

The Commissioner of Police
 to the Honourable the Premier.

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the Police Rules, I submit the Annual Report of the New South Wales Police Force and in relation to the general activities of the Police Department for the year 1943. In view of conditions existing owing to the war, every endeavour has been made as in previous years to economise on space without omitting essential information. Should the report be ordered to be printed, only a limited number of copies will be sought for Departmental use.

POLICE ESTABLISHMENT.

I. PERSONNEL OF THE POLICE SERVICE.

The actual strength of the New South Wales Police Force on the 31st December, 1943, was 3,542 distributed in the various ranks as indicated in the following:-

	General Police	Criminal Investigation Branch	Other Detectives and Plain Clothes	Police employed on Detective work	Traffic Police	Water Police	
Commissioner.	1						1
Deputy Commissioner.	1						1
Superintendent 1/c.	3						3
Superintendent 2/c.	3	1					4
Superintendent 3/c.	7						7
Acting Superintendent.	-						-
Inspector 1/c.	8				1		9
Inspector 2/c.	19	1					20
Inspector 3/c.	39						39
Acting Inspector.	3						3
Sergeant 1/c.	104	5		7	1	1	118
Sergeant 2/c.	190	14		11	7	2	224
Sergeant 3/c.	445	30		32	8	-	515
Constable 1/c.	1442	80		156	90	10	1778
Constable (Ord.)	547	50		46	133	4	780
Constable (Pro.)	39	1				4	40
Trainee.	-						-
	2851	182		252	240	17	3542.

There were in the employ of the Police Department also as at the 31st December, 1943, 281 Public Service Officers (including general division and female staff), 121 Police Cadets, 13 trackers and 5 Cadet Trackers, 18 Women Police, 6 Matrons, 1 Special Sergeant 3rd Class, 29 Special Constables and 1 Bandmaster, the full strength of the personnel of the Department being 4,017.

(b) War activities.

Owing to the war a number of Police were withdrawn from a number of small country centres during 1943 to enable Police strength in coastal areas and particularly in the Metropolitan and Newcastle Districts to be augmented. A list of the Stations from which Police were withdrawn is furnished later in this report.

II. DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS.

The business of the Department continued to increase chiefly by reason of the many additional duties which have fallen upon the Police owing to the war. Although there was some relaxation of the restrictions on the use of petrol for Departmental purposes the drastic cuts still imposed added to the difficulties of satisfactorily carrying out Police work. As in past years, Police throughout the State co-operated with Commonwealth and State Departments in the implementation of legislation arising out of war conditions.

(a) General Activities.

The number of files dealt with in the Commissioner's Office during 1943 was 239,359 as against 280,493 in 1942. This decrease is due chiefly to the fact that every effort has been made to avoid unnecessary correspondence. Despite this falling off in correspondence the work of the Department has, as stated in the previous paragraph, continued to increase, and the substantial decrease in Police strength owing to the cessation of recruiting for the Force has resulted in a heavier burden being placed on the shoulders of the serving Police, a burden which they have cheerfully carried during the war years. As quoted further on in this report Police in the Metropolitan District are working additional half shifts to enable Police work in the district to be satisfactorily carried on, and many country Police are also working long hours.

The training of Police Reservists has been continued but it was not necessary to call on their services to any extent. However, the continued training of the Reservists means that trained men are available to supplement the regular Force should war conditions render such a course necessary.

Civilian vehicular traffic during 1943 showed an increase over the previous year, the number of vehicles registered at the end of 1943 being 278,441 as against 267,000 at the end of 1942, an increase of 11,441. However, the number of holders of drivers licenses dropped from 418,684 at the end of 1942 to 414,701 at the end of 1943.

Industrial disturbances - The only industrial disturbance which called for special Police attention was the wharf labourers strike in April, 1943, which necessitated special Police patrols on the water front in Sydney and the bringing of Police from the country to relieve the consequent temporary drain on the Police strength in the Metropolitan District.

In continuance of the Department's co-operation with the Armed Forces, the living quarters at the Police Depot Barracks, Bourke Street, Redfern, were made available to the Army Authorities for billeting of military personnel. This meant that single Police previously residing in the Depot Barracks had to find accommodation elsewhere. The Police store, stables, workshops, garages, etc., have, however, been retained for Police use. There are now no Police Barracks in the Metropolitan Police District.

On the 6th September, 1943, the Vice Squad, which was a small squad attending to morality matters in the city area in conjunction with the Consorting Squad of the Criminal Investigation Branch and the Women Police, and the Special Squad, which attended chiefly to gaming and betting offences, were amalgamated. This was due in part to the necessity for conserving man power and also to war conditions which called for greater emphasis on morality aspects. The combined Squads, which are now known as the Vice Squad, operate in Sydney and Newcastle and give attention to morality and gaming matters as well as to certain other duties previously attended to by uniform Police.

(b) War activities.

Owing to the war situation Police were withdrawn from a number of small country centres during 1943 to enable Police strength in coastal areas and particularly in the Metropolitan and Newcastle Districts to be augmented. A list of the Stations from which Police were withdrawn is furnished later in this report.

A number of accident and mis-adventures in relation to aircraft and shipping used for war purposes occurred in respect of which Police co-operated by furnishing reports, etc. For security reasons details of these incidents are omitted.

The only report of enemy activity in this State was the discovery of a reconnaissance plane flying over Sydney and Wollongong. Police were mobilised for emergency duty in accordance with instructions laid down but there was no attack.

Police continued to act in co-operation with the Military and Air Force Authorities in the supervision of Military, Air Force and Internment Camps. Police also co-operated to the fullest extent with the Authorities of the U.S.A. Armed Forces.

The increase in black marketing operations rendered it necessary for Police to co-operate with the Federal Authorities with a view to detecting black marketing offences.

The increase in discovered venereal disease in young women owing to war conditions rendered it necessary for Police to co-operate to the fullest extent with officials of the Health Department. A number of Women Police were constantly engaged on inquiries in respect of women believed to be the source of infection, and six additional Women Police were appointed in a temporary capacity for the duration of the war and 12 months afterwards in order that the Women Police could continue effectively to assist the Health Department in locating and detecting venereal disease suspects. In addition, Police attached to the Vice Squad gave this matter special attention.

The shortage of Police in the Metropolitan District combined with the need for increased street patrols brought about by war conditions, resulted in the institution in June, 1943 of additional half shifts in respect of which for the first time overtime payment was made. Police who volunteered for this extra duty perform about one 4 hour additional half shift each fortnight.

A number of Military and other marches were held in Sydney during the year. All such marches passed off satisfactorily from a Police point of view.

Particulars in regard to funds raised by Police for patriotic purposes are given later in this report.

III. MAINTENANCE OF STRENGTH OF THE FORCE.

The authorised strength of the Police Force as at 31st December, 1943, was 3,800. The actual strength as indicated in the table on page 1 of this report, was 3,542.

IV. VACANCIES IN THE POLICE FORCE.

Vacancies caused by resignations, superannuation, deaths, etc., during the year totalled 114.

INFORMATION RELATING TO CRIME.

1. CRIMINAL STATISTICS FOR THE STATE GENERALLY.

The annual return of cases dealt with by the Courts in New South Wales during 1943 (Appendix "A") shows a marked decrease of 19,028 as against the figures for the previous year, the decrease being in respect of offences against good order and breaches of Acts generally. The chief increase was in respect of offences against property without violence, the other increases being in respect of offences against the person, offences against property with violence, and forgery and offences against the currency. The more serious breaches of the Traffic laws - drive a motor vehicle under the influence of intoxicating liquor or of a drug, drive a motor vehicle in a manner dangerous to the public, and drive a motor vehicle at a speed dangerous to the public - all showed further decreases, particularly the last named offence.

