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Report of the
Commissioner of Police
of the Metropolis
for the year
1974

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for the Home Department
by Command of Her Majesty
June 1975*

LONDON
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REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE OF
THE METROPOLIS FOR THE YEAR 1974

New Scotland Yard
Broadway
London
SW1H 0BG
24th April, 1975

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT

SIR

I have the honour to submit the following report on the police of the
Metropolis for the year ended 31st December, 1974.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT MARK

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CHAPTER 1

The Year under Review

Introduction

While 1974 was an unusually demanding year for the Force, it was at the same time a particularly varied, interesting and, in many respects, rewarding one.

The persistent problem of shortage of manpower continued to loom large, affecting all areas of our activity in myriad ways. Although there was an encouraging increase in the number of women recruits and an overall net gain in strength of 71 officers, the picture was totally distorted by the take-over of responsibility for policing Heathrow Airport which led to the transfer of 326 officers from the British Airports Authority Constabulary. Without that influx, the number of men in the Force would have decreased by 310 and overall strength by 255. Furthermore, the overriding requirement to ensure the efficient policing of the new Airport Division necessitated the transfer of an additional 81 officers from existing divisions so that to meet all its other commitments the Force had effectively over 300 fewer officers at the end of 1974 than at the end of the previous year. Although the net loss of manpower was less than the drop of 513 recorded in 1973, the downward trend in strength has continued while commitments have increased. It is with modest hope rather than expectation that I look for some improvement in the manpower position as a result of recent increases in pay, including the fairly substantial addition to the London allowance, and the calculated risk taken in reducing the length of the working week.

Taking over responsibility for policing Heathrow, dictated by the increasingly complex measures and resources needed to combat terrorism, was clearly the major development of the year in terms of the organization of the Force. The transition went very smoothly, thanks to the hard work and ready co-operation of everyone concerned. I was glad that nearly all the members of the B.A.A.C. at the airport decided to transfer to the Metropolitan Police; their experience of the special problems of policing Heathrow has proved invaluable to us.

One of the highlights of 1974 was the great honour bestowed upon the Force on 31st May when Her Majesty The Queen formally opened the Peel Centre training establishment at Hendon, visiting the new buildings provided there and seeing examples of the modern developments in police training which have been mentioned in recent Reports. The Force is most grateful to Her Majesty for giving everyone involved such a memorable day.

During the year a number of events served to focus public attention on the discharge by the police of their responsibility for maintaining public order. These included the disorders in Red Lion Square on 15th June and the subsequent inquiry, about which detailed information is given later in this chapter and in Annexes D-F to Appendix 8. In view of the wide interest aroused regarding the police role in relation to public order, I feel that the text of a lecture I gave in the spring of 1975 on the philosophy behind the Metropolitan Police approach to the control of political demonstrations may serve as a helpful

contribution to the debate. It is reproduced at Appendix 8, together with background information and relevant statistics.

The control of demonstrations is but one of many duties falling to the Force which can and do result in police officers sustaining injuries as a result of being assaulted in the course of their work. I am concerned about the increase in recent years in the number and seriousness of injuries suffered by officers assaulted while on duty, not only from the welfare point of view but also in relation to the depletion of strength at a time when the Force is increasingly hard-pressed to meet its commitments. The seriousness of the situation is clearly shown in the detailed figures for 1974 given in Appendix 4.

While it is disappointing that 1974 saw a heavy increase in the total number of indictable crimes recorded, the C.I.D. continued to achieve considerable success in its drive against those responsible for the more serious offences. In addition, there was an impressive increase in the number of arrests made for indictable crimes, which reached a record level. These achievements owed much to the major changes in the organization of the C.I.D., both at Headquarters and in divisions, to which I referred in my two previous Reports. Summaries of some of the important and interesting cases which the Force tackled during the year are included in Chapter 4 under the heading "Crime as it is".

It should not be overlooked that the bulk of the increase in recorded crime has occurred in respect of the less serious offences, such as "auto-crime" and criminal damage. Although we shall never adopt a complacent attitude in relation to these offences, it would be unrealistic not to recognize that with our totally inadequate manpower resources and the growing volume of work falling to both detective and uniformed officers the time available for the investigation of each individual case of this kind grows less year by year.

One of the most disturbing aspects of the rising level of crime is the large increase in the number of juvenile offenders. Young people in the 10-16 years age-group are one of the sections of the public on which our community relations and preventive efforts have been concentrated but it has become apparent that police alone can do relatively little to stem the tide. The lessening of the social stigma attached to crime, the rising of the school-leaving age, increased truancy, houses and cars being left unattended, insufficient deterrence and the diminished police presence on the streets are all factors which have contributed to the present situation.

Turning to public relations, I am very pleased to record that our more open and co-operative attitude towards the news media appears already to have brought a handsome return in terms of public knowledge and understanding of our aims and activities. Indeed, the Force owes a debt of gratitude to the press, television and radio for the highly responsible and generally sympathetic way in which they have handled the vast majority of the many thousands of news items and features produced on police matters during the two years since our new policy was introduced. There will always be occasions when conflicts of interest and misunderstandings arise, but on the whole relations between police officers and representatives of the news media are now very good.

We are most grateful to the then Chairman of the Greater London Council, Dr David Pitt, J.P. (now Lord Pitt of Hampstead) and his fellow councillors for inviting a representative cross-section of the Force and civil staff to attend an evening reception on 1st October in honour of the Metropolitan Police. This gesture was deeply appreciated by all members of the organization and the

reception was much enjoyed by everyone who attended it. I feel that the occasion can be regarded as a reflection of the good relations which exist between the Force and the great majority of the London public it serves.

Of course, responsibility for maintaining the reputation of the Force rests initially on the shoulders of every individual officer. There has been no lessening of the emphasis placed on the required standards of integrity and conduct and 106 officers left the Force during the year by way of dismissal, of requirement to resign or of voluntary resignation either in anticipation of criminal proceedings or to forestall disciplinary action. This means that the total number of officers who have left for these reasons during the last three years is 302.

