



Report

OF

THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

OF THE

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

1978

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ACQUISITIONS

REPORT

OF

THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

OF THE

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

FOR THE

YEAR 1978

Chief Constable's Office
Lloyd House
Colmore Circus Queensway
Birmingham B4 6NQ

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

MEMBERS OF THE POLICE AUTHORITY

Chairman: Councillor J A Gopsill (*Birmingham, Kings Norton*)

Vice Chairman: Councillor Mrs F M Milne (*Aldridge/Brownhills No. 3*)

Local Authority Representatives

Magistrate Members

Ward

Councillor D R H Birbeck	(<i>Sutton Coldfield No.3</i>)	F W Baker Esq. JP
Councillor J A W Bird	(<i>Wolverhampton No.4</i>)	K H Barker Esq JP DL
Councillor J A Clark JP	(<i>West Bromwich No.1</i>)	A B Harper Esq JP
Councillor R J Griffiths	(<i>Dudley No.4</i>)	Mrs P E Marshall JP
Councillor F T D Hall	(<i>Birmingham, Sandwell</i>)	J Martin Esq MBE JP
Councillor W T Harris	(<i>Dudley No.6</i>)	C F Redgrave Esq JP
Councillor K R Ison	(<i>Stourbridge No. 1</i>)	C H Smith Esq. JP
Councillor P J Lynne	(<i>Birmingham, Stechford</i>)	C I Teeling Esq JP
Councillor PD Osborn B.Sc (Min Eng)	(<i>Stourbridge No.2</i>)	
Councillor Mrs J A D Seccombe	(<i>Birmingham, Acocks Green</i>)	
Councillor E T Shore	(<i>Birmingham, Saltley</i>)	
Councillor B V Smith	(<i>Birmingham, Kingstanding</i>)	
Councillor Mrs M E Stoneman	(<i>Coventry No.2</i>)	
Councillor A L Turner	(<i>Birmingham, Longbridge</i>)	

Police Headquarters

Lloyd House
Colmore Circus Queensway
Birmingham B4 6NQ

Telephone No 021 236 5000
Telex 337321

Chief Constable

Mr P D Knights CBE QPM

Deputy Chief Constable

Mr M Buck QPM

Assistant Chief Constables

Operations

Mr K J Evans

Staff Services

Mr J B Glynn

Organisation and Development

Mr R F Broome

Crime

Mr F L Jordan

*Administrative Support Services
and Supplies*

Mr G E Coles B.Jur.

Criminal Investigation Department

Chief Superintendent T Meffen (*Operations*)

Chief Superintendent T Light (*Support Services*)

Chief Administrative Officer

Chief Superintendent P C J Price MA (Oxon)

Personnel Department

Chief Superintendent R P Snee

Traffic Department

Chief Superintendent D M Knight LLB

Complaints Department

W/Chief Superintendent E M Unett QPM

Management Services

Chief Superintendent J A G Smith

Training Department

Chief Superintendent A M McDowall

Operations Co-Ordinator

Chief Superintendent G Cockayne QPM

Communications

Chief Superintendent L P Coates

'B' Division

Bournville Lane Birmingham Telephone No 021 479 3141
Woman Chief Superintendent P E Wren MBE

'C' Division

Walsall Road Birmingham Telephone No 021 356 0431
Chief Superintendent C J Matthews

'D' Division

Queens Road Birmingham Telephone No 021 327 6551
Chief Superintendent J Bagnall

'E' Division

Sheldon Heath Road Birmingham Telephone No 021 706 8111
Chief Superintendent G Finch

'F' Division

Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham Telephone 021 236 5000
Chief Superintendent N T Jones

'G' Division

Alfred Squires Road Wolverhampton . . . Telephone No Wolverhampton 27851
Chief Superintendent R Massey

'H' Division

Green Lane Walsall Telephone No Walsall 38111
Chief Superintendent R G Morris

'J' Division

New Street Dudley Telephone No Dudley 56900
Chief Superintendent J J Tonkinson

'K' Division

New Street West Bromwich Telephone No 021 553 2971
Vacant at 31 December 1978

'L' Division

Homer Road Solihull Telephone No 021 705 7611
Chief Superintendent P D Hancox

'M' Division

Little Park Street Coventry Telephone No Coventry 22211
Chief Superintendent J P Bensley

ANNUAL REPORT 1978

Chief Constable's Office
Administration Department

POPULATION AND ACREAGE STATISTICS

Force Area in acres	222 200
Population	2 729 900
Acreage per Officer	34.14
Population per Officer	419.40
Rateable Value	£393 287 976

Authorised Establishment of the Force

Regular Force	6 509
Cadets	280
Civilians	1 922
Traffic Wardens	688

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

Police Headquarters
Lloyd House
Colmore Circus Queensway
Birmingham B4 6NQ

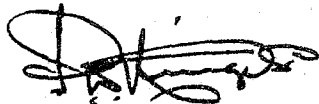
To: **The Chairman and Members of the
West Midlands Police Authority**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I have the honour to present my report on the policing of West Midlands during the year 1978.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

Your Obedient Servant

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'D. H. Jones', written in a cursive style.

Chief Constable

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Chapter I

Introduction

1978 was generally a year of consolidation for the West Midlands Police with the results of the extensive planning of the previous two years beginning to bear fruit. Whilst a number of new projects were started, generally it was a year for settling down and refining the new systems. The major police problems occurring in the West Midlands during 1978 are detailed in the following pages of the report, which reflect another year of enthusiastic and conscientious work by all members of the Force.

Retirement of Senior Officers

During the year a number of senior officers retired from the Force.

Mr W Donaldson QPM having completed 30 years service retired on 30 April 1978. He left the post of Assistant Chief Constable, Operations, to take up the position of Chief Constable of the Port of Liverpool Police. Mr Donaldson began his career with the Birmingham City Police in 1947 and served in the Criminal Investigation and Traffic Departments as well as with the Directing Staff at the Police College. He was promoted Divisional Chief Superintendent of the former 'A' Division in 1967 and was appointed Assistant Chief Constable in 1970. The Queen's Police Medal was presented to him in 1976.

On 18 May 1978 Mr H J Robinson QPM, for medical reasons retired from his position as Assistant Chief Constable, Crime. He joined the Birmingham City Police in 1951 and after periods of service in uniform and in many branches of the Criminal Investigation Department was promoted Chief Superintendent responsible for that department in 1972. He took up the post from which he retired in 1975, and was awarded the Queen's Police Medal in 1977.

Chief Superintendent H G K Longhurst who retired on 30 June, 1978 first joined the Wolverhampton Borough Police in 1938 but his service was interrupted by the war and between 1942 and 1946 he served with the Royal Navy. Having spent the majority of his career in uniform at Wolverhampton he was promoted Superintendent in 1963 and to the post of Divisional Chief Superintendent of the former 'F' Division, West Midlands Constabulary, in 1967. He continued in this role with the West Midlands Police until his retirement, having completed 40 years service. Mr Longhurst was awarded the Queen's Police Medal in 1975.

Chief Superintendent R L Richards retired for medical reasons on 24 September

1978. He joined the Wolverhampton Borough Police in 1951 and served for a total of 27 years. In 1966 as an Inspector he spent 12 months in the planning department following the formation of the West Midlands Constabulary before moving to Headquarters, Administration. His later service was spent in the Personnel Department of the West Midlands Police as both Superintendent and eventually as officer in charge, being promoted to Chief Superintendent in 1977.

We take this opportunity to wish all of them and their wives a very happy and well-earned retirement.

Administration and Development

The restructuring of Divisions in the Birmingham area was carried out on 1 April 1978 as planned. By reducing Birmingham Divisions from 6 to 5 some economy was achieved and by increasing the Sub-Divisions there from 12 to 14 we obtained better control and supervision of ground cover resources. Both these changes bring our Divisions and Sub-Divisions more into line with national criteria. They coincided with the introduction of new systems of policing based on the provision of 53 double manned specially equipped 'first response' cars. It is our aim to make incident response a specialist function, and to relieve traffic patrols, which possess a different range of specialist skills and equipment, and unit beat ('Panda') officers of these duties. The latter have reverted to their original purpose which is to extend the usefulness of an officer working a beat largely on foot by enabling him to patrol a larger area and to be used for second line incident response where necessary.

The beginning of the year saw a radical re-organisation of the CID Administration and Records Department. The recording and processing of crime reports was de-centralised down to sub-divisional level, making this function less cumbersome and giving much needed flexibility. The information function of the department has been enhanced by making it the main operational link with the Police National Computer indexes of criminal names, wanted and missing persons, motor vehicles and identifiable stolen property. The Department has been designated as the 'Central Information Unit' and for purposes of co-operation has been accommodated adjacent to Central Convictions Records and will soon be joined by Criminal Intelligence.

The year has seen further assessment and where necessary revision of administrative and operational procedures aimed at rationalising the many and varied practices that existed in those forces amalgamated to form the West Midlands Police in 1974. The indexing and filing of reports and correspondence has now been standardised throughout the force so that all Administration Departments use a common system. A major review of the operation of the Central Clothing

Stores by the County O & M staff is nearing completion and it is envisaged that the planned reorganisation will streamline the procedures so as to provide a more efficient service and reduce the stockholding requirement.

Senior Officers of the Headquarters Administration Department now attend a Regional Administrative Officers' Conference twice yearly where there is an exchange of views and ideas on broad issues affecting the provision of administrative support. Additionally, there has been an increase in the number of divisional administrative officers' conferences held at Headquarters which serve to improve the interchange of ideas, and where emphasis is placed on the role of administration as a support service to operational officers as opposed to its being a remote and often isolated concept.

The appointment of the Force Catering Officer in July 1978 has proved of immense value to the welfare of the Force. A survey of the catering arrangements throughout the Force and a report recommending more rationalised procedures has been accepted by the Police Authority and conventional catering will be re-introduced throughout the Force area as a result. Additionally, he has organised the catering arrangements in support of large scale police operations such as the Motor Show and public demonstrations, one of which involved the feeding of 2 000 officers in a period of two hours. I am sure, you will be pleased to know that officers committed to long and often arduous hours of duty can be more certain of suitable feeding arrangements as a result of his appointment.

Considerable progress has been made in the planned refurbishing of Police Headquarters and 1979 should see its completion. The opportunity has also been taken to provide the finance necessary to redress the imbalance in the standard of furnishings and fittings of the inner divisions of the Force. This should also be completed in the 1979/80 financial year.

October 1978 saw the publication of the first issue of 'Beacon' the newspaper of the Force. The response from serving and retired officers, special constables, members of Parliament and others has been encouraging. As I said in the first issue, 'Beacon' will not only give us all the means of publicising within the Force news about our activities but also of our plans for the future, developing policies, the stages we have reached in the implementation of projects such as the new control room, or the planning of the new central garage. It also enables me to give authoritative answers to matters which cause uncertainty and frustration amongst members of the Force. I am certain it will play a very valuable part in the further welding together of all components which go to make up the West Midlands Police.

Much of the detailed work involved in all this has been the responsibility of the Management Services Department, who play a large part in keeping the Force and its systems up to date. More information about their activities during the year will be found in Chapter II.

Manpower

Following our disappointing manpower situation at the end of 1977, it is pleasing to report that during 1978 we recruited 549 men and women into the Force which improved our manning level by 130. This leaves us 640 officers short of our establishment which is the smallest deficiency achieved since the formation of the Force in 1974.

Whilst it is encouraging to have increased our strength I must again draw attention to the increasing numbers of women being recruited. During the year under review we made a net gain of only 6 men whereas the net increase of women was 124. Furthermore, women were nearly 40% (39.709%) of our total recruits. I hope that during the coming year the contacts we are developing with Armed Forces Re-settlement Centres, Job Centres and Careers Advisers, will enable us to attract more men into the Force.

It is perhaps too early to draw any firm conclusions as to the effect the Lord Justice Edmund Davies' report may have on recruitment and wastage; however if it achieves a reduction in our premature wastage it will make a significant contribution towards our aim of reaching our establishment figure by March 1980.

We have had little difficulty in maintaining a viable cadet corps as Home Office restrictions have been eased during the year. There is no shortage of well qualified applicants, but again we have found the same trend in respect of female recruits to the cadets as with the regular Force, the effect being that at the end of the year over half of the serving cadets were girls. Bearing in mind that they will be joining the Force during 1979 and 1980 this serves to emphasise my earlier remarks on the necessity to attract more men to the service if we are to meet our operational commitments.

The support we receive from civilian employees plays an important part in our ability to police the West Midlands and it is essential that we pay attention to recruiting and maintaining an efficient civilian support staff. During 1978 we managed to stem the severe losses suffered in 1977 and I am grateful for the assistance received from the County Personnel Officer and his staff. Unfortunately despite filling 340 posts, which entailed processing nearly 4 000 applications, the effort was largely nullified by 332 resignations, leaving a net gain of 8.

Our losses were divided almost equally between manual and non manual staff and consequently a great deal of effort has been expended simply to maintain the status quo. We are undoubtedly still struggling to recover from the recruiting restrictions imposed in 1975.

Public Order

Once again 1978 saw the Force having to deal with four major demonstrations/ marches, which on two occasions necessitated the cancelling of leave for all members of the Force, and also the obtaining of Mutual Aid from outside Forces. The most significant was the Young National Front Meeting held at Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham, on 18 February, 1978. Quite serious public disorder took place on this occasion when Police Officers forming part of the cordon outside the Civic Hall were subjected to a barrage of missiles, which not only caused quite severe injuries to several Police Officers, but also necessitated the use of shields and vizors as a means of protecting the Officers from much more serious injury.

The majority of demonstrators on this occasion proceeded peacefully, but a group of about 300 not only attacked the police but also caused considerable damage to buildings and motor vehicles in the locality of Digbeth.

To successfully control this demonstration it was necessary to deploy 2 210 Police Officers in the immediate operational zone, and this was only achieved by the assistance of the other Police Forces in the Region. I am indebted to the Chief Constables of West Mercia Police, Staffordshire Police and Warwickshire Police for the very valuable support their officers gave on this occasion.

The Digbeth demonstration saw the police use of a helicopter for observation and CCTV recording purposes. It proved invaluable as a source of intelligence for deployment of personnel, and it was made most apparent from the tape recordings that it also had a definite deterrent effect upon would-be vandals. The stability of the camera in the aircraft caused some problems with the clarity of the pictures, but resulting from this a research is being carried out by the Home Office Police Research Services Unit in an effort to overcome these deficiencies.

Three other demonstrations required large contingents of Police Officers, these being an Anti Racist March held at Wolverhampton on 10 June 1978; an Anti Nazi League March held at Handsworth on 2 September, 1978; and the visit of Mrs Indira Gandhi to Birmingham on 18 November, 1978. Only minor public disruption took place on these occasions, although several arrests were made.

In addition to these four major demonstrations, five marches were held which had either a political or religious connotation, and all of these required inter-Divisional aid in order to satisfactorily police them. 16 other demonstrations/marches took place on territorial Divisions, but it was possible to police these adequately by using Divisional resources.

Football matches place a considerable strain on police resources during the season, and unfortunately it had not been found possible, because of the hooligan element who attend, to reduce our commitments. The First Division home matches always require inter-Divisional aid, plus the resources of the Special Patrol Group, the Dog Section, and the Mounted Branch. Such demands do, of necessity, interfere with rest day arrangements, particularly when there are a number of home fixtures on the same day, and this, plus additional hours worked, necessitates much overtime payment being incurred. All matches were well contained for the purpose of public order but even so Police Officers still received injuries from missiles, and by way of assaults from the football supporters. It can be said almost with certainty that at every First Division match a considerable number of arrests are made, and the unfortunate aspect of this is that most of those arrested are from the younger element of the crowds. The Courts adequately deal with the offenders, but even so there is no definite sign of the numbers of arrests decreasing.

One of the more pleasurable tasks was the policing of Royal Visits to the Force area during the year. These included a visit by HRH Princess Margaret to the International Power Boat Championship at Chasewater Lake, three visits by HRH the Duke of Kent, two of which were to the NEC, two visits of HRH Prince Michael of Kent, one of which was to present prizes for winners of the RAC Rally, visits of both HRH The Duke of Gloucester and HRH The Duchess of Gloucester and a visit by HRH Princess Anne to a meeting of the Society for Disabled at Coventry.

Crime

The upward trend in crime of 1977 continued into 1978 with an increase of 20.5% in January over the same month in 1977. For the next three months the increase continued but at a reduced rate of about 12%. This reversal of the trend extended on a gradual basis until October when the monthly increase was down to a more acceptable figure of 1.2%, but the heartening change occurred in November with an actual reduction in crime of 1%, followed in December with a decrease of 1.5% over the same month in 1977.

One hundred and fifty one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight crimes were recorded during the year, 1.49% less than in the preceeding year. This is a very encouraging trend particularly because the overall detection rate of 52,039 crimes represented an increase of 1.1%.

Unhappily, crimes of violence continued to increase with deaths occurring on 45 occasions, 39 of which were recorded as murder and 6 as manslaughter. Thirty six of the offences of murder were detected. Five thousand four hundred and fifty three crimes of wounding, serious and less serious, were recorded, of which 3 495 were detected amounting to 64.1%, being almost double the general detection rate. There is however no room for complacency as this reflects a reduction of nearly 7% in the detection rate over the proceeding year; moreover the incidents of serious woundings rose by 22% and the less serious by 4%.

It is perturbing to note that the crime of arson, setting fire to property, showed a disturbing increase of 179 offences, a rise of 39% in a period of 12 months.

Criminal damage offences, often allied to vandalism, rose by 19% and efforts were made, subject to manpower availability, to supplement the patrols on territorial divisions to reduce the opportunity for this type of offence to be committed.

Regrettably the year saw the return to the County of terrorism. On 17 December a bomb exploded in a pedestrian shopping area close to the centre of Coventry. It was estimated to have contained between 3 to 5 pounds of explosives. Damage was confined to windows in the shopping area, and fortunately no persons were injured. It is known that this explosion was part of a series of similar offences which occurred in a number of major cities throughout the country at that time.

Traffic and Road Safety

The Traffic Division was re-organised during the year so as to concentrate on traffic work on the motorways and main through routes, the response to '999' calls being handled by sub-divisional vehicles. As a result the number of traffic patrols was reduced from 55 to 28.

I am happy to report that the number of road accidents reported in West Midlands was reduced by 5% compared with 1977. A total of 31 287 was recorded in which 13 457 people were injured. Sadly, 242 people were killed, an increase of three on the previous year. The number of people killed in West Midlands road accidents in the three years has, therefore, always been between 239 and 242, and it is not unreasonable to forecast that a similar number will be killed in 1979.

In terms of human suffering I think these figures can best be illustrated by saying that the deaths are equal to the total number of passengers carried by two British Trident Jet Airliners and the people injured represent the passengers carried by 33 of the largest Jumbo Jets.

The appalling casualties caused by road accidents have become so accepted and so common place in life that the prospects of two airliners crashing in West Midlands and killing all the passengers seems far more horrific than the forecasted road accident figures, and yet in terms of human misery there is no difference.

There can be little doubt that the deaths could so easily be reduced to around 200 if only drivers and front seat passengers would wear their seat belts at all times.

My last report gave a gloomy picture of motor cycle accidents, but I am pleased to say that in 1978 there was an 8% reduction to a total of 206 riders and passengers killed or injured. This figure is still far too high, but at least it gives some hope for the future and the most significant factor is that fatalities were reduced from 37 to 24.

The most notable event during the year from a traffic point of view was the mounting of the Motor Show for the first time at the National Exhibition Centre. The traffic arrangements required to ensure that the many visitors could arrive and depart in reasonable comfort necessitated many months of planning work and it was very encouraging to everyone concerned to see the arrangements work so well on the day. Certainly the continuing fine weather was a considerable help and many lessons were learned for the future, but nevertheless great credit is given to the team from the Ministry of Transport, local authorities, National Exhibition Centre, West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive, British Rail, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, the West Midlands Police and others who were responsible for so much for-thought and detailed planning.

Unfortunately, the long term arrangements for road safety training and publicity in West Midlands are still unresolved. It is to be hoped that better arrangements will be made before yet another year has passed.

Police Buildings

The restrictions on capital expenditure which have prevailed for several years appear to be easing slightly and during the year we were given permission to commence planning a new sub-divisional headquarters at Woodbridge Road, Birmingham, and a combined divisional and sub-divisional headquarters in Dunstall Road, Wolverhampton. Planning procedures in connection with the Central Garage have reached an advanced stage and notification has been received from the Home Office that funds will be made available for construction work to start in 1981/82.

The extension of Erdington Police Station to form a sub-divisional headquarters is now in progress and completion is anticipated in June 1979. In my 1977 Report I referred to plans for the refurbishing of Police Headquarters and police building generally. This work is proceeding according to plan and will be completed by the summer of 1979. It will still leave us with a number of quite inadequate and out-of-date buildings however, and restrictions in Revenue expenditure make it difficult to maintain the continuous programme of improving and updating of existing premises, many of which were built at the turn of the century, as a 'stop-gap' until they can be replaced. We have in fact been forced to trim £250 000 off our budget for such work in the financial year 1979/80, and the conditions under which some police officers will still have to perform their arduous duties do no credit to anyone.

Training

Throughout the year the Training Department has again concentrated on courses for uniformed officers and projects introduced in 1977 have now become a regular feature of the programme. Tutor Constables, Resident Beat Officers and Station Officers continue to receive specialist training and both sergeants and constables attend Refresher Courses at regular intervals.

Post Promotion Training has grown in volume and the staff have been required to cope with courses running almost continuously over the whole twelve months. The volume of promotions has resulted in the need to employ two inspectors almost full-time on this very important training.

Senior officers attended half day sessions on Television Interview Techniques conducted by a member of the BBC's staff, as well as a one week course for senior officers on general police subjects. Traffic Management courses were attended by Chief Inspectors and Superintendents.

This year has seen the end of Pre-College Courses for officers from the Region and preparations are in hand for a new Inspectors Course to be conducted during 1979.

The seminars involving Police/Social Services and Probation Service have continued and have established good relationships. Additionally, the social agencies have been more involved in formal training within the Force.

Public Order training was carried out in the early part of 1978 and divisional personnel were trained in Crowd Control Techniques with the assistance of Special Patrol Group officers.

During the year ten police officers were trained in observation from helicopters as a police rather than a home defence function. The training so received has been utilised on at least one major occasion—the Motor Show at the National Exhibition Centre.

The back-log of West Midlands Detective Officers requiring training was overcome during the year, but the Detective Training School continues to hold two classes on each Junior Course in order to accommodate the demand from forces throughout the country.

Closed Circuit Television Training was carried out for divisional personnel and all divisions now have trained officers available to operate equipment when it is required.

So far as Driver Training is concerned, the emphasis was moved to the training of Advanced Drivers in order to man the area cars now in operational use on divisions. This resulted in a fall in the number of newly qualified drivers. The situation is being monitored to ensure a progression of officers through the various courses leading to Advanced qualification.

All these activities, together with communication training currently organised by the Communications Department, has had to be conducted in a variety of locations, which is patently not economic in terms of resources. The only purpose-built school we have is that which was provided in 1962 for the former Birmingham City Police Force. It is quite inadequate to meet the increasing need of the much larger West Midlands, and whilst it is apparent that the necessary capital funds cannot be provided in the immediate future a new police training establishment, catering for all the needs of the Force, must have a very high priority in the Police Authority's Building programme.

Relations with the Community

The initiatives reported in my last report were continued during 1978 and it is felt that there was an improvement in the general relationships between the Police and the immigrant groups. Difficulties did arise but they were generally contained by way of quick discussions with responsible community leaders. A good example of this was at Wolverhampton where National Front activities were causing offence and alarming local groups.

