

KENDAL ORAL HISTORY GROUP

Interview R0002

Male born 1907. Interviewed 1988

SUMMARY

P.1 Born 1907, Lostock Hall, Preston. Six in family. Parents owned grocery shop.  
Attended Lostock Hall Council School from 4-13, then went mornings only. At 15 helped in shop and worked for coalman - paid £3.10.

P.2 Went to work in cotton mill, aged 16/17.  
At 18½ joined the Scots Guards at Purbright.  
Returned to family grocery shop on father's death, then joined Kendal Borough police in 1933.

P.3 Girlfriend's father opened Booths grocery shop in Kendal.  
Began married life at Dale End, Shap Road.  
£2.58 wages in police to begin with, rising to £3.10 shillings.

P.4 Hours worked. Time off. Division of police beats.  
23 constables, 3 sergeants, Chief Constable.

P.5 Police Station in Town Hall, Lowther Street, had three cells.  
County police had an office and cells lower down Lowther St.  
Weights and Measures office in Police Station.  
Crimes committed by locals. Strangers spotted coming in by bus.

P.6 Became sergeant in 1944. Bombing of Selside and Barrow.  
Two way traffic in Finkle Street and Lowther St.  
Checking of business premises for security.

P.7 Walking the back streets on the beat. Provided own bicycle with two shillings a week allowance. Boot allowance one shilling a week. Decorative dress helmets.

P.8 Sword bearer for Mayor's procession. Mace bearers.  
Attended three "Freeman of the Borough" ceremonies.  
Amalgamation of police forces in 1947.  
Borough policeman could not be moved without his agreement.

P.9 After retirement worked with George Rigg, confectioner.  
Became prison officer at Bela open prison, Milnthorpe, for ten years. Worked at private enquiries, serving notices for solicitors, etc.

P.10 Gardening hobby in retirement. Secretary of retired policeman for 23 years, 20 years on British Legion's committee.