Various schemes have been introduced and developed in recent years with a view to the more efficient management of the Force. Among those that have proved increasingly useful are the five year forecast of expenditure and the technique which has been developed for assessing quickly the cost of existing activities and of new schemes. We have also been seeking to devise an effective system for determining priorities in the use of resources and there was clearly value in examining various activities with a view to ensuring, in particular, that as far as possible the best use was being made of our limited manpower. Accordingly, following a review by the Policy Committee of various means of evaluating the use made of manpower, I decided to initiate a series of costing and evaluation reviews of specific activities of the Force under the general direction of a steering committee consisting of the Deputy Commissioner (Chairman), the Assistant Commissioner or other head of department responsible for the activity under review, the Deputy Receiver, the Director of Management Services and the Director of Finance. The head of the branch concerned is asked to formulate the objectives of the activity to be studied and to provide a short account of the establishment of the relevant unit, any change in the objectives since it was set up and a summary of significant developments since its establishment. The activity is then costed. The task of the steering committee is to consider all the information provided, having regard to such matters as the cost of the activity in relation to other Force expenditure and the feasibility of making changes in current circumstances, and to report to the Policy Committee. By the end of 1974 the steering committee had undertaken a number of reviews and had reported on the police dog organization, the Accident Prevention Unit (B.5 Branch) and the use of area wireless cars. These exercises are valuable in helping us to assess whether we are making the best use of our limited resources and in considering what options are open to us and whether any changes can be made to the benefit of the overall efficiency of the Force.

The Policy Committee has continued to prove of inestimable value to the Force, serving as a forum for the discussion and resolution of all major issues and the development of constructive policies aimed at improving the efficiency of the organization. At the Committee's instigation, further steps were taken during the year to improve staff relations and the effectiveness of communication within the Force.

Despite the continued decrease in manpower suffered in 1974, the Force achieved considerable success not only in discharging its existing responsibilities but also in coping with new commitments and demands. I am grateful for the support I have received from all members of the Force and from all others, both within and outside the organization, who contributed to that achievement.

Manpower

Once again the main problem facing the Force has been shortage of manpower and we have devoted a lot of our resources, time and effort to various means of improving recruitment and reducing wastage. The total number of men and women recruited in 1974 was much the same as in recent years, but unfortunately there was a significant decrease in the number of male applicants. In contrast to this disturbing trend, the intensive recruiting drive to which I referred in last year's Report resulted in 193 women being recruited from normal sources, the highest annual intake since women police were introduced into the Force after the First World War. There was also evidence of a growing interest in the police as a second career among persons about to leave the armed services. In addition, it is pleasing to record that the level of wastage from the Force was appreciably lower than in the previous year. Nevertheless, as I reported earlier in this chapter, the modest net gain in overall strength would not have been achieved without the transfer of former B.A.A.C. officers. At the end of 1974 the authorized establishment of the Force was 26,628 officers and the actual strength stood at 21,024, of whom 175 were not available for ordinary duty.

The factors militating against police recruitment in London which I have stressed in my previous Reports have become even more evident in the course of the year under review and only by intensive activity in all spheres of recruitment has it been possible to maintain even the current level of intake. New publicity agents were appointed during the year and a vigorous advertising campaign was launched. The initial modest increase in the pensionable London allowance from £50 to £74 per annum, back-dated to 7th November, 1973, and the welcome increase with effect from 1st September in basic pay rates, now the same for men and women, did not produce any significant improvement in the number of candidates coming forward. In the meantime, however, a claim by the Police Federation for a much enhanced London allowance of £500 per annum was being pursued at the Police Council. This claim had my wholehearted support as I felt that a large injection of money would help to bring about a general improvement in the manpower situation and, in particular, go some way towards stemming the adverse balance in transfers between the London and provincial forces. In October agreement was reached on the payment of an extra £201 a year to all ranks with effect from 1st April, 1974. The year ended before the effect of this second and larger increase in the London allowance could be assessed and up to that time the worsening national economic situation and rising unemployment had also had no appreciable effect on our manpower position.

Fortunately, the intake of cadets has remained at a high level and the Cadet Corps produced a quarter of the male recruits to the regular Force in 1974. In last year's Report I mentioned briefly the proposed introduction of girl cadets and it is hoped that when this scheme is implemented it will enable the Corps to make an even greater contribution to Force recruitment.

I referred last year to the net loss of 186 officers to other forces following the net loss of 120 in 1972. The adverse trend continued during 1974, 185 officers moving to other forces while only 66 transferred to the Metropolitan Police. The net loss to the Force as a result of these movements was therefore 119. During the year the Assistant Commissioner (Personnel and Training) devoted much of his time to identifying and endeavouring to counteract the causes of

wastage of trained police officers. The report of the joint advisory group under his chairmanship to which I referred last year was submitted in July and, following detailed consideration by the Policy Committee of its conclusions and recommendations, active steps are being taken to eliminate or minimize the effect of many of the factors which are thought to contribute to premature wastage. In particular, the opportunity has been taken to improve working conditions by reducing the length of the working week to coincide with payment of the increase of £201 per annum in the London allowance. With effect from 30th December the number of rostered rest days to be worked compulsorily in each four week period was reduced from three out of eight to two. I intend that the process of reducing compulsory overtime working shall continue, but further reductions in the number of worked rest days will have to be timed to coincide with substantial increases in remuneration.

In their tours within England and Wales the careers teams included calls upon service units wherever possible, and they continued to make combined visits with resettlement officers to units overseas. The popular police careers seminars at schools and at the Peel Centre, Hendon, and visits to private homes also continued. These activities again produced very good results. Visits to the provinces were extended with the agreement of local chief officers to Cambridgeshire, Devon and Dorset and among the many visitors to the Peel Centre were careers advisers and similar officials from Lancashire, Leicestershire, north-east England and south Wales. A new transportable careers advice centre designed for display at specially chosen events and sites, such as large-scale agricultural shows, railway terminal and popular shopping precincts, was used for the first time in London and aroused considerable interest. Officers of the Careers Section, with other members of the Force, played a major role in the National Careers Exhibition which took place at the Alexandra Palace, London.