A separate chapter has been included on this field of our work and details of our activities during the year will be found there.

Acknowledgements

Throughout the year many people have given us their help and encouragement. Firstly, there is the Police Authority, whose Chairman and Members have invariably been anxious to provide the Force with the resources and support they need to face today's problems. The Chief Executive and the officers and staff of the West Midlands County Council, with their counterparts in the Districts, also deserves our thanks for the support they have given.

The individual members of the Force be they regular officers, cadets, traffic wardens, civilian staff or special constables, with their wives and families deserves the thanks of the community for the unselfish, conscientious way they have discharged their responsibilities to the citizens of West Midlands. Many of the latter, too, have demonstrated in practical ways their anxiety to help in maintaining law and order in the County.

I would wish finally to thank the representatives of the Police Federation and the Superintendents' Association, who with the Assistant Chief Constables have been unfailing in their efforts and it is to them particularly that we owe any successes we may have had.

Chapter II

Administration and Organisation

ORGANISATION OF THE FORCE

The West Midlands Police cover the County of West Midlands. On 1 April the number of territorial Divisions in the Force was reduced from 12 to 11 and the number of Sub-Divisions increased from 29 to 31. The divisions affected by these changes were the six within the Birmingham District Council area which have been reduced to five, four of which have three sub-divisions whilst the fifth has two for the time being.

The remaining six divisions conform to the District Council areas of Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton, and are each divided into three sub-divisions with the exception of Solihull, which has two. A traffic division covers the whole force area and is divided into four sub-divisions, one of which is responsible for policing the motorways within the Force area.

To coincide with these changes, each sub-division was allocated one or two sub-divisional cars according to size and workload. These vehicles are double-manned and driven by drivers trained to advanced standards. The cars are under the control of the sub-divisional Sergeant Controller and are generally used to attend to all incidents occurring on a sub-division where the immediate presence of a police officer is required. The cars also carry VHF equipment to allow Force Control to direct them if necessary.

A proportional reduction in the number of Unit Beat cars allocated to each sub-division was effected. Normally these are single manned.

Each division is under the control of a Chief Superintendent and a Superintendent has operational responsibility for each sub-division.

ESTABLISHMENT AND STRENGTH—REGULAR FORCE

Set out below is the authorised establishment and actual strength of the Force as at 31 December 1978, excluding seconded staff:

Ranks	Authorised	Actual	Vacancies
Chief Constable	1	1	—
Deputy Chief Constable	1	1	—
Assistant Chief Constables	5	5	—
Chief Superintendents	20	20	—
Superintendents	79	83	+4
Chief Inspectors	111	104	-7
Inspectors	358	339	-19
Sergeants	1041	970	-71
Constables	4893	4345	-548
TOTALS	6509	5868	-641

During the year the authorised establishment was reduced by one Chief Superintendent upon the restructuring of the territorial divisions. There was an increase of one Superintendent post to provide an officer in charge of the new Force Control Room and four Inspector posts to provide supervision for the Traffic Operational Control Room, Thornbridge Avenue, Perry Barr. There was a further increase of 13 Chief Inspector posts for sub-divisional CID and four Inspector posts for the Complaints and Discipline Department. This net increase for the time being will be offset against a decrease of 21 unfilled posts for constables.

SUPERNUMARY AND SECONDED STAFF

At 31 December 1978 the following officers were supernumary to the authorised establishment of the Force:—

Commission Against Corruption Hong Kong	1 Chief Superintendent 1 Sergeant
Staff Officer to H M Inspector of Constabulary	1 Chief Superintendent
Seconded to New Hebrides Government	1 Superintendent
No 4 Regional Crime Squad	1 Superintendent 2 Chief Inspectors 2 Inspectors 22 Sergeants 26 Constables

Midland Criminal Record Office

1 Superintendent
1 Chief Inspector
2 Inspectors
7 Sergeants
18 Constables

Home Office

Forensic Science Laboratory

1 Sergeant

Central Drugs and Illegal
Immigration Unit

2 Inspectors

Driver Vehicle Licensing Centre,
Swansea

1 Superintendent

Police Staff College

2 Chief Inspectors

Police National Computer School

1 Sergeant

Sponsored University Scholarships

10 Inspectors
1 Sergeant

Police Training Centres:

Ryton-on-Dunsmore

4 Inspectors
14 Sergeants
2 Constables

Eynsham Hall

1 Constable

Police Dog Training Centre
Stafford

1 Sergeant

SERVICE OF MEMBERS OF THE FORCE

(Including seconded officers)

	Under 5 years		5-9 years		10-14 years		15-19 years		20-24 years		25-29 years		Over 30 years	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Chief Constable													1	
Deputy Chief Constable											1			
Ass/Chief Constables							1		2		2			
Oh. Superintendents							1		7		7	2	4	
Superintendents					2		9		30		39		7	
Chief Inspector					5	2	28	1	40	1	25		7	
Inspectors			7		53	1	128	4	101	2	53	1	8	
Sergeants	4	1	128	11	328	10	255	2	154	5	113	1	5	1
Constables	1449	493	931	86	628	18	339	12	253	5	175		5	
Grand Total — 5994	1453	494	1066	97	1016	31	761	19	587	13	415	4	37	1

DISTRIBUTION

At 31 December the distribution of the Force was as follows. (Figures in brackets denote authorised establishment where it differs from actual strength).

	SENIOR OFFICERS & A P		CLERKS		TYPISTS		MISC.		TECH.		TOTALS				GRAND TOTAL	
	Est.	Str.	Est.	Str.	Est.	Str.	Est.	Str.	Est.	Str.	Est.	Str.	Est.	Str.	Est.	Str.
HEADQUARTERS																
Administration	5	4	13	9	11	7	11	5	-	-	40	25	-	-	40	25
Personnel/Training/ Recruiting	7	7	20	20	10	7	1	1	1	-	39	35	31	28	70	63
Sports and Welfare	3	3	1	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	6	5	3	2	9	7
Special Constabulary	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	3	2
Management Services	5	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	7	3	-	-	7	3
Complaints	-	-	2	2	4	4	-	-	-	-	6	6	-	-	6	6
Press and Publicity	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	-	5	2
Public Liaison	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	2	1
Surveyors	8	8	6	6	-	-	1	1	13	11	28	26	8	6	36	32
Supplies/Print/ Stationery	5	5	4	4	1	1	15	14	4	3	29	27	9	9	39	35
Central Property	1	1	5	3	-	-	4	4	-	-	10	8	-	-	10	8
Coroners	-	-	1	1	4	3	1	1	-	-	6	5	-	-	6	5
Summons and Warrants	-	-	9	9	-	-	14	8	-	-	23	17	-	-	23	17
Lock-Up	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	7	-	-	8	7	5	5	13	12
Mounted Branch	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	4	2
Dog Section	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	7	5	8	6
Special Patrol Group	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	3	2
Special Plain Clothes	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	2	1
Welfare Funds	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
C I D	10	10	65	58	26	20	-	-	14	14	115	102	-	-	115	102
Traffic	1	1	21	21	15	13	10	3	-	-	47	38	-	-	47	38
Garages	5	5	5	5	-	-	9	7	10	9	29	26	127	106	156	132
Motorway Sub Division	1	1	2	2	5	3	-	-	-	-	8	6	4	4	12	10
Central Ticket Office	2	2	47	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	49	29	-	-	49	29
Communications	2	2	2	2	1	1	161	130	-	-	166	135	-	-	166	135
	63	65	207	173	86	63	236	182	42	37	634	510	197	167	831	677
DIVISIONS																
B	4	-	12	4	20	15	1	1	2	-	39	20	59	52	98	72
C	2	-	8	1	18	14	-	-	1	-	29	15	33	27	62	42
D	3	-	15	7	14	14	-	-	1	-	33	21	38	31	71	52
E	2	-	11	6	18	17	-	-	1	-	32	23	47	44	79	67
F	2	-	16	10	10	9	-	-	1	1	29	20	40	36	69	56
G	2	-	17	9	31	28	-	-	-	-	50	37	57	50	107	87
H	3	1	19	11	30	24	-	-	-	-	52	36	44	39	95	75
J	3	1	13	8	31	26	-	-	-	-	47	35	61	45	108	80
K	3	1	18	7	44	32	-	-	-	-	65	40	60	55	125	95
L	3	-	22	16	13	13	-	-	-	-	38	29	40	35	78	64
M	4	1	28	22	24	23	6	4	-	-	62	50	66	58	128	108
	31	4	179	101	253	215	7	5	6	1	476	326	545	472	1021	798
REGIONAL																
Midland C R O	6	5	14	12	4	2	2	2	-	-	20	16	-	-	20	16
Fingerprints	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	20	20	28	27	-	-	28	27
No. 4 R C S	-	-	5	4	7	7	4	4	-	-	16	15	2	2	18	17
Disqualified Drivers Index	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	4	4
	6	5	24	21	11	9	7	7	20	20	68	62	2	2	70	64
	100	64	410	295	350	287	250	194	68	58	1178	898	744	641	1922	1539

CIVILIAN AND MANUAL STAFF

The Authorised Establishment and Actual Strength of civilian staff and manual workers as at 31 December is as detailed below:—

DEPARTMENT	CC	DCC	ACC	Ch. Supt.	Supt.	Ch. Insp.	Insp.	Sgt.	P.C.	TOTAL
Administration	1	1	5	2 ⁽¹⁾	2 ⁽¹⁾	3 ⁽²⁾	2 ⁽⁴⁾	5 ⁽⁴⁾		21 ⁽¹⁹⁾
Personnel and Recruiting				1	1	2	3	4 ⁽³⁾	1 ^(Nat)	12 ⁽¹⁰⁾
Co. Service				1	4	1	10	3		19
Manag. Service				1	1	2	4 ⁽⁵⁾			8 ⁽⁹⁾
Summons and Warrant						1	3	5 ⁽⁴⁾	32	41 ⁽⁴⁰⁾
Lock Up						1	4	7	20 ⁽²⁹⁾	32 ⁽⁴¹⁾
Plain Clothes						1 ⁽¹⁾	1 ⁽³⁾	4 ⁽¹²⁾	13 ⁽⁵⁰⁾	18 ⁽⁵²⁾
Training				1	3 ⁽²⁾	4 ⁽⁶⁾	12 ⁽¹⁷⁾	30 ⁽⁴⁴⁾	33 ⁽¹⁵⁾	83 ⁽²⁵⁾
War Duties					*1	1 ⁽¹⁾	1 ⁽⁰⁾	1 ⁽¹⁾		2
Mounted and Dogs						2	2	6	27 ⁽³⁷⁾	37 ⁽⁴⁷⁾
Coroners						1	1	3 ⁽⁴⁾	6 ⁽⁵⁾	11
SPG						1	3	8 ⁽¹⁵⁾	62 ⁽¹⁰⁸⁾	74 ⁽¹²⁷⁾
CID				2	4	14 ⁽¹¹⁾	26 ⁽²³⁾	79 ⁽⁶⁶⁾	165 ⁽¹³⁵⁾	290 ⁽²⁴¹⁾
Traffic				1	6	6	22 ⁽²⁸⁾	57 ⁽⁶⁷⁾	311 ⁽⁴³⁸⁾	403 ⁽⁵⁴⁶⁾
Communications				1	1 ⁽²⁾	2	15 ⁽⁵⁾	12 ⁽¹⁰⁾	36 ⁽²⁸⁾	67 ⁽⁴⁸⁾
Recruits in Training									60	60
Public Liaison					1		1 ⁽¹⁾			1 ⁽²⁾
Headquarters	1	1	5	10 ⁽⁹⁾	24 ⁽²²⁾	40	109 ⁽¹¹²⁾	223 ⁽²⁴⁶⁾	766 ⁽⁸⁶³⁾	1179 ⁽¹²²⁹⁾
<i>*Central Service Post</i>										
Divisions										
B				1	6 ⁽⁵⁾	5 ⁽⁶⁾	19	70 ⁽⁵⁹⁾	348 ⁽³⁹¹⁾	449 ⁽⁴⁹¹⁾
C				1	5 ⁽⁴⁾	3 ⁽⁴⁾	13 ⁽¹⁵⁾	60 ⁽⁶¹⁾	340 ⁽³⁶⁶⁾	422 ⁽⁴⁵¹⁾
D				1	5	6	21	65 ⁽⁶⁷⁾	318 ⁽³⁶⁰⁾	416 ⁽⁴⁶⁰⁾
E				1	6 ⁽⁵⁾	5 ⁽⁶⁾	20	73 ⁽⁷⁶⁾	374 ⁽⁴³¹⁾	479 ⁽⁵³⁹⁾
F				1	5	6	26 ⁽²⁴⁾	64	341 ⁽³⁸³⁾	443 ⁽⁴⁸³⁾
G				1	6	6 ⁽⁷⁾	23 ⁽²⁵⁾	80 ⁽⁸⁴⁾	317 ⁽³⁵¹⁾	433 ⁽⁴⁷⁴⁾
H				1	5	6	22 ⁽²³⁾	65 ⁽⁶⁹⁾	285 ⁽³¹³⁾	384 ⁽⁴²³⁾
J				1	5	6	22 ⁽²⁴⁾	69 ⁽⁷⁴⁾	273 ⁽²⁹³⁾	376 ⁽⁴⁰⁹⁾
K				1 ⁽¹⁾	6	8	23 ⁽²⁵⁾	74 ⁽⁷⁸⁾	348 ⁽⁴¹³⁾	459 ⁽⁵³¹⁾
L				1	4	5 ⁽⁶⁾	18	47 ⁽⁴⁹⁾	208 ⁽²²²⁾	283 ⁽³⁰⁰⁾
M				1	6	8	23 ⁽²⁷⁾	80 ⁽⁸⁶⁾	427 ⁽⁴⁴⁹⁾	545 ⁽⁵⁸⁷⁾
TOTALS				10 ⁽¹¹⁾	59 ⁽⁵⁶⁾	64 ⁽⁶⁹⁾	230 ⁽²⁴¹⁾	747 ⁽⁷⁷⁷⁾	3579 ⁽³⁹⁹⁴⁾	4689 ⁽⁵¹⁴⁸⁾
	1	1	5	20	83 ⁽⁷⁹⁾	104 ⁽¹¹¹⁾	339 ⁽³⁵³⁾	970 ⁽¹⁰⁴¹⁾	4345 ⁽⁴⁸⁹³⁾	5868 ⁽⁶⁵⁰⁹⁾

RECRUITING

Compared with 1977, when I reported a net loss of 22 officers for the year, 1978 saw a reversal of this trend. During the year 549 officers were recruited to the Force (331 men and 218 women) and the wastage was 419, giving a net gain of 130 officers. The Edmund Davies Report was published in July and contained recommendations for substantial increases in pay. This, coupled with a vigorous recruiting campaign, has led to the improvement in recruiting. However, one disturbing aspect is the wastage through officers resigning without pension. During 1978, 242 officers resigned without pension, an increase of 10 on 1977. It is hoped that the Edmund Davies report will help to reverse this trend also.

Despite a drop of 232 applications to join the Force in the previous year, the number of recruits accepted was 125 more than in 1977. At 31 December 118 recruits had been accepted and were awaiting enrolment. Of those recruits who joined the Force during the year, 137 (25%) had 5 or more C.E. 'O' levels.

The following table analyses applications for appointments and their subsequent disposal :-

	1 January 1978 – 31 December 1978		
	Men	Women	Total
Number of applications	2281	1035	3316
Applications not pursued	1411	604	2015
Rejected before Final Interview and withdrawals	441	170	611
Attended for Final Interview	429	261	690
Rejections at Final Interview:-			
Medical	14	5	19
Force Selection Board	38	22	60
Withdrawn after acceptance	16	8	24
Accepted	361	226	587
Enrolments:-			
Recruits	245	162	407
Police Cadets	61	46	107
Re-appointment as Constables	18	10	28
Transfers	7	0	7
TOTAL	331	218	549
Pending Enrolment – 31 December 1977	52	28	80
Pending Enrolment – 31 December 1978	82	36	118

The Recruiting Department increased its activity in the area of talks to sixth form pupils and students at universities. Personal visits were also made to Job Centres and Career Offices and campaigns were carried out at specific centres.

Two parties of managers from the Manpower Services Job Centres and one party of career advisers were taken to the District Police Training Centre at Ryton-on-Dunsmore to give them an insight into the training of police officers.

Members of the Recruiting Department visited the Army Re-settlement Centre at Aldershot and were invited to a career convention for army personnel due for discharge, at Forkhill, Wiltshire.

It has been shown that one of the best ways of interesting men and women in a career in the Police Service is by personal contact in one form or another by an individual police officer. With the assistance of Divisional Training Sergeants, the Recruiting Department has endeavoured to place emphasis in this direction.

Advertising

Advertising is effected by an advertising agency. During the year activity in the advertising field has been increased and the Force now advertises in all armed services magazines and in a large number of school bulletins and magazines.

Graduate Entry Scheme

The scheme is designed to attract university graduates to the Police Service. During the year nine applicants for this Force were interviewed, two were recommended for extended interview and one was accepted. A further 12 graduates joined the Force as ordinary entrants.

WASTAGE DURING THE YEAR

The following table shows losses due to retirement, resignations etc.

	Chief Cons	DCC	ACC	Chief Supt	Supt.	Chief Insp	Insp.	Sgt.	Cons.	Total
Pension on completion of service	—	—	1	1	6	8	18	32	41	107
Pension—ill health	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	9	13
Resigned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	233	242
Dismissed or required to resign	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	6
Transfer to other Police Forces	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	38	41
Died	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	4	7
Services dispensed with (Regulation 16)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
TOTALS	—	—	3	2	6	8	19	48	333	419

POLICE CADETS

Three induction courses were held during the year. In January 38 cadets of an older age group were enrolled. In March a further 10 cadets of a similar age group were also enrolled. In August 170 cadets joined the corps and due to the large number involved facilities at the University of Birmingham were used.

During the year a total of 2 104 applications were received from young persons wishing to join the cadet corps.

A total of 28 cadets (10 boys and 18 girls) resigned during the year and at 31 December the strength of the cadet corps was 246 (113 boys and 133 girls).

CIVILIAN RECRUITING

The responsibility for the maintenance of school crossing patrol records was transferred to the Civilian Personnel Department from the Traffic Department during the year. The work of the Department has also increased as a result of legislation affecting various aspects of employee and employment protection.

During the year efforts were made to maintain the number of posts filled as near to the permitted manning levels of 930 non-manual staff, 675 manual staff and 255 traffic wardens as possible. As a result of the constant advertising of vacancies, 170 non-manual staff, 126 manual staff and 44 traffic wardens were recruited but due to resignations there was a net gain of only eight civilian staff at the end of the year.

PROMOTIONS

Mr J B Glynn was promoted Assistant Chief Constable, Staff Services, on 1 May 1978.

Mr G E Coles was appointed Assistant Chief Constable, Administrative Support Services and Supplies, on 19 May 1978.

Mr K J Evans was promoted Assistant Chief Constable, Operations, on 1 December 1978.

The following substantive promotions were made during the year

	Male	Female
To Chief Superintendent	3	1
To Superintendent	10	—
To Chief Inspector	29	1
To Inspector	57	—
To Sergeant	137	1
TOTALS	236	3

PROMOTION EXAMINATIONS

	Officers Examined	Qualified
Examination in April 1978 to Inspector	466	88
Examination in November 1978 to Sergeant	697	105

At 31 December 1978 the number of officers qualified by examination for promotion was:—

Sergeants qualified for promotion to Inspector

Male 244

Females 6

Constables qualified for promotion to Inspector

Male 32

Females 1

Constables qualified for promotion to Sergeant

Male 215

Females 8

STAFF APPRAISAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Selection for promotion is by way of promotion boards and selection interview panels. A total of 119 boards and panels was held during the year and 789 candidates interviewed.

The information obtained from staff appraisals has, over the past 15 months, been computerised; this has resulted in a more effective and accurate system.

HONOURS, COMMENDATIONS AND AWARDS

New Year's Honours List

W/Chief Superintendent E M Unett

Queen's Police Medal

Birthday Honours List

Deputy Chief Constable M Buck

Queen's Police Medal

Constable H Bennett

British Empire Medal

Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct

Woman Police Constable M Elcock

One officer received the Royal Humane Society Testimonial on Parchment; seven officers received the Royal Humane Society Resuscitation Certificate. Seven officers received the Society for the Protection of Life from Fire Framed Certificate.

One hundred and fourteen members of the Force were commended for exemplary police work as detailed below:

By the Courts	32 officers
By the Chief Constable	68 officers
By the Police Committee	14 officers

In addition, 878 officers received Chief Superintendent's commendations.

POLICE LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

During the year 132 officers became eligible for the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

DEGREE AWARDS

The following officer was awarded a degree during the year:—

Bachelor of Science
Inspector Harding

LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

During the year 997 letters were received from persons wishing to express their appreciation of service, advice or assistance given by members of the Force.

DISCIPLINE

Disciplinary proceedings were taken against 38 officers in respect of 49 charges during the year.

There were 15 charges for criminal conduct, 12 charges for neglect of duty, four for flasehood, one for abuse of authority, one for disobedience to orders, four for entering licensed premises, two for drunkenness, seven for discreditable conduct and three for misconduct towards another member of a police force. Six charges were denied and 43 admitted. Five officers were dismissed, one officer was required to resign and one reduced in rank. The remainder were dealt with by reduction in pay, fine or caution and four charges were dismissed.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS

Section 49, Police Act 1964

During the year 1 504 complaints were received from 887 members of the public and this resulted in 813 investigations. Following investigation, 25 complaints were found to be substantiated and 267 not substantiated; 1 212 were still under investigation at 31 December. One hundred and twenty complaints were withdrawn or not proceeded with by the complainant. Six police officers appeared on disciplinary charges as a result of complaints from members of the public.

Of the 25 substantiated complaints, one related to an assault, one to a minor traffic incident, four related to incivility, five to neglect of duty, two related to irregularity in police procedures and 12 related to other matters.

Following the investigation of their complaints, four complainants made formal representation expressing their dissatisfaction with the findings.

There were two investigations conducted by officers from other forces.

The 813 investigations into complaints made by members of the public represents a reduction of 1.1% compared with 1977. Recent years have hitherto shown a sharp increase in the numbers of such investigations and although the decrease is minimal, nevertheless it is encouraging.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

A total of 265 reports from Investigating officers was forwarded to the Director of Public Prosecutions. Of these, 262 related to alleged criminal matters and the remaining three to alleged traffic offences. The Director did not recommend prosecution in any of these cases.

There were a further 26 allegations of criminal offences by police officers which were not referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions. In each case the complaint was withdrawn without a full investigation being necessary.

POLICE COMPLAINTS BOARD

The Police Complaints Board is an independent body established by the Police Act 1976 whose responsibility it is to examine the papers which relate to complaints within the provisions of Section 49 Police Act 1964, and to decide whether to accept the decision of the Deputy Chief Constable.

Of the 813 investigations commenced during the year, 342 completed reports

had been forwarded to the Police Complaints Board by the end of 1978 and replies had been received in respect of 313 investigations. In every case the Board had seen no reason to disagree with the decision of the Deputy Chief Constable.

Other alleged offences by Police Officers

A total of 310 reports alleging the commission of offences by police officers was received from other sources (usually internal). Of these 40 related to criminal matters and 270 to traffic offences.

Of the reports which arose from sources other than complaints from members of the public, and which were referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions for advice, prosecution was recommended in five cases involving criminal matters and 61 involving traffic offences. Twenty four were still pending at the end of the year.

Forty nine officers were convicted by Courts, five for criminal matters and 44 for traffic offences.

COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE DEPARTMENT

There is a Chief Superintendent in overall command of the Department.

