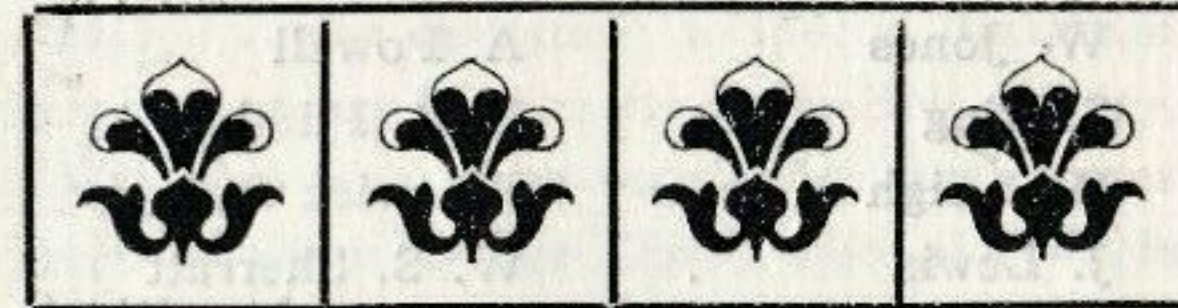


Special
Constabulary
Burslem



TWO YEARS ON BURSLEM STREETS.

THE Burslem Division of the Stoke-on-Trent
Special Constabulary was formed on
October 6th, 1916, when the following were
sworn in:—

J. Andrews	F. W. Cartlidge
R. Askey	J. Cocks
T. Barker	J. W. Cooke
I. Bloor	E. Dunning
E. Bickley	J. Fox
T. Bamford	A. Gilman
H. J. Baines	T. B. Green
W. Barlow	S. H. Garner
H. L. Boulton	A. E. Gaskell
S. Bratt	W. E. Goodwin
W. Barnett	J. Heames
E. H. Beardmore	E. Hancock
G. W. Brooks	W. Heath
H. C. Calvert	A. H. Hulme
W. Cartlidge	G. Holdcroft

TWO YEARS

F. C. Jennings	J. Price
W. Jones	A. Powell
S. King	J. R. Plimbley
W. Leigh	Warwick Savage
J. Lewis	W. S. Sherratt
E. J. Lucas	D. T. Turner
C. T. Lycett	W. Woolliscroft
T. Machin	E. Wootton
F. A. Moss	W. Woodhouse
J. McPhail	F. Wilson
D. Moreton	P. Wynne
R. Nicklin	A. Webster
S. B. Oakden	C. Yeomans
J. Pascall	S. Youds
W. Podmore	

After swearing in, a meeting of the new Special Constables was held in the Town Hall, at which the following were elected to act as Sergeants:—

E. H. Beardmore	F. C. Jennings
S. Bratt	J. O. McPhail
G. W. Brooks	J. R. Plimbley
H. C. Calvert	Warwick Savage

On the following Sunday a Parade of the whole Force was held at the Skating Rink, Hanley, when the duties of Special Constables were explained by Chief Constable R. J. Carter,

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and each member of the Force was supplied with his armlet and staff; a Special Parade of Sergeants being held at the Town Hall, Hanley, a few days later when further instruction was given to them by the Chief, who afterwards selected one from each division to act as Inspector, Mr. Warwick Savage being appointed for the Burslem Division.

The members of the Burslem Division were then divided into sections for each day of the week, care being taken to allow, as far as possible, each man to select the day most convenient for himself, with a Sergeant to each section. The hours of duty were 8 to 12, except Saturday and Sunday, 2 to 6.

In January, 1917, the following additional Special Constables were sworn in:—

Harry Bates	F. Leedham
A. E. W. Cope	J. W. Machin
D. E. Davies	J. Mawson
J. A. Farrington	H. Mellor
J. E. Fisher	A. H. Salmon
C. Hobson	J. T. Sambrooks
G. L. Jones	G. W. Stone
T. Kent	R. E. Walton

TWO YEARS

It was found necessary to have two sections on duty on Saturdays, and C. Yeomans was promoted to Sergeant in charge of the new section. When Sergeant Yeomans left the district to take up duties elsewhere, S. Cons. F. A. Moss was promoted to Sergeant in charge of this section, and on the retirement of Sergt. Moss at a later period through ill-health, Sergt. Yeomans, who had returned, resumed duty with that section.

In October, 1917, the following were sworn in to provide the necessary reserves and replace the gaps caused by retirements :—

T. Bourne	C. J. Povey
W. Davies	T. Rowley
R. Gardiner	J. Sharp
E. Green	W. Shipley
R. Jones	J. F. Spencer
J. W. Machin	J. W. Williamson
— Mullock	T. D. Wood
S. Porter	

Special Constable Pascall was appointed Relief Sergeant, and later on the retirement of S. Sergt. G. W. Brooks, was put in charge of the Sunday Section; Spec. Constable A. Powell being appointed to Relief Sergeant.