Women police

An extensive survey of the deployment of women officers was conducted and it was found that such difficulties as existed following their integration into the Force arose mainly from a shortage of numbers. Until this situation is rectified there will be some attendant problems in realizing the full potential of integration. It is my confident expectation that the growth in the number of women recruits will continue during 1975 and this, coupled with the introduction of girl cadets, should render it easier to employ women officers on the widest possible range of duties undertaken by their male colleagues as well as on tasks for which they are uniquely suited.

Public order

In a situation of increasing economic difficulties at home and changes in the political scene overseas there has been no lessening of the burden borne by police in their efforts to maintain public order. Although the number of events requiring special police attention decreased slightly by comparison with the previous year, from 445 to 406, various militant factions have developed techniques that have made the control of meetings and demonstrations more difficult.

The events in Ulster led to continued demonstrations and pickets by the various Irish factions over the terrorists imprisoned in England, and against detention and the presence of British troops in Northern Ireland. On 7th June the body of

Michael Goughan, a self-confessed I.R.A. member who had died on hunger-strike while serving a prison sentence, was brought to London from the Isle of Wight. The body lay overnight in a church in Kilburn and on the following day was taken by an I.R.A. funeral party wearing black berets, dark glasses and dark clothing to Heathrow Airport for burial in Ireland. The eight pall bearers were reported for wearing political uniforms, their procession was authorized by the Attorney General and all were convicted and fined. At the commencement of a procession on 11th August organized by the Political Hostages Committee in protest against internment a number of people were warned that if they failed to remove similar political uniforms they would be arrested. The warning was ignored and following minor disorder both those wearing uniforms and several others who had obstructed police were arrested. All those involved were subsequently convicted and fined.

On 15th June the National Front held a demonstration against the Government's immigration policy and a counter-demonstration was organized by "Liberation", the two groups having booked separate meeting rooms at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square. Despite the fact that separate routes had been arranged for the two organizations, when the demonstrators reached the square a clash occurred between some of the contingents in the "Liberation" march and police and 51 arrests were made for various offences against the Public Order Act and for assaults on police officers. Many police and demonstrators were injured and, sadly, one young man died as a result of the clash. The events in Red Lion Square, which later became the subject of a public inquiry under the chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Scarman, O.B.E., have attracted a good deal of attention in the news media and among members of the public. Additional information about the demonstrations on 15th June and the police manpower deployed is given in Annex D to Appendix 8 and the results of charges brought against those arrested and details of fines imposed are shown in Annexes E and F respectively.

On 7th September a further confrontation occurred when the National Front marched from Victoria Embankment in support of the loyalist cause in Northern Ireland. It was widely believed that the destination of the march was Hyde Park, for a rally prior to dispersal, and meetings were convened by various trade union supporters and Left-wing organizations with the intention of voicing opposition to the National Front in Hyde Park. Elements of the International Marxist Group joined the protesters and later formed a cordon around one of the speakers, who had escaped from prison, with the clear intention of preventing her rearrest. Some 600 other supporters of Left-wing organizations continuously harassed the National Front march en route and tried to impede its progress. However, the possibility of a major clash was averted because the National Front had previously arranged with police to change the venue of its rally to Lincoln's Inn Fields. That day's events clearly illustrate the changing pattern of demonstration techniques and stress the need for us to keep under continuous review the methods used for the policing of major demonstrations.

On 8th February and again on 15th November the National Union of Students held major demonstrations to draw attention to its views on the level of grants and the parental contribution. On both occasions there were some 15,000 to 20,000 marchers. Although the demonstrations were free from disorder they caused widespread traffic disruption and placed an additional strain on the already hard-pressed Traffic Department.

As in previous years, events overseas prompted demonstrations in London. The developments in Cyprus led to many demonstrations by both Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots in this country. In view of the strong emotions aroused it is noteworthy that there was disorder on only one occasion, when marchers caused minor damage to some windows at the Turkish Embassy. Following the overthrow of the government of President Allende, the Chile Solidarity Campaign organized demonstrations against the new regime in that country. Despite the tenuous peace prevailing in the Middle East, the situation in that part of the world caused Arab and Palestinian organizations to demonstrate outside the American and Israeli Embassies, with some opposition from younger members of Jewish organizations. However, emotional tension led to violence on only one occasion, when 13 arrests were made for assault and obstruction.

The activities of squatters and the associated social problems have sometimes led to violence on occasions when it has become necessary to enforce court orders for the repossession of premises occupied by those who are apparently homeless. These occurrences have attracted considerable public attention and police intervention and assistance have been necessary in order to ensure that breaches of the peace are not occasioned. For example, a demonstration occurred in mid-January when Centre Point, an empty multi-storey office and residential block, was occupied by an "Action Group" of about 100 people of various political persuasions. They remained in occupation for two nights and by agreement with the property owners then left of their own accord. The demonstration attracted a crowd of about 2,000 people; there was considerable wail of obstruction of the roadway and 19 people were arrested before order was restored.

Pop festivals were held at Hyde Park on 29th June and 31st August and on both occasions over 25,000 people attended. No serious disorder occurred and only 12 arrests were made at the two gatherings.

Diplomatic Protection Group

In last year's Report I referred to proposals made in the report of a working party which had been set up to study the problems involved in protecting diplomatic premises and the accredited representatives of foreign states. Early in 1974 you gave approval for the implementation of these proposals and, with certain modifications, the new scheme was introduced in November when the Diplomatic Protection Group commenced operations. Apart from senior officers and administrative staff on permanent postings, the group consists of inspectors, sergeants and constables from divisions who volunteer for a six month period of attachment and perform duties solely concerned with the protection of embassies and missions and the private residences of diplomatic staff. The officers give continuous mobile cover, operating in wireless cars with a supplement of motor cyclists during the busier part of the day, with the object of responding at once to any incident arising at protected premises. Certain diplomatic premises which for various reasons give particular cause for apprehension are being fitted with emergency buttons which can be activated in the event of any untoward incident to alert the mobile patrols of the Diplomatic Protection Group. Elsewhere the alarm can be raised by means of the normal emergency system.