In the latter part of the year Home Office approval was given for the authorised establishment of the Investigation Section of the Department to be increased by four Inspectors. This Section of the Department now consists of four investigation teams, each comprising of one Superintendent and two Inspectors. It is anticipated that the increase in establishment will enable the Department to deal with a far higher percentage of investigations, thus providing some relief to Divisional operational Superintendents.

The Investigation Section of this Department dealt with 137 investigations of complaints recorded under Section 49 of the Police Act 1964 this being 16.85% of the total of 813 such investigations carried out during the year. The Investigation Section also conducted 17 disciplinary enquiries, and 230 investigations into miscellaneous matters.

MOUNTED BRANCH

The establishment of the Mounted Branch is one Chief Inspector, one Inspector, four Sergeants, 37 Constables and four civilian Stablemen, with 29 horses. Three horses became unfit for further service during the year. Four new horses were purchased to bring the number up to establishment.

Eleven divisional constables attended basic riding courses during the year although two did not complete the course due to sickness.

In addition to daily uniformed patrols, the services of the Mounted Branch were called upon for crowd control duties at political demonstrations and marches. The Branch also performed duty at Wolverhampton Race Course meetings.

With five major football grounds in the Force area, the Mounted Branch are heavily committed during the football season providing assistance in controlling crowds. Eye shields for the horses were taken into use just after the start of the season to prevent injury being caused by missiles that are thrown by some sections of the crowd. These have proved invaluable as the impact marks on them show that without the shields several horses might have sustained serious eye injuries.

Assistance was given to the Warwickshire Constabulary on the occasion of the Royal Show at Stoneleigh and a display of tent pegging and the musical ride was presented at the Warwickshire Constabulary's Open Day.

Mounted officers in ceremonial dress attended a passing out parade at the District Police Training Centre, Ryton-on-Dunsmore.

As in previous years a number of equitation and pegging displays were given throughout the Force area at local fetes and carnivals including the Spring Festival in Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, and the City of Birmingham Show. Parties of school children have attended the Riding School, Tally Ho, Birmingham, to watch horses and officers under training.

DOG BRANCH

The establishment of the Branch is one Chief Inspector, one Inspector, 14 Sergeants and 79 Constables with 93 dogs.

During the year two labrador dogs were trained in the specialised task of searching for the drug cannabis, and an alsation dog was trained to search for both concealed firearms and explosives.

During the year handlers attended 16,946 incidents and were involved in the arrest of 2 607 persons for various criminal offences.

Police dogs also recovered 49 items of property identified as being connected with various crimes varying from stolen property abandoned by the thief whilst escaping from the scene of the crime to tools and implements used in the commission of offences.

The handler of the year was Constable Evans ('J' Division) who during the year attended 355 incidents with his dog 'Mano' making 49 arrests and assisting with 30 others. He received the inscribed perpetual trophy presented by Handsworth Rugby Union Football Club.

During the year a display team was formed and attended 27 functions giving demonstrations of their skill. In addition, 214 talks were given to organisations.

Members of the Branch have been particularly successful in competitions, both police and civilian. Sergeant Scott with Police Dog 'Arno' came first in both the No. 3 Region Police Dog Trials and the National Police Dog Trials. Constable Bloomfield with Police Dog 'Loup' came first in the City of Birmingham and District Alsatian Championship Working Trial and at the City of Birmingham and District Alsatian Association Open Working Trial, Constable Kirby with Police Dog 'Sol' came first in the Utility Dog Stakes and Constable Bloomfield with Police Dog 'Loup' came first in the Working Dog Stakes.

MANAGEMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The staff of the Department completed 72 research projects during the year, most of which resulted in the introduction of more efficient organisation and operational procedures.

A study has been undertaken in conjunction with the Clerk to the Justices of the Walsall Petty Sessional Division, to develop a MULTIBUS 1 Court Computer System, designed to accept information from the Police Prosecutions Department and the Magistrates' Clerk's Department. It is intended that this system will produce summonses and associated papers, court results and court listings and provide a facility for computerising the financial accounting functions of the Magistrates' Clerk's Department. The Force will evaluate the benefits of the system from a one year trial commencing April 1979.

Organisation and Methods Officers have conducted a variety of studies which included a review of systems within the Central Stationery Stores, evaluation of computer on-line data entry of traffic accident statistics and, in conjunction with the Home Office, potential applications for word processing technology.

Police staff have carried out a number of studies relating to the traffic wardens service, central payments office, forfeiture of firearms, hiring helicopters, the security of police buildings, the development and supply of bullet proof clipboards to traffic and area cars, and a new system of operational briefing. Proposals have been made for a juvenile liaison scheme and for the reduction of court attendances by officers. A study undertaken in conjunction with the

Home Office has been concerned with examining our methods of working and internal communication and has involved both operational officers and Work Study personnel. This study, based on preliminary work undertaken in the London Metropolitan Police area, has attempted to identify problems in relation to specific areas, eg 'communications' and 'incident handling', and to look at a systematic approach to problem solving. It is hoped that a standard approach to the identification and solving of problems will be produced.

Future planning has been concerned with assessing the implications for the police of local authority structure plans. These affect our building requirements, organisation structure, and establishment needs. A 3-5 year development plan has been prepared dealing with manpower, vehicles, communications equipment, premises and other matters. A development strategy has been proposed based on an assessment of current policing standards as they relate to variable factors. Use of mathematical models is being examined to determine police establishment requirements.

A Force Suggestion Scheme is to be implemented, aimed at encouraging officers of all ranks to put forward ideas which might lead to greater efficiency within the Force.

The Establishment Review Team has been well received by staff and is proving of great value to management. Reviews have been completed into many Headquarters Departments.

Liaison has continued with Home Office PSDB and PRSU and with other forces through Regional Planning Officers' Conferences and in the mutual exchange of information.

STATISTICAL BRANCH

During 1978 the Branch has recorded approximately 155 000 crimes and associated amendments, and has satisfied an increasing number of enquiries from operational officers, other forces, and research organisations by use of the on-line computer search and count facility.

The processing of Magistrates' and Juvenile Courts' proceedings was transferred from punch cards to a computer system utilising the West Midlands County computer and during the year proceedings relating to 108 862 persons have been dealt with, the total offences numbering 176 447. Further development of the system has enabled statistics of Cautions and Written Warnings for Motoring Offences to be available on a divisional basis for any required period of months. Breath Test statistics have also been transferred to the computer and a monthly

print-out is produced. A new facility for the production of prosecution statistics on a divisional basis has been set up and tested and will operate in 1979.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Department is responsible for the preparation of payrolls for all employees and the receipt and payment of monies due to or from the Police Authority.

The annual budget for the Force has now risen to approximately £70 million reflecting the implementation of the Edmund Davies Report on pay, which has required a considerable input from this Department. Members of the Department also gave assistance in the preparation of the report on the future catering arrangements for the Force.

I am most grateful to Mr Harmer and his staff for their assistance during the year.

SPECIAL PATROL GROUP

The Special Patrol Group is a mobile reserve of officers and has an operational strength of one Chief Inspector, three Inspectors, eight uniformed Sergeants, one Detective Sergeant, eight Detective Constables and 64 uniformed Constables.

The Special Patrol Group has a responsibility to assist divisional Chief Superintendents with problems occurring at short notice on their divisions, and to provide experienced manpower to deal with these situations. It has a secondary, but equally important role, of supplementing divisional strengths to prevent and detect crime and assist in the maintenance of order.

At present there are five first division football grounds in the West Midlands Police area and during the year the Special Patrol Group has assisted the divisions responsible for policing these grounds. A total of 338 arrests was made for public order offences at, or in the vicinity of, these football grounds.

Officers from the Special Patrol Group carried out several raids at premises for offences varying from illegal gaming to licensing offences. The expertise of Special Patrol Group officers in these sensitive areas has enabled the raids to be conducted efficiently and with the minimum of trouble.

Instructions in various methods of crowd control have been given to divisional personnel, including training in the use of protective shields.

During the year 890 persons were arrested by officers from the Special Patrol Group for a variety of offences.

HOME DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

The Home Defence Department is under the control of a Superintendent who is also the Staff Officer to the Chief Constable in his capacity as the Regional Police Commander (Designate). The staff in the department comprises of one Inspector, one Sergeant and one civilian Typist. The Department has overall responsibility for the co-ordination of Regional War Duties Training, War Planning and Police War Instruction, the National Warning and Monitoring System and West Midlands County Major Emergency planning.

Training for Home Defence consisting of lectures and films, was given to Sergeants and Constables on a force basis. For officers of the rank of Chief Inspector and Inspector, one week courses were organised on a Regional level. Other courses were as follows:

Home Defence College -- Easingwold

Four Chief Superintendents, five Superintendents, and five Chief Inspectors, attended Seminars at the Home Office Home Defence College, Easingwold, Yorkshire.

Regional War Duties Courses

Two residential courses were held at the Training Centre, Tally Ho, each of one week duration, and were attended by four Chief Inspectors and 19 Inspectors.

Air Reconnaissance Training

Training was again given by members of the University of Birmingham Air Squadron. One Superintendent and one Constable each received two and half days tuition in air observer duties.

Warning and Monitoring

There are five Carrier Control points within the Force Area, located at Stourbridge, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Chelmsley Wood and Coventry Police Stations.

Tests on the Handel and air raid siren (WB600) equipment at all the Carrier Control Points were carried out quarterly.

In addition a National test was carried out twice during the year of the Carrier Control Point equipment. The carrier line broadcasting system (WB400) was also tested twice during the year.

Tests were also carried out on equipment (WB400 and WB600) situated in the West Midlands Police Area but controlled from Carrier Control Points outside the area.

Maintenance Policy

Work is still being carried out under the Home Office policy of replacing all Pre-1947 sirens. Eighty such sirens were replaced during the current year.

UNDERWATER SEARCH UNIT

During the year the Force Underwater Search Unit carried out a total of 98 searches, which is a record number since its formation. The Unit has Regional Police responsibility and carried out 17 searches for West Mercia Police and five searches for both the Warwickshire and Staffordshire Police. It is apparent that the success of the Unit is promoting requests for the expertise they can provide, especially as a thorough search by the Unit can often prevent days of vigilance awaiting the surfacing of a drowned person, or the quick production of property sometimes essential to the proving of a criminal offence.

Often the search for property does not result in a positive find, but even so elimination of a particular area of water does allow investigating officers to continue other lines of enquiry.

In all, a total of 23 searches of this nature were carried out. One example, which required 11 systematic searches, was an occasion when information had been received that a firearm used in a particularly serious wounding of a Security Officer had been thrown into a boating pool. This necessitated the pool being searched over its entirety. Once this had been done the Unit could more or less positively say that the gun sought was not in the pool. Similar searches were carried out in connection with the Carl Bridgewater murder, and these assisted in eliminating particular lines of enquiry.

Property recovered by the Unit during the year included a mechanical digger, valued at over £7 000, seven motor cars, two motor scooters, one motor cycle, a cash box containing jewellery valued at £2 000, three rifles (stolen from a proof house), two air weapons (used in a robbery), a balaclava helmet (used in a robbery), a Rolex Wrist Watch and a quantity of ammunition. The value of this property before depreciation through being immersed in water, totalled many thousands of pounds. Much of this property was recovered from water that was dirty and polluted.

Seven bodies were recovered from various waters throughout the region. The canals in the West Midlands area claimed as victims two 6-year old boys and

one 5-year old boy. The body of a 64 year old man was recovered from a quarry at Leamington, that of a 63 year old man from a pool at Halesowen, and the body of a woman aged 30 years was recovered from a pool at Tenbury Wells. the seventh body was that of a newly born child which was located in the canal at Tipton.

The policy of training members of the Unit at Police Diving Schools has continued, and two officers of the Unit qualified as Diver Leader/Supervisor after a four week course with the Northumbria Police.

A two-day Police Diving Symposium termed "Poldive '78" was held at Middlesbrough in April 1978 and was attended by the Police Consultant Surgeon, Mr V J Brookes, Mr W Donaldson former Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) and Chief Superintendent G K Cockayne the leader of the Unit. The instruction and discussion at this Symposium assisted both Police Surgeons and Chief Officers in understanding the intricate problems, both medical and otherwise, associated with underwater search.

In addition to search activities, members of the Unit gave static demonstrations at 13 Police Open Days, three Canal Rallies, and at one School Show and Fete. They also gave nine talks to various Clubs and assisted with lectures to Duke of Edinburgh Award candidates.

POLICE STORES

Clothing and equipment for both regular and civilian personnel were provided from the Central Clothing Stores, Bournville Lane, Birmingham. In addition, a mobile stores vehicle visited Divisions 'G' to 'M'.

The West Midlands County Council's O & M Staff have carried out a major review of the operation of the Central Clothing Stores. It is envisaged that the planned reorganisation will streamline the Stores procedures and provide a more efficient service.

SPECIAL CONSTABULARY

During 1978 a number of changes took place within the Special Constabulary following the implementation of the recommendations of the Police Advisory Board Working Party on the Special Constabulary.

On 1 April some 50 senior Special Constables were compulsorily retired and the new grade titles were introduced. During the year Special Constables adopted their new grade insignia together with shoulder flashes and diced cap bands.

This move has been welcomed by both members of the Special Constabulary and the Regular Police, as members of the public are no longer in doubt as to whether they are dealing with a Special Constable or a member of the Regular Force.

Following the reorganisation, it was necessary to promote 20 Special Constables to the grade of Section Officer, three Section Officers to the grade of Sub-divisional Officer and three Sub-divisional Officers to the grade of Divisional Commandant.

The Force Working Party on the Special Constabulary in 1977 recommended that promotion to all grades should be carried out on the basis of application, interview and selection. This recommendation was put into practice during 1978 and has proved acceptable to members of the Special Constabulary.

The new establishment of the Special Constabulary which was introduced on 1 April 1978 allows for one Chief Commandant, 11 Divisional Commandants, 31 Sub-divisional Officers, 124 Section Officers and 1 240 Special Constables. The Police Advisory Board Working Party on the Special Constabulary considered there was an excess number of supervisory grades within the Special Constabulary and recommended a reduction. The new establishment complied with this recommendation. As a result Divisional Commandants are up to strength, but there is an excess of 13 Sub-Divisional Officers and a deficiency of 17 Section Officers. The Sub-divisional Officers will be reduced by retirement over the next two years and there are sufficient Section Officers to cater for the actual strength of Special Constables.

The strength of the Special Constabulary on 31 December 1978 was 745 which included 100 women. This was a reduction of 148 men and 15 women on the strength at the end of 1977. During the year 105 Special Constables were appointed, including 25 women. Two hundred and sixty nine retired or resigned; this figure included 40 women.

Of the 269 resignations during the year, 50 were members who had been compulsorily retired on age limit. I would like to pay tribute to the valuable service which they have rendered, which in some cases goes back to the early 1930's. The majority saw service during the war and was a most valued asset at the time when the district was subjected to nightly attacks from the air. The community should be truly grateful for the service they have voluntarily rendered in the past.

On 31 December 1977 there were 34 outstanding recruiting enquiries, of these 24 subsequently resulted in acceptance. During the year a total of 213 applications were received, an increase of 52 applications compared with the previous

year. Eighty two applicants were accepted and 87 rejected. Forty four applications were outstanding at the end of the year.

During the year eight Special Constables became members of the Regular Force.

Throughout the year members of the Special Constabulary continued to render valuable assistance in supplementing the Regular Police at major sporting occasions and processions and in maintaining additional patrols throughout the area. The true value of a Special Constable on patrol can never be shown in terms of profit or loss but by supplementing the work of the Regular Police they certainly have an effect in reducing crime and vandalism.

The duties performed by members of the Special Constabulary are regarded as a continuation of their training to ensure that they are capable of supplementing the Regular Force should the need ever arise. But in addition to practical training there are three distinct phases of classroom training given to members:—

- (a) Recruit Training
- (b) Continuation Training
- (c) Weekend Training Exercises

All newly appointed Special Constables attend Training Lectures at either the Training Centre, Tally Ho, or Walsall Training Centre. Monthly continuation Training Lectures are given from September to May at divisional level.

Two weekend courses were held at the Royal Engineers' Vehicle Park, Long Marston, and a large number of Special Constables attended each course.

Long Service Awards

The annual presentation of Long Service Awards took place at the Police Training Centre, Tally Ho, on 14 March 1978 when the presentation was made by Councillor FTD Hall, the then Chairman of the West Midlands County Council. Twenty eight Long Service medals and 10 Bars were presented to members of the Special Constabulary and 15 Presentation Truncheons were awarded to Special Constables who had retired after more than 25 years service.

JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Joint Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Chief Constable, held monthly meetings which were attended by representatives of the Superintendents' Association and the Joint Branch Board of the Police Federation. The Committee has continued to consider matters relating to the

implementation of national and local agreements so far as they affect work, conditions, welfare and training.

Three Sub-Committees monitor standards of uniform and equipment, catering and the publication of books and forms.

ANNUAL INSPECTION

The Annual Inspection of the Force was carried out during the period 7 July to 25 July 1978 by Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary R N Buxton Esq. OBE, BEM, QPM.

Chapter III

Training

TRAINING

Force Training takes place at Tally Ho, Walsall Training School and 'B' Division Headquarters, Bournville Lane, Birmingham. The latter venue is devoted to the training of Probationary Constables and Communications Training.

The activities of the Training Department have continued to expand although there has been no increase in training facilities.

In the Detective Training Department additional classes have been run to clear the back-log of detectives in the West Midlands Police who had not had the benefit of a detective training course. Indications are that double courses will have to continue in the foreseeable future due to a country-wide demand for places at detective training schools. This will, of course, necessitate a re-appraisal of requirements for staff and accommodation, both classroom and residential. However I am sure that the problems will be satisfactorily resolved.

On the uniform training side the normal range of courses has continued during the year. A new course for Inspectors recently promoted to the rank was instituted during 1978. This course will be replaced during the coming year with a national Inspectors' course of the same duration, i.e. four weeks. In addition to this course for Inspectors, the residential courses for Inspectors about to commence a course at the Police College at Bramshill were also held at Tally Ho. However, these will now cease due to the introduction of the new Junior Command course at the College which does not have a regional introductory element.

The Driving School was under particular pressure during 1978 to cope with the unprecedented demand for advanced grade drivers who were required for the newly introduced area cars on divisions. With limited facilities this, of course, necessitated a shift in emphasis away from other driving courses.

STAFF

The Authorised establishment of the Training Department is as follows:-

Chief Superintendent	1
Superintendents	2
Chief Inspectors	6
Inspectors	17
Sergeants	44
Constables	15
Total	<u>85</u>

Two Detective Sergeants above the authorised establishment continue to be employed in the Detective Training School as instructors whilst the Junior Courses are of sufficient numbers to justify two classes.

INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

Twenty seven places on Student Instructors Courses were allocated to the West Midlands Police and all the places were taken by Sergeants, all but two of whom successfully qualified.

LAW RESEARCH

The Law Research Unit continues to assist both Training Department and operational police officers. It also gives assistance to students attending courses, particularly those engaged upon projects. Officers are becoming more aware of the services offered by the Unit and over 1,000 telephone enquiries were dealt with during the year. The library has continued to expand with the result that it now contains a comprehensive collection of law and management books as well as a number of general interest publications.

The 'Law Conspectus', published monthly, has continued to keep the Force informed on current law. During 1978 a considerable amount of new legislation was included as well as articles on established law.

PROBATIONER TRAINING

Probationary Constables are trained at Walsall Training School and at Bournville.

Induction Course

This course is conducted only at Bournville and its purpose is to issue uniform, books and equipment to new recruits. It takes place in the first week of service immediately before the Initial Course at a District Training Centre. At this time a recruit is advised as to the dates of all future training commitments.

During the year ten courses were held, attended by 553 officers.

Local Procedure Course

This course takes place immediately after the Initial Course at a District Training Centre and is designed to acquaint probationers with matters unique to this Force and to instruct them in procedures appertaining to operational police work.

Twenty Courses took place and were attended by 493 students.

Junior Training Course

A one week course in the ninth month of service is designed to consolidate instruction given on the Initial Course.

Twenty courses were held and 391 officers attended.

Intermediate Training Course

This course takes place in the fourteenth month of service and is mainly concerned with Road Traffic Law.

Nineteen courses were held and 393 officers attended.

Senior Training Course

This is the last law course before the final continuation course at a District Training Centre.

Twenty six courses were attended by 568 officers.

Basic Crime Course

Towards the end of an officer's probation he attends this course designed to instruct him in the procedures and practice of crime detection.

Twenty one such courses were attended by 484 constables.

Specialist Training of Women Police Officers

A one day course is held at Bournville to assist policewomen in improving their ability to deal with indecency cases and women prisoners.

Ten courses were held and 114 policewomen attended.

REFRESHER COURSES

Constables

These courses, of two weeks' duration, are designed to up-date an officer's knowledge of law and procedures.

Twenty courses were attended by 435 Constables.

Sergeants

This course is designed to bring Sergeants up-to-date in law, procedure and management. It is of three week's duration and is attended by Sergeants at four yearly intervals.

Seven courses were held, attended by 129 Sergeants.

POST PROMOTION COURSES

Inspector's Course

This course, designed to assist newly promoted Inspectors in their duties, is of a managerial nature. It is of four weeks' duration and is residential and based on a nationally approved syllabus introduced during 1978.

Four courses were conducted attended by 49 Inspectors.

Sergeants' Course

Based upon the course prepared by the Central Planning Unit, it is designed to assist newly promoted Sergeants in their duties with particular emphasis on supervision.

Ten courses were held and 152 Sergeants attended.

SPECIALISED COURSES

Traffic Management Course

This is a regional course of two weeks' duration for Chief Inspectors and above. Two courses were conducted at Tally Ho and twelve West Midlands officers attended together with ten officers from other forces.

Aston University Course

Two courses were held at Aston University for a part diploma in Industrial Administration. Twenty-four officers attended the courses. All students were successful and reached a high standard.

National Education Board Supervisory Studies Course

In July, 11 students completed a course at Hall Green Technical College,

Birmingham. This course, which commenced in September 1977, was designed to assist officers in obtaining supervisory skills. All of the students gained an N.E.B. Certificate. A similar course commenced in September 1978.

Pre-College Course

Four residential courses were held for Inspectors prior to their attending the Inspectors' Course at Bramshill.

The courses, each of five weeks duration, were attended by officers from Midlands Forces, including 34 from this Force.

Promotion Examination Classes

During the year the system of evening classes was changed and attendance was no longer one of the criteria for places on the Special Study Courses conducted immediately prior to the examination dates.

In order to select personnel for Special Study Courses an examination was held and successful candidates were invited to attend one of the courses.

Classes are continuing for officers taking the Inspectors' Examination in April 1979.

Special Study Courses

Four classes attended by 89 officers were held in March for officers taking the Inspectors' Examination in April.

Three classes attended by 61 officers were held in October for Constables taking the Sergeants' Examination in November.

Promotion Examination

The Training Department continued to be responsible for the administration of promotion examinations on behalf of the Local Government Training Board. Two examinations were held during the year—Inspectors in April and Sergeants in November.

Home Defence

Two residential courses were held at Tally Ho and 36 West Midlands officers attended. The courses, of one week duration, were attended by officers from No 3 Region.

Public Order Training

The Training Department continued to be responsible for the administration of half day exercises conducted Divisionally.

Tutor Constable Course

Sixteen two day courses were held at Tally Ho and Walsall. A total of 217 Constables were instructed in this aspect of their duties. These officers will supervise Probationary Constables during the early part of their training programme.

Resident Beat Officers' Course

Eight one week courses designed to assist Resident Beat Officers in their duties (with special emphasis on public speaking) were held, attended by 123 Constables.

Station Officers' Course

This is a one week course designed to acquaint Sergeants and Constables with Standing Orders and recognised procedures in relation to the duties of a Station Officer.