The following table supplies a sectional comparison of the figures for 1942 and 1943 in respect of cases dealt with by the Courts in New South Wales:-

Section.	1942	1943	Increase	Decrease
Offences against the person...	4,040	4,594	554	
Offences against property with violence.....	4,572	5,161	589	
Offences against property without violence.....	12,590	14,107	1,517	
Forgery and offences against the currency.....	89	137	48	
Offences against good order..	53,742	52,071	1,671
Breaches of Acts generally...	79,498	59,433	20,065
	154,531	135,503		19,028 Nett Decrease

II. POSITION IN REGARD TO CLEARING UP OF SERIOUS CRIME.

Hereunder is a table showing the results of Police investigations of serious crimes throughout the State during 1943, and similar information for the five previous years:-

Year	Number of serious crimes reported.	Number of serious crimes cleared up.	Percentage accounted for.
1938	19,727	13,013	66.00
1939	20,207	13,886	68.72
1940	18,070	13,882	76.82
1941	15,114	10,833	72.00
1942	15,953	11,659	73.08
1943	17,191	12,407	72.17

III. CRIMINAL STATISTICS FOR THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT.

The number of cases dealt with by the Courts in the Metropolitan District in 1943 and similar information for the year 1942, is set out in the following table:-

	1942	1943	Increase	Decrease
Offences against the person..	2,717	3,287	570	
Offences against property with violence.....	3,547	3,964	417	
Offences against property without violence.....	9,357	9,858	501	
Forgery and offences against the currency.....	50	90	40	
Offences against good order..	35,497	37,058	1,561	
Offences not included in the preceding (breaches of Acts generally).....	63,710	44,913		18,797
Nett decrease	15,708

IV. MISCELLANEOUS.

Gaming and Betting and Sly Grog Selling - Police throughout the State were active in the suppression of starting price betting and sly grog selling. During the year the Special Squad and Vice Squad were combined into the one Squad now known as the Vice Squad which operates both in the Metropolitan District and at Newcastle. The activities of the Vice Squad in the Metropolitan District in connection with gaming and betting and sly grog selling are disclosed in the following table:-

ACT.	Arrests.			Convictions.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Gaming and Betting	4,143	269	4,412	4,103	268	4,371
Liquor (Sly Grog Selling)	167	29	196	158	28	186

Act.	Discharged.			Pending.		Fines.	Forfeitures
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.		
Gaming and Betting.....	1	1	2	39	-	£19,375.10.9	£925.9.5
Liquor (Sly Grog Selling)	2	-	2	7	1	£7,345.0.0	-

This table includes 153 raids carried out on common gaming houses in which games such as two-up, chemin de fer, etc., were being played. In these raids 3,424 persons were arrested and fines imposed amounting to £6,226/8/-. The table also includes 21 prosecutions against persons for tipping, tipping advertisements, displaying betting odds and similar offences in respect of which fines amounting to £271 were imposed.

During the year the Vice Squad took action as the result of which seven premises including two clubs were declared to be common gaming houses under Section 21 of the Gaming and Betting Act. Thousands of bottles of various intoxicants were seized by the Squad in respect of the illegal sale of liquor and were ordered to be forfeited. In addition to the work in connection with illegal gaming and betting and sly grog selling members of the Vice Squad effected over 2,000 arrests in connection with miscellaneous offences in respect of which fines amounting to £3,052/17/6 were imposed.

The Disorderly Houses Act No. 6 of 1943 came into force during the year and under the provisions of this Act five premises including one residential, one brothel and two night clubs were declared to be disorderly houses.

Members of the Vice Squad visited country centres on 13 occasions as the result of which 127 persons were arrested and fines amounting to £769 imposed.

Starting price betting is creeping back into hotel premises and licensees have been warned that if this continues action will be taken to have their premises declared common gaming houses. Betting on ferry steamers following the sailing races in Sydney Harbour was given continuous attention during the sailing season and a number of arrests made and convictions obtained.

The position in regard to prostitutes on the streets of Sydney is satisfactory but several women were arrested for stealing money from Allied servicemen. Members of the Vice Squad performed a considerable amount of work assisting Customs Officers in detecting "black marketing" offences principally in the sale of "black market" liquor. Members of the Squad also co-operated with the Health Department in carrying out inquiries in respect of venereal disease suspects.

POLICE ACTIVITIES TOWARDS THE SUPPRESSION AND PREVENTION OF STOCK STEALING (CATTLE, SHEEP AND HORSES) AND WOOL AND WHEAT STEALING.

(a) Stock Stealing -

The total number of head of stock reported stolen during 1943 was 1,030 as against 866 for the previous year, the total value of the stock reported stolen being £3,364. 266 head of this stock representing a value of £653 was subsequently cleared up "not stolen as reported." 141 head were cleared up by arrests and 603 still remain outstanding.

(b) Wool and Wheat Stealing - During 1943 only three lots of wool valued at £23 were reported stolen, one lot valued at £12 being recovered and an arrest made. Only eight bags of wheat were reported stolen (approximate value £4), none of which was recovered.

JUVENILE CRIME - It will be seen from Appendix "B" (Return of Crime committed by juveniles in the Metropolitan District) that there was only a small increase in the number of offences as against the previous year. The return shows that such increases was due principally to cases of being a neglected or uncontrollable child and travel on train or tram without paying fare. The large increase in cases of being a neglected or uncontrollable child is no doubt the result of the lack of parental control exercised over many children owing to their fathers being in the Armed Forces and their mothers working. The main decreases were in respect of offensive and riotous behaviour, drunkenness, illegally use motor car and stealing.

EXTRADITIONS - The only case during the year was the extradition of an offender from the United States of America to

answer a number of charges of forging and uttering, false pretences, etc.

Inquests - The total number of inquests held during 1943 was 1,682, being 209 less than the total for the previous year. The number of inquests on dead bodies was 1,661 (the total number of bodies being 1,685.) The number of inquests in cases of fires was 21.

Thefts made possible by negligence of owners of property - There were 1,338 cases in the Metropolitan Area in which thefts were made possible by the negligence of owners of property, a decrease of 239 in the figures for the previous year. Of the 1,338 cases mentioned above, 873 were in respect of bicycles and 101 in respect of articles from motor vehicles.

Serious crime in the Metropolitan District - Particulars of serious crime reported during 1943, the total number of cases cleared up, the total value of the property reported stolen, and the total value of property recovered or accounted for are set out in the following table:-

Year	No. of cases cleared up.	Per-cent- age.	Property reported stolen.		Property accounted for.		Property recovered.		Per-cent- age.	
			£	s d	£	s d	£	s d		
1923	8,496	71	214,118	14/7	161,140	3/8	75	46,824	8/-	22

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BRANCH.

The system of interchange of Detectives between this and other States continued satisfactorily throughout the year; members of the Criminal Investigation Branch also worked in conjunction with Railway Detectives and were successful in obtaining 732 convictions for various offences, the number of convictions and the quantity of goods recovered being a record.

Essential particulars with regard to the operations of the various Sections of the Criminal Investigation Branch are set out hereunder including a brief description of the more outstanding cases dealt with during the year.

1. FINGER PRINT SECTION.

A total of 46,890 fingerprints was received during 1943 as against 43,035 received during 1942. The number of fingerprints identified as those of persons previously convicted was 22,978 as compared with 19,894 in 1942. Evidence of fingerprint identification was given in 19 cases and in 191 other cases the accused admitted their guilt; the figures for the previous year being 38 and 151 respectively. Fingerprint exhibits brought to the Criminal Investigation Branch during 1943 totalled 620 as against 590 for the previous year, 231 prints from scenes of crime being identified and 1,628 visits paid by members of the Fingerprint Section to the scenes of crime. The fingerprints of 35 unknown deceased persons were taken, 22 of which were subsequently identified. Checks of the records at the Fingerprint Section in respect of persons nominated for the Commission of the Peace and in relation to names of persons to be added to the Jury List totalled 4,468. Similar checks in relation to applicants for various licenses, for appointment as Special Constables, etc., numbered 48,062.