The group has taken over protection duties by stages, starting on 4th November when two of the envisaged six patrols began operating in Kensington and

Chelsea. A third patrol commenced duty on 2nd December and it is hoped that the group will be fully operational by April, 1975, working from four bases detached from police stations.

Security measures at London (Heathrow) Airport

As part of the overall security measures in response to terrorist threats directed against Heathrow Airport, approval was given for the police protecting the airport to be assisted by army units. In the first instance, starting on 5th January, infantry platoons were provided by 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards, supported by armoured units of the Household Cavalry. During the ensuing weeks police and army personnel jointly carried out extensive patrolling on the perimeter and outlying areas of the airport, instituted road blocks and manned check-points. Further joint operations were carried out from time to time throughout the year as part of the continuing measures to prevent terrorist attacks. In June the deployment of police and military personnel was extended to the central area and covered both airside and landside sections of the terminal buildings.

Community relations

Good relations between the police service and the general public are the foundation on which effective crime prevention and law enforcement is built. When community relations are strained public tranquillity is invariably at risk and the longer the strain persists the more our traditional style of policing is threatened. Many influences bear on the relationships between the police and the public they serve, some of which are outside our direct control. But perhaps the most important influence, and one which is very clearly within our control, is the manner that police adopt when dealing with members of the community. It is on this point that we are most frequently judged and whenever the verdict goes against us our standing within the community suffers. In view of the conflict inherent in much of the contact between police and the public, it is all the more pleasing when the general level of public confidence in the police appears to be high.

In maintaining public confidence officers of all ranks have a special responsibility, but the exercise of that responsibility is hindered by criticism of police which appears to be deliberately destructive. We are, of course, an accountable public service and as such must expect criticism and, indeed, should welcome it if it is well founded and constructive. The many police officers engaged in community activities play a most important role by moderating the effect of the more irrational and ill-informed views and criticisms of police policy and practice. They make an invaluable contribution to securing the public support and co-operation which is so necessary to us.

The importance which we attach to community relations work was clearly emphasised during the year when provision was made on 11 divisions for chief inspectors of proven ability serving as community relations officers to be retained in their posts on promotion to superintendent. This significant development should make it possible to achieve a much greater degree of continuity in such posts than has been evident in some areas in the past. In addition, during the latter part of the year the Community Relations Branch was reorganised with a view to improving liaison with divisions and, when required, providing assistance to community liaison officers and senior divisional officers in the often demanding field of community relations activities.

In the hope of fostering in young people the sense of civic responsibility which a democracy requires of its citizens we have continued to expand our community relations activities in schools; we now visit over 4,000 schools a year. Two public information films have been made in conjunction with and for transmission by the television service of the Inner London Education Authority. In addition, 1974 saw the introduction of the "Panda" competition, a quiz on the police and road safety, and more than 600 junior schools took part. A further series of courses was held to help prepare officers for the schools commitment. Instruction in road safety continues to have a beneficial effect as a means both of getting to know younger children and of helping to protect them from death or injury in road accidents.

During the year problems concerning juveniles were much in the news and the Children and Young Persons Act 1969 has been subjected to considerable public scrutiny. The publicity originated in an upsurge in juvenile crime, particularly in the first six months of the year. Because of the apparent relationship between truancy and juvenile crime many divisions co-operated with local authorities during the earlier part of the year and conducted juvenile crime prevention patrols. It was observed that in some areas the patrols brought about not only an appreciable improvement in school attendance but also noticeable reductions in the incidence of burglaries and "auto-crime". Our concern about all aspects of the problem of juveniles was voiced on many occasions, among the most important of which were a conference between police and head-teachers of comprehensive schools, arranged by the Inner London Education Authority, and one day conferences at New Scotland Yard with magistrates and with social workers, arranged by the Community Relations Branch.

In September an internal working party presented its report on community relations training. The report, which dealt with all levels of training within the Force, emphasized the importance of continuity and progression in community relations training and made recommendations designed to ensure the observance of those principles. The acceptance of these recommendations has increased the involvement in training of members of the Community Relations Branch and community liaison officers. A five day course for newly appointed community liaison officers and a five day community relations course for senior officers were held during the year.

The Community Relations Branch also ran seven one week courses to equip juvenile bureau officers to deal with the operation of care and control procedures under the Children and Young Persons Act. Expertise in this field was formerly regarded as the prerogative of women police officers and following integration and the suspension of specialist courses for women it was felt desirable that such expertise should not be lost to the service. Despite the increasing case-loads of juvenile bureau officers and the additional responsibilities which they have been asked to assume, the juvenile bureau scheme continues to operate satisfactorily in dealing with selected young offenders without recourse to the courts.

One officer was awarded a Commonwealth Foundation bursary to visit the West Indies, and as a result of a bursary awarded the previous year one officer visited Jamaica during January and February.

Crime

A detailed analysis of the criminal statistics for 1974 is given in the first section of Chapter 4. The more important developments and trends in this field are summarized below.

A year ago I was able to report exceptional success in the fight against the most serious forms of crime and I am pleased to record that since then the Criminal Investigation Department has continued to make significant progress in its investigations into organized crime and the activities of major criminals. Moreover, this has been achieved at a time when the department has been faced with additional pressing demands on its already limited resources.

Although there are solid grounds for satisfaction about the excellent results achieved wherever we have been able to concentrate our efforts, 1974 produced a steep rise in the number of indictable crimes coming to the notice of police and the total for the year of 413,799 was 58,351, or 16 per cent. higher than in 1973. Admittedly there had been a lull in the growth of crime in 1973, but the rate of increase in 1974 was greater than would have been encountered over three average years of the last decade.