Eight courses were held during the year attended by 127 officers.

Public Speaking Course

Two courses were held attended by 32 officers, designed to assist those whose duties regularly include addressing meetings.

Firearm Training

A total of 2,028 man days were spent in training officers in the use of firearms, including refresher training.

Television Interview Techniques

Twenty one Senior Officers attended one of seven half day courses conducted by Mr David Seymour of the BBC during which they received advice designed to improve their expertise in television interview situations.

Operational Use of CCTV

Two courses were held at Tally Ho and 32 officers were instructed in the use of closed circuit TV camera equipment to enable them to use this facility in operational situations. Twenty one other officers attended two courses on the use of CCTV at football matches.

Pre-retirement Course

These courses are designed to give information on a variety of subjects to police officers nearing retirement. A number of speakers from outside organisations gave talks on 'Income Tax', 'Social Security', 'Health in Middle Age' and other relevant topics.

The courses were attended by 120 officers of all ranks.

Joint Seminars

The department continued to arrange joint seminars involving the Police, Social Services and Probation Service to discuss common problems.

Seven such exercises were conducted, each on a different division and over seventy police officers were involved.

Divisions are continuing to co-operate with the other services by holding local meetings.

Undergraduate Course

Eighteen undergraduates in their last year at University attended the Training Department for four days and were shown a number of aspects of police duty.

Special Constables

One hundred and ten Special Constables received initial training either at Walsall or Tally Ho.

Each Constable attended six evening classes on basic law and procedure.

Communications Training

In preparation for the introduction of the Command and Control System,

a number of courses were held to train officers in the use of the equipment.

A comprehensive manual is in course of preparation covering all aspects of the West Midlands Police Computer System.

Message Switching System

Courses, of five days duration, have continued throughout the year, and a total of 414 police officers and 15 civilian staff have received training.

COMMAND AND CONTROL COURSES

Sub-Divisional Controllers

Courses, of five days duration, for Sergeants, commenced in June.

A total of 270 Controllers have been trained, which will provide an adequate reserve for each Sub-division.

A one day refresher Course for Sergeants who attended earlier courses commenced in December.

Force Control Room Staff

Courses of five days duration, these commenced in October.

Traffic/Motorway Control Room Staff

These courses, of five days duration, also commenced in October.

Police National Computer

The training of designated Controllers and Control Room staff has continued throughout the year. A total of 265 Controllers and Control Room staff attended courses of four days duration, whilst 24 Control Room staff attended a one day Refresher Course.

Force Appraisal Talks — Command and Control System

Talks introducing the proposed new system to all ranks from Constable to Inspector commenced in December 1977 and were completed in March. Over 4,000 personnel attended 71 half day sessions.

CID TRAINING

During the year the following courses were held at the Detective Training School, Tally Ho.

Four Junior
Four Advanced
Two Refresher
One Fraud Investigation

They were open to officers from all forces in England, Wales, the R.U.C., British Transport Police and Ministry of Defence Police.

A total of 307 officers attended the courses, 213 of whom were police officers from other forces.

The number of West Midlands officers trained on each course is as follows:—

Junior	71
Advanced	17
Refresher	4
Fraud Investigation	2

There is still a back-log of West Midlands officers who have not attended a CID Course, and this is reflected in the high proportion of West Midlands officers attending courses.

DRIVING SCHOOL

The Headquarters is located at Halesowen Police Station where all types of car training and Traffic Patrol Officers' courses are carried out. Car training is also carried out at Wings based at Bournville Lane Police Station, Birmingham, and Chelmsley Wood Police Station. All motor cycle training is now carried out at at Wing based at Stourbridge Police Station. During the year there was a large increase in the number of officers trained to Advanced Level — this was to cater for the manning of the Area Cars introduced on 1 April 1978.

Type of Course	No of Courses	Students	Number Qualified	
Standard 'A' car (5 week for learner drivers)	6	54	Grade 4 19	D of E 22
Standard 'B' car (5 week for experienced driver)	18	150	Grade 4 76	Grade 3 50
Standard 'A' Refresher (2 week)	16	101	77	
Standard 'B' Refresher (2 week)	42	350	167	171
Advanced car (4 week)	15	249	Grade 1 95	Grade 2 107
Advanced car Refresher (2 week)	9	52	27	22
Standard motor cycle (3 week)	16	75	Grade 4 65	D of E 2
Conversion motor cycle (3 week)	14	41	Grade 3 34	Grade 4 7
Advanced motor cycle (3 week)	8	27	Grade 1 11	Grade 2 8
Advanced motor cycle Refresher (2 week)	1	2	2	—
Heavy goods vehicle (3 week)	9	16	Class 1 10	Class 3 3
Traffic Patrol Officers (5 week)	4	43	41	—
Motor car instructor (6 week)	2	16	Passed 15	

Qualifying tests to drive specialised vehicles continued throughout the year—a total of 499 Police officers and civilian employees were tested.

POLICE COLLEGE COURSES

Inspectors' Course

Bramshill

34 Inspectors

Inspectors' Course

Hutton Hall

6 Inspectors

Command Course Part I

10 Superintendents

Command Course Part II

1 Chief Superintendent

CID COURSES

Detective Training Course — Hendon

Initial Course

4 Detective Constables

Advanced Course

2 Detective Sergeants

Detective Training Course — Liverpool

Initial Course

3 Detective Constables

Detective Training Course — Wakefield

Initial Course

9 Detective Constables

Advanced Course

3 Detective Sergeants

1 Detective Inspector

Detective Training Course — Preston

Initial Course

4 Detective Constables

Advanced Course

1 Detective Sergeant

Detective Training Course — Bristol

Initial Course

4 Detective Constables

Advanced Course

3 Detective Sergeants

Scenes of Crime Courses — Durham

Photographic Course

1 Detective Sergeant

Forensic Course

1 Detective Constable

5 Detective Constables

Fraud Course

Hendon

1 Detective Inspector

Manchester

1 Detective Constable

Special Branch Course

Initial

1 Detective Sergeant

Advanced

4 Detective Constable

1 Detective Inspector

1 Detective Sergeant

Drugs Courses

Bristol	2 Detective Sergeants
	1 Detective Constable
Liverpool	1 Detective Sergeant

MANAGEMENT COURSES

Honiley Hall	4 Inspectors
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COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Himley Hall Wolverhampton (Police in the Community)	8 Inspectors 10 Sergeants 11 Constables
--	---

Wakefield (Police/Public Relations)	1 Inspector
--	-------------

Derby (Newly Appointed Community Relations Officers)	1 Inspector
--	-------------

COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING

Communications Officers' Course

Durham	1 Chief Inspector
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AIRCRAFT CRASH DRILL

Stanstead	2 Chief Inspectors 6 Inspectors
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BRAKES COURSE

Banbury	24 Constables
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ACCIDENT PREVENTION COURSE

Brighton (ROSPA)	1 Inspector
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TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY COURSE

Crowthorne, Berks	1 Inspector
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TV PRODUCTION COURSE

Plymouth Polytechnic	2 Sergeants
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AIR OBSERVER COURSE — HELICOPTERS

Freemans Limited, Bewdley	10 Inspectors
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SENIOR OFFICERS COURSE

Lincoln

2 Superintendents

CRIMINOLOGY COURSE

Cambridge

1 Chief Inspector

HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE COURSE

Cardington, Beds.

1 Inspector

DOGS COURSES – STAFFORD

Initial

10 Constables

Refresher

4 Constables

CIVIL SERVICE STAFF INSPECTORS COURSE

1 Inspector

FIRST AID

All recruits joining the Force continue to take an Initial Course in First Aid at the Training Centre with the exception of Ex-Cadets who, in the main, are qualified prior to attending the Centres having taken a course as a Police Cadet.

During the year 1,160 members attended courses of instruction in First Aid and of those 1,044 requalified with 116 failures. Of the failures, 59 have since requalified and arrangements have been made for the remainder to attend further examinations.

Two types of courses are run, Initial and Revision. The Revision Course consists of one days training and the Initial Course is of two days duration, both with an examination.

FIRST AID COMPETITIONS

The eliminating contest for the Police National First Aid Competition 'Pim Trophy' was held at the Police Training Centre, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, in January. One team was entered and was placed second. Only the winning team goes forward to the final.

The Policewomens National First Aid Competition was also held at Ryton-on-Dunsmore in January. One team was entered and was placed fourth. One team was entered in the Blue Bird Confectionery Competition and was placed fourth.

Royal Life Saving Awards

The following awards were gained by members of the Force:

Elementary Awards	241
Intermediate Awards	197
Bronze Medallions	184
1st Bar to Bronze Medallion	34
Bronze Cross	1
Grand Total	657

POLICE CADETS

Establishment

Authorised establishment 280

Strength	Boys	Girls	Total
Strength at 31.12.78	113	133	246
Enrolled during year	86	132	218
Dismissals	0	0	0
Resignations	10	18	28
Enrolment to Regulars	62	46	108

Induction Courses

Induction courses are designed to train young people enrolled into the Cadet Corps to a high standard of smartness and self discipline, to make them aware of their role as Police Cadets and bring them to a level of physical fitness comparable with cadets already in the Corps.

In 1978 three induction courses were held.

In January 38 Cadets of an older age group were enrolled and they underwent a two week initial training period at Tally Ho. On completion all the cadets dispersed to Senior Staff Departmental Training.

In March another intake for a similar age group was held and 10 cadets were enrolled.

In August 170 cadets were enrolled. Due to the large number, facilities at the University of Birmingham were used. Three girls and one boy resigned during the course.

At the completion of the course, the cadets dispersed as follows:—

122 to College to continue their education
44 to Senior Staff Departmental Training

CADET TRAINING

On enrolment cadets must be at least 16 years of age and if their progress is satisfactory they join the Regular Force at 18½ years. Their training programme is dependent on age of entry into the Corps.

Academic Training

Facilities are available at Matthew Boulton Technical College for Cadets to continue their education. Because of the comprehensive training programme designed for cadets, and the limited time they serve in the Corps, it is not possible for them to study subjects requiring involvement for more than one academic year.

During the college year 1977/78 the academic programme remained unchanged and cadets attempted one of two possible courses:—

a 6 month Police Certificate
a 10 month Police Certificate and Certificate
in Office Studies Combined

Some cadets did attempt GCE 'O' levels and 'A' levels but there were insufficient suitably qualified cadets to form and ONC class. The following qualifications were obtained in 1978:—

Police Certificate	61
Certificate in Office Studies	37
GCE 'O' level	24
GCE 'A' level	1

At the commencement of the academic year in September 1978 further education courses were affected by the policy of the Business Education Council.

The Certificate in Office Studies ceased to have recognition at national level

and a working group, consisting of representatives from the college and senior police officers, met to consider changes necessary in the educational training programme.

The group recommended a course, subsequently approved by BEC, with the aim of giving successful cadets a nationally recognised qualification at General Award Level. The Course is designed specifically for police cadets and consists of eight modules, People and Communications, Business Calculations, Policemen in the Community, Law and the Individual, Government, Data Processing, Community Studies and Work Experience.

General Training

During the senior stage of training, cadets depending on their age, complete a number of attachments.

Following the introduction of area cars on divisions, cadets no longer complete an attachment to Traffic Patrols. The Beat Patrol attachment has been increased to three months, a part of which has been allocated to an area car attachment.

Senior stage training now comprises of the following:

- three month attachment to a division
- two month attachment to Community Service
- one month to a Control Room
- one month Adventure Training (see later)
- three months Beat Patrol and any remaining time to Headquarters Departments

All cadets attending educational establishments take normal school vacations. During the vacations all cadets undertake community work of one sort or another.

In 1978 assistance was given to 40 organisations which were running summer camps for physically and mentally handicapped children and also children with deprived backgrounds. This involved 339 cadets. In addition, assistance was given to 31 play schools within the Force area. These schemes were run for children similar to those who attended the summer camps. Forty nine cadets participated for periods ranging from one to six weeks.

Physical Training

Physical training for cadets is carried out at Tally Ho and all cadets attend

weekly training days throughout their cadetship.

The activities covered include physical training, sport, swimming, life saving, drill and an introduction to outdoor pursuits, when the cadets are taken to the Elan Valley camp or to some suitable rock outcrop for rock climbing or waterway for canoeing. Emphasis on a training day is placed upon discipline, physical fitness and deportment.

Adventure Training

All cadets attend the Police Cadet Camp situated in the Elan Valley. The programme covers all sections of adventure training such as climbing, canoeing and mountaineering.

Account was taken of the physical capabilities of the girl cadets and the rigorous training programme was modified slightly.

In May, a team of six girls and two teams of six boys were part of more than five hundred teams from various organisations who took part in a walk on Dartmoor known as the Ten Tors Expedition. The girls walked 35 miles, the junior boys team 45 miles and the senior boys team 55 miles. The girls and the senior boys team successfully completed the course and were presented with medals and certificates.

First Aid

Instruction classes were held at Tally Ho during the year and 88 cadets qualified for awards.

In January the National Competition for the Peter Guthrie Trophy was held at Ryton-on-Dunsmore with nine teams competing. One cadet team from this force entered and was placed third.

Voluntary Activities

Throughout the year cadets assisted with flag days, the Lord Mayor's Procession, garden fetes, Scout Rally, Carnival Processions, the Remembrance Day Parade etc. In total there were 28 such events.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

This scheme is entirely voluntary and, whilst no awards were gained in 1978, 30 cadets were engaged in the Gold Award training.

Sport

The Cadet Corps has continued to maintain an interest in a variety of sporting activities. Cadets have participated in the following:

Association Football

During the 1977/78 season the Corps continued to enter two teams in the Birmingham Works Intermediate League.

The 'A' team were successful in two knock-out cup competitions winning the Wade Victory Cup and the Black Cat Cup.

Unfortunately the division catering for this age group was discontinued in May and at the beginning of the 1978/79 season one team was entered in the Walsall Minor League.

In the Police National Football Competition, the West Midlands Cadet Team competed, losing in the second round to the Metropolitan Police.

Rugby Football

The cadet team played six games, winning four of them. Several new players have emerged in the side and show promise for the future. Twelve cadets took part in the North Midland County Trials and Cadets Williams, A Flannagan, M Flannagan and Bowring were selected for the squad.

Cadets Pearson and Williams were selected for the British Police Cadet XV.

Athletics

During the season the cadets continued to gain valuable experience by competing in the Midland Police Track and Field League.

The Regional Championships were held at Warley, and the West Midlands Cadets were first in the overall placings. Cadets Guest and Meechan finished in first place in the 100 metres and 1500 metres respectively. Girl Cadet Carroll finished in first place in the 800 metres and all the first three places in the 100 metres for girl cadets went to West Midlands representatives.

Cross Country

In March a girls and boys team competed in the Regional Cross Country Championships at Stoke on Trent. The girls team won the event convincingly with Cadet White finishing in first place. Cadet Martin won the boys event and overall the

team finished in second place. In the National Cross Country Championships hosted by Leicestershire Police in March, the girl team again won the event. A boys team was also entered and they were placed fifth.

Swimming and Life Saving

Swimming instruction is given to all cadets as part of their training programme and, once they reach a standard of proficiency, they progress to life saving training.

During 1978, 63 cadets were successful in gaining Royal Life Saving Society Awards, 55 at Bronze Medallion level and eight at the level of Award of Merit.

A boys and a girls team were entered in the Life Saving Championships. Both teams qualified at a regional level for the final. In the National Finals held at Exeter, the girls team was placed third in the Alington Cup and the boys finished in fifth place in the West Riding Cup.

A girls relay team entered the National Swimming Championships held at Hendon, London and finished in second place.

Other Sports

Interest has also been shown in several other sports including hockey, netball, basketball and badminton.

Facilities and instruction have been given to cadets and in addition to the enjoyment and benefit gained, there has been a limited degree of success in all of them.

Chapter IV

Crime

Actual strength and disposition on 31 December 1978

Headquarters Staff — Specialist Departments etc.

	Chief Superintendent	Superintendent	Chief Inspector	Inspector	Sergeant	Constable	Aides to CID	Civilians	TOTAL
Operations	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Support Services	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Antecedents	—	—	—	3	5	11	—	7	26
C.I.U.	—	—	1	1	6	11	—	30	49
Coroners Department	—	—	1	1	3	6	—	5	16
Commercial Branch	—	—	3	2	6	8	—	2	21
Criminal Intelligence	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	1	5
T.S.U.	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	3
Crime Prevention	—	—	1	2	—	2	—	1	6
Drugs Squad	—	—	1	3	12	20	—	2	38
Explosives and Firearms	—	—	1	1	5	15	—	4	26
Photographic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	10
Scenes of Crime	—	—	1	1	11	27	—	7	47
Serious Crime Squad	—	1	1	1	8	16	—	3	30
Special Branch	—	1	3	5	16	40	—	15	80
Stolen Car Squad	—	—	1	3	3	9	—	1	17
No 4 Regional Crime Squad	—	1	2	2	23	25	—	16	69
Regional Criminal Records Office	—	1	—	1	5	10	—	22	39
Fingerprints	—	—	1	1	2	8	—	28	40
Social Liaison Department	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTAL	2	6	17	30	108	210	—	154	527

RECORDED CRIME

During the year 151 838 crimes were recorded, an overall decrease of 1.49% over 1977. This was a welcome change from the pattern of constant increase since 1974 when the Force was formed, but it remains 26 690 higher than the 1976 total so there is no mood of complacency within the police. A total of 52 039 crimes was detected, giving a detection rate of 34.3%. This is an increase of 1.1%, which, when set against the reduction in crime overall, was very encouraging. This increase in detection was particularly pleasing as it occurred at a time when the demands made upon the police in areas not directly connected with crime continued to increase. Of the detected crimes 15 927 were committed by juveniles, which represents 30.6% of the crimes detected.

Table A outlines crime statistics for each territorial division. (As a result of the territorial changes in April, it is not possible to compare the B to F Divisions individually with 1977 and an overall total for these divisions has been shown).

Table B records the incidents of particular crimes, detections and numbers of persons prosecuted for the Force area.

The variation in the main classifications of crime in 1978 compared with 1977 is as follows:-

Increases

Murder	14	56%
Wounding Section 18 (Serious).....	115	22%
Wounding Section 20/47 (Less Serious)	200	4%
Rape	21	29%
Burglary Dwelling	94	1%
Theft from the Person	49	3%
Other Frauds	485	13%
Handling Stolen Goods	122	7%
Arson	179	39%
Criminal Damage	1341	19%
Forgery	67	19%

Decreases

Burglary other buildings	1030	4%
Theft in a Dwelling	372	19%
Shoplifting	841	7%
Theft and Taking Motor Vehicles	742	3%
Other Thefts	1880	9%
Theft Pedal Cycles	273	5%

CRIMINAL STATISTICS -- 1978

TABLE 'A'

NATURE OF CRIME	'B' Division		'C' Division		'D' Division	
	Com.	Det.	Com.	Det.	Com.	Det.
Offences against the Person						
Murder	7	7	3	3	4	3
Threats to Murder	—	—	1	1	—	—
Manslaughter	1	1	1	1	1	1
Death by Dangerous Driving	—	—	—	—	1	1
Wounding Section 18	57	43	68	52	31	24
Endanger Railway Passengers	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wounding Section 20/47	340	203	364	223	406	223
Child Stealing	1	1	—	—	—	—
Buggery	1	—	2	2	1	1
Indecent Assault Male	11	8	12	10	7	5
Indecency with Males	1	1	—	—	6	6
Rape	8	3	23	12	3	5
Indecent Assault Female	62	37	50	20	59	28
U S I — Girl 13 — 16 years	17	12	18	13	10	5
Incest	4	4	—	—	2	2
Abduction	—	—	1	1	—	—
Bigamy	1	1	—	—	—	—
Offences against Property — Burglaries etc.						
Burglary Dwelling	2366	470	2091	491	1575	424
Aggravated Burglary Dwelling	6	2	8	—	7	2
Burglary other Buildings	2490	609	2307	582	2305	563
Aggravated Burglary other Buildings	2	1	1	1	2	1
Going equipped for Stealing	31	31	26	25	24	24
Robbery	106	27	167	43	87	22
Assault with intent to Rob	4	2	16	4	16	3
Blackmail	—	—	2	1	—	—
Offences against Property — Thefts etc.						
Theft from the Person	106	20	160	30	119	17
Theft in a Dwelling	301	90	171	33	208	58
Theft by Employee	106	99	136	123	105	98
Theft of Mailbags	10	5	2	1	2	1
Abstracting Electricity	33	29	20	17	13	10
Theft of Pedal Cycle	631	60	319	27	548	55
Theft from Vehicles	1686	306	1338	183	1457	261
Theft Shops and Stalls	583	465	367	257	768	629
Theft Automatic Machines and Meters	171	41	94	22	155	21
Theft and Unauthorised Taking of Motor Vehicle	3725	680	2808	546	2828	594
Other Thefts	1660	293	1447	310	1457	244
False Accounting	—	—	6	6	1	1
Obtaining by Deception and Other Frauds	394	336	340	302	200	157
Handling Stolen Property	150	146	224	218	97	97
Criminal Damage						
Arson	33	9	49	11	45	13
Criminal Damage	754	147	862	181	728	126
Forgery and Offences against the Currency	32	28	34	30	11	10
Other Offences						
Affray	3	3	5	5	1	1
Perjury and False Statements	3	3	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	1	1	—	—	—	1
GRAND TOTALS	15898	4224	13543	3787	13289	3737
DETECTION RATE	26.6%		28.0%		28.1%	
Totals — 1977	A — F Divisions		75379		22790	
Detection Rate — 1977	A — F Divisions		30.2%			
Totals — 1978	B — F Divisions		74253		22290	
Detection Rate — 1978	B — F Divisions		30.0%			

CRIMINAL STATISTICS

TABLE 'A'

NATURE OF CRIME	'E' Division		'F' Division		'G' Division		'H' Division	
	Com.	Det.	Com.	Det.	Com.	Det.	Com.	Det.
Offences against the Person								
Murder	4	3	2	2	6	5	2	2
Attempt Murder	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	—
Threats to Murder	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Death by Dangerous Driving	—	—	2	1	1	1	1	1
Wounding Section 18	64	45	124	82	78	49	28	19
Endanger Railway Passengers	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Wounding Section 20/47	456	273	502	282	581	357	435	282
Child Stealing	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buggery	7	7	—	—	1	1	6	8
Indecent Assault Male	20	16	9	6	14	10	8	8
Indecency with Males	5	4	6	6	1	1	7	3
Rape	11	4	4	4	9	3	6	2
Indecent Assault Female	79	30	49	16	65	28	41	23
U S I — Girl under 13 years	2	2	—	—	1	—	2	2
U S I — Girl 13 — 16 years	20	13	5	3	29	19	23	14
Incest	—	—	—	—	3	1	2	2
Procuration	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Bigamy	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
Offences against Property — Burglaries etc.								
Burglary Dwelling	2290	547	433	60	1759	302	1214	278
Aggravated Burglary Dwelling	6	6	2	1	5	2	—	—
Burglary Other Buildings	2346	684	1307	300	2728	773	2204	558
Aggravated Burglary Other Buildings	3	1	—	—	3	3	2	1
Going Equipped for Stealing	68	68	74	71	12	11	16	16
Robbery	113	34	170	34	117	34	48	21
Assault with intent to Rob	4	1	7	3	8	2	6	3
Blackmail	5	4	1	—	3	3	3	—
Offences against Property — Thefts etc.								
Theft from Person	113	18	452	31	229	54	45	5
Theft in a Dwelling	272	74	80	17	262	91	163	58
Theft by Employee	118	111	208	183	98	90	71	61
Theft of Mailbags	2	—	5	1	16	3	40	5
Abstracting Electricity	13	12	14	11	30	21	7	6
Theft of Pedal Cycle	596	72	175	9	676	101	457	50
Theft from Vehicles	1367	222	1676	203	1609	321	1353	292
Theft Shops and Stalls	465	313	2706	2379	1323	1105	936	815
Theft Automatic Machines and Meters	180	43	103	22	158	66	87	28
Theft and Unauthorised Taking of Motor Vehicles	4166	1215	3438	518	2059	496	1705	445
Other Thefts	1626	295	2117	293	1984	514	1696	339
False Accounting	3	3	4	4	12	12	11	11
Obtaining by Deception and Other Frauds	317	256	971	840	383	293	245	187
Handling Stolen Property	154	158	103	101	150	146	152	154
Criminal Damage								
Arson	53	12	40	4	66	15	56	6
Criminal Damage	819	201	861	212	796	159	672	175
Forgery and Offences against the Currency	25	21	60	56	53	54	40	35
Other offences								
Affray	2	2	5	5	6	6	3	3
Perjury and False Statements	1	—	1	1	2	2	—	—
Miscellaneous	3	3	1	1	1	6	—	—
GRAND TOTAL	15802	4777	15721	5765	15330	5171	11795	3974
DETECTION RATE	30.2%		36.7%		33.7%		33.7%	
Totals — 1977					15332	5453	12587	4147
Detection Rate — 1977					35.6%		32.9%	