The Central Fingerprint Bureau continues to progress very satisfactorily and greater benefits are being derived therefrom each year. As mentioned elsewhere in this report a Conference of Officers in Charge of Fingerprint Bureaux of the various States of the Commonwealth was held in Sydney in April, 1943.

II. PHOTOGRAPHIC, BALLISTIC AND MODUS OPERANDI SECTIONS.

20,000 copies of 1,839 photographic negatives received were printed and circulated. 9,000 criminal photographs were circulated in book form. 1,920 prisoners were photographed and 6,000 copies of the prints circulated; 861 fingerprints, documents, cheques, etc., were photographed and 681 photographs taken at scenes of crime, fire and serious accidents. 9 unidentified dead bodies were photographed and 4,161 photographs of suspects printed and circulated. In a number of instances these figures are less than those for 1942 and this decrease was brought about by the shortage of photographic material.

In the Ballistics Section, 38 firearms, fired bullets and cartridge cases were received from the scenes of crime for examination, 32 firearms were examined and tested in connection with crimes in which firearms were used, and evidence of identification was given in 8 cases. 460 surrendered and confiscated firearms were received in the Section.

12,878 Modus Operandi Forms were received in the Modus Operandi Section, classified and dealt with, 1,889 being forwarded to Police who had likely suspects under arrest; of the latter 1,296 were definitely connected with offenders charged. Over 10,000 new cards were placed on record in the Section. Property to the value of £2,776 was traced on the records at the Property Tracing Section and returned to owners, and as a result of the tracing of this property 112 persons were charged with various offences. The body of an unknown man was identified in the Modus Operandi Section by means of a jeweller's repair mark in a watch found on the body.

III. DRUG TRAFFIC.

Opium smoking is still prevalent but is practically confined to Chinese. The source of their supply is at present believed to be from crews of vessels coming from India. There is a shortage of supplies and consequently opium is very expensive. One person, a Chinaman, was convicted of having opium in his possession, 29 Chinese were convicted for smoking opium, and 29 Chinese were convicted for frequenting a place used for opium smoking. There were three prosecutions for having morphine in possession, two prosecutions for stealing morphine, two prosecutions for attempting to obtain morphine, one prosecution for obtaining a prescription for heroin by false representation, one prosecution for issuing a prescription for cocaine for other than medical treatment, one prosecution for issuing a prescription for morphine not being authorised and one prosecution for obtaining morphine by means of forged prescription. In addition five chemists were prosecuted for failing to keep a proper record of drugs, one chemist and one license holder for supplying unauthorised persons with drugs, and one other person, an unregistered doctor, for issuing a prescription for a drug not being authorised. No cases of illicit trafficking in or addiction to Indian hemp came under notice. Drug trafficking in general has been kept well in check by the efforts of the Police and Customs Authorities. Authorised persons such as doctors and chemists have been supervised throughout the State by Police authorised under the Police Offences Amendment (Drugs Act, and only one instance (that of a medical practitioner supplying cocaine for other than medical purposes) of the leakage of drugs from the legitimate to an illicit source came under notice.

IV. WIRELESS SECTION.

The Police Wireless System continued to function efficiently and in addition to providing uninterrupted wireless telephone service to wireless equipped Police mobile units and

Police Stations in the Metropolitan District, provided a 24 hour daily wireless telegraph service to Newcastle, Melbourne and Brisbane Police Stations. Wireless service was also supplied to vehicles and a launch used by the Australian Army Provost Corps, the Royal Australian Air Force Provost Corps and the United States Army Provost Corps.

There are 55 Police vehicles fitted with receivers and reply back transmitters and 3 traffic patrol trucks fitted with receiving sets only. Two Police launches are also completely equipped with the reply back system. 24,864 messages were transmitted to Police mobile units and Stations during the year.

On the 1st September, 1943, a serious fire occurred in a building adjacent to the Police Wireless Station which resulted in the electric power supply being cut off. During the period the electric power supply was not available to the Police Wireless Section the emergency Police Wireless Station was put into operation.

V. SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION BUREAU.

Members of the Scientific Investigation Bureau paid 116 visits to the scenes of crimes and fatal accidents and took 83 photographs of such scenes. Reproductions of 12 tool marks, 4 footprints and 3 tyre marks were effected. Of 49 cases in which metal or leather articles were treated to restore obliterated numbers or brands, treatment was successful in 35 instances and nine prosecutions resulted. Documents were examined in 197 cases of which 123 disclosed information of value and resulted in 48 prosecutions. Examinations were also made of clothing, textiles, counterfeit coins, fractures of glass, etc. Expert evidence was given before the Courts by Officers of the Bureau in 82 cases.

VI. THE COMPANY AND BUSINESS AGENTS SQUAD.

As a result of the activities of this Squad 85 persons were brought before the Courts by way of arrest or summons involving 140 charges and property to the total value of £21,073. The offences comprised in the charges were principally stealing, false pretences, larceny as a servant, omit to account and embezzlement. This Squad is called upon to attend to all applications made under the Business Agents Act, Auctioneers, Stock and Station and Real Estate Agents Act and the Money Lenders and Infants Loans Act for the whole of the State, and approximately 4,000 such applications were dealt with by the Squad during the year. A most gratifying feature of the Squad's activities was the arrest of a number of persons on charges involving clever and ingenious fraud. Particulars of one of these cases are given elsewhere in this report.

VII. THE CONSORTING SQUAD.

This Squad operates for the purpose of Policing the amendment to the Vagrancy Act relevant to the consorting of reputed criminals and checking the movements and associates of criminals generally. In addition the Squad watches the activities of confidence men and attends all race meetings held in the Metropolitan Area in an endeavour to minimise the activities of pick pockets. During the year 55 males were arrested by members of the Squad for consorting and 167 other persons were arrested for various offences.

VIII. THE ARSON SQUAD.

During the year the Arson Squad inquired into the cause of 113 fires. Four persons were arrested and charged in connection with fires, in each instance the person arrested being a juvenile. Particulars of major fires during 1943 are set out hereunder:-

Premises of the Sunshine Bread Coy, Hardman Brothers Biscuit

Factory and the Southern Cross Flour Mills at Newtown; damage to the building and contents to the value of £64,000 resulted.

Premises of Griffith Brothers Pty. Ltd. Wentworth Avenue, Sydney; damage caused to the extent of £35,000.

Storeroom at the Bunnerong Power House, the property of the Sydney County Council, totally destroyed by fire and the contents badly damaged, the total loss being approximately £40,000.

Premises of the Electrical Plant Manufacturing Pty. Ltd. Waterloo; damage to the building and contents to the extent of £40,000 being caused.

In the first two cases the Coroner resulted verdicts that the fires were accidentally caused, in the third case the Coroner dispensed with an Inquiry, and in the fourth case no Inquiry has yet been held. There were three deaths from fires during the year and in each case the Coroner returned a verdict of accidental death.

IX. ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE WOOL, HIDE AND SKIN DEALERS ACT.

There was no activity during the year in illegal trafficking in skins of protected birds and animals. Prosecutions were instituted against licensed dealers who failed to keep correct records of purchases. A strict oversight was maintained in respect of licenses issued to applicants to destroy opossums on their properties and in no instance was it discovered that the license granted was being abused. Officers of the Bureau exercised active supervision over the premises of dealers in wool hide and skins.

X. THE GOLD BUYING SQUAD.

The Gold Buying Squad effected the arrest of 309 persons against whom 460 charges were preferred. The total value of the property recovered as the result of these arrests was £7,450 practically all of which was restored to the rightful owners.