ON BURSLEM STREETS.

On January 31st, 1919, when the Special Constabulary were placed on reserve, the composition of the Burslem Division was as follows :—

SUNDAY.

S.Sgt. J. Pascall	S.C. C. Hobson
S.C. B. Askey	S.C. G. Holdcroft
S.C. A. E. Gaskell	S.C. F. Wilson
S.C. A. Gilman	S.C. P. Wynne

MONDAY.

S.Sgt. J. R. Plimbley	S.C. J. F. Spencer
S.C. F. W. Cartlidge	S.C. G. W. Stone
S.C. W. Cartlidge	S.C. R. E. Walton
S.C. S. King	S.C. A. Webster
S.C. J. Sharp	

TUESDAY.

S.Sgt. H. C. Calvert	S.C. J. Podmore
S.C. W. Barlow	S.C. J. T. Sambrooks
S.C. J. E. Fisher	S.C. J. W. Williamson
S.C. W. Leigh	S.C. W. Woolliscroft
S.C. E. Hancock	

WEDNESDAY.

S.Sgt. F. C. Jennings	S.C. R. Jones
S.C. Harry Bates	S.C. J. Lewis
S.C. H. L. Boulton	S.C. R. Nicklin
S.C. J. A. Farrington	S.C. C. J. Povey
S.C. W. Heath	

TWO YEARS

THURSDAY.

S.Sgt. S. Bratt	S.C. S. B. Oakden
S.C. R. Gardiner	S.C. S. Porter
S.C. T. Kent	S.C. W. Shipley
S.C. E. J. Lucas	S.C. T. Wood
S.C. J. Mawson	

FRIDAY.

S.S. E. H. Beardmore	S.C. A. H. Hulme
S.C. E. Dunning	S.C. J. W. Machin
S.C. D. E. Davies	S.C. J. Price
S.C. T. B. Green	S.C. A. H. Salmon
S.C. J. Heames	

SATURDAY.

S.Sgt. J. McPhail	S.C. E. Green
S.Sgt. C. Yeomans	S.C. H. Mellor
S.Sgt. T. Bourne	S.C. —. Mullock
S.C. J. W. Cooke	S.C. D. Moreton
S.C. A. E. W. Cope	S.C. T. Rowley
S.C. W. Davies	S.C. J. Woodhouse

RESERVES.

S.Sgt. A. Powell	S.C. C. T. Lycett
S.C. H. J. Baines	S.C. W. S. Sherratt
S.C. J. Fox	

Inspector Warwick Savage

ON BURSLEM STREETS.

During the time of active service several Members of the Force had been compelled to retire through ill-health and other causes, and one member, Special Constable D. T. Turner, had joined the great majority.

EQUIPMENT.

In February, 1917, felt bowler hats were supplied, with the Borough Constabulary Badge surrounded by a star in white metal on the front. These were certainly distinctive and, somewhat on the principle of a headlight on a motor car, gave good warning of the approach of a Special. The hats and big badges were never popular, and there was a general feeling of relief when they were superseded by the uniform cap and badge.

About the same time (February, 1917) the Watch Committee, after representations from the Inspectors, recognised that the boots of Special Constables were liable to wear during the weekly patrol and authorized a payment of 10/- per half year as an acknowledgment of the fact, subject to 90 per cent. of attendances on parade.

TWO YEARS

During the winter of 1916 the Special Constables had no protection from the cold and wet except what they provided themselves and a few capes from the office, and as a consequence of the very severe winter colds were frequent and cases of Rheumatism and Pneumonia not unknown. For this reason the Superintendent, J. A. Morgan, and the Inspectors approached the Watch Committee, and with some difficulty persuaded that body to supply overcoats and uniform caps; these were forthcoming for the winter of 1917 and proved very useful both as a protection from the elements and as a sign of authority.

It was felt by the Inspectors to be very desirable to supplement the overcoats by a summer uniform; but their endeavours to secure this met with no success.

DRILL.

Early in 1917 the order came for a weekly drill; this was held at the Drill Hall on Sunday afternoon, when instruction in elementary foot drill was given by Special Inspector Warwick Savage. This continued until Easter, and at the Inspection by H.M. Inspector on the Cricket Ground, Stoke-on-Trent, on 13th June, 1917, the display of Burslem Division com-

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pared favourably with that of any other division.

The drills were resumed in 1918, when Special Sergeant J. R. Plimbley took the recruits.

On the occasion of the Inspection at Stoke the weather was so bad that no drill was attempted, and the Burslem Division had therefore no opportunity of proving how much better they could perform the various movements than other Divisions.

THE WORK.

