

Commissioner's Office.

24th May, 1940

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUMPROTECTION OF POLICE PERSONNEL AND POLICE BUILDINGS. ISSUE OF FIREARMS

1. In view of prevailing conditions, it is necessary to take precautions against the possibility of the enemy or his agents obtaining control of, or causing damage to, certain vulnerable points and buildings of public importance including Police Stations. (A list of vulnerable points and public buildings where men are to be armed is being issued separately). Attempts to seize or destroy could be made either by direct force or subterfuge, and, while no hard and fast rules can be laid down to meet all possible contingencies, the following will serve for guidance as to the line of action to be taken.
2. Police Stations. In order that the Police on duty may be in a position to protect themselves and the Station, the Service pistols should be maintained in a state ready for immediate use, and kept in positions which are most likely to prove effective. It is not possible to indicate in what form an attack might be made, but it can be assumed that surprise is likely. It will not therefore be advisable to keep all the pistols at a Station in one place; they should be distributed so as to be available to men in different parts of the building. For instance, a pistol should be kept in the General Office for use by the Station Officer, another in the Communications Room, and possibly, at the bigger Stations, one in the C.I.D. Office. Divisional Superintendents, however, who are well acquainted with local conditions, will be in the best position to decide.

Care must be exercised to prevent loss or misuse and if a pistol is kept in a room which at times is left untenanted, it should be put away under lock and key, when the room is empty. Supervising officers will be responsible that all necessary action is taken in this direction.

It is appreciated that all officers who may possibly be called upon to use these weapons are not qualified to do so in the normal way. To overcome this difficulty, it will be sufficient if an officer who is thoroughly conversant with the use of pistols explains the mechanism in any case where this is necessary.

3. Public Buildings and Vulnerable Points. When it is decided to arm men detailed to protect any of these places, the officers selected should, whenever possible, be those who have qualified at the Divisional Classes of instruction, or who are known to be capable of handling pistols. If a sufficient number of men is not available, steps should be taken to arrange for a simple course of instruction which need not necessarily include firing practice. An officer, however, should not be required to carry a pistol on those duties unless he feels confident of his ability to use it should the need arise.

Generally speaking, when Police are armed, it will be advisable for the firearms to be carried out of sight, but there may be occasions when it will be preferable to carry the pistol so as to be visible.

4. General. As to the actual use to be made of a pistol by an officer for self-defence or protective purposes, obviously much

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must be left to the discretion of the individual concerned, but it should be pointed out that the firing of a shot, not necessarily at the intruder, and even after an entry has been effected, may be the best means of giving the essential warning to those inside.

5. Apart from the above precautions, Police will only carry pistols in accordance with the provisions of General Orders Section 5, paras. 92 - 99.

*H. E. Carr*

Assistant Commissioner "A"

D.A.Cs. 1 to 4  
Supts. C.O. to TA.

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