CRIMINAL STATISTICS

TABLE 'A'

NATURE OF CRIME	'J' Division		'K' Division		'L' Division		'M' Division	
	Com.	Det.	Com.	Det.	Com.	Det.	Com.	Det.
Offences against the Person								
Murder	—	—	4	4	—	—	7	7
Attempt Murder	1	—	3	2	—	—	2	2
Threats to Murder	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	—
Manslaughter	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—
Death by Dangerous Driving	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—
Wounding Section 18	31	18	36	23	15	13	99	68
Wounding Section 20/47	449	315	560	371	146	100	584	420
Abandoning Child	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Child Stealing	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Buggery	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	2
Indecent Assault Male	3	5	14	11	6	5	21	15
Indecency with Males	1	1	8	8	2	2	19	17
Rape	4	3	7	3	9	4	9	5
Indecent Assault Female	64	40	89	57	40	19	103	66
U S I — Girl under 13 years	2	2	1	1	1	1	5	4
U S I — Girl 13 — 16 years	18	18	46	38	10	8	25	23
Incest	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Procuration	3	3	1	1	—	—	5	5
Abduction	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bigamy	1	1	1	1	—	—	2	3
Concealment of Birth	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
Offences against Property — Burglaries etc.								
Burglary Dwelling	1002	265	1347	405	529	174	2430	992
Aggravated Burglary Dwelling	2	—	—	1	2	—	7	3
Burglary Other Buildings	1485	539	2902	906	729	234	2779	981
Aggravated Burglary Other Buildings	1	—	4	3	—	—	1	1
Going equipped for stealing	20	17	16	16	17	15	59	60
Robbery	31	15	66	23	13	5	97	26
Assault with intent to Rob	4	1	10	3	1	—	7	2
Blackmail	1	—	4	4	1	—	1	1
Offences against Property—Thefts etc.								
Theft from Person	49	10	180	18	24	6	155	27
Theft in a Dwelling	160	65	199	83	83	29	249	107
Theft by Employee	94	91	146	134	101	99	101	90
Theft of Mailbags	15	8	3	—	4	2	13	4
Abstracting Electricity	21	15	30	25	5	5	54	46
Theft of Pedal Cycle	255	30	305	55	415	87	980	112
Theft from Vehicles	1192	404	1456	302	943	364	2344	961
Theft Shops and Stalls	855	754	831	688	569	496	1946	1742
Theft Automatic Machines and Meters	66	31	86	24	37	12	146	71
Theft and Unauthorised Taking of Motor Vehicles	1121	356	2551	638	973	396	2780	952
Other Thefts	1358	331	1756	426	1086	261	2939	656
False Accounting	9	9	10	10	3	3	12	12
Obtaining by Deception and Other Frauds	273	241	332	270	183	159	694	595
Handling Stolen Property	177	176	204	206	115	114	409	406
Criminal Damage								
Arson	35	14	56	27	28	13	175	41
Criminal Damage	591	158	751	155	375	93	1113	281
Forgery and Offences against the Currency	62	63	45	40	9	9	58	60
Other offences								
Affray	3	3	2	2	3	3	7	6
Perjury and False Statements	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	2
Miscellaneous	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	3
GRAND TOTALS	9463	4005	14070	4993	6484	2738	20443	8868
DETECTION RATE	42.3%		35.5%		42.2%		43.4%	
Totals — 1977	9928	4007	13789	4985	6692	2248	20434	7601
Detection Rate — 1977	40.4%		36.2%		33.6%		37.2%	

CRIME — ALL DIVISIONS

TABLE 'B'

NATURE OF CRIME	Crimes Committed	Crimes Detected	Persons Prosecuted
Offences against the person			
Murder	39	36	38
Attempt Murder	8	6	12
Threats to Murder	5	6	3
Manslaughter	6	6	12
Infanticide	—	—	1
Death by Dangerous Driving	9	8	7
Wounding Section 18	631	436	310
Endanger Railway Passengers	2	1	2
Wounding Section 20/47	4822	3059	2478
Abandoning Child	1	1	—
Child Stealing	3	3	3
Buggery	22	22	12
Indecent Assault Male	125	99	47
Indecency with Males	56	55	77
Rape	93	48	31
Indecent Assault Female	701	364	187
U S 1 — Girl under 13 years	14	12	9
U S 1 — Girl 13 — 16 years	212	166	33
Incest	13	9	7
Procuration	11	10	3
Abduction	3	2	5
Bigamy	7	7	—
Concealment of Birth	2	1	—
Offences against Property — Burglaries etc.			
Burglary Dwelling	17036	4408	1439
Aggravated Burglary Dwelling	45	17	24
Burglary other Buildings	23582	6729	3323
Aggravated Burglary other Buildings	19	12	8
Going Equipped for Stealing	363	354	183
Robbery	1015	284	344
Assault with intent to Rob	83	24	30
Blackmail	21	13	10
Offences against Property — Thefts etc.			
Theft from the Person	1632	236	43
Theft in a Dwelling	2148	705	56
Theft by Employee	1285	1179	815
Theft of Mailbags	112	30	18
Abstracting Electricity	240	197	193
Theft of Pedal Cycle	5357	658	166
Theft from Vehicles	16421	3819	510
Theft Shops and Stalls	11349	9643	4725
Theft Automatic Machines and Meters	1283	381	127
Theft and Unauthorised Taking of Motor Vehicles	28154	6836	3105
Other Thefts	19126	4012	2984
False Accounting	71	71	30
Obtaining by Deception and Other Frauds	4332	3626	863
Handling Stolen Property	1935	1922	1346
Criminal Damage			
Arson	636	165	124
Criminal Damage	8322	1888	2534
Forgery and Offences against the Currency	429	406	194
Other offences			
Affray	40	39	145
Perjury and False Statements	10	9	4
Miscellaneous	7	19	9
GRAND TOTALS	151838	52039	
DETECTION RATE		34.3%	26629
Totals — 1977	154141	51231	
Detection Rate — 1977		33.2%	27102

CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENCES COMMITTED

Offences against the Person

Homicide

During the year there were 45 cases of homicide reported, 39 of which were classified as murder. This is an increase of 14 on 1977. The remaining six offences were recorded as manslaughter, an increase of three. At the end of the year three cases remained unsolved. The case remaining undetected at the end of 1977 is still unsolved.

Woundings

Unhappily, there was again an increase in this type of offence during the year from 5 138 to 5 453 an increase of 6.1%. Of these 3 495 were detected, which was a reduction of almost 7% in the detection rate of 71% for 1977.

Indecency Offences

The number of offences in this category, which includes indecent assault, rape and unlawful sexual intercourse, was 1 257, a decrease of 14 on 1977. However, the incidents of rape rose by 21, an increase of 29% which gives cause for concern. The detection rate for all offences in this category remains high at 63.2%.

Robbery

It is encouraging to record that offences of robbery and assault with intent to rob increased by only three to 1 098. There is little doubt that the formation of the Robbery Squad in 1977, working in close liaison with the Serious Crime Squad, achieved some degree of success in this area. The rate of detection for these offences increased to 28.1% from 26% in 1977.

Offences against Property

The number of attacks on dwelling houses rose by 0.1% to 17 081 of which 4 425 were detected. The effect of this type of offence on the victim can be traumatic. A number of Victims' Associations have been established and through liaison with these organisations and other public agencies, assistance is given where required. A 4% reduction in the number of burglaries committed in other buildings, such as shops, is welcomed.

Thefts of and from Motor Vehicles

It is pleasing to note a reduction of 2.5% in the number of thefts of motor vehicles, whilst the number of thefts from motor vehicles rose by only 124 (0.7%). Again, however, offences in this category accounted for nearly 30% of the crime recorded during the year.

Criminal Damage

Offences of criminal damage rose by 19% during the year, but it is disturbing to note that the offences of arson increased by 179 (39%). Whenever a sudden or disproportionate increase occurs in any particular area, action is taken to supplement the normal patrols in an effort to prevent this type of offence.

VALUE OF PROPERTY STOLEN AND RECOVERED DURING THE YEAR

CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER OF OFFENCES IN EACH VALUE GROUP								TOTAL VALUE ALL OFFENCES	
	Nil	Under £5	£5 and under £25	£25 and under £100	£100 and under £500	£500 and under £1,000	£1,000 and over	Number of offences	STOLEN	RECOVERED
									£	£
Burglary (Dwelling)	4328	932	2939	4010	3679	681	407	17036	2457393	109181
Aggravated Burglary (Dwelling)	22	2	4	5	9	1	2	45	9568	420
Burglary (Other Buildings)	7718	1642	4035	4953	3905	699	630	23582	3003332	376550
Aggravated Burglary (Other Buildings)	6	—	4	5	4	—	—	19	938	271
TOTAL	12074	2626	6992	8973	7597	1391	1039	40682	5471231	485422
Robbery and Attempts	194	205	274	242	100	40	43	1098	215974	17311
Theft and Unlawful Taking Vehicles	625	6	105	1189	18902	4659	2668	28154	13448468	10447009
								£5 AND OVER		
Theft from Person	88	288	740	338	95	11	12	1256	7089	2375
Theft in Dwelling	39	392	688	655	335	23	16	1717	156906	9934
Theft by Employee	35	176	327	329	262	68	88	1074	1146055	262714
Theft of/From Mailbags	25	68	14	1	4	—	—	19	1159	548
Abstracting Electricity	69	28	62	58	22	1	—	143	8696	1
Theft of Pedal Cycle	45	23	1620	3504	162	3	—	5289	220277	14660
Theft from Vehicles	665	3173	4386	5712	2235	166	84	12583	1233179	90436
Theft from Shops and Stalls	374	6105	3440	1012	361	40	17	4870	225541	76195
Theft from Auto Machines and Meters	194	276	486	272	51	2	2	813	30628	1761
Other Thefts	639	3081	6872	5524	2488	317	205	15406	1595058	134199
TOTAL	2173	13610	18635	17465	6015	631	424	43170	4688187	592823
								TOTALS	23823860	11542565

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT

The Criminal Investigation Department is directed by an Assistant Chief Constable.

CID Operations

The operational aspect of criminal investigation is under the control of a Detective Chief Superintendent who is assisted by a Detective Superintendent as Deputy. The area of responsibility extends to detective officers on the 11 territorial divisions and to the following specialist departments:-

Serious Crime Squad	Drugs Squad
Stolen Vehicle Squad	Social Liaison Department
Commercial Branch	Robbery Squad

The senior detective officer on each territorial division is a Superintendent and, through the divisional Chief Superintendent, is responsible for the day to day investigation of crime within his division.

CID Support Services

The Support Service of the Criminal Investigation Department is commanded by a Chief Superintendent assisted by a Superintendent as Deputy. It provides support services for the efficient management of the Criminal Investigation Department and, additionally, gives specialised assistance from a central source. It includes the following Departments:-

Central Information Unit	Explosives & Firearms
Antecedents Departments	Department
Scenes of Crime Department	Crime Intelligence Department
HM Coroner's Department	Crime Prevention Department
Technical Support Unit	Photographic Department

Antecedent History Department

This Department is divided into three sections, at Force Headquarters, Coventry and Brierley Hill, and is responsible for the preparation of antecedent histories of defendants appearing before the Crown Court.

Members also give lectures to police officers on the preparation of antecedent history for Court purposes.

During the year there was an increase of 463 in the number of persons dealt with at Crown Courts over the preceeding year. Material was prepared for 4 421 trials, 963 commitals to higher court for sentence, and 975 appeals, making a total of 6 359 case papers, an increase of 7.85% over 1977. The greatest change occurred in cases in the appeals section with an increase of 41.3%.

Central Information Unit

The Unit was formed in April 1978 by amalgamating the Headquarters Administration and Central Convictions Department and by the inclusion of a Police National Computer Bureau. The Unit operates on a 24 hours basis and is headed by a Chief Inspector. Records are maintained of all persons living in the Force area arrested, reported and convicted of crime and other serious offences. In December a microfilm unit was commissioned and during 1979 records will be transferred onto microfilm, thus reducing the number of files retained in the crime library.

There is a direct link with the Police National Computer and verification or updating of information can be made concerning motor vehicles, missing and wanted persons, from a central point. The Unit also has the responsibility for disseminating information to the Force relating to criminal procedures and has administrative responsibilities to both Operational and Support Services Departments.

Lectures are given by members of the staff to the Force on the various systems used.

Commercial Branch

This Branch conducts enquiries into various types of fraud committed by persons connected with business and public bodies, in particular where the enquiries are protracted and complex. It operates from three offices, at Force Headquarters, Brierley Hill and Coventry, with a Chief Inspector in charge of each Branch. Assistance is given by members to the Force Training Department in organising and lecturing to Fraud Investigation Courses. In January a Fraud Investigation Course was organised by the branch at the Force Training School Tally Ho, Birmingham, when 19 officers from various forces in the country attended.

At the beginning of 1978, 39 cases were under investigation and further 117 new complaints were received during the year which included allegations of bribery, conspiracy, long firm frauds, forgery, fraudulent trading, theft and obtaining money by deception. The value of property subject of enquiries was approximately £1 942 450 of which property value £166 200 was recovered. Fifty-nine

cases were still under investigation at the end of the year. Following the report of the Royal Commission on the Standards of Conduct in Public Life, a register of complaints made to the police about such persons is maintained by this Department.

A number of talks was given by senior officers of the Commercial Branch to business institutions and associations, including Chambers of Commerce and the Institute of Bankers.

A feasibility study was commenced during the year with a view to restructuring the Commercial Branch and centralising the operations at Force Headquarters, under the control of a Superintendent.

Crime Prevention Department

The Department is located at Police Headquarters, headed by a Chief Inspector, and is responsible for co-ordinating aspects of crime prevention in the whole of the Force, advising on Force policy and promoting liaison between all outside bodies including Crime Prevention Panels in each of the seven District Council areas.

Throughout the year every opportunity has been taken to increase public awareness of the importance of crime prevention. The Department has increased its involvement with the media. Weekly broadcasts have been made on BBC Radio Birmingham and a series of daily talks has been given on BRMB Commercial Radio. Members of the Department have also participated in a 'phone-in' programme on radio and have made several television appearances.

The Crime Prevention Display Caravan purchased in 1977 was taken into use at the beginning of the year and has been used at all major exhibitions at the National Exhibition Centre. The caravan has also been used at police open days and various fetes and the response from members of the public has been most encouraging.

A total of 2 867 surveys was carried out at premises ranging from private houses to large industrial complexes, with advice being given on the physical protection of premises, safety of cash in transit, installation of intruder alarms and other aspects of crime prevention.

An additional 1 135 new burglar alarms were installed during the year bringing the total installations in the Force area to 16 393. I am pleased to record that the Force policy of constructive investigation of false alarm calls with the penalty of withdrawal of police response in cases of non conformity has reduced the incidence by 18%. The number of occasions when police response was temporarily withdrawn was 88.

The Crime Prevention Panels have again shown great enthusiasm, and undertook projects on vandalism, car security, car key security, cheque and credit card frauds, drama competitions, schools liaison schemes, problems arising from football matches, and also produced a Commercial Security Booklet. I am grateful to members of the public for their willing support, time and energy directed through the Panels in the cause of Crime Prevention.

Crime Intelligence Department

This department, headed by an Inspector, is responsible for the collation, evaluation and dissemination of information relating to crime and criminals not only from within the Force area but also from other parts of the country, who may frequent the West Midlands.

Talks on collation and use of intelligence were given to officers attending courses at the Force Training Schools so that its value can be appreciated from the outset and developed as officers progress in service.

Close liaison is maintained with Unit Beat Scheme collators located at each of the 31 sub-divisions of the Force, and regular meetings are arranged with them to stimulate the flow of information. Members of the Department attend various conferences of detective officers and discuss local and nationwide criminal activities.

Consideration is being given to re-locating this Department within the Central Information Unit and also to extending its role by having a Field Intelligence Officer on each division for closer liaison with all police officers.

Drugs Squad

The Drugs Squad operates from three branch offices within the Force area and is under the control of a Chief Inspector. The officers of the Department maintain a close liaison with the Central Drugs and Illegal Immigration Intelligence Unit at New Scotland Yard, the Customs and Excise Drugs Investigation Branch, the Home Office Drugs Branch, the RAF Drugs Investigation Branch and the Drug Addiction Unit at All Saints Hospital and the success of their work depends heavily on the extent of this co-operation. During the year 418 persons were dealt with by the Department for drug offences.

Although there has been a reduction in the use of heroin during the year, this appears to have been due to the general decline in the use of this drug by addicts who have turned to Diconal. However, it is not possible at this stage to calculate the extent of this change.

I regret to report that there has been an increase during the year in the number of offences relating to opium, from 1 in 1977 to 12. I am, however, encouraged by the considerable reduction in the number of persons coming to notice for abusing amphetamines.

During the year 277 persons were prosecuted for various offences connected with cannabis. The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs has recommended lessening the penalties for merely possessing this drug, but is still of the opinion that it should not be legalised.

The considerable reduction in the availability of LSD, due largely to the nation-wide co-operation between police forces during the preceeding year to trace the manufacturing plants for this drug and prosecute offenders, has resulted in a decrease in its use. Whether this trend will continue is a matter for conjecture but the position will be closely monitored.

During the year, there were 107 attacks on premises where drugs are either manufactured or sold, this was a reduction of 1 on the previous year. There were also 27 attacks on doctors and dentists' surgeries.

The examination of Chemists' registers has continued, 448 visits being made. Close liaison is maintained between officers of the Drugs Squad and chemists.

In June, two Labrador dogs trained in the detection of cannabis became operational. They have been used on 33 occasions to search 45 premises and, on one occasion whilst no drugs had been found by officers who had searched the premises, the dogs persisted by indicating a piece of furniture which on closer examination revealed a concealed drawer containing cannabis to the value of £1 000 and items of stolen jewellery.

Members of the Drugs Squad gave a number of talks on drugs and drugs abuse during the year. This demand for such talks reflects the concern expressed by various sections of the community over the problem of drug abuse.

Photographic Department

The Department is staffed entirely by civilians who are on call day and night to respond to requests for assistance from police officers. Early in the year a colour photography service was introduced. This has proved very successful and is in use for all types of incidents.

Throughout the Force prisoners are photographed on Sub-Divisions and during the year 24 669 photographs were received from this source for processing. This resulted in 49 338 copy prints being supplied in addition to 6 397 reprints.

A total of 35 891 colour prints and 86 190 ordinary prints was produced during the year for use in Court and 4 469 documents were copies.

A feasibility study is being conducted with a view to re-organising the work of the Department where overlapping occurs with the work of the Scenes of Crime Department.

Scenes of Crime Department

The Department staff comprises police officers and civilians trained in specialist techniques in searching for and lifting fingerprints at scenes of crime, photography, and searching for and preserving forensic evidence for evaluation by scientists at the Forensic Science Laboratory.

The Department is under the control of a Chief Inspector. Officers located at Headquarters are responsible for the work in the five Birmingham Divisions. The work in the remaining six Divisions is undertaken by locally-based personnel.

The work of the Departments fluctuates with the incidents of crime and during the year there was a slight reduction in the overall workload. A total of 33 028 scenes of crime and motor vehicles was examined for fingerprints and other forensic evidence, a reduction of 1.8%. Finger impressions were found in 6 363 cases. Some 1 077 exhibits were sent to the West Midlands Forensic Science Laboratory for examination and 4 761 cases sent to the Fingerprint Department for searching and comparison with 1 308 identifications being made. A further seven articles were sent to other Laboratories and Departments for specialist tests not available locally and in two cases identifiable finger impressions were found.

In February 1978 the Department undertook the responsibility for compiling 'photofit' composites of persons who had committed crime. In the period of 11 months 140 photofit composites were made.

Scientific Aid

Exhibits were submitted to the Home Office Forensic Science Laboratory in Birmingham as follows:-

Criminal matters	2304
Drugs etc	476
Other Analyses	208
Traffic Offences	3366
	<u>6354</u>

The Director of the West Midlands Forensic Science Laboratory and his staff have given invaluable assistance and I am grateful for all their help throughout the year.

Serious Crime Squad

The Serious Crime Squad is under the control of a Superintendent. Its functions and aims are:-

- (a) to concentrate on the detection and apprehension of persons involved in the commission of very serious crimes in the Force area;
- (b) to provide immediately on request a pool of experienced detective officers to support divisional detectives in major enquiries;
- (c) to undertake enquiries within the Force area about very serious crime committed elsewhere.

The Squad continues to be concerned with anti-terrorist activities and was involved in the incidents in Coventry on 17/18 December.

The work of the Squad again increased during the year with 292 persons being arrested and assistance given in the investigation of 707 serious crimes. The Squad was also responsible for detecting 621 crimes in this Force area and 86 for other police forces and recovered property valued at £206 961.

Stolen Vehicle Squad

The Squad is based at Headquarters with branch offices at Coventry and Wolverhampton. Its functions are:-

- (a) to assist Divisional officers with major enquiries involving motor vehicles;
- (b) to enquire into thefts and complicated frauds relating to motor vehicles and documents;
- (c) to examine motor vehicles on behalf of the police, Taxation Department and Department of the Environment and Local Authorities.

The work of the Department requires that the staff should have developed their skills as detectives, and have sound motor engineering ability.

Intelligence concerning the theft and rebuilding of stolen vehicles is collated by the Squad and disseminated to the Force. Enquiries are also made on behalf of other police forces.

During the year, the work of the Department increased with the arrest of 161 persons which resulted in 128 stolen vehicles and other property value £382 521 being recovered. A total of 698 vehicles was examined at the request of police officers and this resulted in the identification and recovery of a further 172 vehicles valued at £197 908. A further 92 vehicles were examined for the Local Authority. Some 2 550 vehicles were examined for the Department of the Environment and local Motor Taxation Departments.

The systematic examination of vehicles classed as 'write-off' resulting from road accidents which are subsequently re-licensed has reduced considerably the number of stolen vehicles 'ringed' with the details of 'write-off' vehicles.

There has been a marked increase in the theft of vehicles obtained on hire from self-drive hire firms some of which, together with other stolen vehicles, are taken out of the country for disposal. This is not a local phenomenon, but follows the national trend.