XI. THE MOTOR SQUAD.

Of 900 persons reported to the Police Department as being missing 800 were located, and members of the 1,358 motor cars and lorries were reported stolen, of which only 29 remain to be recovered. Of a total of 279 motor cycles reported stolen all but 20 have been recovered. Members of the Squad arrested 85 persons for various offences, most of which were in connection with the theft of motor vehicles and accessories and trafficking in petrol ration tickets. During the year the stealing and stripping of motor vehicles was prevalent, but the arrest of a number of offenders for this class of offence has brought about a considerable improvement in the position. A number of well known criminals were arrested by the Squad in connection with the stealing of motor cars, tyres and accessories.

XII. CO-OPERATION WITH RAILWAY DETECTIVES.

Members of the Criminal Investigation Branch working in conjunction with Railway Detectives obtained 732 convictions for various offences, which is claimed to be a record. The quantity of goods recovered is also claimed as a record. A well known criminal was arrested in the act of stealing parcels and passengers' luggage from a platform at Central Railway Station and as a result of continued inquiries he was convicted on 12 charges of this nature involving property to a total value of £2,000, of which approximately £1,000 worth was recovered. A Railway porter was convicted on 12 charges of stealing large amounts of property from the Darling Harbour goods yard over a period of 12 months. This man had been in the employ of the

Railway Department for nearly 30 years. There was a noticeable increase in the number of railway employees convicted, amongst them being men with more than 30 years service.

XIII. WOMEN POLICE.

As mentioned elsewhere in this report six additional Women Police were appointed in a temporary capacity for the duration of the war and twelve months afterwards in order that the Women Police might continue to effectively assist the Health Department in locating and detecting venereal disease suspects. Members of the Women Police co-operated with the Vice Squad and other Police in paying special attention to the conduct of young girls in the company of Servicemen at the various meeting places and amusement arcades in the city, and spoke to 1,079 girls and young women in connection with their behaviour in public streets and loitering in parks and amusement centres without reasonable excuse. In many such instances the girls in the company of Servicemen spoken to were found to be of tender years and were conveyed to the Women Police Office where they were given advice as to their future conduct and then handed over to their parents. In the majority of such cases the parents were unaware of the presence of their daughters in the city and were very appreciative of the action taken. 400 girls were charged with being neglected or uncontrollable; many of these girls had been reported as missing and were located in city parks, amusement arcades, residential, railway stations and on the water front. The visiting of residential by Women Police accompanied by members of the Vice Squad in the early hours of the morning resulted in many missing girls being located. Assistance was rendered by the Women Police to Detective and other Police in the arrest and charging of 420 women in connection with criminal charges, and in connection with the arrest of 109 men on various charges. There were three outstanding cases of men charged with procuring young girls for an immoral purpose and members of the Women Police assisted in the investigation of these cases. There was a noticeable decrease in the number of complaints received during the year concerning the activities of fortune tellers, only three persons being before the Court charged with this offence. Twelve interstate and country escorts were undertaken by the Women Police. Seventeen persons deemed to be insane were conveyed by members of the Women Police and other Police to the Reception House. Of 900 persons reported to the Police Department as being missing 800 were located, and members of the Women Police materially assisted in this very satisfactory result. 900 persons were interviewed by the Women Police in connection with neglected children, missing relatives, young girls leaving home, etc. Over 100 inquiries were made in connection with women suspected to be suffering from venereal disease. 700 reports were furnished by members of the Women Police in the course of the year.

XIV. OUTSTANDING CRIMINAL CASES.

There were a number of serious crimes committed during the year throughout the State. Brief particulars of some of the more outstanding or unusual cases are as follow:-

On the 6th March, 1943, Albert Edward Crutcher aged 11 years was reported by his parents to the Parramatta Police as having been missing from his home since early that morning. Inquiries made by the Police on that and the following day failed to locate the missing boy. About 2.45 p.m. on the 7th March a youth discovered the body of a boy in a water hole in A'Beckett's Creek, Granville. Police immediately visited the scene and found the boy's body lying face downwards in about 18 inches of water. The boy's body was found to be trussed with his braces. There was a wound in the corner of the left eye towards the forehead and other bruises about the face. The body was identified as that of the missing boy Albert Edward Crutcher and a post mortem examination revealed that

whilst there was evidence of a criminal assault having been committed on the boy, the actual cause of death was suffocation. Inquiries made by the Police revealed that a number of people had seen the boy Crutcher in the company of a man at various times and places in the district on the day he was reported missing. Special circulars were prepared containing a description of the suspect and a brief outline of the crime and circulated throughout factories, munition annexes, hotels and many other places as well as being printed in newspapers, and as a result very helpful co-operation by the general public was forthcoming. Many suspects were interviewed and one man who very markedly resembled the man suspected of the murder consented to have his photograph taken and used in the investigations. Copies of these photographs were circulated to various Police Stations for the assistance of Police. Approximately 100 Police Cadets, each armed with a description of the suspect were sent to the various swimming baths and parks in the Metropolitan area in an endeavour to locate the suspect as it was thought he was a sex pervert. In the course of their inquiries Police were informed that a man named Roy Barlow, a resident of Fairfield, fitted the description of the suspect described in the newspapers. It was ascertained that Barlow was a member of the Military Forces and had been absent without leave since August 1942. On the 16th April Barlow was taken into custody by the Military Provost. Police were informed and Barlow was taken to Parramatta Police Station where he was identified by witnesses as the man they had seen in the company of the boy Crutcher prior to the latter's death. On the 29th June, 1943, Barlow was found guilty of the murder of the boy Crutcher and sentenced to death, the sentence being later commuted to imprisonment for the term of his natural life. This was a most cold blooded and foul murder and created such an impression in the minds of the general public that they rendered the Police every assistance in their power in solving the crime.

At about 8.10 p.m. on the 10th April, 1943, an elderly man named Duncan McPhee staggered into the casualty ward of St. Vincents Hospital, Darlinghurst, and stated that he had been stabbed by a soldier and a civilian at the corner of Farrell Avenue and Darlinghurst Road, Kings Cross. He was admitted to the hospital and immediately operated on for stab wounds in the back of his shoulders, left forearm and lower right side of the abdomen. Police were informed and they followed a trail of blood left by McPhee from the casualty ward of St. Vincents Hospital along various streets and through the grounds of the Royal Hospital for Women, Paddington, to the front entrance of that institution where the trail of blood terminated. McPhee was interviewed by Police on a number of occasions and at each interview he gave a different story as to how he came by his injuries. He later admitted, however, having received his injuries in the grounds of the Royal Hospital for Women but he died on the 15th April without disclosing any information regarding the identity of the person responsible for his injuries. Police interviewed all of McPhee's relatives, friends and associates and followed up the most minute clues. One fact which was established by the Police was that although McPhee had lived a secluded and apparently respectable life he had for a number of years quietly indulged in homosexual practices. As a result a number of known and suspected homosexuals were interviewed by the Police without, however, further causing them to suspect that the murder had been committed by a person of that type. About a month later, whilst continuing their inquiries, Police received information that a young man named Keith Clarence White who had recently been discharged from the Army was responsible for the crime. On White being interrogated by Police he admitted the crime, stating that on the night in question McPhee spoke to him outside the entrance to the Royal Hospital for Women and requested his assistance to move a sick friend whom McPhee alleged was reclining on the grass. White accompanied McPhee to a dark and secluded part of the ground with the intention of assisting

him with his sick friend, and alleged that McPhee made indecent suggestions to him, caught hold of him and indecently assaulted him. He also stated that, being unable to break the hold which McPhee, who was much bigger than himself, had on him, he drew a knife he was carrying on his person and stabbed McPhee and left him there. White was charged with murder, and at the Central Criminal Court on the 21st June, 1943, was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to 8 years' hard labour. He later appealed against the severity of the sentence but his appeal was dismissed. Inquiries in connection with this case lasted over a period of approximately five weeks and involved arduous work over long hours by the Police engaged in the investigation, which was made all the more difficult by the fact that McPhee gave no assistance whatever to the Police prior to his death.

