

Metropolitan Police Office.

POLICE ORDERS.

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 1936.

1 Appointment of Assistant Commissioner.—

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to appoint Mr. G. Abbiss, O.B.E., Deputy Assistant Commissioner, to be an Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police as from 19th August, 1936, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Lt.-Colonel Sir Percy Laurie, K.C.V.O., C.B.E., D.S.O.

As from the 29th July, Brigadier Whitehead will take charge of "A" Department. Mr. Abbiss will remain in "D" Department.

2 Pistols for use of Police (*G.O.*, pages 68-71, paras. 112 to 122).—

Revised paras. 112 to 122.

ISSUE AND USE.

112. Automatic pistols (.32) and cartridges are kept at C.O. and all Stations for issue in cases of necessity. Pistols will only be issued to officers who have been properly instructed in their use, and can give a satisfactory reason for issue. When and to whom issued.

113. The Station Officer is responsible, under the directions of the S.D. Inspector, for the safe custody and issue, when necessary, of pistols and ammunition. Custody.

114. When a pistol is issued to an officer, it will be loaded by him and placed in the holster in the presence of the Station Officer. A pistol with a fully charged magazine of eight cartridges will ordinarily be issued with a holster containing a spare fully charged magazine. An entry will be made in the O.B. showing the number of the pistol and to whom issued. Directions as to issue.

115. The pistol will be carried in the holster (but see para. 118) on the belt on the right side, and will not be taken out of the holster except for self defence. Every officer to whom a pistol is issued must be strictly warned that it is only to be used in case of absolute necessity, e.g., if he is attacked by a person with a firearm or other deadly weapon and cannot otherwise reasonably protect himself, when he (as well as a private person) may resort to a pistol as a means of defence. Use—for self defence only.

116. On the completion of the duty, the officer will return the pistol to the Station Officer, after extracting the cartridges in his presence. The latter will carefully examine both the weapon and cartridges and make an entry in the O.B. of the condition in which they are delivered to him. Return to Station Officer.

117. An officer returning a pistol must report every instance in which he has had occasion to remove it from the holster during his tour of duty, and whether it has been used or not. Such reports will be dealt with as "Urgent" and submitted to A.C.A. through the Officer i/c District. Reports as to removal from holster.

118. Pistols may be issued to C.I.D. officers, who may carry them in a pocket without a holster. In all other respects the instructions as to the use of pistols will be complied with by C.I.D. officers. Issue to C.I.D.

119. All pistols and ammunition must be kept under lock and key. Pistols must not be stored loaded or with a charged magazine in the butt. They will be inspected once every six months by a properly qualified officer, to ensure that they are in a servicable state in every respect. Storage and inspection.

FIRING PRACTICE.

120. (1) In each Division 24 men who are capable of using the .32 pistol will be selected to attend a firing practice and proficiency test, which are to be held annually between 1st April and 30th September. Selection and number of officers.

(2) Of the numbers selected, about 6 men of each inner Division and 8 of each outer Division should be C.I.D. officers, but it is not necessary to adhere strictly to these proportions.

(3) As far as possible the men selected should be distributed over all Sub-Divisions, in order that emergencies may be promptly met wherever they arise. Distribution.

Pistols for use of Police—*continued.*

Lists. (4) Each Station will keep readily available a list of the selected men attached to the Sub-Division.

Vacancies to be filled. (5) Before the annual practice and test, arrangements are to be made to ensure that the full quota of 24 men are available, vacancies on the lists caused by transfers, etc., being filled by other men who are known to be experienced in the use of pistols. In the case of probationers, this information will be shown on Form 267.

Records. (6) A record will be kept in each Division of the names and Stations of the men selected to fire the course, together with the dates and results of their practice and tests. These particulars must also be sent in the form of a return to A-2 and A-5 (Records) Branches.

(7) The fact that a man has passed the proficiency test will be entered on his Central and Divisional Record Sheets.

