

strive to be better boys in the future'.

That cavalier performance was shortly followed by a request that Quarter Sessions sanction the payment of his income tax. Thereafter, not surprisingly, his days as Chief Constable were numbered for, in 1851, he was asked to resign, a decision that failed to attract official explanation or comment in the Court records of the day. A newspaper, however, quoted the Chairman of Quarter Sessions explanation that they dismissed their Chief Constable in a cost-cutting exercise.

They also, uniquely, disbanded the Constabulary and in its place formed two separate police forces, one to police the coalfield area under the control of a Superintendent at Wrexham the second to police the rest of the country under the direction of another Superintendent at Denbigh. So began a system of policing, dubbed by a local newspaper as 'The Divided Empire', which continued until the introduction of the mandatory Police Act of 1856, when the County Constabulary was reformed and, in an extraordinary volte-face, Denman was reappointed Chief Constable to remain in office until retirement in 1876. A notable survivor, Denman even overcame being declared

bankrupt shortly after his dismissal, a development entirely caused by an extravagant lifestyle that included keeping his own pack of hounds.

#### Short Bibliography

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#### Acknowledgement

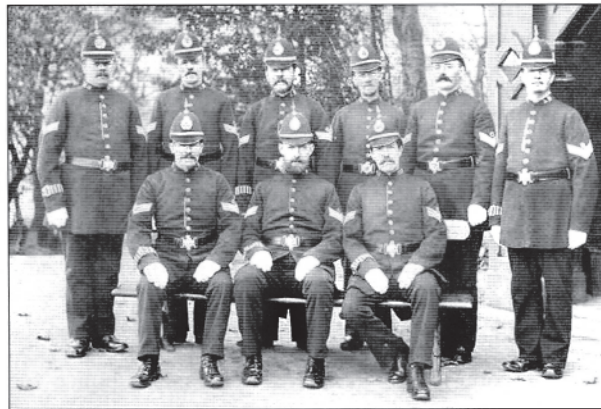
I am grateful to the County Archivist, Mr Kevin Matthias, for permission to refer to records kept in the Public Record Office, Ruthin.

## ROWLEY & BROCK GET AHEAD WITH THEIR HATS

Bob Dobson

I recently examined some 1889 correspondence between the Chief Constable of Blackburn, Mr Lewis, and Messrs Rowley & Brock of *The Royal Hat Works, London*, which I believe worthy of being recorded.

The Blackburn Watch Committee sent out a blank tender form, asking that it be completed and returned by 19th September 1889. Firms were asked to price "For Inspectors. 2 great coats, 5 dress coats (braided with hooks & eyes) and 9 pairs of trousers. "For Sergeants and Constables they wanted 18 great coats, 119 tunics (blue wool dyed with double linen thread), 238 pairs of trousers, 80 silver star badges and 40 silver chevrons "similar to Metropolitan sergeants". Rowley & Brock chose to submit their price only for 5 Inspectors' caps, "same as Metropolitan Inspectors" — this was 7s/6d per cap. Their price for 119 Sergeants and Constables' helmets without plates was 5s/9d each. The tender form made it clear that "the contractor will be required to supply and attach the silver stars, chevrons and merit badges, also buttons, the latter of which will be supplied by the Corporation. The whole of this tender must be of the best



make and workmanship, and every article of clothing, unless properly cut and made to fit, will be rejected". Four pockets to be made for each pair of trousers, viz- 2 side pockets, one watch pocket and one staff pocket" The cloth had to be double-milled, of the best quality dark blue wool, dyed. "Samples of trimmings must be sent with samples of cloth".

The company sent CC Lewis a sample helmet along with a letter pointing out the improvements they had effected in the head leather, "it being free from dyes or chemicals, does not stain or irritate the forehead as is frequently the case with the black head leathers. The new leather is greatly liked, feeling far more comfortable and cooler to the forehead. Should you honour us with the contract on this occasion, it shall be carried out to your satisfaction as previously".

A week later, following a telegram from the Chief Constable, the company wrote that they would put white metal fittings on the helmets without further charge, "though usually we charge about three pence higher, as they not only cost more but have to be handled with

greater care in fixing”.

Blackburn Borough policemen wore a finely-shaped helmet which did not have the coxcomb favoured by some forces. Rowley & Brock gave Mr Lewis the option of having helmets made to Blackburn’s own style or that

of the sample they sent him. Two days after receiving the letter, John Rutherford, the chairman of the Watch Committee, accepted the tender, and in due course the Corporation’s cheque for £36.1s.9d would be sent in payment.

## OBITUARY

### STEWART HARRIS

Stewart Harris joined Dundee City Police as a recruit in 1950 and retired as Chief Superintendent in charge of Central Division of Tayside Police (which incorporates Dundee City) on 9th June, 1982. It is true to say of Stewart that he rose to the top of his own “force” but never forgot his beginnings, being held in the utmost respect in both service and in retiral. He played an active committee role in the local branch of the Retired Police Officers’ Association serving as both Secretary and President as well as serving on the National Committee.

In 1974 Stewart became curator of what was to become Tayside Police museum following regionalisation in 1975. This was a post held by him up until his “retiral” in June 2004. Such was the esteem in which he was held by the Force that the Chief Constable, John Vine, presented him with a Tayside Police “Charter Mark” citation in recognition of the huge amount of work, all in his own time, undertaken by him on behalf

of the Force. This hangs proudly in the lounge of his home.

Stewart was an avid historian of all things police and military. One of his great loves was Dundee City Police Pipe Band in which he played as a drummer during his early service. The Band also became “Tayside” following regionalisation and, as one of his projects, Stewart compiled a history of the Band which was published with the proceeds going to police charities, which was typical of Stewart’s approach to life.

Stewart is survived by his wife Bunty, to whom he was married for 52 years, his sons Stewart and Niall and daughter Elaine. He is much missed by his family and all who knew him.

**ANDREW McKAY**

*TAYSIDE BRANCH SECRETARY, RETIRED POLICE OFFICERS’ ASSOCIATION*

## LT. COL SIR CHARLES ROWAN AND SIR RICHARD MAYNE

Raymond Orr

RUC GC Foundation, Belfast.

In the article by Chris Forester in the Journal of the Police History Society Number 21, 2006 entitled ‘Scrambled Egg and Dead Seagulls’ reference is made to Richard Mayne and Col. Charles Rowan. As quite rightly stated they were the first Commissioners in the Metropolitan Police Force. However, it is also interesting to note that both men had been associated with policing in Ireland prior to these appointments. In fact both had their roots in Northern Ireland. Richard Mayne was a barrister and the son of a Judge of the Court of Kings Bench in Ireland. Rowan as stated had a military career prior to his involvement with policing. In 1814 Sir Robert Peel was Chief Secretary for Ireland based in Dublin. In that year Peel was responsible for the formation of the Peace Preservation Force to be used to restore order and keep the peace in Ireland – the first

organised police force in the United Kingdom. Mayne and Rowan were actively involved in the formation of that force. In 1822 Peel returned to London on appointment as Home Secretary. He selected Rowan and Mayne to assist him with the organising of the London Metropolitan Force, using their experiences in Ireland in this task. Mayne died in London in 1868 and is buried in Kensal Green Cemetery – grave number 21708, Section 56 where there is an imposing memorial to him. His fellow Commissioner Rowan who died in 1852 is buried in Kentish Town Cemetery – grave number 10226, Section Catacomb B, Vault 168 Compartment 8.

I felt that the readership might be interested in these further details and the Irish connection to the policing of London.