About 5.30 p.m. on the 6th October, 1943, the body of Mrs. Mary Pritchard was discovered lying face downwards in the water at Dorsey's Bay, Wauchope, her face and head having been badly battered. On returning home from school on that date Mrs. Pritchard's children, seeing some cake mixture on the kitchen table and that their mother was absent, concluded she was visiting the home of Mrs. Secombe who resided opposite and with whom she was on very friendly terms. The children called at Mrs. Secombe's, and learning that their mother was not there told Mrs. Secombe of their mother's absence from home although the ingredients for a cake were partly on the kitchen table and partly in a mixing bowl. Accompanied by her husband, Mrs. Secombe made a search for Mrs. Pritchard and came across her body as already described. The Police and Government Medical Officer at Wauchope were notified, the body was removed from the water and the Government Medical Officer pronounced life extinct. Constable Barry then proceeded to the home of Mr. Secombe where he communicated by telephone with his Inspector and the Coroner at Port Macquarie informing them of the tragedy. Whilst he was making these telephone calls Henry Bacon Secombe, aged 16½, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Secombe, entered the room and stood beside the Constable. He informed Constable Barry that he had seen Mrs. Pritchard alive at 2 p.m. that afternoon when he called to deliver a telephone message to her and that he had seen a red headed man fishing in the river near where her body was found. The body of the deceased was later removed to her home and the youth Secombe assisted the Police in its removal. Detectives from Sydney and Newcastle took over inquiries in the matter and shortly after their arrival on the 7th October they interviewed Mrs. Secombe who informed them that she had received a telephone message for Mrs. Pritchard which had been delivered by her son Henry Bacon Secombe, who had informed her that Mrs. Pritchard was quite well when he delivered the message. During this interview the youth Secombe entered the room and offered to point out to the Detectives where he had met Mrs. Pritchard and delivered the message. On their way to the Pritchard's home they came across a dead lizard on the pathway. One of the Police made some comment in respect of the dead lizard and the youth Secombe then said "Yes, I killed that lizard, I kill all things like that". After a few minutes silence he confessed to the killing of Mrs. Pritchard and led the Police to where he had broken a piece of wood from a tree and hit Mrs. Pritchard on the head whilst she was bending in lantana bushes looking for hen eggs. He then led the Police to the spot where he had dragged the body and where it was subsequently found. Secombe appeared before the Central Criminal Court on the 29th November, 1943, charged with the murder of Mrs. Mary Pritchard, and after a hearing which lasted three days the Jury returned a verdict of manslaughter and the youth was sentenced to 20 years penal servitude.

An unusual crime was revealed when Raymond Campbell Miller was arrested at the New England University College, Armidale, on the 23rd February, 1943, and brought to Armidale

Police Station. At the time Miller was in female attire and wearing an auburn wig. He had come to Armidale some days previously accompanied by a young woman named Payne, Miller then being dressed in the garb of a Minister of Religion. Miss Payne was employed as a bacteriologist in a Vaccine Institute at Randwick and it could have been of great assistance to her in her work if she could have entered the University and studied in the Faculty of Medicine. To do this, however, would necessitate her matriculating and with this end in view she went to a coach in the person of Miller who was reputed to be a Doctor of Philosophy and also claimed to be a Doctor of Divinity. Miller informed her that to matriculate would mean, amongst other things, about two years hard study in the subject of Latin. Miss Payne was of the opinion that this would be too much for her, and so Miller, dressed as a woman, attended the New England University College, Armidale, representing himself to be Miss Payne, and sat for the matriculation examination. To enable him to do this Miss Payne accompanied Miller to the examination room where she answered verbal questions directed to Miller, the latter pretending he could not speak on account of a tonsilectomy two days previously. Police eventually came on the scene and removed the hat, veil and wig from Miller's head, revealing him as a man. Both Miller and Miss Payne were charged jointly with conspiring to effect or produce a public mischief. Miller was eventually convicted and sentenced to 12 months' hard labour and Miss Payne was released on a bond to be of good behaviour for a period of three years and to come up for sentence if called upon during that time.

Regulations governing lights on motor vehicles, (during 1942, 21,890 On the 7th July, 1943, John Francis Jeffries was arrested and charged with 103 offences of house and shop breaking covering a period of four years. The value of the property stolen was approximately £2,000, and property to the value of £1,000 was recovered. Jeffries was subsequently sentenced to five years' hard labour on a number of the charges preferred against him, with an additional five years' hard labour in respect of other charges, and was declared an habitual criminal.

killed and 5,664 injured.

A Sergeant in the Australian Military Forces employed at the District Finance Office, Sydney, had access to all records relating to Military allotments made by members of the Fighting Forces to their next of kin, and to identification cards and allotment certificates which had been returned to the District Finance Office for cancellation. He obtained possession of three allotment certificates which had been returned for cancellation but which had not actually been cancelled. He then with another Sergeant employed in a Branch of the District Finance Office at Victoria Barracks, contacted a woman in a dance hall at Darlinghurst and induced her to assist them by presenting military allotment certificates at the Post Offices where the allotments had been originally payable and to draw the allotments. The first mentioned Sergeant then prepared identification cards to coincide with the allotment certificates and forwarded them to the three Post Offices concerned, forging the signature of the Chief Paymaster on the cards. The woman presented the allotment certificates at the three Post Offices concerned and was paid sums of money at each of those Offices. A salesman and a taxi cab driver then joined in the conspiracy. A large quantity of forged allotment certificates, identification cards and official envelopes were printed. Forged impression stamps similar to those used in Scone and Ulan Post Offices, and forged rubber

Defective Brakes.	327
Glaring headlights.	185
Not turn motor vehicle with safety.	91
Not give way to a vehicle on right at inter-section.	471

The foregoing figures do not include cases where the offenders were arrested.

stamps of the signature of the Chief Paymaster were obtained. The allotment certificates and identification cards were then filled in, using fictitious names, regimental numbers and ranks, and signed by either of the Sergeants, using the fictitious names in which they were filled in. They were then stamped with the forged Post Office stamp and an entry placed on them showing that payment had been transferred from Scone or Ulan Post Office to a Post Office in the Metropolitan Area. The identification cards, together with a forged communication purporting to come from the Chief Paymaster, were forwarded to the Post Offices concerned which included practically every Post Office in the Metropolitan Area. The woman then took possession of the forged allotment certificates and accompanying the salesman and taxi cab driver in a hired car visited a number of Post Offices, presented the forged documents and was paid some of the money. Altogether approximately £1,800 was collected, and approximately £6,000 was ready to be lifted from the various Post Offices at the time of the arrest of the offenders, who are now awaiting trial.

TRAFFIC BRANCH.

The total number of breach reports dealt with in the Traffic Branch during 1943 was 52,266, a reduction of 38,816 on the number for the previous year. This decrease is attributed chiefly to the continued restrictions on the use of petrol, the lifting during the year of the Brown Out Regulations governing lights on motor vehicles, (during 1942, 21,890 breach reports under the National Emergency (Brown Out) Regulations were submitted,) and to the reduction in the number of Police available for road patrol duties owing to the general shortage of Police strength.

Road accidents totalled 6,814 a decrease in the number, 7,689, for 1942. Arising out of these accidents in 1943, 384 people were killed and 4,616 injured. In 1942, 493 people were killed and 5,664 injured.

