890 for which he received Medal with clasp. He was promoted Captain on the 11th August 1891 and served with the Chitral Relief Force, 1895 being present at the storming Malakand Pass (Medal and clasp) ; in the North West Frontier operations, 1897-1898, as Provost-Marshal to the Relief Force, and subsequently as D.A.A.G., 1st Brigade, for which he was Mentioned in Despatches and awarded a further clasp (London Gazette 11 February 1898). He was promoted Major on the 11 August 1900; served as Chief Officer, Malakand Field Force, 1900~1901. He served in Waziristan, 1901~1902 as Officiating A.A.G., Derajat District, and Chief of Staff. He was twice mentioned in Despatches; and received a further clasp to the Medal. During this campaign his horse was shot from under him and he himself received wounds around the left eye. He was created a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order on 2nd September 1902; "In recognition of services during Mahsud-Waziri operations" He was invested by King Edward VII on the 18th February 1903. Major Malcolm retired from the Indian Army on the 11 August 1904, after a total of 24 years service. He was Head Constable of Kingston-on-Hull from 1904 to 1910. He became Chief Constable of Cheshire on the 30 September 1910. His personal record shows on appointment to Cheshire that his Religion was Protestant, Height 6' 0", Age 48 years, Hair Fair, Complexion Fair. His pay on appointment was £500 plus £100 travelling expenses per annum. This rose annually by approximately £100 per annum until 1919 and on his retirement on the 30 April 1934, aged 72 years, and a total service with Cheshire Constabulary of 30 years 120 days, he was in receipt of £1300 per annum. His pension on retirement amounted to £866.13s.4d per annum. On the 24 April 1913 His Majesty King George V, at the expiration of his visit to Crewe Hall, Cheshire bestowed the M.V.O. on Major Malcolm and at the same time the King expressing his approval of the Police arrangements. On the 25 February 1915 he became temporary Lt. Colonel, as A.A. and Q.M.G. on the Divisional Staff of the New Armies, 22nd London Division. He served with the Division in France until late 1916, and again he was mentioned in Despatches. He was given the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel on



the 29 May 1917. He returned to the Cheshire Constabulary on the 01 January 1917. In 1919 the Police Act was passed. This created the Police Federation. In this he told the Standing Joint Committee that: "there was no difficulty in the men making representations. Arrangements which had stood the test of years resulting in the best feeling between all ranks cannot be improved upon," and, "that he would not hold himself answerable for the efficiency of a force in which the members were permitted to join a union". In 1924, the Standing Joint Committee considered a Home Office report on the employment of policewomen. No action was taken in Cheshire, the Chief Constable commenting, "There is no necessity to appoint women in this County". The question was not seriously considered again until 1946. Chief Constable Malcolm was awarded the Kings Police Medal for Distinguished Service on the 31st December 1925 and CBE on the 3rd June 1932. Lt. Colonel Malcolm, Chief Constable of Cheshire Constabulary died on the 20th April 1940 aged 78 years; his interment took place at Westerkirk, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. Lt. Colonel Malcolm married in 1888, Emily, eldest daughter of T.R.Bowen. It is perhaps pertinent at this point to say that Gallantry appears to run in the Malcolm family as the only surviving child of the union, Captain Pulteney Malcolm, who commanded the King's Company, Grenadier Guards, was killed in France on the 25th August 1918. A tribute to Captain Pulteney Malcolm stated "The charge in which he lost his life was one of the most gallant glorious episodes of the War". The medals have been kindly loaned to the Museum of Policing in Cheshire by the Malcolm Family. His awards are as follows (1) CBE (2) Distinguished Service Order. (3) Member Victorian Order. (4) Albert Medal (Gallantry). (5) Kings Police Medal. (6) India General Service, 2 Bars. 1854-1895. (7) India Medal, 3 Bars 1895-1902. (8) British War Medal 1914-1920. (9) Victory Medal, Mention in Despatches 1914-1919.

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Joseph Henry BRIGGS The Leicester Military Policeman

By Peter Spooner

Joseph Henry Briggs was one of many who joined the Army during the First World War and served overseas but did not return, regretfully Joseph is probably now forgotten. Joseph's military service is recorded by a headstone in a cemetery in France, entries in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register, Soldier's Died in the Great War, a book recording those from Leicester who died during the war and a Leicestershire Constabulary memorial plaque. It is a sad fact that by dying, it is easier to obtain information about Joseph than had he fought and survived. Although unknown to many, Joseph is of special interest to me, as he was a police officer and a mounted military policeman. As a former member of the Royal Military Police Mounted Troop, it was with interest that I saw his name on a brass memorial plaque in the Parade Room at Charles Street Police Station Leicester, which had been the headquarters of the Leicester City Police. The plaque listed those members of the Leicester Borough Police who served and died with H.M. Forces during World War I, Joseph's name was included, as was the fact that he was serving with the Military Mounted Police (MMP). It has been a slow process but I have managed to learn something about Joseph, the main sources being Leicester Borough Police records held by The Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland and luckily, Joseph's military service record, which has survived as part of the 'burnt collection'.