The number of arrests made for indictable offences rose by nearly 10,000 to 98,326, representing an increase of 11 per cent by comparison with 1973. This is by far the highest annual arrest figure ever achieved and reflects great credit on the Force as a whole, particularly when it is realised that there were more arrests made in the Metropolitan Police District in 1974 than there were crimes recorded in 1955.

Although these arrest statistics were welcome against the background of a steadily increasing level of crime, one very worrying feature was the continuing rise in the number of juvenile offenders. Over the past five years arrests of persons between 10 and 16 years of age have increased by more than 60 per cent and in 1974 alone some 32,000 young people in this age-group were taken into custody for indictable crimes, of whom 4,500 were considered such hardened criminals that they were immediately charged rather than dealt with through the juvenile bureaux. Even more disturbing, however, was the fact that during the year a total of almost 1,000 children under the age of 10 came into police hands in connection with criminal offences.

The year saw very large increases in the numbers of offences recorded in all but two of the main categories of crime. "Autocrime" continued to influence the statistics to a degree quite out of keeping with its importance compared with more socially damaging types of crime. The 25 per cent increase in this category meant that of every 10 indictable crimes reported to police three involved theft of, or from, motor vehicles. As my predecessor pointed out in his Report for 1971, it is not easy for police to prevent these crimes without devoting a disproportionate allocation of manpower to the task; and to do that at a time when our resources are so limited would be detrimental to almost all other aspects of preventive policing. Any significant reduction in "autocrime" must therefore depend on the care that motorists themselves take of their vehicles and the property contained in them.

There was also a heavy increase in the number of burglaries, the total of 85,283 being 13,588, or 19 per cent, higher than in 1973. This rise was particularly disappointing as the incidence of burglary had stayed at much the same level for a number of years. Indeed, the 1973 total had been the lowest since the

Theft Act 1968 came into effect and for this reason the increase in 1974 seems especially high. Nevertheless, a number of important arrests have been made for this offence, including in May, 1974, that of a man who was responsible for and confessed to committing four or five break-ins a week following his release from prison in 1970.

With regard to robberies, it is pleasing to be able to report that the number of bank robberies has continued to decline, the total for 1974 being 17 compared with 26 in 1973 and 65 in 1972. Regrettably, however, the incidence of robbery offences as a whole, which had fallen by 15 per cent in the previous year, increased by 17 per cent in 1974 and thus returned to virtually the same level as in 1972. Within this category, the incidence of "muggings" (robberies following a sudden attack in the open), which in any case represent almost a half of the total, has followed a similar pattern. Having fallen by 21 per cent in 1973, the number of "muggings" increased substantially in 1974, although the total remained slightly below the 1972 figure.

In last year's Report I referred in some detail to the changes which had been made in the "C" Department Headquarters organization with the aim of concentrating detective effort more effectively upon the most worthwhile targets. Even at that early stage the new arrangements were having a successful impact on our operations against major criminals and I am very pleased to report that this success has been more than maintained during 1974.

In particular, the co-ordination of the Flying Squad, the No. 9 Regional Crime Squad and the Robbery Squad under one command has greatly improved the combined effectiveness of these units and as a result a large number of significant arrests have been made. An interesting side effect of this new approach to criminal investigation is an apparent increase in the number of major criminals who are prepared to assist the police. The confident assumption by such criminals that they can be protected from the revenge of their associates is a most encouraging development. For example, a person originally arrested and charged with abducting a security guard supplied information which enabled Flying Squad officers to charge more than 100 other persons with various offences of robbery, burglary, attempted murder and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. Information derived from the same source also made it possible to arrest a number of persons planning to rob a bank in west London before they were able to commit the offence. This operation and other similar cases illustrate clearly the value of the informant in the investigation of crime, as well as emphasizing the benefits which can be gained from concentrating police effort on a specific series of intensive enquiries. Cases of this type make exceptionally heavy demands on police manpower both in effecting arrests and in the ensuing trials and the number of such enquiries which can be maintained at any one time is severely limited.

The Serious Crime Squad, which forms part of the reorganized G.I.D. Central Office, also had a most successful year and was responsible for a number of major operations against organized criminals, mainly in the West End of London. One such operation resulted in 18 persons being arrested for crimes which included murder and kidnapping and in another case some 47 persons were arrested for a variety of offences, including blackmail and conspiracy to defraud.

The success of these large-scale operations against professional criminals is, of course, due in no small measure to the very effective support given to the operational squads by the Criminal Intelligence Branch. The vital information provided by this branch not only assists in identifying priority targets for investigation but also helps to ensure that our scarce resources are deployed as effectively as possible.

No aspect of the year's work placed heavier demands and responsibilities on detective officers than the continuation and intensification of the campaign of political terrorism. Inevitably, the capital is a prime target for those who attempt to achieve their political ends by violent means and during the year Bomb Squad officers investigated some 139 incidents in the London area. These officers and, of course, the hard-pressed explosives officers of C.7 Branch have faced grave risks in the performance of their duties and I cannot speak too highly of the courage and dedication which they have displayed at all times.

In the first part of the year most of the explosive devices used in London, though dangerous, were largely of a symbolic nature, but the second half of 1974 saw the introduction of much more sinister methods by members of the I.R.A. For example, the explosion at the Tower of London clearly indicated that these terrorists were determined to maim and endanger the lives of innocent people. The victims of this outrage included children and visitors to the country who could not by any stretch of the imagination be considered as legitimate or even relevant targets for the I.R.A. During 1974 a total of four persons died as a result of bomb attacks in London and many more were seriously injured. The investigation of these offences is, of course, a very difficult task but the public has shown great support for the police in this work. During the year 24 people were arrested in London alone for bomb offences.