Particulars in regard to the more serious types of traffic offences dealt with by breach reports during the year are as follows:-

Drive a motor vehicle under the influence of intoxicating liquor, or of a drug.	22
Drive a motor vehicle in a manner dangerous to the public.	100
Drive a motor vehicle at a speed dangerous to the public.	114
Drive a motor vehicle negligently.	1,120
Fail to stop after accident.	101
Exceed 30 m.p.h. speed limit.	3,009
Exceed 20 m.p.h. speed limit.	394
Illegally use a motor vehicle.	14
Not turn corner correctly.	361
Not keep to left.	263
Pass stationary tramcar.	140
Cross centre of road on grade or curve.	97
Drive a motor vehicle without being licensed.	729
Cross double lines on roadway.	191
Undue noise.	176
Defective Brakes.	325
Glaring headlights.	185
Not turn motor vehicle with safety.	91
Not give way to a vehicle on right at intersection.	471

The foregoing figures do not include cases where the offenders were arrested.

Altogether 350 persons were convicted for driving a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor. Of these 299 had their drivers licenses cancelled for periods of one year or more. The provisions of Section 556A of the Crimes Act were extended to 41 of these offenders.

In July, 1943, the National Security (Land Transport) Order came into operation. The Order provides that a vehicle must not be driven at a greater speed than 30 miles per hour and was issued as a war measure with a view to conserving petrol and rubber. Police have rigidly enforced this Order.

The Taxi-cabs and Private Hire Cars Control (New South Wales) Order made under the National Security (Land Transport) Regulations came into force in 1943 and provides for taxi-cabs to be worked on a pool system at any hour of the day or night. This pool system was put into operation late in the year at the Central Railway Station and has worked satisfactorily.

Many traffic facilities such as traffic domes, centre lines, pedestrian lane ways, traffic signs of various types, etc., were established upon the public streets and roads of the State. The Department of Road Transport and Tramways arranges for the erection of the signs, etc., following on recommendations made by Police.

Childrens' Safety Patrols - Although additional duties falling upon the Police as a result of war conditions necessarily reduced to some extent the activities of Police in connection with lectures to school children on safety first principles, etc, a considerable amount of work of this nature was carried out by Police during 1943. In the Metropolitan District 1,995 visits were paid to 578 schools the total number of lectures given being 4,991. In Country Districts a number of schools were visited and lectures delivered but not to the same extent as in previous years, owing chiefly to the reduction in strength of a number of Police Stations, and transport difficulties following on the curtailment of the use of motor vehicles. 52 Safety First Broadcasts were made during the year with the co-operation of Radio Station 2UW.

WATER POLICE.

Sydney.

There are six motor launches in the Metropolitan Police Administrative District, three of which are used in the waters of Port Jackson, the other three being at Blakehurst, Cronulla and Brooklyn. During the year 84 boats were reported to the Police as lost or stolen, 50 being recovered and restored to their owners. In addition to Policing the waterfront generally, particular attention was paid by the Water Police to the arrival and departure of vessels, of which a large number entered and left the port. Twenty-eight bodies were recovered from the harbour and four persons were killed on board ships and wharves in the harbour. 102 persons were rescued by the Water Police as the result of sailing boats capsizing, the boats being towed to the shore and the persons rescued taken to a place of safety. The Water Police were active in connection with the overloading of ferry boats, a number of checks on the loading of the boats being carried out, and they also co-operated with Officers of the Maritime Services Board in enforcing the Board's Regulations applying to ferry boats on Sydney Harbour.

Newcastle and District.

Four motor launches are in use in the North Eastern Police Administrative District, two at Newcastle, one at Forster and one at Tea Gardens. The increased amount of shipping in the port at Newcastle has added to the work of the Water Police at that centre.

INSPECTION OF LICENSED PREMISES.

1. Metropolitan Licensing District - Licenses under the Liquor Act.

The total number of hotels in the Metropolitan Licensing District as at the 31st December, 1943, was 533, the same as at the close of the three previous years. Owing to the restrictions imposed by the National Security (Building Control) Regulations, only 11 applications for permission to effect material alterations to licensed premises were granted by the Metropolitan Licensing Bench throughout the year, the cost of the work being £338. The Court also made an order in terms of Section 40A of the Liquor Act, 1912 in relation to one hotel on application by the Police, the cost of the work being £329.

As at the 31st December, 1943, there were in the Metropolitan Licensing District 114 Spirit Merchants Licenses, 158 Australian Wine Licenses, 4 Brewers Licenses, 1 Packet License, 9 Billiard Licenses and 46 registered clubs, the only difference to the number in existence during 1942 being one packet and one billiard license less.

2. Convictions of Licensees.

134 convictions entailing fines and costs amounting to £1,180-10-2 were obtained against holders of publicans' licenses in the Metropolitan Licensing District. Four licensees were disqualified from holding a license of any description under the Liquor Act for a period of three years consequent on their being convicted three times during the preceding three years for breaches of the Liquor Act. 17 convictions entailing fines and costs amounting to £113-9-0 were obtained against holders of Australian Wine Licenses, and six convictions entailing fines and costs amounting to £127-8-0 were obtained against holders of Spirit Merchants Licenses.

Fourteen samples of unbranded liquor were procured for analysis but none was found to be below the standard required by the Regulations under the Pure Food Act, 1908. Owing to the rationing of liquor, it was frequently found on visiting licensed premises for the purpose of procuring samples of unbranded liquor that it was impossible to purchase the required quantity i.e. one pint. Since the standard of strength of liquor was fixed in 1901, 8,449 samples of liquor have been taken from licensed premises in the Metropolitan Licensing District, but in no case has any sample been found to contain anything deleterious or dangerous to health.

3. Licensing inspection in the State generally.

In addition to supervising premises licensed under the Liquor Act, the Metropolitan Licensing Inspector and his Assistant visited city theatres nightly and some of the suburban theatres at various intervals. Minor breaches of the Theatres and Public Halls Act observed were immediately corrected upon being brought under notice of the Managers of the theatres concerned. Theatre Managers throughout the city conduct their premises generally in a very satisfactory manner.

No inspections of premises licensed under the Liquor Act outside the Metropolitan Licensing District were made by the Metropolitan Licensing Inspector at the request of the Licensing Magistrates.

GENERAL MATTERS.

1. STATIONS ESTABLISHED, etc. -

During 1943 the premises at Lawson rented for Police Station purposes had to be vacated by this Department and owing to the impossibility of obtaining other suitable premises the

Police Station at that centre was temporarily closed. Pending other suitable premises becoming available Police matters in the Lawson Patrol are being attended to by the Wentworth Falls Police.

Police were withdrawn from the following Stations for duties at more important centres during the year:-

Dalton	Lochivar
Newbridge	Jerangle
Nerriga	Bean Baa
Humula	Collector
Currabubula	Greenethorpe
Carcoar	Mount George
Somerton	Mount Hope.

II. POLICE CALL BOXES. -

The growth of new suburbs along the Tempe - East Hills railway line necessitated the establishment of a large Police call box at Kingsgrove which was taken into use on the 30th August, 1943, and is manned by two Constables who have the use of a motor cycle. Otherwise the position in regard to Police call boxes at the end of 1943 was virtually the same as existed during the previous year.

III. POLICE BUILDINGS, SITES, RESERVES, etc. -

During the year a modern brick Police Station and residence was erected at Cardiff. On the night of the 28th February, 1943, the Police Office and Court House at Stuart Town were destroyed by fire.

Owing to war conditions which demand the utmost conservation of finance, man power and materials, the Department of Public Works has only been in a position to undertake work of an absolutely imperative nature in connection with the maintenance of Police buildings, and the Police Authorities appreciate the continued co-operation received from that Department under abnormal circumstances.

IV. TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT. -

Departmental motor vehicles. - The number of motor vehicles under the control of this Department as at 31st December, 1943, was 393 comprising (a) in the Metropolitan District, 42 motor cars, 33 divisional patrol cars, 7 area cars, 10 motor lorries, 1 panel van, 7 patrol vans, 146 motor cycles, (b) in country districts 23 motor cars, 34 motor lorries, 1 panel van, 4 patrol vans and 85 motor cycles. To replace worn out vehicles 9 new motor cars were purchased during the year. These vehicles are included in the total of 393.