C.O. Officers. (8) Twenty-four officers of the C.I.D. Central Office (including 16 officers of the Flying Squad) and 10 officers of the Special Branch will be selected to undergo the firing practice and proficiency test. Arrangements will also be made in A-2 Branch for 3 Inspectors and 3 Constables (Back Hall), 10 motor drivers and 8 wireless operators to attend a similar course.

Ammunition, supply of and record. 121. (1) The Receiver will supply annually on requisition (Form 738) 16 rounds of ammunition for each man firing the practice course, and 16 rounds for each man firing the proficiency test. A careful record of the use made of the ammunition is to be kept. If any is left over, it must be returned to the Receiver at the end of the course.

Officer in charge of firing party. (2) The Chief Inspector (or, in his absence, a competent Inspector who has already fired the course) will take charge of the firing party and personally superintend the loading of each pistol by the officer using it. A careful record will be kept of the shots fired by each individual. A cartridge failing to explode should be withdrawn with great care at the firing point, while the pistol is held facing the target.

Course, details of ; 122. (1) The following are the details of the firing course, which will be conducted as laid down in the Pistols Booklet :—

Target	.....	12inch.
Range	.....	20 yards.

32 rounds will be fired by each man as follows :—

1st group (practice course)	.....	Four rounds, right hand, slow fire.
		Four rounds, left hand, slow fire.
		Four rounds, right hand, rapid fire.
		Four rounds, left hand, rapid fire.
2nd group (proficiency test)	.....	Eight rounds, right hand, slow fire.
		Eight rounds, right hand, rapid fire.
Standard of proficiency	.....	A total of 50% hits.

time-off. (2) Time-off will be allowed, and must be recorded.

Officers failing to pass. (3) It is not absolutely essential for all the selected officers to pass the proficiency test, so long as each proves clearly that he is capable of handling a pistol. If, as a result of the test, any officer is found unsuitable, the facts are to be included in the returns (see para. 120 (6)).

(Corres. 134/Duties/1).

3 Service Manuals (*G.O.*, page 23, para. 7).—

Addition to Supplement, Table " V " (page 40).

After " Parking Place Attendants Instructions " insert :—

" Pistols Booklet	Instructors and officers undergoing pistol instruction and practice.	Receiver's Store "
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General Orders to be noted as so amended, the amendment in the Supplement being made forthwith in manuscript.

NOTE.—The instructions for drill and firing practice with the .32 automatic service pistol have been deleted from General Orders (old paras. 121 and 122) and are now published in booklet form. This booklet also contains directions as to the use and care of the pistol.

Thirty copies of the Pistols Booklet are being forwarded to each Division, for issue to Instructors and to officers whilst undergoing instruction and firing practice.

(Corres. 134/Duties/1).

4 Forms, Books and Stationery (*G.O.*, Sec. 30, paras. 20 to 26A).—

The following new form is ready for issue and is to be taken into use as required :—

No. 409. " Confidential " (purple) label.

The necessary entry is to be made on page 13 of the List of Forms and Books, Etc.

NOTE :—It is not contemplated that—save in exceptional cases—this label will be attached in Divisions to a file *originating in C.O.* ; but when the label is so attached, it should be fixed in the top left-hand corner.

In any case, when a paper to which such a label is attached ceases to be confidential the label must be clearly cancelled.

(Corres. 89/Unc/130).

5 Medical and Sick—Co-Divisional Surgeon Appointed (*G.O.*, pages 119–21, paras. 5 to 15A).—

X. Dr. S. R. Elmes, East Waylands, Hayes End, has been appointed Co-Divisional Surgeon (with Dr. J. S. Lloyd) to the Police of X Division stationed at Hayes for a period of three years from 1st August, 1936.

(Corres. 3/APP/181).

6 Transfer (*G.O.*, pages 58–9, paras. 36 to 41).—

Y (751) to P (744). P.C. 119849 Butcher

To report at Catford Old Station at 10 a.m. 29th July.