There was a further upsurge in the number of bomb threats made in the form of anonymous telephone calls, some 8,000 having been received in the Information Room alone during the course of the year. All such calls have to be treated seriously no matter how slight the threat may appear to be and subsequent police action often involved the complete evacuation of premises or public places and frequently placed a great strain on our resources. It again transpired that the great majority of bomb threats were hoaxes made by mentally unstable persons or with malicious intent, those responsible including disgruntled employees or ex-employees seeking to disrupt a particular firm. The frequency of bombing incidents in the past two years has had the effect of making the public more security conscious. It is noteworthy that members of the public have responded to bomb threats, both genuine and otherwise, with credible calmness, discipline and fortitude.

The vicious and indiscriminate terrorist campaign has not, of course, been confined to London and with the extension of violence leading to outrages such as the M.62 coach explosion, in which 12 people died, the incidents at the "Horse and Green" and "Seven Stars" public houses in Guildford and the tragic Birmingham explosions Bomb Squad officers have worked very closely and effectively with their colleagues in the provincial forces, to mutual advantage. Following the growth in violence towards the end of the year, urgent steps were taken to increase the permanent strength of the Bomb Squad. In addition, a number of provincial forces generously agreed to lend men to assist the squad,

thereby increasing its capability to combat acts of terrorism in London and at the same time giving the officers concerned invaluable experience in this type of police work.

Following the Birmingham outrages in late November, Parliament passed the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1974 and this extension of the powers of arrest and detention in relation to suspected terrorists has been of great value to the police service. Efficient and prompt action was taken under the new provisions for the exclusion of suspected terrorists from Britain; in relation to the country as a whole 19 exclusion orders against members and supporters of the I.R.A. had been made by the end of the year.

Another disturbing world-wide trend in crime during 1974 from which London did not entirely escape was an increase in the number of kidnapping offences and other cases involving ransom demands. Without doubt the most widely publicized crime of this nature was the attempted kidnapping of H.R.H. The Princess Anne, which took place in March. Thanks largely to the courageous action taken at the time by police and members of the public, the armed and violent man who tried to abduct the Princess was unsuccessful. In the course of this incident two police officers and two other persons were wounded by the assailant. Subsequently, three police officers and four members of the public were honoured by H.M. The Queen for gallantry and brave conduct.

Whenever kidnapping or ransom demands are involved the action taken by police must, of course, be determined by the particular circumstances of the case. Nevertheless, it is possible to learn valuable lessons from recent experience throughout the world and in April the Metropolitan Police staged a two day international seminar to consider ways of dealing with offences of this kind. Speakers and delegates were invited from a large number of countries as well as from many police forces and other public bodies in the United Kingdom, and their complete frankness and the generous way in which advice and technical expertise were exchanged has enabled the Force to equip and train to meet any foreseeable growth or variation in this type of offence.

The year also produced a steady growth in the number of organized frauds. Offences of this type are becoming more complex and more difficult to investigate and an increasing proportion of cases revealed a combination of crimes such as fraud and corruption with branches of income tax, V.A.T. and exchange control regulations. The range of fraud is vast and the offences are as diverse as human ingenuity can make them. In order to combat this type of crime it is essential to maintain an effective exchange of information between specialized police departments in this and other countries and, as a result of decisions arrived at during the first national conference on the investigation of commercial fraud held at New Scotland Yard in November, 1973, steps are now being taken to overcome some of the problems which have been encountered in this field.

The investigation of a number of major fraud and corruption cases in the course of the year tested to the full the streamlined investigation procedures adopted in 1972. The enquiries into the Paulson affair continued and despite the considerable strain which this operation imposed on the resources of the Fraud Squad a number of persons were arrested. By the end of the year eight of them had been convicted of corruption offences.

The responsibilities of any police force, particularly in an area such as London, are many and varied and it is often extremely difficult to arrive at a hard and

fast order of priorities. It is beyond dispute, however, that a major police effort must always be directed against serious crime and professional criminals and for this reason I have ensured that the established detective strength of the Criminal Investigation Department has been maintained during the year despite the overall loss of men from the Force. So far it has been possible to maintain satisfactory standards but as the work-load increases while the strength of the C.I.D. remains static the amount of time available for the investigation of individual crimes is decreasing correspondingly. The size of this problem can be gauged from the fact that over the past 20 years known indictable crime in the Metropolitan Police District has quadrupled while the strength of the C.I.D. has increased by less than 60 per cent. Furthermore, the introduction of certain long overdue improvements in conditions of service and the necessity to form more and more specialist squads have meant, and will continue to mean, an actual reduction in the number of men available for routine investigations in divisions.

The beat crime system introduced in 1966 has borne some of the brunt of the vastly increased work-load in that it has enabled the C.I.D. to share with uniformed constables on the beat the investigation of the less complicated cases which can most readily be dealt with in this way. Unfortunately, but inevitably, a price has to be paid in that officers are taken away from their beats and the preventive role suffers. Although we have continued to undertake a great deal of research into new and improved methods of criminal investigation on divisions and improvements in the flow of statistics and the use made of them have led to the more effective identification of problem areas, there can be no real substitute for the constable on the beat. Consequently the steep increase in street crimes, such as theft of and from vehicles, must be accepted as inevitable in present conditions.

Public relations and the news media

Our planned policy of working more closely with the press and broadcasting organizations, which was introduced in 1973, has become well-established in practical terms, not as an uneasy truce as some may have at first feared but as a sensible and productive method of accounting for our actions to the public. There seems little doubt that the public are showing a growing interest in and becoming better informed about our affairs. In order to dispel misconceptions and encourage the public understanding and co-operation upon which the effectiveness of the Force is heavily dependent we have had to take calculated risks not previously called for in our dealings with the news media. However, I am encouraged to think that by these means, and with a great deal of co-operation and assistance from many areas of the media, the public are now much more conscious of the role, activities and problems of the Metropolitan Police without our having made too many mistakes in the process.