Regional Crime Squad

The Regional Crime Squad has offices situated within the Force area at Birmingham, Bilston and Coventry. Its main task is the investigation and curtailment of organised crime and it is linked to other such squads throughout the country. At the end of the year, 53 officers were seconded from the Force for duty with the Squad, their disposition by rank being:-

- 1 Superintendent
- 2 Chief Inspectors
- 2 Inspectors
- 23 Sergeants
- 25 Constables

Technical Support Unit

The Technical Support Unit was formed with Home Office approval in April to provide expertise and equipment of a technical nature to police forces in No 3 Region. It is based at West Midlands Police Headquarters and the following personnel provide the service:-

- 1 Professional Technical Officer seconded from the Home Office
- 1 Police Inspector - Liaison Officer
- 2 Police Constables
- 1 Clerk

The equipment has been used in all types of enquiries and operations from theft to murder and during the nine months up to 31 December 474 requests were received for assistance, 1 122 items of equipment were issued, contributing to 360 arrests. Of these, the West Midlands Police made 352 requests and were issued with 781 items of equipment and used them in the arrest of 329 persons.

Close contact and co-operation is maintained with other Technical Support Units and the Police Scientific Development Branch.

Midlands Criminal Records Office

The offices of the Midlands Criminal Records Office are situated at Force Headquarters and consist of a Records and Fingerprint Section. Twenty-nine officers are attached for duty with the Department; their disposition by rank is as follows:-

- 1 Superintendent
- 1 Chief Inspector
- 2 Inspectors
- 7 Sergeants
- 18 Constables

Chapter V

Proceedings

PROCEEDINGS AND RELATED MATTERS

During the year proceedings were initiated against 108,862 persons in respect of offences committed.

Analysis of offences

Persons prosecuted for:-

INDICTABLE OFFENCES	26 629
MOTORING OFFENCES	61 514
DRUNKENNESS OFFENCES	7 073
OTHER NON-INDICTABLE OFFENCES	<u>13 646</u>
TOTAL	<u>108 862</u>

INDICTABLE OFFENCES

Details of persons prosecuted are set out in Table 'B' in Chapter IV.

In addition to those prosecuted, 6692 persons, including 5574 juveniles were cautioned for indictable offences during the year.

NON-INDICTABLE OFFENCES

In addition to those prosecuted, 1242 persons, including 496 juveniles were cautioned for non-indictable offences during the year.

**PERSONS PROSECUTED AND CAUTIONED FOR
NON-INDICTABLE OFFENCES**

TABLE 'A'

OFFENCE	Persons Prosecuted	Total Offences	Persons Cautioned
Adulteration of Food and Drink	64	73	—
Assault Police Officer	464	646	—
Obstruct Police Officer	151	181	3
Other Assaults	208	232	—
Betting and Gaming	54	66	6
Brothel Keeping	16	20	—
Cruelty to Animals	37	56	—
Cruelty to or Neglect of Children	5	5	—
Offences in Relation to Dogs	67	99	205
Education Acts	221	284	2
Firearms Acts	257	346	96
Highways Acts	193	264	154
Pedal Cycle Offences	132	198	211
Indecent Exposure	124	171	8
Simple Drunkenness	2631	2799	14
Drunk and Disorderly	4442	4704	—
Offences by Licensed Persons	58	189	4
Other Offences relating to Licensing Laws	134	269	46
Labour Laws	127	233	—
Social Security Offences	881	1856	—
Naval, Military, and Air Force Laws	22	23	—
Disorderly Behaviour	740	807	27
Possessing Offensive Weapon	545	630	15
Prostitution	391	611	229
Public Health Acts	391	1151	6
Railway Offences	573	710	2
Revenue Laws	2346	3584	60
Stage Carriage and Public Service Vehicles	101	125	3
Offences in relation to Shops	22	36	1
Vagrancy Acts	354	400	25
Weights and Measures Act	46	165	—
Indecency with Children	22	40	5
Misuse of Drugs	284	473	9
Immigration Act	47	47	—
Other Offences not shown separately	4569	5948	111
TOTALS	20719	27441	1242

MOTORING OFFENCES

In addition to those prosecuted, 9147 persons, including 506 juveniles, were cautioned for motoring offences during the year. The reduction in the number of persons cautioned for 'Obstruction, Waiting and Parking Place' offences and 'Regulation and Licensing' offences compared with 1977 is due to the fact that, on Home Office advice, cautions resulting from the issue of Fixed Penalty Notices in respect of these offences have been excluded.

As a result of the transfer of data input relating to Court Proceedings and Cautions to the West Midlands County Computer on 1 January 1978 it is now possible to show separate details of persons and offences in table 'B' below.

PERSONS DEALT WITH FOR MOTORING OFFENCES

TABLE 'B'

OFFENCE	Persons Prosecuted	Total Offences	Persons Cautioned
Unfit to Drive through Drink or Drugs	2439	3058	1
Dangerous Driving	169	259	2
Speeding	17088	17624	235
Motorway Offences	326	412	72
Careless Driving	6442	7689	424
Prohibited Driving	246	372	376
Neglect of Traffic Directions	3698	5282	1013
Obstruction, Waiting, and Parking Place Offences	3979	4397	697
Lighting Offences	1440	6291	1538
Dangerous Condition	4869	8786	557
Defective Condition	423	2723	225
Trailer Offences	4	16	13
Motor Cycle Offences	171	610	90
Load Offences	1720	2681	346
Noise Offences	155	469	56
Driving Licence Offences	4515	14384	1327
Operators' Licence Offences	116	231	31
Insurance Offences	5961	10532	244
Registration and Licensing Offences	4145	7783	723
Work Record and Employment Offences	787	1856	316
Accident Offences	424	2511	99
Vehicle Testing Offences	1212	7027	685
Miscellaneous Offences	1185	1844	77
TOTALS	61514	106837	9147

Offences in connection with Drink/Driving —Road Traffic Act 1972

A total of 2 439 persons committed 3 058 offences in connection with drink and driving in 1978 as follows:-

	Persons	Offences
Driving a motor vehicle with excess alcohol in the body	2 095	2 174
Failing or refusing to provide a specimen	307	845
In charge of a motor vehicle whilst having excess alcohol in the body	37	39

DRUNKENNESS AND KINDRED OFFENCES

A total of 7 073 persons committed 7 503 offences of drunkenness during the year, and in 368 of those cases the offenders were under the age of 18 years. In the same period 68 persons under the age of 18 were proceeded against for consuming or purchasing intoxicating liquor. This was a decrease of 15% on 1977.

Conduct of Licensed Premises

A total of 58 Licensees or their servants was prosecuted for 189 offences for breaches of the licensing laws during the year.

ASSAULTS ON POLICE OFFICERS

During the year 1 120 members of the Force were assaulted whilst on duty. Of these assaults 474 were of a serious nature and are detailed below, and show an increase of 107 on 1977.

Attempted Murder	1
Section 18 Offences Against the Person Act 1861 (Grievous Bodily Harm)	57
Section 20 Offences Against the Person Act 1861 (Unlawful wounding)	69
Section 47 Offences Against the Person Act 1861 (Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm)	327
Assault with intent to prevent arrest	10
Possess Firearm with Intent to prevent Arrest	1
Possess Firearm with Intent to Endanger Life	1
Others	8

Included in the above figures are 34 assaults on women police officers.

A further 646 officers were less seriously assaulted and the offenders dealt with under the provisions of Section 51 of the Police Act 1964; this was an increase of 25 on 1977. The offenders were dealt with as follows:-

<u>Persons</u>	<u>Court Disposal</u>
224	Fined
56	Committed to Prison
139	Withdrawn or Dismissed
14	Probation Order
21	Conditional Discharge
8	Short Training
51	Suspended Sentence
95	Otherwise dealt with
38	Pending

JUVENILE OFFENDERS

Juveniles were responsible for committing 10 926 indictable, 1 311 non-indictable and 2 967 motoring offences during the year. A total of 5 574 juveniles was cautioned for indictable offences, 496 for non-indictable and 506 for motoring offences.

Tables C, D and E give details of the offences committed.

The following tables give a comparison of Indictable and Non-indictable, and Motoring Offences known to have been committed by juveniles during 1978 and the previous year.

Indictable Offences

	1977	1978	Increase/Decrease	
Offences	9974	10926	+ 952	(9.5%)
Juveniles Prosecuted	6041	6282	+ 241	(4.0%)
Juveniles Cautioned	5138	5574	+ 436	(8.5%)

Non-Indictable Offences

	1977	1978	Increase/Decrease	
Offences	1413	1311	- 102	(7.2%)
Juveniles Prosecuted	1099	1029	- 70	(6.4%)
Juveniles Cautioned	420	496	+ 76	(18.1%)

Motoring Offences

	1977	1978	Increase/Decrease	
Offences	2232	2967	+ 735	(32.9%)
Juveniles Prosecuted	999	1256	+ 257	(25.7%)
Juveniles Cautioned	371	506	+ 135	(36.4%)

**JUVENILES PROSECUTED AND CAUTIONED FOR
INDICTABLE OFFENCES**

TABLE 'C'

OFFENCE	Persons Prosecuted	Total Offences	Persons Cautioned
Offences Against the Person			
Murder	1	1	--
Manslaughter	2	2	--
Wounding Section 18	21	33	3
Wounding Section 20/47	317	426	106
Buggery	2	4	--
Indecent Assault Male	3	6	1
Indecency with Males	--	--	4
Rape	--	5	2
Indecent Assault Female	48	67	43
U.S.I. - Girl under 13 years	3	5	1
U.S.I. - Girl 13 - 16 years	3	4	38
Incest	--	--	1
Abduction	2	2	--
Endangering Railway Passengers	2	2	--
Offences Against Property--Burglaries etc.			
Burglary Dwelling	715	1263	154
Aggravated Burglary Dwelling	1	3	--
Burglary Other Buildings	1424	2375	725
Aggravated Burglary Other Buildings	--	1	1
Going Equipped for Stealing	42	166	25
Robbery	84	134	5
Assault with intent to Rob	12	14	--
Blackmail	6	8	1
Offences Against Property--Thefts etc.			
Theft from the Person	14	34	22
Theft in a Dwelling	19	30	67
Theft by Employee	20	36	35
Theft of Mailbags	2	2	1
Theft of Pedal Cycle	119	209	176
Theft from Vehicles	99	239	242
Theft Shops and Stalls	823	1405	2449
Theft Automatic Machines and Meters	30	42	25
Theft of Motor Vehicles	60	132	24
Unauthorised Taking of Motor Vehicles	859	1673	171
Other Thefts	725	1268	788
False Accounting	1	5	--
Obtaining by Deception and Other Frauds	29	70	30
Handling Stolen Property	271	402	126
Criminal Damage			
Arson	49	60	23
Criminal Damage	457	763	283
Forgery and Offences against the Currency	10	26	1
Other Offences			
Affray	4	5	--
Perjury and False Statements	1	1	--
Miscellaneous	2	3	1
TOTALS	6282	10926	5574

**JUVENILES PROSECUTED AND CAUTIONED FOR
NON-INDICTABLE OFFENCES**

TABLE 'D'

OFFENCE	Persons Prosecuted	Total Offences	Persons Cautioned
Assault Police Officer	45	57	—
Obstruct Police Officer	14	16	1
Other Assaults	7	7	—
Offences in Relation to Dogs	1	1	3
Firearms Acts	94	146	76
Highways Acts	30	38	74
Pedal Cycle Offences	61	85	168
Indecent Exposure	8	8	3
Simple Drunkenness	23	24	9
Drunk and Disorderly	100	108	—
Other Offences relating to Licensing Laws	27	37	24
Social Security Offences	2	3	—
Disorderly Behaviour	75	83	12
Possessing Offensive Weapon	69	81	14
Prostitution	10	25	23
Public Health Acts	2	2	—
Railway Offences	139	189	2
Revenue Laws	5	33	2
Stage Carriage and Public Service Vehicles	9	12	1
Vagrancy Acts	41	45	19
Indecency with Children	5	10	4
Misuse of Drugs	—	1	2
Other Offences not shown separately	262	300	59
TOTAL	1029	1311	496

**JUVENILES PROSECUTED AND CAUTIONED FOR
MOTORING OFFENCES**

TABLE 'E'

OFFENCE	Persons Prosecuted	Total Offences	Persons Cautioned
Unfit to Drive through Drink or Drugs	8	9	—
Dangerous Driving	16	25	—
Speeding	21	30	5
Motorway Offences	2	3	4
Careless Driving	34	72	5
Prohibited Driving	24	37	72
Neglect of Traffic Directions	21	55	32
Obstructions, Waiting, and Parking Place Offences	3	3	—
Lighting Offences	6	78	31
Dangerous Condition	13	57	7
Defective Condition	1	30	7
Motor Cycle Offences	27	172	37
Load Offences	1	2	1
Noise Offences	—	6	2
Driving Licence Offences	450	1048	266
Insurance Offences	614	1095	24
Registration and Licensing Offences	10	97	6
Accident Offences	4	29	—
Vehicle Testing Offences	—	104	3
Miscellaneous	1	15	4
TOTAL	1256	2967	506

OFFICE TO THE CHIEF PROSECUTING SOLICITOR

Approval was given during the year for a major revision of the establishment of the Service. The maximum number of solicitors was increased from 34 to 56 together with a small increase in support staff. Manning provisions provide for approximately half the additional solicitor strength to be in post by 1 April 1979 and the remainder by 1 September 1979. This increase will enable a comprehensive legal service to be provided for the Force. Although there may be difficulties in achieving these manning levels by the dates indicated due to the difficulties in recruiting suitably qualified solicitors who meet the high standards required, five solicitors have been offered appointments for early 1979 and it is anticipated that the majority of solicitor posts will have been filled by the end of 1979.

This increase will release police officers who at present undertake advocate duties and will reduce the level of assistance provided by solicitors or barristers in private practice in the Magistrates' Court. It will also allow the concentration of prosecution legal resources in four main offices, which should be of benefit to all concerned in the administration of justice. The increased solicitor establishment, once manned, will provide other benefits to the Force, in particular, it will be possible to undertake part of the training of police officers in the preparation of files for court and aspects of the law of evidence.

It is anticipated that the Service, once fully manned, will be self-financing providing an adequate level of costs continue to be recovered from the Courts.

There was again an increase in the amount of work handled by the Service during the year despite the fact that on 31 December 1978 the number of solicitors in post, 28, was the same as at 31 December 1977. The year was one of considerable progress, not least in the continued development of sound working relationships between the Service and police officers of all ranks. This was undoubtedly due in part to the retention throughout the year, wherever possible, of the same solicitors in each area team, thus enabling increasing confidence to grow between the solicitors and those who instructed them.

I am grateful for the valuable assistance that has been rendered by Mr I S Manson, the Chief Prosecuting Solicitor, and his staff during the year.

PROSECUTIONS DEPARTMENTS

There are 12 Petty Sessional areas within the Force at Aldridge, Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Halesowen, Solihull, Stourbridge, Sutton Coldfield, Walsall, Warley, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton.

Prosecution Departments are established on each territorial Division covering these areas, apart from the Birmingham Divisions, and are responsible for the administration work connected with the issue and service of summonses and warrants.

The Divisions in Birmingham prepare their own process but the summonses and warrants are dealt with by a Central Summons and Warrant Department.

SERVICE OF SUMMONS

A total of 126 879 summonses was served within the Force area.

EXECUTION OF WARRANTS

A total of 51 934 warrants was executed, which included 9 335 executed on behalf of other Police Forces. Monies collected by the Warrant Departments totalled £725 116.

H M CORONERS' DEPARTMENT

There are nine Coroners situated throughout the Force area. The Coroner for Birmingham is a full time appointment, the remainder are employed on a part time basis. There were 9135 reported deaths during the year. Post mortem examinations were carried out in 6793 cases and 1292 inquests were held.

These cases were dealt with as follows:-

Division	Cases	Post Mortem	Inquests
A - F (1/1/78 - 31/3/78)	1 216	782	208
B	804	705	250
C	558	250	81
D	608	435	85
E	793	325	76
F	400	340	29
G	631	593	111
H	774	762	81
J	1 028	893	150
K	770	703	69
L	284	284	43
M	1 269	1 021	109

Chapter VI

Traffic

ROAD TRAFFIC

Mileage and Roads

There are 3 934 miles of road within the West Midlands County; this figure includes 42 miles of motorway, 75 miles of trunk road and 350 miles of class 'A' roads.

TRAFFIC DIVISION

The organisation of the Traffic Division was changed with effect from 1 April 1978 to coincide with the reorganisation of the Force structure and working methods. The Force area was divided into 16 traffic patrol areas and the number of patrol cars was reduced from 55 to 28. A double-manned patrol car is allocated at all times to each of the areas and motor cyclists are allocated to the areas between the hours of 7.00 a.m. and 11.00 p.m. The 16 patrol areas were determined by reference to major traffic routes and they do not necessarily coincide, as they did hitherto, with territorial divisional boundaries. Six areas have been allocated to the Central Traffic Sub-Division, six to the Western Traffic Sub-Division and four to the Eastern Traffic Sub-Division. The number of vehicles allocated to the Motorway Sub-Division has remained at 16 and the motorway remains divided into seven patrol areas.

The allocation of police personnel in the Division is as follows:-

	Ch Supt	Supt	Ch Insp	Insp	PS	Cons
Headquarters	1	2	2	3	3	2
Central	—	1	1	5	16	112
Western	—	1	1	5	17	86
Eastern	—	1	1	4	9	53
Motorway	—	1	1	5	12	59
Total Strength	1	6	6	22	57	312
Establishment	1	6	6	28	67	438

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Administration for the Division is undertaken centrally at Force Headquarters with additional administrative unit, at each Sub-Division.

Deployment of Traffic Patrols

The role of the Traffic Division was reviewed in the light of the changes in policing methods introduced throughout the Force and the prime functions of the Traffic Division are now as follows:-

- (a) To patrol motorways and other major traffic routes, to provide specialist response in appropriate cases and to deal, wherever possible, with accidents occurring on those roads;
- (b) to ensure a free flow of traffic with maximum safety and minimum delay;
- (c) to provide a specialist service to territorial divisions in respect of road accidents, identification of potential black spots and road safety;
- (d) to enforce legislation and to give advice to offenders, concentrating resources on the more serious matters;
- (e) to provide the services of officers trained in accident and vehicle examination;
- (f) to provide escorts for Royal Visits, VIP's, Judges etc;
- (g) to assist territorial divisions whenever traffic patrols are needed, eg. public order situations, football matches and high speed pursuits;
- (h) to provide a vehicle removal squad to deal with vehicles causing obstruction where traffic congestion is likely to occur;
- (i) to deal with all matters involving the movement of abnormal and indivisible loads;
- (j) to provide expertise to the Force in traffic management matters.

During the year traffic patrol officers made the following arrests.

Crime	972
Breathalyser	898
Others	372

In addition, Traffic Division officers attended 4 063 road accidents and detected 65 467 traffic offences.

Motorway Policing

The motorway sub-division was unaffected by the reorganisation in April, and remains responsible for patrolling the M5, M6, M42 motorways and the Aston Expressway (A38M) within the Force area.

Traffic flows vary considerably; the relatively new M42 has a daily flow of approximately 12 000 vehicles whereas the M6 averages 100 000. A recent survey at Junction nine (Bescot) showed that at peak times 5 000 vehicles per hour were using each carriageway. In these conditions even minor or temporary obstructions can soon result in rapid tailback of traffic and precautionary measures need to be taken by patrols to avoid further and more serious accidents.

In December a multiple accident occurred on the northbound carriageway of the M6, north of Junction ten and resulted in the complete closure of the motorway for several hours. Forty-eight vehicles were involved, but fortunately no serious injuries were sustained.

Peak hour problems have been aggravated throughout the year by the extensive road repair programme which has necessitated 'contraflow' working. A reduction in such road works is unlikely in the near future as several sections of the motorway are in need of considerable attention.

Training has now been completed for the staff of the control room at Perry Barr which, in January 1979, will be extended to control all Traffic Division vehicles.

VASCAR

Nine patrol cars are fitted with VASCAR sets and were used by officers on each of the Traffic Sub-Divisions during the year. A total 619 speeding offences were reported using this equipment.

RADAR

Six PETA radar meters are rented from the Home Office and during the year 11 478 offences were detected by this means. Radar teams have operated on all Sub-Divisions with the exception of the motorway. The policy of using the teams on roads with high incidence of accidents continued throughout the year.

Removal of Vehicles

Vehicle Removal Squads continued to operate in the centre of Birmingham and to a lesser degree in other parts of the Force area. The number of vehicles removed during the year was as follows:-

Stolen Vehicles Recovered	Broken Down Vehicles	Local Removals	Motorway Removals	Vehicles Impounded
1228	1080	913	41	872

Department of Environment Vehicle Checks

Traffic officers assisted Department of Environment examiners on road side checks on 126 occasions during the year.

Police Vehicle Examiners

The majority of officers in the Traffic Division is authorised under Section 33, Road Traffic Act 1972 to test motor vehicles and, as a result, a total of 13 374 offences under the Motor Vehicles (Construction and use) Regulations was detected.

The team of experienced traffic officers introduced in 1977 to check heavy goods vehicles was again utilised during the year. One hundred and seventy nine offenders were reported for serious infringements, 55 were cautioned and in addition officers were able to give advice to both drivers and supervisory staff on numerous occasions.

Abnormal Loads

Notifications of abnormal loads received by the Routeing Section during the year totalled 41 252. This was an increase of 7 411 (22%) over 1977, and included 2 254 loads requiring police escort. Seventy loads, an increase of 89%, required the authority of the Secretary of State before movement was permitted. On these occasions very careful planning was essential and teams of motor cyclists provided the escorts.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

There was liaison with various departments and committees of both the County and District Councils regarding road improvements and surveys, involving both vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Several special events occurred during the year which required careful planning and timing including Royal visits. Sporting events on public highways included the Lombard RAC Rally of Great Britain, which was based in Birmingham, the Milk Race and other events including 65 cycle time trials.

In October the International Motor Show was held outside London for the first time and housed at the National Exhibition Centre. During the ten days of the show, which was attended by more than 900 000 people, senior officers of the Division assisted in planning the traffic arrangements. Seventy-two motor cyclists provided cover during 16 hours of each day of the Show, and made a major contribution towards the successful policing of the event.

ACCIDENT RECORDS

The accident office at Traffic Division Headquarters, under the supervision of a Chief Inspector, is responsible for the administration of accident records, the Accident Investigation Unit, Road Safety and School Crossing Patrols.

In the latter part of the year an Organisation and Method study was commenced into the system of accident recording. It is anticipated that this study will ensure a more streamlined system for the future.

During the year 6 900 abstracts of accident reports and 16 000 letters were supplied by the Department for insurance companies, solicitors and other interested parties.

Accident Investigation Unit

The Unit is responsible for the in-depth investigation of accidents and the training of personnel.

During the year, the Unit trained 28 officers of this Force and 40 from other forces to standard level and 24 and 11 respectively to advanced level. The number from other forces is almost double that of the previous year.

The Unit prepared 49 accident reconstructions for Court and submitted detailed plans on numerous other accidents. In addition, territorial divisions have made use of the specialist knowledge of the Unit by requesting their attendance at the scenes of major accidents.

School Crossing Patrols

Whilst the responsibility for administration, supervision, recruitment and training of patrols remains with the police, the County Surveyor is responsible for the authorisation of sites. There are 1 154 authorised sites within the Force area but the number of patrols have, since 1976 been limited to 1 054. At the end of the year there were 1 007 school crossing patrols employed leaving vacancies for a further 47. Police officers and Traffic Wardens have, whenever possible, manned vacant points.

ROAD SAFETY

Police Road Safety officers are employed on each territorial division, working in close liaison with County and District Council Road Safety Officers.

Every effort is made to ensure that children are aware of the importance of road safety and the following visits were made to schools during the year:

Infant Schools	644
Junior & Middle Schools	836
Senior Schools	269

Cycling proficiency training and the testing of cyclists continued under a scheme organised by County and District Road Safety Officers. Following the disappointing response during the previous year, 8 003 children were successful in passing the proficiency test, although this is still less than were tested in 1976.