A Derby childhood

Joseph was born in Ilkeston Derbyshire about 1888 and was living there with his parents in 1901, his occupation being shown in the census for that year as pawn shop assistant. Sometime between 1901 and 1912 Joseph travelled to Leicester and, on the 17th December 1912, was recommended to the Watch Committee as suitable for appointment as a probationary constable in the Leicester Borough Police, becoming PC 48. No doubt he hoped that he

ROD ELWOOD POLICE PRINTS

I keep a large stock of police oriented prints, pictures and other ephemera. I have many antiquarian originals that cover most aspects of policing. These include the subject matter of Courts,

Prisons, Magistrates, CID, Dogs, Mounted Police, Women Police, Transport, cartoons, Vanity Fair etc. I have also acquired a good selection of miscellaneous pictures that include photographs of almost all the original London Police Stations

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would fare better than the previous holder of that number, PC 48 Poxon, who had been dismissed for drunkenness in September of that year. The Leicester Borough Police records provide some information as to Joseph's police service.

On the 8th April 1913 he commenced a first aid course, which he successfully completed on the 3rd June 1913, possibly a requirement as part of his initial training. He must have made acceptable progress as, on the 16th September 1913, the Head Constable recommended to the Watch Committee that Joseph's pay be increased from 27/- to 28/- a week, 'in accordance with the rules of the service'. On the 14th September 1914 his pay was further raised to 29/- a week.

On the 24th June 1914 Joseph was one of a party of members of the Leicester Borough Police that went to Nottingham to provide special duty for a Royal Visit, the party paraded at 7.45am and travelled to Nottingham by train. It would seem that an entry in the Watch Committee notes in August 1914 did not impact upon Joseph, assuming that it does refer to the same PC Briggs, 'The Chairman also reports the case of PCs Briggs and Baker who were concerned in an affiliation summons by a girl (?) Dillon, which was dismissed and the Constables are cautioned by the Chairman as to conduct in the future'.

Early 1915 was a busy time for Joseph, with a training register recording Joseph's attendance on several courses but events were to overtake the planned training and like many others, he was not to complete the courses. The reason for the courses being cancelled is clearly shown in red, 'classes abandoned men to Army'.

Into the Army

On Tuesday 30th March 1915 all members of the Leicester Borough Police under the age of 35 years, whether married or not, were instructed to be in the Muster Room at 4.30pm. This instruction resulted from an urgent appeal to Local Authorities for further recruits for the Army. The Chairman of the Watch Committee was present at the meeting and it was decided that, for those attending, any dress would be acceptable. The following day the Watch Committee was presented with a list of 44 officers who had enlisted, including Joseph and a list of 34 officers who were seeking permission to enlist. The resolution of the Watch Committee was that the named officers, 'were granted leave of absence during the duration of the war and that married men have their separation allowances made up to their police pay and that single men secure one third of their police pay in addition to their army allowances'. The training class record shows that Joseph joined the Army Service Corps and a photograph includes him in a

group of 15 Leicester Borough officers who joined the Army Service Corps at the same time, 13 of whom were to later serve with the MMP, as were 6 other Leicester Borough Police officers. As Leicester Borough Police did not have a permanent mounted section, the transfers cannot have resulted from the officers being experienced horsemen. I have been able to identify 3 members of the Leicestershire Constabulary who served with the MMP; I have yet to establish if any members of the Rutland Constabulary served with the MMP.

Joseph's military service record shows that he enlisted on the 25th March 1915, before the meeting in the Muster Room, joining the Army Service Corps and was attached to the 2/1st North Midland Division, later the 59th Division. Joseph's service number indicates that he was involved with horse transport. At sometime he was transferred to the 2/8th Battalion The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment) 178th Brigade 59th Division, this was before he was transferred to the MMP.

Off to Ireland

Units of the Division formed up at various locations in the Hertfordshire area and prepared to go to France, the preparation reached such a level that officers were sent to France for trench instruction. However, events were to overtake them, as the Division was sent to Ireland in response to the Easter Rising in April 1916, during this period Joseph may have served as an infantryman. Joseph was fortunate not have been transferred to the 2/7th Battalion, which sustained 162 casualties during fighting in one Dublin Street. The 177th Brigade history refers to the fact that the residents of remote Irish villages were mildly impressed by guns, rifles and sabres, but were genuinely disturbed by field cookers, which were believed to be poison gas machines with the cooks preparing a fearful poison. At least one soldier agreed with their thoughts about the material produced by the cooks. In 1971 four members of the Royal Military Police Mounted Troop carried out mounted patrols of radio installations in rural areas of Northern Ireland. I wonder what the local residents seeing these horses and riders?