The more open attitude we have adopted towards the press, television and radio has led to an increasing demand for reporting facilities to cover all aspects of police activity and problems. In the course of the year the Press Bureau at Scotland Yard, handling all news traffic of daily interest, answered over 8,000 original requests for specific information and, in addition, dealt with thousands of the repeat enquiries which are generated by every major story. Bomb incidents, subversive activities, demonstrations and violence in its many forms engaged the interest of the press almost continuously during the year and News Branch

facilities were stretched to cope with the resulting volume of news traffic. New techniques have been devised to take account of recent developments, such as the introduction of commercial radio. Plans have been made to establish a separate unit to broadcast programmes on the lines of "Scotland Yard Calling" which for the past few years has been broadcast daily direct from Scotland Yard for transmission by B.B.C. Radio London. It is expected that the direct link for police broadcasts will ultimately be available seven days a week through B.B.C. Radio London, Capital Radio and the London Broadcasting Company.

Full support has been given to new journalistic features, such as crime columns and traffic bulletins in the London evening and suburban papers. In addition, considerable assistance has been given to the television authorities to research and produce programmes about the various departments and branches of the Force. Further information about the increasing help being given to the news media is given in Chapter 6.

In my previous two Reports I have mentioned the programme of television and radio familiarization training for police officers. The existing series of courses, supervised by a retained independent consultant, continued and by the end of 1974 had been attended by well over 400 selected officers. As planned, early in the year a pilot in-service scheme was introduced in order to provide officers on pre-promotion courses at the Feet Centre with guidance in television and radio techniques and news media appreciation. During the year over 300 officers received in-service training and I am most grateful to the 24 editors, news editors and radio producers who freely gave their services to these courses.

Arrests directly attributable to the London Weekend Television programmes "Police 5" and "Police 5 Special" totalled 111. This was a higher figure than that for the previous year and close to the record annual total of 137 in 1972. Further information about the results of appeals made on these programmes is given in Appendix 24 and information about the results of appeals made on "Junior Police 5" is given in Chapter 6.

Traffic

In last year's Report I mentioned the heavy demands that enforcement of the Greater London Council's revised traffic policies were making on a diminishing traffic warden service. During 1973, when traffic warden strength fell by 185, the Council made 392 Traffic Management Orders; in 1974 the number rose to 480 while the number of wardens, not counting those at Heathrow Airport, dropped by a further 141. Not all of the Orders created an additional enforcement commitment, but the figures indicate the rate at which a gap has been widening between the plans of the Council and the capability of the Force to enforce the wide range of measures which the Council is adopting to achieve its aims. The growing concern of the Council and myself about this situation led to the appointment of an ad hoc joint group to identify the problems and investigate possible solutions. The group's report was presented to the Council's Transport Committee in November after I had taken part in a seminar on its subject matter with members of the Committee. The report recommended specific programmes of action under the general headings of increasing manpower, deploying it to the best advantage, reducing the demands made upon it and simplifying the enforcement task. These recommendations were endorsed by the Transport Committee and by the end of the year a start had been made on implementation.

Some of the programmes were for this Force to carry out, some for the Council and others for joint action. Having found that the number of wardens in post midway through the year—some 1,800—was less than half the number needed to meet all current commitments, the group naturally put the exploration of ways of improving the recruitment of wardens and stemming wastage high on the list of items for police attention. Following a pay settlement late in the year there was a pronounced upsurge in recruitment and decline in wastage which reversed dramatically the consistent downward trend of the previous 21 months. Unhappily, this initial promising progress was abruptly halted by the imposition of limits on the growth of staffs paid wholly or partly out of the rates. Police officers were excluded from the restrictions but traffic wardens were not. At a time when demands on police were growing daily it was most disappointing to have to turn away would-be wardens who could have relieved the pressure. With the traffic warden service at last beginning to show real signs of recovering lost ground, the "freeze" could not have come at a worse time.

The group's report also drew attention to the necessity for urgent implementation of the provisions of the Road Traffic Act 1974 for strengthening the fixed penalty system by the introduction of owner liability. Owing to the length of time required for delivery of essential new equipment and the need for retraining the work was bound to be protracted, but it was in full swing in the early months of 1975. Having been a persistent advocate of this change in the low over many years, I think it fitting to record my satisfaction and relief now that it has at last reached the Statute Book, albeit in a diluted form. The introduction in 1975 of owner liability for most of the offences to which the fixed penalty system applies should greatly strengthen the deterrent power of the system and, by eliminating much house-to-house enquiry work, will release many traffic wardens for enforcement duties in the street.

Another provision of the Road Traffic Act 1974 enables the now familiar bus lanes to be enforced more effectively. These lanes are an important element of the strategy for improving the speed and reliability of public transport and, in consultation with police, the Greater London Council is pressing ahead with the introduction of lanes, on an experimental basis in the first instance, where conditions appear to be suitable and it can be shown that bus operations will probably benefit. It is important to recognize that bus lanes are not always appropriate and agreement was reached during the year to abandon two of the experimental lanes, one in Baker Street and the other in Lower Regent Street. In most bus lanes the restrictions are reasonably well observed, but at some sites compliance has been less than satisfactory. At these places, due partly to the shortage of wardens and partly to the present inability of wardens and police to use the fixed penalty system in respect of contraventions, enforcement has not been as intensive as I would have wished. The 1974 Act extended the fixed penalty system to bus-lane offences and additional authority is now available to employ traffic wardens on stopping drivers and serving fixed penalty notices for misuse of bus lanes.

The provision in the 1974 Act for a blanket prohibition of the parking of vehicles on verges, central reservations and footways could prove irksome to many members of the public and police when it is brought into operation. I sympathize with the motives of the proponents of this measure and entirely agree with their thinking when it comes to vehicles being parked to far on a footway as to cause real danger, obstruction or inconvenience to pedestrians. However,

that practice is still uncommon. Much of the pavement parking in London takes place at night in fairly narrow residential streets flanked by terraced houses without a garage or off-street parking space. In such streets it is generally sensible and usually harmless for cars to be parked partly on the footway, a foot or so in from the kerb. A power of exemption is conferred by Section 7 of the 1974 Act and I hope those exercising it will bear in mind that many people have little alternative at night but to park their car in the street outside their house and that to require such parking to be confined wholly to the carriageway might often do more harm than good. For example, there would be a real risk of obstruction to emergency vehicles. Some idea of the scale of the problem can be gained from the fact that a recent survey conducted at night in an outer London Borough showed that 4,340 vehicles were parked with two or more wheels on a footway or verge.