In addition to their other duties the officers were involved in 56 exhibitions and 22 road safety quizzes. They also gave assistance at the 'Lorry Driver of the Year' competitions at both Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

The Force fleet of 983 vehicles is made up as follows:-

Area Cars	67
Unit Beat Cars	210
Traffic Patrol Cars	28
Traffic Patrol Cycles	98
Traffic Patrol Land Rovers	5
Recovery Land Rovers	3
Motorway Patrol Vehicles	16
Radar Cars	6
Staff Cars	7
Driving Instruction Vehicles	71
Divisional General Purpose Vehicles	68
Divisional Dog Vehicles	36
Divisional Personnel Carriers	13
Divisional Enquiries — Motor Cycles	55
CID Operational Vehicles	97
Force Crime Squad Vehicles	11
CID HQ Department Vehicles	7
Stolen Car Squad	5

CONTINUED

1 OF 2

Scenes of Crime Vans	21
Photographic Department Vans	2
Explosives Department Vehicles	2
Mounted Department Vehicles	5
Force Training Department Vehicles	7
Special Patrol Group Vehicles	9
Vice Squad/Drug Squad Vehicles	6
Prison Vans	8
Clothing Store Vehicles	2
Found Property Vans	2
Traffic Wardens Department Vans	4
Summons and Warrant Department Vehicles	7
Underwater Search Unit Van	1
Road Safety Department Vehicle	1
Reserve Vehicles	61
Airport Vehicles	2
Regional Crime Squad Vehicles	39
Technical Support Unit Vehicle	1

The total mileage for the year was 16 600 000.

Administration of the Department is carried out from Headquarters. There are three main workshops, at Birmingham, Coventry and Brierley Hill, and three smaller units where routine maintenance and repairs are carried out.

Re-Organisation of the Force

As a result of the re-organisation of the Force on 1 April 1978, the composition of the vehicle fleet was altered by the reduction of 80 unit beat cars, and an increase of 40 divisional area cars, resulting in an overall reduction of 40 vehicles.

During the year, a number of different types of vehicle have been evaluated to find the most suitable vehicle for police operation. They included the Ford Granda 2.8 saloon, Ford Cortina 2.3 saloon, Austin Princess 2000, Rover 2.6, Austin Princess 1700, Marina 1700 HL, an Austin Sherpa Van and a Cherokee Jeep.

Accidents Involving Police Vehicles

There was a disappointing increase of 102 in the number of accidents involving police vehicles which totalled 1 654. Police drivers were deemed to be blame-worthy in 596 (398 on roads) cases. This is an increase of 31.5% over 1977. This increase is regrettable. The miles travelled on roads per blameworthy accident was 41 708.

Criminal Damage to Police Vehicles

There were 132 cases of criminal damage to police vehicles, a decrease of seven on the previous year.

Thirty-five persons were arrested and dealt with for offences relating to criminal damage to police vehicles.

TRAFFIC WARDENS

The authorised establishment of the Traffic Wardens' Department remains unchanged at 688. The actual strength at the end of 1978, was 236 an increase of 20 on the previous year.

The number of parking meters in use is as follows:-

Birmingham Central Zone	225
Inner Zone	1075
Outer Zone	2277
Wolverhampton	640

ROAD ACCIDENTS

During the year 31 287 road accidents were reported to the Police of which 10 607 involved personal injury or death. A total of 242 persons were killed and 13 467 injured. There was a 5% reduction in the number of accidents compared with 1977 although the number of casualties fell by only 1%.

The following tables provide an analysis of accidents and persons involved:

Table 'A' shows the incidence of fatal, serious and slight injury accidents by police division and the total for the Force area.

Table 'B' shows the number of persons killed and injured in each division and a total for the Force area.

Table 'C' shows the incidence of fatal injury accidents month by month. October was the worst month for fatalities and November was the worst for all classes of casualty.

Table 'D' shows times in one hour periods when accidents occurred. The hours between 4.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. produced the most injury accidents but it should be noted that the most serious accidents involving death or injury are still most prevalent late at night.

Table 'E' shows the class of vehicles involved in injury accidents.

TABLE 'A'

Injury Accidents:- By Severity and Police Division 1978

Division	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	L	M	Total
Fatal	28	12	25	38	6	27	19	18	19	16	24	232
Serious	323	139	272	302	115	272	245	248	233	182	373	2764
Slight	835	527	694	766	331	756	743	807	844	458	850	7611
Totals	1186	738	991	1106	452	1055	1007	1073	1096	656	1247	10607

TABLE 'B'

Road Casualties:- By Severity of Injury and Police Division 1978

Division	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	L	M	Total
Fatal	29	12	25	40	6	28	19	18	19	18	28	242
Serious	368	222	300	366	125	320	282	276	260	219	421	3159
Slight	1118	680	965	1024	429	971	1024	1058	1123	629	1045	10066
Totals	1515	914	1290	1430	560	1319	1325	1352	1402	866	1494	13467

TABLE 'C'

Incidence of accidents month by month for the year 1978

Fatal

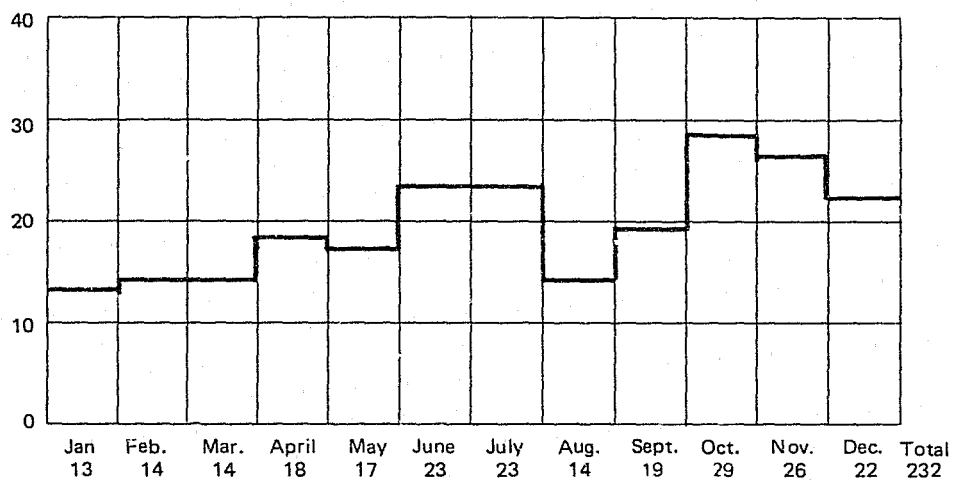


TABLE 'D'

Injury

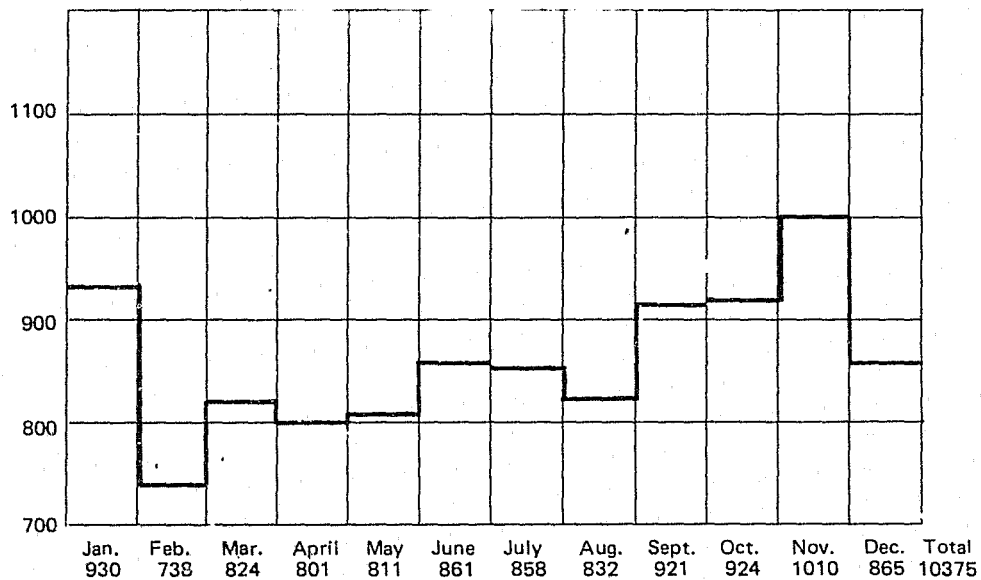


TABLE 'D'

Times in one hour periods when fatal and injury accidents occurred.

HOUR	FATAL	INJURY		TOTAL
		SERIOUS	SLIGHT	
0000 to 0100	3	94	153	250
0100 to 0200	8	58	97	163
0200 to 0300	7	51	93	151
0300 to 0400	1	26	43	70
0400 to 0500	1	12	24	37
0500 to 0600	1	16	28	45
0600 to 0700	2	21	59	82
0700 to 0800	7	77	273	357
0800 to 0900	8	146	512	672
0900 to 1000	6	63	283	352
1000 to 1100	9	74	266	349
1100 to 1200	10	111	351	472
1200 to 1300	11	140	458	609
1300 to 1400	11	130	450	591
1400 to 1500	9	141	388	538
1500 to 1600	14	207	522	743
1600 to 1700	16	239	742	997
1700 to 1800	18	248	705	971
1800 to 1900	16	157	448	621
1900 to 2000	7	141	353	501
2000 to 2100	5	111	294	410
2100 to 2200	13	114	258	385
2200 to 2300	21	145	304	470
2300 to 2400	28	242	501	771
TOTAL	232	2764	7611	10607

TABLE 'E'

Classes of vehicles involved (not necessarily to blame) in injury and fatal accidents during the year.

TYPE OF VEHICLE	FATAL	INJURY		TOTAL
		SERIOUS	SLIGHT	
Pedal Cycles	13	144	661	818
Mopeds	2	90	279	371
Motor Scooters	0	12	20	32
Motor Cycles	38	652	1282	1972
Cars and Taxis	190	2701	7910	10801
Public Service Vehicles	14	99	462	575
Goods Vehicles under 1½ tons uw	20	283	808	1111
Goods Vehicles over 1½ tons uw	27	131	461	619
Other motor vehicles *	7	105	416	528
Other non-motor vehicles	0	1	7	8
Total	311	4218	12306	16835
* Includes unknown vehicles				

Chapter VII

Communication

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

The establishment of the Communications Department is as follows:

	Ch Supt	Supt	Ch Insp	Insp	PS	PC	Civilians
Headquarters	1	1	1	1	—	—	5
Newton Street	—	—	1	5	5	20	26
Brierley Hill	—	—	1	5	4	—	24
Coventry	—	—	1	5	—	5	10
Communications Training	—	—	—	1	5	2	—
Totals	1	1	4	17	14	27	65

During 1978 there has been considerable activity on behalf of the Force by staff of the Post Office and Home Office Directorate of Telecommunications as well as computer and other communications equipment suppliers, in preparation for the commencement of the West Midlands Police new Command and Control System in early 1979.

Telephones

Since 1974 the Force telephone network has been subject to exceptionally heavy traffic and as a result the new system is being engineered in consultation with the Post Office and Home Office Directorate of Telecommunications. Based on specifications jointly prepared, an order was placed for the supply of electronic exchanges at Police Headquarters, Lloyd House, and at 'B' Division Headquarters Bournville Lane. In addition Tandem exchanges are being installed at Police Headquarters, Lloyd House, Walsall and West Bromwich.

To complement this equipment and provide a fully automatic network the Post Office are also providing suitable equipment capable of handling the increased traffic throughout the Force. The network should be fully operational by October 1979.

Teleprinters and Telex

Teleprinters capable of faster speeds and with tape cutting facilities have been installed at Divisional and Sub-Divisional Headquarters stations and in certain Departments throughout the Force. During the year the Central Control Room received 43 837 telex messages.

Radio

Surveys have been carried out in the Central Area of the Force by Home Office Directorate of Telecommunications in an effort to improve VHF and UHF reception and these have been extended to include the remainder of the Force area. The scheme reconfigured by the Home Office Directorate of Telecommunications for the major Divisional change which took place in April, 1978, has worked satisfactorily and continues to be monitored by that Department.

There is a continuing need for an efficient communications system when policing major incidents. During the year considerable co-operation and assistance has been received from the Regional staff of the Home Office Directorate of Telecommunications in setting up such a system. They were particularly helpful during the period of the Motor Show.

Command and Control System

The highly successful Home Office sponsored Birmingham Command and Control Computer Project ceased on 31 March. The six year project has already benefitted a number of other Police forces and has assisted in evolving an operational Command and Control computerised system for the West Midlands Police.

This new system, which will be fully operational in February 1979, has been programmed to meet the communications and management information requirements of the Force. It will both improve the service to the public in the area of response to emergency calls and assist operational officers in making professional judgements.

Police National Computer

During the year the Home Office Police National Computer Unit has continued to extend and improve the facilities provided for operational use.

A Central PNC Bureau has been set up within the Force and deals with the supervision of all PNC forms in transit to the computer.

In the early part of the year officers from this Force assisted in the making by the Central Office of Information of a tape/slide presentation in conjunction with the Home Office. West Midlands officers presented this display at the "Communications 78" Exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre in April.

Casualty Bureau

Casualty Bureau exercises continue to be held at three monthly intervals at the three bureaux, Brierley Hill, Lloyd House and Coventry. These exercises help to keep the Special Constables and Civilian Staff sufficiently trained to carry out this work in the event of an emergency situation.

Robophone Collators Experiment

An experiment which allowed officers on two Sub-Divisions to telephone their Collators' office and obtain or leave recorded messages, was carried out during the year. Following the trials it was decided that this was not a suitable system for an area where officers had reasonable access to Police Stations, and the experiment has now been terminated.

Emergency Service

Compared to 1977, the number of '999' and burglar alarm calls received at the three Control Rooms fell by 13 890 (6.05%).

The following table shows the number of '999' and burglar alarm calls which were received during the year.

	Central Birmingham	Western Brierley Hill	Eastern Coventry
'999' calls including burglar alarms	89 730	67 744	28 538
Total	186 012		

The motorway control dealt with 20 981 cases of broken-down vehicles as a result of telephone calls for assistance, an increase of 114 on 1977.

Chapter VIII

Welfare

POLICE BUILDINGS

The Police Surveyor's Department is responsible for repairs and maintenance of police property, liaison with architects and all functions of property management. Branch offices are sited in Birmingham, Coventry and Brierley Hill, each staffed by a Surveyor, Clerks of Works and supporting clerical staff.

New Police Buildings

As a result of government restrictions on capital expenditure, only one major project was commenced in 1978, namely the extension of the sectional police station in Erdington to form a new Sub-Divisional Headquarters for the 'D' Division. The work commenced in December and completion is expected in June 1979.

Future Building Programme

I am pleased to report that Home Office has approved the provision of a new Central Police Garage in Aston Road North, Birmingham, and work is expected to commence in the 1981/2 financial year. This new garage is urgently required to replace the present cramped facilities at Duke Street — a site which is owned by Aston University.

The Home Office has also approved the commencement of advance planning for a new Sub-Divisional Headquarters in Woodbridge Road, Moseley, Birmingham, and a combined Divisional and Sub-Divisional Headquarters on the site of the present police station in Dunstall Road, Wolverhampton. Subject to receipt of planning permission, it is hoped to incorporate stables for a small number of horses on the latter site.

Dis-used Police Buildings

During 1978 nine police stations and ancillary buildings were held surplus to requirements. Five of these have been sold and the remainder have been sold, subject to contract.

Alterations and Improvements

New gas fired boilers have been installed at Aldridge, Dudley and Dunstall Road Police Stations.

Building, mechanical and electrical engineering work for the new Command and Control Complex at Bournville Lane Police Headquarters has been completed, and a new radio tower has been erected at Sedgley as part of the Force communications network.

A small extension has been built at Aldridge Police Station to provide charge, detention and police surgeons rooms. A petrol tank and pump has also been installed to supply the vehicles on that sub-division.

An additional car park has been formed at Halesowen Police Station and a new bowling green laid at the Recreational Centre, Tally Ho! Birmingham.

Alteration work to separate the amenity block from the police station at Brierley Hill, including new toilets, has been completed.

Modernisation work to the cells at Harborne Police Station has been completed and an additional office suite has been formed at Sheldon Police Station to accommodate the new Divisional Headquarters.

Energy Saving

A programme for the insulation of roof voids has been completed and more work has been carried out to reduce the use of electricity by installing separate switching points for lights.

Agreement has been reached for the recruitment of a heating engineer and an electrical engineer to monitor the use of fuel, to train station porters in the economical operation of heating plant and to investigate the possibilities of fuel savings by more efficient controls.

Housing

The pool of housing accommodation has been reduced by the sale of 18 houses and 23 flats and maisonettes during the past year, and now numbers 1361 accommodation units. Approval has been given for the disposal of a further 80 void properties and 64 tenanted properties for which the sale negotiations are in hand.

There has been a rise in demand for police accommodation following the increase in the number of mature recruits joining the Force.

The number of private tenants in police houses has been reduced from 19 to 15 and as these houses are vacated they have been occupied by police officers.

FORCE WELFARE OFFICER

The principal duties of the Force Welfare Officer are to advise on matters affecting the welfare of the Force generally and to give assistance, as required, to regular officers, police cadets, traffic wardens, civilian staff, police pensioners and widows. He works in close liaison with senior officers, the Police Federation, the National Association of Retired Police Officers and Associations representing civilian staff.

During the year the Welfare Officer assisted twenty-four widows with applications for Probate of Will or Letters of Administration in respect of the deaths of nine serving officers, 11 retired officers and four civilians.

Four applications for Education Grants were submitted to the National Police Fund, resulting in one widow and two police officers receiving cash grants in respect of children following advanced academic studies. Applications to the Police Dependants' Trust resulted in cash grants to beneficiaries amounting to £6 088. Eleven applications were submitted for holiday places at Pontins Holiday Camps (or cash grants in lieu) as a result of which one widow and her two children were granted a holiday and nine received cash grants totalling £631.

There was an increase in the amount saved through the Force Saving Club and a total of £90 810 was paid out during the year. Interest from this sum amounting to £2 200 was paid to the Force Benevolent Fund.

SICKNESS

During the year the loss of working days due to normal sickness was recorded as follows:-

Male Officers	59 469
Female Officers	8 097

Additionally loss of working days due to injuries sustained whilst on duty was:-

Male Officers	6 381
Female Officers	672
Total working days lost:	74 619

During the year 13 officers were retired with either a pension or gratuity because of ill health.

OBITUARIES

It is with deep regret that I have to report the death of seven members of the Force during the year.

11 February 1978	Constable William John MAILES 'A' Division aged 46 years
2 March 1978	Sergeant Derek SNAPE 'D' Division aged 32 years
23 April 1978	Constable Philip Dermot WALSH 'L' Division aged 30 years
21 May 1978	Constable Brian Lawrence PHILLIPS 'E' Division aged 35 years
28 July 1978	Sergeant David Robert WILKINS 'C' Division aged 32 years
10 August 1978	Constable Philip Mark SANDERSON 'M' Division aged 20 years
9 December 1978	Inspector Albert NEILSON 'G' Division aged 57 years

POLICE FEDERATION

The West Midlands Police Joint Branch Board has been given facilities for statutory meetings during the year and I have held regular conferences with representatives to discuss current problems.

Sergeant G Meredith GM, Chairman of the West Midlands Police Joint Branch Board, was elected Secretary of the Sergeants' Central Committee. During the year, the Claims Department at the Federation Offices dealt with 296 claims to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, 29 civil claims and 411 personal accident insurance claims.

FUNDS

In addition to the various national funds and charitable trusts available to police officers and their dependants, the Force Benevolent Fund has continued to provide financial assistance to serving members and pensioners by way of payment for medical consultations, grants and loans. A total of 52 orphaned children receive a weekly allowance through this Fund. Police pensioners, including those living outside the Force area, were visited regularly during the year and assistance was given where necessary.

CONVALESCENT HOME

The Convalescent Police Seaside Home at Hove continues to provide facilities for rest and recuperation for serving police officers and pensioners following periods of illness. During the year 84 serving officers and 14 pensioners attended the Home, all expenses being paid by the Benevolent Fund.

POLICE PENSIONERS

At the end of the year there were 1 707 retired police officers in receipt of police pensions. Pensions were also being paid to 691 widows of police officers or ex-officers.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

The Force Safety Officer's duties include advising staff on the provisions of the Health and Safety at Work Act, the investigation of and reporting on accidents and dangerous occurrences and, in particular, making recommendations to prevent recurrence, the identification of potential hazards and the preparation of safe systems of work.

Talks on the legal implications of the Health and Safety at Work Act have been given to Sergeant and Constable Refresher Courses and to civilian manual workers. Instruction on the chemistry and correct use of fire extinguishers was also given to Traffic Patrol Driver's Courses. During the year 27 surveys of police premises were carried out and, where necessary, recommendations made to improve safety. Investigations were also carried out into the cause of 42 accidents on police premises involving both police officers and civilian staff.

Samples of deteriorating lagging were taken from two boiler house installations and an office. All contained some Amosite and Chrysotill Asbestos (white) and in the office situation there was a .5% Crocidolite (blue) on one sample. A total of 12 samples were analysed. All the locations have been made safe.

Petrol and diesel fumes are a hazard to health and it is necessary to eliminate them or at least reduce them to a satisfactory level. The problem of fumes in police garage workshops was carefully considered and a variety of systems studied. It was agreed that direct extraction from vehicle exhaust systems into the atmosphere was the most suitable, as this dealt equally well with both petrol and diesel fumes and was acceptable to the work force. A complete system has been installed at the Bevan Garage, Brierley Hill and partial systems have been fitted in the workshops at Coventry Garage (to cater for the motor cycle workshop), and at Duke Street (to cover the rolling road and two vehicle hoists).

It is planned that every garage workshop in the force will be fully equipped during 1979.

The Safety Representatives and Safety Committee Regulations became law on the 1 October 1978. Recognised trade unions can now appoint safety representatives to act for employees in their respective areas of employment. To date 23 Safety representatives have been appointed. After discussions with trade union officials, a Safety Committee has been formed. The Police Federation, not being a recognised trade union, are unable to appoint safety representatives within the legal framework but will appoint representatives on each division to carry out similar functions, and a Police Safety Committee has been formed.

SPORT AND RECREATION

The West Midlands Police Sports Club continues to play an important and expending part in the life of the Force, providing many varied activities for sportsmen and sportswomen and, where facilities are available, for some members of the civilian staff as well.

The administration of the Club is conducted from the Sports and Social Office at Lloyd House and the activities of Force teams largely centres on the Sports Club at Tally Ho! Birmingham.

I am conscious of the need for the provision of further sports grounds in the other areas of the Force, but, at the present time, the financial position will not permit progress. However, the excellent facilities at Tally Ho! are very central and accessible to anyone taking part in Force sport.

For those members not taking part in active sport, the ballroom at Tally Ho! provides an excellent venue for dances, dinners, film shows and similar functions.

'Holbrook' Trophy

The 'Holbrook' Trophy is awarded to the Sports Personality of the Year. The winner was Sergeant Gardner for his prowess and sportsmanship as a motor cyclist and as a regular member of the first team in the Football Section.

Association Football

Two teams are entered from the Force in the Midland Football Combination Divisions I and II.

Whilst not a particularly successful year in civilian competitions, the first team again reached the final of the PAA Football Cup Competition, and in an excellent match at White Hart Lane, London, were defeated by two goals to one by the Metropolitan Police.

A number of players from the Force were chosen to represent the British Police at international level including the European Championship Tournament in Norway last summer.