The regular work of the Force consisted of a weekly parade of four hours; in the course of which the beats were covered twice. This work, which is naturally monotonous, was conscientiously performed and it was very seldom that a Sergeant had to report a missed meeting at any point.

As a change from this duty there were the occasional visits of enemy airships to this country, necessitating the turning out of a portion of the Force to enforce the darkening of streets and houses and the other regulations of "Dora" for such occasions.

TWO YEARS

Only once however did a midnight marauder reach the Potteries during the reign of the Specials.

This was on the night of November 27/28, 1916, when between the hours of 1 and 2 on the 28th a large number of explosive and incendiary bombs were dropped in the Borough and outskirts, Tunstall receiving special attention. Only one bomb caused any damage in the Borough and that falling in the backyard of a cottage demolished some outbuildings and caused slight damage to surrounding property, whilst a fragment wounded a collier just home from work and occupied at the time with his ablutions. Fortunately the injury was slight.

Those Specials on duty had an excellent view of the Zeppelin from the open space in front of the Police Office, as after dropping its bombs it descended to a very low altitude, apparently to observe the destruction which ought to have been wrought. Being armed only with the usual Police weapons, the Burslem Specials were unable to effectively tackle the criminal; but they were all delighted to hear next day that a better armed and more mobile force had accounted for it over the North Sea.

ON BURSLEM STREETS.

The shortage of certain articles of food provided a further change of occupation for the Specials before the introduction of the Coupon system, and especially on Saturdays, queues had to be regulated for some weeks, while even up to the present time it has been necessary to regulate queues for Tobacco and Rabbits.

The only occasion when Burslem Specials have had any serious work was on the occasion of a disturbance on account of food shortage in a neighbouring district, when a very large crowd appeared likely to cause a good deal of trouble; but the tactful conduct of the Regular and Special Police who were present in large numbers prevented any serious developments; and what might have been precipitated into a very ugly affair by any ill-considered action on the part of the Police, resolved itself into an open air concert at which all the airs popular at that moment were sung by a large female choir, the performers when tired, or when their male relatives returned from the pits or elsewhere gradually filtered away to their homes, leaving the Police in possession of the field in the early hours of the morning.

On this occasion the value of uniform was very clearly proved.

TWO YEARS

Whilst considering the length of time the Burslem Specials have been on duty, the number of cases brought into Court has not been very numerous, it is satisfactory to note that, owing no doubt in a great measure to the care of the Divisional Officers in sifting the reports, in almost every instance a conviction was obtained; a very noticeable feature of this part of the duty being the excellent and fair manner in which the Special Constables concerned gave their evidence. Most of the cases have been for infringement of the "DORA" regulations; lighting offences being the most common.

In a few cases considerable pertinacity and a certain amount of detective ability has been displayed in collecting evidence and effecting an arrest; and some Specials have shown commendable smartness in recognising that an offence was being committed, when they might have easily taken it for an everyday and perfectly honest transaction.

The Sunday Section have had several raids on gamblers, in one case with disastrous results to the trousers of one of the Specials. Several convictions have been obtained, and

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no doubt the Special Constables have exercised a certain deterrent effect on this class of offence.

GENERAL.

It is worthy of remark that with very few exceptions the Burslem Specials are men who at the time of volunteering were over the then military age of 41, some in fact being very near the Police limit of 55, whilst one, Special Constable Lucas was considerably beyond that age. Notwithstanding this, he has hardly missed a parade, and when the opportunity arose was not afraid to tackle and arrest a burly ex-soldier who was breaking the peace, at a time when Special Constable Lucas was not even on duty, and might have been excused for looking the other way. With assistance he took the man to the office and laid his information and later secured a conviction.

Whilst all have done their work well it would not be right to close without referring to Special Sergeant Pascall, who has put in much more time than any man of the Special Constabulary and has done his work in accordance with the best traditions of the Police Force. It is said that Sergeant Pascall will be very sorry when he is demobilized.

TWO YEARS

In conclusion, there is no doubt that what success the Burslem Special Constables have achieved is in a very large measure due to the kindly interest taken in them by the Regular Police of Burslem, Deputy Chief Constable Williams, Inspectors Kitson and Abbotts, and all, both Sergeants and men, have combined to encourage them, to lighten their duties and to make these as pleasant as possible. For this we thank them. Whilst the work has not always been pleasant, and sometimes inconvenient and even irksome, there has always been the compensation of knowing that though not able to fight, we were doing something to help our Country in her time of trial. Still we are glad to be put on reserve and shall be still more delighted to get the "sack."



ON BURSLEM STREETS.

DINNER

Thursday, February 13th, 1919.



Oxtail Soup.

Steak and Kidney Pudding.

Roast Leg of Pork.

Apple and Onion Sauce.

Carrots. Turnips. Potatoes.

Sweets.

Jam Tarts.

Cheese.