Bicycles.- Police patrols are carried out in various localities throughout the State by means of bicycles. The number available at the end of 1943 was 383, including a reserve stock of 12 held for use as required.

Police Horses. - 265 troop horses were in use at Police Stations throughout the State as at the 31st December last, 24 being at the Police Depot.

V. LICENSING OF PISTOLS.

The following licenses were issued during the year:-

Ordinary licenses	8,672
Free licenses	390
Dealer's certificates	44
Duplicate licenses	1
Visitor's permits	-
Total	9,107

The total revenue received in respect of the issue of these licenses was £4,380-1-0.

During the year 119 telephone inquiries were made by Police in regard to information contained on the Pistol License Register; in 19 instances information of a positive nature was supplied. Only two applications for permission to import pistols were received. A total of 1,899 files of official correspondence was handled in this Section. 460 weapons, including 30 rifles, were received at the Criminal Investigation Branch for destruction or other disposal. No pistols were destroyed during the year. Nothing of outstanding interest occurred during the year in regard to the licensing of pistols.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES OR REFORMS, NEW LEGISLATION, ETC.

The Premier approved of the appointment of six additional Women Police to act in a temporary capacity for the duration of the war and twelve months afterwards in order that the Women Police might assist the Health Department in locating and contacting venereal disease suspects. The annual cost involved is £2,264.

As a result of the depletion of the Police Force and serious crime occurring, the Premier approved of the necessary funds being made available to permit of a certain number of Police in the Metropolitan District working an extra half shift per week from 7 p.m. to 11.30 p.m., the Police concerned to be paid at the rate of time and a half for the extra time worked. It was originally approved that Police who volunteered for this duty work an extra half shift per week, but owing to the number of Police who volunteered for the work each member of the Force concerned now performs about one four hour overtime shift per fortnight.

In view of the conditions with which the Police Service is faced in discharging its normal functions and in meeting additional responsibilities brought about by the war, the Premier approved of two weeks' additional leave being granted to all members of the Police Force.

In April, 1943 a Conference of Officers in Charge of Fingerprint Bureaux of the various States of the Commonwealth was held in Sydney. These Conferences are held every three years and are of considerable value in formulating a uniform fingerprint procedure throughout the Commonwealth.

The following new legislation affecting Police responsibilities in the direction of law enforcement was passed during 1943:- Police Regulation (Amendment) Act, 1943, which amended the Police Regulation Act, 1899, and made certain provisions for ensuring the secrecy of the Police wireless code; Disorderly Houses Act, 1943, which made provision for the closing of disorderly houses; Factories and Shops (Amendment) Act, 1943, which amended the Factories and Shops Act, 1912-1941; Pastures Protection (Amendment) Act, 1943, which amended the Pastures Protection Act, 1934; Disorderly Houses (Amendment) Act, 1943, which amended the Disorderly Houses Act, 1943, and provided for the forfeiture or disposal of liquor, drugs, etc., seized in disorderly houses and suspected premises; and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Act, 1943, which amended the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1901, and the Police Offences Act, 1901.

VII. POLICE TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION.

Recruiting for the Police Force, except by the appointment of ex Police Cadets, is in abeyance for the duration of the war. 174 applicants for appointment as Police Cadets were examined by the Government Medical Officer, 83 being certified as fit

and 42 subsequently appointed as Cadets. Appointments to the Police Force during the year numbered 23, all being ex Cadets.

VIII. POLICE SPORTS AND RECREATIONS, ETC.

Although the majority of Police sporting organisations continue to function, the war necessarily modifies their activities. No Police Carnival was held in Sydney in 1943 although a minor Police Carnival was held at Concord in aid of the funds of the Police Boys' Clubs, and two displays were given at the Police Depot, one for the benefit of visiting Papuan native Police boys and the other at the presentation of the Silver Baton Award and prizes in connection with the competition for the Baton held for Police Cadets during 1943.

IX. POLICE BOYS' CLUBS.

Despite the many difficulties brought about by war conditions, 1943, was a satisfactory year for the Police Boys' Club Movement. At the end of the year 14 Clubs were actively functioning throughout the State and the membership has shown a steady increase. In February, 1943, the enlarged and renovated premises of the St. George District Police-Citizens Boys' Club, Mortdale, were opened and an immediate considerable increase in attendances was the result. In May, 1943, a building previously utilised by the Police Rowing Club at Glebe was opened as a Police Boys' Club and this Club has functioned successfully since its opening. With the co-operation of Broadcasting Station 2UE a regular radio session for the purpose of bringing the work of the Police Boys' Club Movement under the notice of the public is broadcast each Sunday. An amount of £1,257 was raised for the Movement, principally as the result of Police efforts, and an amount of £6,300 was received in grants, £1,300 from the Commonwealth Government and £5,000 from the Broken Hill Zinc Corporation.

X. NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE BAND, ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR.

During the year the Police Band made 63 appearances, mostly at Police and State and Commonwealth Government functions. Included in the Commonwealth Government functions were War Loan Rallies. The Police Choir gave two concerts, each for Organisations directly connected with the war effort. The Choir also gave performances in Martin Place on Anzac Day and Armistice Day, appeared at a Liberty Loan Rally, and gave four recitals over Radio Station 2BL. The Police Orchestra has ceased to function during the war.

XI. POLICE PATRIOTIC AND CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES.

Despite the many additional duties falling upon the Police owing to the war and the resultant impossibility of their being able to give very much time to organising functions for patriotic and charitable purposes, Police throughout the State were responsible during the year for raising the sum of £9,120 for such purposes. Since the commencement of the war the Police Force has been responsible for the raising of £182,725 for various patriotic funds, included in which amount is £93,244 invested by Police in War Savings Certificates and £77,958 raised as a direct gift to Commonwealth War Funds.

XII. POLICE SERVICE IN CASE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY - BUSH FIRES AND FLOODS.

There were no serious bush fires or floods during 1943. Police have continued to be actively associated with Bush Fire Brigades and to co-operate with the Bush Fires Advisory Committee in the prevention of fires.

XIII. ACTS OF BRAVERY.

On the 18th January, 1943, an Air Force plane crashed in a paddock near Currabubula and burst into flames. The pilot

was thrown clear of the plane but the other occupant, an Air Force Sergeant was trapped in the cockpit. Shortly after the crash, Constable 1/C Lynch of Currabubula Station arrived on the scene. He made a quick examination of the mutilated body of the pilot which had been thrown clear of the plane, and then endeavoured to extricate the body of the Air Force Sergeant from the burning plane with a piece of the wreckage, but the flames were too severe and forced him back after singeing the hair on his hands and eyebrows. He then secured a long handled shovel from a Railway employee and a bucket of water from a nearby goods train, threw dirt and water onto the burning plane, then hooked onto the arm of the occupant of the plane with the shovel and pulled it from the burning machine. The Constable was commended by the Commissioner, the Coroner and the Air Force Authorities for his meritorious action in removing with much risk to his own life, the body of the airman from the burning plane.

