

ESSEX CONSTABULARY.

The following regulations relating to the issue to and use by Police of Revolvers, having been approved by the Court of Quarter Sessions and Secretary of State, the Superintendents are to see that they are strictly adhered to:—

1.—Revolvers are only to be issued to men who desire to have them when employed on night duty, and who can, in the opinion of the Divisional Officer, be trusted to use them with discretion.

2.—The Revolvers are to be kept at the stations to which men who are to use them are attached, the Officers in charge thereof being held responsible for their safe custody and efficient condition.

3.—A Revolver is to be issued to a Constable on parading for duty at a station on his own application only, at the time of parading. It is to be loaded by the Officer parading the relief, and placed in the holster. An entry is then to be made in the Occurrence Book, showing the number and name of the Constable to whom a Revolver has been issued and also the number of the Revolver.

4.—The Revolver is to be carried in the holster on the belt on the right side and is not to be taken out of the holster for any purpose whatsoever, except for self defence.

5.—Officers carrying Revolvers are to be strictly enjoined that they are only to be used in self defence where there is necessity for resorting to their use, as when the Constable is attacked by a person with firearms or other deadly weapon and cannot otherwise reasonably protect himself, a Constable (as a private person also) may resort to a Revolver as a means of defence.

6.—On going off duty, an officer to whom a Revolver has been issued at a station is to at once extract the cartridges, and hand it over next morning as early as possible to the Superintendent or Inspector in charge, who will, in the Officer's presence, carefully examine both weapon and cartridges, making an entry in the Occurrence Book of the condition in which they are delivered to him.

7.—The Officer having the use of a Revolver is to report on going off duty, every instance in which he has had occasion to remove it from the holster during his tour of duty, whether it has been used or not; such reports are to be dealt with as "urgent" and submitted at once to the Chief Constable through Superintendents.

8.—Before a Revolver is issued to an Officer, he is to be properly instructed in its use, and a report of his competency submitted, through the Superintendent, to the Chief Constable, for his approval.

9.—A box will be supplied to each Station, and to each Officer, to whom a Revolver has been issued, in which it and the cartridges are to be kept locked up and the key retained always on the Officer's person.

10.—An Officer to whom a revolver is issued at an out detachment, and who is unable to parade at a station owing to distance therefrom, is to keep the box in a safe place locked up, and is invariably to extract the cartridges on returning from duty.

11.—Superintendents and Inspectors, when visiting their men's residences, are invariably to inspect and examine the box, revolver, and cartridges, to see that the weapon is in good order, and the proper number of cartridges accounted for.

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S OFFICE,
CHELMSFORD.

1st June, 1885.

W. H. POYNTZ,
CHIEF CONSTABLE.