From Ireland the Division went to Salisbury Plain and again commenced preparations to go to France, this time the plans were not to be interrupted. On the 13th February 1917 the King inspected the Division and sent them as message of goodwill.

Embarkation to France

On the 23rd February 1917 Joseph embarked at Southampton, arriving at Le Havre the following



day, 59th Division was going to France. Prior to embarkation Joseph had returned to Leicester, as on the 23rd December 1916, he married Annie Theresa Hood, who was to be a widow within the year. Annie, who is initially shown in Joseph's service record as his fiancée and next of kin, appears to be the daughter of Samuel Hood, a detective sergeant. Unfortunately Annie's father, aged 51 years, died a short time after the wedding. On the 25th January 1917, prior to the Division going to France, Joseph was transferred to the MMP under A.C.I. 1733/1916 and became an Acting Lance Corporal. I assumed that the A.C.I. related to the transfer of police officers to the MMP and the Military Foot Police (MFP) but I was wrong. The instruction refers to soldiers temporarily attached to the Military Police being temporarily transferred. The effect of this was that they were paid rates of pay and allowances by the Military Police and not the pay and allowances of their former unit. It is therefore possible that Joseph had been attached to the MMP before the date shown for his transfer. Having landed in France the Division was to move around France and Belgium, taking part in actions surrounding The German Retreat to the Hindenburg Line and the 3rd Battle of Ypres (the Battles of the Menin Road and Polygon Wood). It is not possible to be sure about the duties undertaken by Joseph but it is possible that he was involved in traffic control, enforcing march discipline, staffing straggler posts and battle stops and dealing with prisoners of war. In December 1917 the Division was involved in the Battle of Bourlon Wood, towards the end of the Battle of Cambrai and on the night of the 5th December 1917 was withdrawing to new positions following a German counter stroke. It would appear that Joseph received his wounds during this process. It is not possible to know how close Joseph was to the front line but it is likely that his wounds were as a result of rifle or machine gun fire. There is no information as to the fate of Joseph's horse. The reference to Joseph's wounds is contained in his Casualty Form Active Service, this records that, on the 5th December 1917, he was admitted to the 2/1st South Midlands Field Ambulance (61st Division), having received gun shot wounds to his thigh and wrist 'in the field'. The following day he was admitted to the 21st Casualty Clearing Station at Ytres, where he died sometime after admission. Joseph was buried nearby in Rocquigny-Equancourt Road British Cemetery, which was used by the 21st and 48th Casualty Clearing Stations, whose encampments were located in the field across the road and on the hill behind the cemetery

The sad news

Annie was notified of Joseph's death by telegram

sent from Military Police Records Office at Aldershot. The telegram simply said, "Regret to inform you that a report received states No. P/6379 Lance Corporal J. Briggs Military Mounted Police died of wounds on 6th December". By this stage of the war it is very likely that the significance of the telegram would be recognised and it is therefore quite likely that just the receipt was sufficient to tell Annie what the content was going to be. In March 1918 the Military Police Headquarters sent Annie several items of Joseph's property that had been returned from France. In 1917 the Military Police Headquarters were in Stanhope Lines Aldershot, this is where 160 (Provost) Company Royal Military Police was based when I joined the Mounted Section in 1968, the Company later moved into new accommodation built nearby. When I joined the Mounted Section single men and the horses resided in Beaumont Barracks, the remaining Victorian cavalry barracks in Aldershot. Although 51 years after Joseph's death, we used the saddlery and sword that Joseph and his colleagues would have recognised. The Watch Committee Notes for the 18th December 1917 record that 'P.C. Briggs J. H. died of wounds whilst serving in His Majesty's Army'. His death was also recorded in the Leicester Mercury on the 11th January 1918. For his military service Joseph was awarded the British War Medal and the Allied Victory Medal, these like his items of personal property, were sent to Annie but his Medal Roll Card appears to indicate that they were returned. In 1918 Annie received a pension of 13/9d a week from the War Office. At the start of this article I said that Joseph was probably now forgotten, at least his service is now known to readers of the Journal.

Sources:

- Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Soldiers Died in the Great War Part 80 Corps of Military Police.*
Leicester Borough Police Head/Chief Constable's Special Order Book - Record Office of Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.
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