On the 17th May, 1943, a message was received at Camden Station that three youths were stranded on an island in the Wollondilly River and that the water was rising and covering the island. A boat was conveyed by motor lorry from Camden to Wollondilly Bridge, Lower Burragorang Valley, and Constable Neal of Camden Station together with Mr. Walsh, Postmaster at Nattai Post Office, Mr. Meyers, Storekeeper, Nattai, and Mr. Jenkins, Engineer of the Nattai Bulli Colliery, rowed the boat three miles down the River with the current, which was running furiously through oak trees growing along the river banks. They landed on the island and took the three youths into the boat. It was impossible to row the boat directly to the river bank owing to the strength of the current and the number of rapids and tree stumps on each side of the island, so the boat was rowed up stream against the current for about 500 yards into an area where the current would take the boat back to the river banks. On the journey back the boat collided with a tree and Mr. Walsh was thrown overboard, but managed to catch hold of a limb of a tree. It was impossible to get the boat back to the tree to rescue Mr. Walsh and the boat was carried by the current to the bank of the river where the three youths were landed. The boat had then to be pulled by means of a rope along the bank of the river for about 700 yards, the current then being allowed to take the boat back to enable Mr. Walsh to be rescued, after which the boat had to be rowed back to the island and the previous procedure repeated to enable it again to reach the river bank. The boat had then to be pulled by means of a rope along the river bank for about a mile, then rowed across the river, placed on a motor car, conveyed to Wollondilly Bridge, rowed across the river again, placed on the lorry and brought back to Camden. For his actions on this occasion Constable Neal, who took the lead in the rescue operations, was promoted to the rank of Constable 1st Class and was also awarded the Silver Medal and Certificate of the Royal Shipwreck Relief and Humane Society of New South Wales. Messrs. Walsh, Meyers and Jenkins were also awarded the Society's Certificate of Merit.

On the morning of the 1st June, 1943, Mrs. Onley of Parkes was attacked at her residence and severely injured about the head. Constable McDonald of Parkes Police Station accompanied by Sergeant Johnson proceeded to Mrs. Onley's residence in the Police car. Both Police entered the residence and learned that Mrs. Onley had been taken to hospital and that she had been attacked by a man in soldier's uniform. From another source and from Mrs. Onley herself it was learned that her attacker was her nephew George Henry Donohoe. Constable McDonald proceeded to the home of George Donohoe with Donohoe's mother. When the door was opened the Constable saw George Donohoe at the other end of the hallway near the back door of the house. On seeing the Constable Donohoe immediately opened the door and went out into the back yard. Mrs. Donohoe called out to him and at the same time the Constable ran through the hall and out through the back door. As he passed through the door way he saw Donohoe in the back yard about five paces away.

The Constable said to Donohoe "I want you" and Donohoe immediately drew a revolver from his overcoat pocket and threatened the Constable who could see Donohoe's finger on the trigger and that the revolver was fully loaded. Mrs. Donohoe pushed past the Constable and pleaded with her son to put the revolver down. Donohoe commenced to back away followed by his mother who said "Shoot me if you are going to shoot anyone, I don't care". Donohoe returned the revolver to his pocket, but when the Constable moved forward towards him he immediately again pulled out the revolver, levelled it at the Constable, and said "Get back, keep away". The Constable continued towards him and Donohoe walked backwards keeping the revolver pointed at the Constable. They continued in this manner into a lane at the rear of the house whilst Mrs. Donohoe kept pleading with her son until finally Donohoe lowered the hand containing the revolver and the Constable and Mrs. Donohoe caught hold of him. The revolver was found to be loaded in all seven chambers. For his fearlessness and devotion to duty on this occasion Constable McDonald was granted six months seniority. Donohoe was subsequently declared to be insane.

On the afternoon of the 7th July, 1943, Constable 1st Class Thomas of Orange, whilst off duty and in the company of two Sergeants of Police, saw a horse attached to the shafts, front wheels and turntable of a lorry galloping down the centre of Summer Street, Orange. The three Police rushed out into the middle of the Street with a view to stopping the bolting horse which swerved slightly as it approached the Police, without decreasing its speed. Constable 1st Class Thomas ran with the bolting horse for a short distance and grasped the nearside shaft and rein and brought it to a standstill. At the time there were a number of motor vehicles in the Street and pedestrians proceeding along the footpath. The Constable was complimented by the Commissioner of Police for his conduct, which in all probability was responsible for preventing serious injury to members of the public.

During the year Sergeant 3rd Class Miller and Constable 1st Class Bailey of Moruya, together with four civilians were awarded the Certificate of Merit of the Royal Shipwreck Relief and Humane Society in connection with the search for and subsequent rescue in heavy seas of the crew of a fishing trawler which had been attacked by an enemy submarine in August, 1942. The two Police were also highly commended by the Commissioner of Police for their bravery and each granted six months seniority.

XIV. POLICE STRENGTH, POPULATION AND PROSECUTIONS

The table hereunder shows the strength of the New South Wales Police Force, the population of the State and the number of persons proceeded against for the years 1924 to 1943, inclusive:-

VII. APPRECIATION OF THE POLICE SERVICE.

It is with pleasure that I record my appreciation of the loyalty and devotion to duty and the high standards of the Police Force during the year, and the steadfastness with which members of the Service have carried the burden of many individual duties falling upon them, including their own sacrifices, a strenuous and

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Commissioner of Police.

Year	Strength of Force +		Persons proceeded against		
	Number	Per 1,000 population.	Number	Per 1,000 of population.	General population.
1924	2,923	1.23	98,101	43	2,256,649
1925	2,968	1.29	102,377	44	2,300,081
1926	2,997	1.36	116,676	49	2,349,401
1927	3,136	1.30	124,030	51	2,401,884
1928	3,467	1.41	137,079	56	2,446,874
1929	3,646	1.47	132,439	53	2,479,160
1930	3,723	1.49	124,538	49	2,502,039
1931	3,667	1.45	121,743	48	2,519,300
1932	3,602	1.42	116,341	46	2,542,034
1933	3,608*	1.38	126,134	48	2,613,776
1934	3,606*	1.37	127,960	49	2,636,460
1935	3,599*	1.35	134,900	51	2,657,666
1936	3,727*	1.39	144,707	54	2,681,736
1937	3,818*	1.40	125,791	47	2,710,738
1938	3,803*	1.40	115,521	42	2,735,695
1939	3,905*	1.42	144,848	52	2,770,348
1940	3,904*	1.42	149,421	53	2,793,321
1941	3,851*	1.37	133,470	47.7	2,797,027
1942	3,763*	1.31	154,531	55	2,828,639
1943	3,676*	1.29	135,503	47	2,858,273

* Including Trackers. * Including Police Cadets.

XV. POLICE ON SICK REPORT DURING 1943.

During the year, 1,928 Police, representing 54.2% of the total strength of the Force (3542), were on sick report for a total number of 41,123 days, being an average of 21.3 days for each man on sick report and 11 days for each member of the Force. The average daily number of Police on sick report throughout the State was 113. This does not include eight Women Police who were off duty on sick report for 181 days, two Matrons who were off duty for 17 days, one Special Constable who was off duty for 14 days and 90 Cadets who were off duty for 1,487 days. In addition there were 249 men on sick report for a total of 8,846 days as a result of injuries received in the execution of their duties. Also there were nine Cadets off duty for 90 days and two Women Police off duty for 42 days owing to injuries similarly received. Apart from the foregoing, 165 Police and three Cadets sustained injuries whilst on duty but did not report off duty on sick report as a result of such injuries.

XVI. APPENDICES.

The Appendices of this report are tabbed "A", Return of Cases dealt with by the Courts, and "B", Return of Crime committed by Juveniles in the Metropolitan District.

XVII. ADMINISTRATION AND CONCLUSION.

It is with pleasure that I record my appreciation of the loyalty and devotion to duty manifested by all ranks of the Police Force during the year, and of the cheerfulness with which members of the Service have carried the burden of many additional duties falling upon them resulting from war conditions, a burden made heavier each year by the decreasing strength of the Force.

I would also like to express my appreciation of the continued loyal and efficient service rendered by the Public Service Staff of this Department. The absence of 61 members of the Staff with the Armed Forces and a number of others on loan to various Commonwealth and State Departments has added considerably to the duties of the Officers remaining who have, without exception, carried out their extra duties efficiently and cheerfully.

WM. J. MacKAY,
Commissioner of Police.