

Police Presence

In the film entitled *Mother of All Pageants Sherborne 1905* (available to view via YouTube) Gerald Pitman mentions the alarm that went up once it had been decided to invite people in their thousands to Sherborne. Would there be trouble? Would there be pick-pockets about? A police presence would most definitely be required and around 70 members of the force were based in Sherborne for the duration of the event.

Interestingly in an official photograph the words '*Please Beware of Pick-pockets*' can be seen painted onto the back of one of the barriers. These words have later been 'removed' during the processing and before the photograph went on sale!

Ian Swatridge, whose grandfather and great grandfather before him were both, at one time, serving policemen at Sherborne, admin Constable and Superintendent respectably, has very kindly shared information.

In the photograph—top right—you will see what Ian believes likely to be the local men (minus their superintendent) being drilled in the background during rehearsals.

The next photo is a still from the film and shows police patrolling in Cheap Street.

The local divisional officers for the area at the time consisted of:

CARTER Supt Henry

BATTRICK Sgt Henry

CHURCHILL PC 133 Tom

COURAGE PC 97 Albert

FUDGE PC 99 Enos - Leigh

FORD PC 18 Tom - Nether Compton

HARVEY PC 121 Fred

LIGHT PC 73 Charles -Yetminster

PEARCE PC 135 Robert

TALBOT PC 49 William

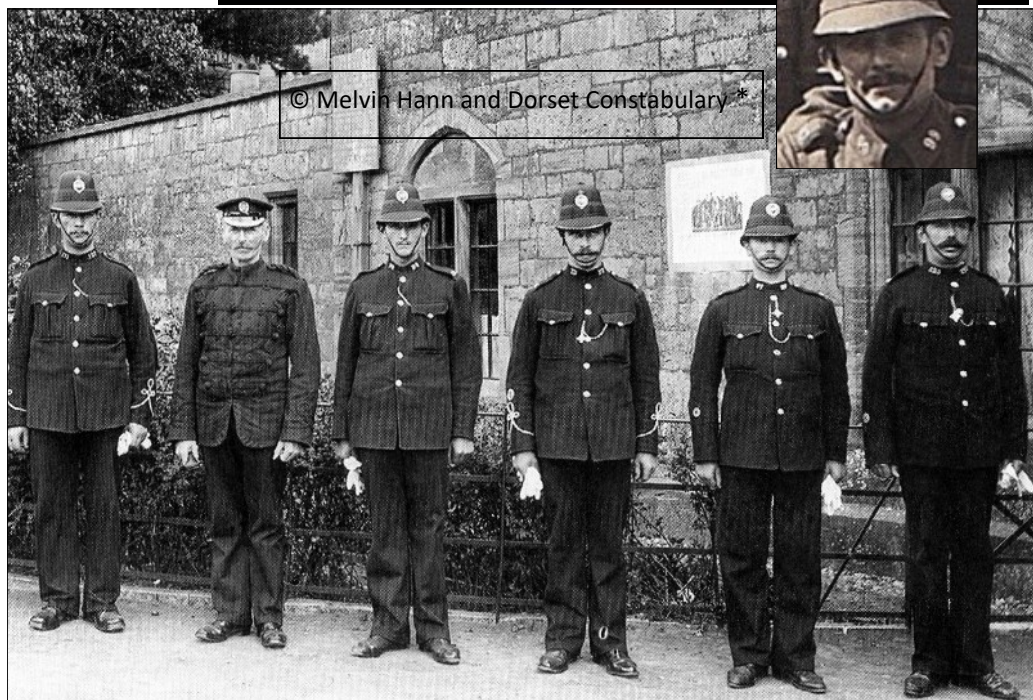
In the last photo, which Ian believes was taken before 1905, comes from Melvin HANN'S book

Bobbies on the Beat , 150 Years of Dorset Police and some of the local force can be seen at attention outside Sherborne Police station. Ian states '*It appears to be Supt John Simpson and his day shift local constables. Looking at their collar numbers the three on the right were definitely there in June 1905, but it is hard to read some numbers. 4th along is definitely PC 73 Charles LIGHT and 5th is PC Albert COURAGE 6th appears to be PC 133 Tom CHURCHILL or may be PC 135 Robert PEARCE. By deduction and checking their blurred numbers possibly PC HARVEY and PC FUDGE are 1st and 3rd from the left. No doubt the others, including the Sergeant, were on night shift so are missing and asleep in their beds.*'

PC ENOS FUDGE has been identified by his granddaughter Audrey

German, as possibly being the PC

standing 3rd from the left. She has sent a later photo of him—see the inset picture



* Every effort has been made to contact Melvin Hann, including writing to his last known publisher, to gain his permission to use this photo without success