A party of 20 players and officials from the club travelled to Detmold, West Germany, in November, to renew our association with the Queen's Own Hussars for the annual fixture which has been taken place since 1958. The visit coincided with that of the Queen Mother as Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment.

Cricket Section

The 1978 season was a successful one for the Force team, but unfortunately 11 games had to be cancelled because of adverse weather conditions. The team played 22 matches, won 12, lost five, drew four and one match was abandoned.

In the PAA Knock-Out Tournament the Force represented this Region and were unfortunate to lose in the last over to the Metropolitan Police in an extremely exciting game.

A tour of the West Country was undertaken early in the season when all three matches were won.

Veterans' Cricket

This section continues to provide sporting opportunity for the older members of the Cricket Section.

A number of games was undertaken during the season mainly against non-police teams with a good mixture of wins and losses but at all times the games were played in the most sporting and friendly spirit. An end of season tour was arranged in North Wales in September.

Rugby Football

This is a well supported section with three teams. The first team played 30 matches and won 16, the Extras North played 31 matches and won 18 whilst the Extras South won 14 of the 22 matches they played. In the PAA Knock-Out Cup the force team was defeated by Avon and Somerset in the Quarter Finals.

Athletics and Cross Country

This is a very active section involving regular officers and cadets, both male and female. A pleasing aspect is that many runners over 40 years of age still turn up regularly to take part in cross country events.

In the Midland Cross Country League the section finished third.

In the Midlands Track and Field League which, in addition to police forces in No 3 Region, includes Northamptonshire, Thames Valley and Leicestershire, the section put up a very good performance winning every fixture to finish the season at the top of the League.

Constable Stevens finished second in the 1500 metres event at the PAA National Championships in West Yorkshire and represented the British Police in this event during the season.

In April the Athletic Section organised a 24 hour sponsored run at Tally Ho! raising a total of £1 600 which was divided equally between the Police Dependents Trust and the Birmingham Accident Hospital. Over 100 officers took part including some from Warwickshire Constabulary.

Hockey

The Sports Club supports both a men's and a ladies hockey team and they have played matches against civilian and police opposition. In the latter part of the year, the ladies section reached the 3rd round of the PAA Competition.

Shooting

This section covers a number of different areas of shooting.

Full Bore Rifle

This section is going through a period of rebuilding having lost the services of Constable Fleming, one of our outstanding rifle shots who has retired from the Force and Constable Patullo who resigned from the Force to take over the Stewardship of the London, Scottish Rifle Club at Bisley and who, only a few weeks after his appointment, unfortunately met his death in a road accident.

Small Bore Rifle

The Force team became the National Police Small Bore Rifle Champions for the second year running.

In the PAA Long Range Meeting at Bisley, Constable Brooks won the Individual Championship.

In the PAA Competition at Bisley in September, Detective Constable Williams was the Individual Winner in the three positional shot and is the National Police Champion.

Constables Walker and Coffey were selected to represent the British Police in forthcoming Championships.

Small Bore Pistol

The Force team are the National Police Small Bore Champions for the second year running and Detective Constable Payne is the Regional Small Bore Pistol Champion.

Full Bore Pistol

In the 'Mander' Trophy, the West Midlands Police team came fourth with a score of 1 005 which is their best record position.

In the PAA Club Pistol Competition, Detective Sergeant Nicholls had the highest overall score.

Motor Club

Members of the Motor Club have continued active participation in motor sport with some competing in National Police Rally events. The motor cycle section has competed in police trials events.

1978 saw the restoration of the Tally Ho! Rally which was run in the highways and byeways of Warwickshire. The section also ran a number of social events including film nights and a dinner/dance.

The highlight of the year was the selection of Constable Hickman as Captain of the British Police Motor Cycle team in the Tour de Pyrenees held at Pau, South France.

Flying

This section has ten members who hold private pilots' licences and a similar number are undergoing training at various flying clubs in the area. The section took part in the 8th National Police Air Rally at Leicester in July. Thirty-three teams were entered from 13 British Police Forces. Constable Nordan and his navigator, Constable Coley, were adjudged the Best Overall Pilot and Navigator.

Angling

This sport continues to be one of the most popular and has had a very creditable season both in police and open contests.

The team trophy for the Regional Police Athletic Association Angling was won by the section for the third year running.

Bowls

The Flat Green Bowls Section is divided into three; one section is based at Tally Ho! the second in Solihull and the third at Coventry.

Games have been played against other police forces and local clubs. On a number of occasions the three sections have combined to represent the Force.

1978 was the Golden Jubilee Year of the PAA and Sergeants Gray, Symonds and Reardon were selected to represent the English Police Bowlers against the Scottish Police at Newcastle on Tyne in a special Jubilee Match.

The Crown Green Bowls Section operates in the northern part of the Force area.

In the PAA National Championships staged at Ashton under Lyne, Sergeants Finch and Bradley qualified to represent the West Midlands Police and Sergeant Finch reached the semi-finals against some very strong opposition.

Boxing Section

This small section is seeing a revival at the moment, with some excellent boxing from the regular boxers, Constables Hockaday, Allan and Walsh who have given a good account of themselves in local boxing tournaments and in a number of police competitions.

Constable Hockaday entered the British and European Police Championships at the Royal Albert Hall in May and reached the semi-final when he was beaten on points by an Italian police officer who went on to win the tournament.

Hillwalking Section

This section organises weekend walks every month for members of the Force and their families.

The highlight of the year was the Lyke Wake Walk on the North Yorkshire moors - a total of 42 miles which must be walked within 20 hours, commencing at 10.30 p.m. Of the 13 entries, 11 completed the walk.

Choral Singing

Male Voice Choir

The Force Male Voice Choir continued to give performances at various concerts throughout the Force area.

During the year they recorded their second long playing record, 'Arise o Sun', and also took part in a record release featuring John Inman. The Annual Concert, on this occasion with the Band of the Coldstream Guards, was held at the Birmingham Town Hall in October before a near capacity audience.

Mr Harold Enstone, the Choir Conductor for the past eight years, has been forced to retire due to ill health and his services will be greatly missed by the choir.

Mr Philip Smith, Head of Music at a Wolverhampton Comprehensive School, has been appointed as the Choir's new Conductor.

Choral Society

The Choral Society under the leadership of their Conductor Mr Harold Hawkes, and accompanist Mrs Margaret Bayliss, has had a successful year, giving 12 concerts.

Two outstanding performances were the combined concert at Kinver with the Coventry Division Band and the West Mercia Police Male Voice Choir. The second was a concert together with supporting artistes, to raise money for the Carl Bridgewater Memorial Fund when, £250 was raised.

Dance Orchestra

Under the direction of Chief Inspector Buncle, the Dance Orchestra, much augmented by new members, played at eighteen functions during the year. Many of these functions were for charities and the orchestra assisted in raising £1 000.

Pipe Band

The West Midlands Pipe Band had a very successful season entering a number of competitions and in all won 11 trophies.

The Band gave a number of concerts and was present at the inauguration of the new overnight train service from Birmingham International station to Inverness. In November, the Band was invited to take part in the Banner dedication for the Royal Naval Association at Birmingham Cathedral. They also played at the Festival of Remembrance at the Birmingham Town Hall. The Band has enrolled its first lady piper, Cader Ann Proud.

'M' Division Brass Band

In August a new musical director, Mr William Herron, was appointed; Mr Herron is an experienced conductor and served for many years in the Royal Artillery as a musician.

Although the band did not enter any contests during the year, it gave a number of concerts and took part in local carnivals. The band also gave concerts in aid of the elderly with Coventry Rotary and Round Table Clubs.

The band has 28 members, the longest serving being Mr Herbert Jacox who has played solo cornet with the band for over 30 years.

Chapter IX

Licensing

Licensed Premises

The following table shows details of Justices' Licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquor which were in force at the end of the year.

AREAS	Publicans	Beer/ Cider On	Beer/Cider Wine On	Full Off	Beer/Cider Wine Off	Restaurant/ Residential	Restaurant	Residential	Licensed Clubs	Total
Aldridge	68	—	—	39	1	1	4	1	4	118
Birmingham	746	1	11	541	4	—	140	—	12	1455
Coventry	260	—	—	161	31	10	33	—	11	506
Dudley	331	—	—	121	—	—	11	—	10	473
Halesowen	53	—	—	35	—	—	3	—	1	92
Solihull	115	—	—	85	2	3	22	2	5	234
Stourbridge	89	—	—	37	2	—	6	—	—	134
Sutton Coldfield	45	—	—	49	—	4	12	—	2	112
Walsall	250	—	—	93	—	2	16	—	6	367
Warley	184	—	1	132	—	1	11	—	8	337
West Bromwich	245	—	—	79	—	—	13	—	12	349
Wolverhampton	314	—	—	215	—	3	36	1	25	594
TOTALS	2700	1	12	1587	40	24	307	4	96	4771

This is an increase of 70 premises as compared with 1977.

Licenses granted during the year

The following table shows details of licenses granted within the Force area during the year.

AREAS	Publicans	Publicans (Condi- tional)	Wine On	Full Off	Beer/Cider Wine Off	Restaurant/ Residential	Restaurant	Licensed Clubs	Total
Aldridge	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	3
Birmingham	7	4	—	25	—	1	10	5	52
Coventry	—	1	—	12	—	—	2	—	15
Dudley	—	—	1	9	—	—	1	—	11
Halesowen	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Solihull	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	5
Stourbridge	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Sutton Coldfield	1	—	—	4	—	2	1	—	8
Walsall	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	4
Warley	1	—	—	10	1	—	2	—	14
West Bromwich	1	—	—	7	—	—	2	2	12
Wolverhampton	—	—	—	21	—	—	6	—	27
TOTALS	12	5	1	103	1	3	24	7	156

Registered Clubs

At the end of the year there were 1307 clubs registered within the Force area.

Theatres and Cinemas

There were 23 theatre licences and 50 cinematograph licences in existence at 31 December 1978.

Visits to Licensed Premises

To ensure the prevention and detection of offences against various acts of Parliament, police officers have made visits to licensed premises as follows:-

Places of Public entertainment	—	776
Premises licensed under the Liquor Licensing Act	—	24 647
Betting offices	—	3 048

Licensed premises throughout the Force area on the whole have been well conducted.

Betting and Gaming

Details of Betting Office Licences and Bookmakers' Permits in force at the end of the year are as follows:-

AREAS	BETTING OFFICE LICENCE			BOOKMAKERS' PERMIT		
	Issued	Surrendered	In Force	Issued	Surrendered	In Force
Aldridge	1	6	14	—	3	13
Birmingham	61	5	298	22	—	227
Coventry	5	8	69	2	6	49
Dudley	7	8	46	5	4	36
Halesowen	—	—	9	—	—	12
Solihull	5	4	22	4	6	31
Stourbridge	—	—	8	1	—	8
Sutton Coldfield	—	—	7	—	—	10
Walsall	2	—	48	3	—	27
Warley	5	10	48	3	2	30
West Bromwich	2	8	42	2	3	27
Wolverhampton	5	—	93	12	1	54
TOTAL	93	49	704	54	25	524

This is a decrease of 41 betting office licences and 21 bookmakers' permits as compared with 1977.

Chapter X

Preventive Policing

PUBLIC LIAISON DEPARTMENT

In previous Annual Reports mention has been made of the complex composition of the community in the County area. Contained within this structure are minority groups, which, when confronted with real, imaginary or manufactured beliefs of harassment can polarise into various factions, and on occasions extreme opinion can consciously orchestrate this. In one of the towns in the Force area during a time of conflict between black and white youths it was encouraging to note, however, that community organisations and indeed some members of the community themselves co-operated with the police to such a degree that much of the rumour was curtailed and many fears dispelled.

This co-operation has also been evident in respect of the three Community Policing Projects on the Boulton and Castle Vale Estates in Birmingham and the Wood End Estate in Coventry.

The Boulton Estate project was started in January 1978 following a detailed study during the previous year. The project involved specially selected officers, both uniformed and CID, concentrating all their efforts on this housing estate. The project continued throughout the year and resulted in a reduction in both crime and vandalism. The two uniformed officers chosen for this project are still doing valuable work in fostering good relations and a community spirit in the neighbourhood by visiting clubs and welfare meetings and by participating in a number of local activities.

The Castle Vale project commenced on 4 October 1978. It involved a uniformed sergeant and five constables, one of whom is female and a detective constable. Their primary role was to deal with the problems of policing an isolated, self-supporting combination of high rise flats and houses with an estimated population of 20,000. The area had a record of crime and vandalism and it became apparent from the feeling of a public meeting that was held that this community wanted, and needed, an additional Police presence.

The Police Unit occupied temporary premises, a ground floor flat of one of the tower blocks on the Estate which has been adapted as a Police 'shop'. The type of policing introduced is entirely by foot patrol supported by mobile units and this has been well received by the community. Whilst it is too early to make specific conclusions as to this particular scheme, there is no doubt that the

officers have had considerable initial success in preventing vandalism and curbing the youths on the Estate who have for a number of years caused problems.

A Community Policing project has been operating in the Wood End area of Coventry since February 1978. The purpose of the project was to re-establish close relations between the police and the community. The police team consisted of one sergeant and eight constables. The initial response to the project was favourable and it has resulted in closer co-operation between the police, public and other agencies.

The approach in all three areas has been multi-agency, closely involving the community, statutory and voluntary agencies and the Permanent Beat Officers. It not only improves the police response but also tends to enhance the quality of life in those areas. This view was reinforced by sentiments expressed during a visit by Lord Harris of Greenwich to Castle Vale. The involvement the Force has with the Inner City Partnership may enable some further commitment to Community Policing Schemes.

A revised Community Relations Training Programme has been implemented and plans are in hand to extend the programme in certain areas, to include a local input at Sub-Divisional level. During the year 156 lectures were given by members of the Department at Force and District Training Centres. The training commitment in respect of Community Relations also extended beyond the Force area with requests for the Superintendent in Charge of the Public Liaison Department to lecture at other police establishments nationally.

It is important that officers are adequately trained in community relations; it is equally important, however, that lines of communication are extended and current developments are discussed. To this end, the monthly Departmental Conference is periodically opened to other Forces in the Region and seminars have been held with representatives of the media, the six Community Relations Councils and, most recently, with the Commission for Racial Equality.

There are now in being three Police Liaison Committees of Community Relations Councils and police membership on five out of the six Councils. It is hoped that a Liaison Committee will be formed at County level jointly with the six Community Relations Councils and the Commission for Racial Equality.

A proposal is currently being considered to introduce on some Divisions on an experimental basis, a 'Voluntary Friend' Scheme for persons in custody. The Department was responsible for setting up a Black Parents' Association to assist with some of the problems experienced by a minority section of the black youth and as a result of this initiative, a week-end camp in the Lake District was organised with police and youngsters.

A good liaison exists between the police and the various Diplomatic Missions in the Force area. This has helped in arranging a jointly sponsored 28 day visit for a sergeant and constable to Jamaica and a similar visit to India for a sergeant and constable. These visits supported by the Police Authority and the respective governments are indicative of the regard shown for the welfare of members of ethnic groups resident in the County area. The experience of the officers when shared by their colleagues, together with their own involvement in the different communities, will hopefully lead to better understanding.

The activities of the Department with youth have increased and include talks and projects in schools, the Law and Order Quiz, involvement with the Prince's Trust and, on Sub-Divisions, more involvement by Permanent Beat Officers in schools. In order to assist the growing acceptance of police officers in schools, talks have been given to teachers under training at the various colleges, encouraging them to partake in this multi-agency approach to problems.

In August 1978 a sergeant was attached to work full time at the Crypt Youth Club and Community Centre, Wolverhampton.

During the year many requests were received for demonstrations and displays. Visitors to the Force included American judges, research students, police officers from this country and overseas. Members of the Force entered a float in the Birmingham Lord Mayor's Show and the Coventry Carnival. A memorial cricket match for the late Police Constable David Green was played at the Edgbaston Cricket Ground between Police and a West Indian side.

During the year considerable progress was made in fostering a good relationship with the community, particularly at the all important level of the uniformed constable. There have been problems and there is no room for complacency, and a considerable amount is yet to be done, but with the support of the community it is hoped even more progress will be made in the future. I would like to take this opportunity to record my appreciation of all the organisations and individuals who have assisted members of the Public Liaison Department and other officers, for without their support no headway would have been made at all.

ATTENDANCE CENTRES

Five Attendance Centres now operate within the Force area; two are situated in Birmingham and the others at Coventry, Smethwick and Bilston.

During the year, two items of special interest have occurred. A second Attendance Centre was opened in Birmingham and although it has only been in

existence since September, it is already proving successful. It has been termed the Birmingham 'B' Centre to distinguish it from the longer-established centre in Birmingham.

In four of the Centres (Birmingham 'B' for the time-being is excluded) a Home Office experiment is being conducted with the introduction of older offenders. Although the experiment has not yet been evaluated, the initial indications are that it is progressing satisfactorily.

Separate sessions are held for junior and senior boys. They receive instruction in physical training, road safety and motor cycle mechanics, first aid, carpentry and handicrafts. At one centre the boys undertook a project to construct toys which were later to be distributed to childrens' hospitals and pre-school nurseries.

During the year 1 210 juveniles and 29 older boys subject of the Home Office experiment, were ordered by various courts to attend the Centres as follows:-

Birmingham A	503 juveniles	18 adults
Birmingham B	72 juveniles	—
Bilston	217 juveniles	5 adults
Coventry	210 juveniles	3 adults
Smethwick	208 juveniles	3 adults

SOCIAL LIAISON DEPARTMENT

This Department co-ordinates liaison between the Police and Social Service agencies in matters affecting allegations of parental violence against children, violence in marriage and fostering and adoption of children. Area Review Committee meetings in each of the seven local authority areas within the County are attended. These Committees are comprised of representatives of the Probation Service, Social Services and Area Health Authority, and each is responsible for formulating policies in relation to non-accidental injury to children. Decisions taken at Area Review Committees are promulgated to senior officers on territorial Divisions who attend individual case conferences.

During the course of the year 1 587 enquiries in relation to fostering and adoption of children were made for the Department of Social Services. Violence in marriage continued to be a source of concern to all agencies concerned with social discipline and in the period of 12 months a total of 284 criminal offences of violence in this category was recorded. The offences involved 7 deaths, 24 serious woundings and 253 less serious woundings. These figures do not, of course, include assaults which are never reported to the police.

Offences of violence against children by parents are very much a concern of the police, with 64 offences being recorded for the year, including murder, serious woundings and assaults. The most vulnerable age group is that up to four years of age, against whom 29 of the offences recorded were committed, 17 against male and 12 against female children.

It is essential that close liaison between the various social disciplines is maintained so that wherever a child is at risk, the fact is identified at the earliest possible opportunity and remedial action taken.

PRESS RELATIONS

The year has been an important one for the Press Office. Two civilian assistant Press Officers were taken on to extend the work of the department, and in October the Force newspaper, "Beacon", was launched. In addition to copies being circulated to all serving officers and civilian staff, copies are also sent to retired officers, the media and local members of Parliament.

The newspaper was generally well received and many contributions, letters and ideas were forthcoming. The monthly newspaper is written, sub-edited, designed and laid out within the department before going to a firm to be printed.

As well as producing the newspaper, the Press Office staff continued to liaise daily with press, radio and television, and handled requests for information, interviews and other enquiries.

Many press releases were put out during the year publicising activities and campaigns within the Force as well as divisional Open Days.

Live daily broadcasts from the central control room via one of the three local radio stations in the West Midlands continued successfully, while other radio stations carried regular crime bulletins.

Generally, relations with the media have remained at a very high standard, and the Force has been featured in several national newspapers as a result of its more open policy.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

To assist young persons to qualify in the 'Service Section' of the scheme, courses were arranged by Divisional Training Sergeants. A total of 780 young persons attended such courses, 80 at Gold level, 200 at Silver level and 500 at Bronze level.

Chapter X1

Miscellaneous

IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY DEPARTMENT

At 31 December there were 4 723 registered aliens within the Force area, 3 316 males and 1 487 females. They originated from 79 countries and a breakdown of their distribution by continent is shown below:—

Continent of Origin	Male	Female	Total
Africa	495	188	633
The Americas	356	272	628
Asia	1578	523	2101
Europe	751	362	1113
Others	136	62	198
Total	3316	1407	4723

During the year 1 722 Alien Registration Certificates and 114 EEC Residence Permits were issued. There were 303 prosecutions against aliens, 41 deportations and 11 supervised departures. A total of 138 persons obtained naturalisation papers.

PEDLARS' CERTIFICATES

A total of 291 such certificates were issued during the year and 10 applications were refused.

LOST AND FOUND PROPERTY

The Central Property Office, Digbeth, Birmingham, is responsible for the disposal of all unclaimed property for the Force. During the year six sales of unclaimed property and four sales of scrap metal were held. In addition, 158 unclaimed motor vehicles were sold. The total amount realised by these sales was £25 797.

EXPLOSIVES AND FIREARMS DEPARTMENT

The Department is located at Police Headquarters with branch offices at Brierley Hill and Coventry. It is responsible for the processing of applications for and renewals of explosives certificates and firearms dealers' registration certificates. It operates an emergency call-out system throughout the Force area to deal with suspect objects or incidents involving firearms and is responsible for the training of police officers in the use of firearms, the upkeep of the Force Armoury, supervision of firearms dealers, rifle and pistol clubs and the receipt and subsequent destruction of firearms coming into the possession of the police as a result of Court Orders or voluntary surrender. Lectures are given by members of the staff to various police courses on the use and safety of firearms and explosives.

During the year 294 firearms certificates were granted, bringing the total to 2 561 certificates held by persons in the Force area. One application for issue was refused. A total of 1 189 shotgun certificates was issued and 3 861 renewed, and at the end of the year 14 675 shotgun certificates were held by persons in this Force area. Fourteen applications were refused and 12 certificates were revoked.

Nine new firearms dealers were registered during the year bringing the total of such dealers to 123. The number of inspection visits made to such premises during the year was 620.

A total of 142 certificates was issued under the Explosives Act 1875 and 294 licences for gunpowder and/or safety fuses were issued under the Control of Explosives Order 1953. Officers of the Department made 200 visits to explosives stores and sites during the year and maintained close liaison with the Fire Prevention Department of the West Midlands Fire Service who register premises and issue licences for explosives stores.

Prosecutions were undertaken against 15 persons for offences against the Explosives or Firearms legislation and 78 persons were cautioned.

The safety of firearms is a matter of concern to everyone and I am pleased to report the continued public support in this area, indicated by the surrender for destruction or disposal of 729 firearms and other weapons and 46 664 rounds of ammunition.

MISSING PERSONS

A central index of missing persons is maintained by the Central Information Unit, although the overall responsibility for enquiries rests with the territorial division concerned. During the year a total of 9 175 persons was reported missing, comprising 4 588 females and 4 587 males, a decrease of 613 persons from the preceeding year. Of the total, 52 females and 31 males had not been traced at the end of the year.

VICE

The Special Plain Clothes Department is particularly concerned with the more serious aspects of vice which require protracted enquiries. Officers of the Department liaise with Divisional personnel to ensure that the problems presented by prostitution and associated offences are contained.

During the year 229 prostitutes were cautioned and 391 prosecuted. In addition, 16 persons were prosecuted for keeping brothels, 35 persons were prosecuted for living on immoral earnings and 29 persons prosecuted for offences in connection with obscene publications.

HOUSE TO HOUSE AND STREET COLLECTIONS

One hundred and fifty-six certificates authorising limited House to House Collections were issued and 594 Street Collections were also authorised by the local authorities.

STRAY DOGS

During the year 7 421 dogs were reported lost, whilst 11 061 were found and either handed to the police or retained by the finders until such times as they were claimed.

END