The Central Integrated Traffic Control (C.I.T.R.A.C.) project, the joint venture of the Metropolitan and City Police Forces and the Greater London Council, continued to make good progress. The C.I.T.R.A.C. centre at New Scotland Yard was completed with the opening in April of the new operations room known as the Area Traffic Control Room. The centre now comprises this room, manned by officers of both Forces, and the Computer Suite and Fault Control Room, both staffed by G.L.C. personnel. There is also a suite of offices occupied by G.L.C. supervisory staff, traffic engineers, computer programmers and systems analysts. The Computer Suite contains the area traffic control computer, to which nearly 200 further traffic signal installations were linked in the course of the year. Ultimately, some 1,000 installations in an area of nearly 250 square miles are due to be brought under computer control. The Fault Control Room handles all reports of traffic signal faults occurring in Greater London. Police operators in the Area Traffic Control Room deal with day-to-day surveillance and control of traffic, including emergency and unpredictable situations which the computer's fixed time plans cannot cater for. Their equipment includes visual display units, closed-circuit television monitors and controls and line and radio telephone facilities by means of which they can scan, monitor, analyse and control the current traffic situation and, where necessary, direct traffic patrol units within the area covered by the area traffic control scheme. Units outside that area continue to be controlled by radio telephone from the new Traffic Control Radio Room, which became operational in February. Together with the Area Traffic Control Room it forms the Traffic Control Complex of the Metropolitan and City of London Forces, the communications, information and control centre for all traffic patrol operations.

In the latter half of the year preparations were made for a device known as VASCAR (Visual Average Speed Computer and Recorder) to be taken into operational use for speed limit enforcement. VASCAR is a small electronic computer which calculates average speed and displays the result to the nearest one-tenth of a mile per hour. Installed in a police car, it can be used while the car is in motion or stationary and regardless of the direction of travel of the vehicles whose average speed is being measured. One of the main advantages of VASCAR is that it eliminates possible hazards associated with the most commonly used method of obtaining evidence of excessive speed, namely taking a reading from a certified speedometer while the observed vehicle is being followed at a constant distance. By the end of the year 28 officers had qualified as VASCAR operators and 24 vehicles had been fitted with the equipment; operational speed

checks were due to begin early in 1975. I am very grateful to the Chief Constable of Essex Police, who pioneered the equipment in this country, for his assistance in training instructors.

During the year there were 51,047 road accidents resulting in death or injury, a reduction of 3,228, or six per cent, compared with the previous year. Full details are set out in Chapter 5 and Appendices 15-20. The sharpest reduction, of nine per cent, occurred in the first quarter. This coincided with the temporary imposition from December, 1973, of an emergency maximum speed limit of 50 miles per hour and the petrol shortage and three day working week, which combined to keep some vehicles off the roads. The sustained improvement in the accident figures later in the year may have been partly due to drivers responding to dearer petrol by using their vehicles less and driving more economically and therefore less aggressively. Nevertheless, much credit must still be given to all those whose daily concern is with one aspect or another of road safety and accident prevention—police officers, road safety officers, highway engineers and many others. Together they helped to make 1974 the safest year on London's roads for 17 years and without any complacency we can be pleased with the downward trend.

There is one black spot. In 1971 the permitted age for driving motor cycles was raised from 16 to 17 and while this initially led to a substantial reduction in the number of casualties among riders of two-wheeled motor vehicles there has since been a progressive increase in the number of accidents involving moped riders, to whom the relevant Regulations do not apply. With commercial acumen, manufacturers have designed faster machines which, although still coming within the definition of a moped because they have pedals, defeat the intention of the Regulations. The answer to this problem appears to lie either in making 17 the minimum age for driving or riding any motor vehicle or in including a maximum design speed in the definition of a moped. Representations have been made to this effect.

Figures in successive Reports in recent years show unmistakably that the initial dramatic effect on road accidents of the "drink and driving" provisions of the Road Safety Act 1967 (now embodied in the Road Traffic Act 1972) has been steadily wearing off. Clearly, many drivers believe that the risk of being required to take a roadside breath test is negligible. The provisions offer wide scope for unscrupulous drivers who are found to have an excessive proportion of alcohol in their blood to raise technical defences of no intrinsic merit, especially if they can afford to be legally represented. I therefore welcomed the action of the Minister for Transport in setting up a Committee of Inquiry under the chairmanship of Mr. F. A. Blennerhassett, Q.C., to review the law on drink and driving. As all face the same difficulties, I have collaborated with fellow members of the Association of Chief Police Officers in producing a memorandum of evidence for the committee.

To conclude this section of the chapter, a note of nostalgia. The year 1974 saw the departure of London's main fruit and vegetable market from Covent Garden and the surrounding area to a new site at Nine Elms. The traffic congestion in the old market area was dreadful to behold, but at least much of it occurred while most of us were in our beds. We shall miss the colourful jumble of this historic part of London life and wish the Market well in its new quarters.

Transfer of responsibility for policing London (Heathrow) Airport

Following consultations between the Government, the British Airports Authority and the Metropolitan Police, it was announced in Parliament on 29th April, 1974, that the Metropolitan Police were to assume responsibility for the policing of London (Heathrow) Airport. The Government took this decision following the world-wide escalation of terrorist violence against civil aviation and after consultations between yourself and the Secretary of State for Trade. It was acknowledged that close co-operation and liaison existed between the B.A.A.C. and the Metropolitan Police Force, but in the response to terrorism there had been an increasing need for the support of the greater resources of the Metropolitan Police and there was a requirement for a unified chain of command. It was considered that these duties could not be satisfactorily divided from normal police work.

Following this decision, a fully representative steering committee was set up under the chairmanship of the Deputy Assistant Commissioner (Inspector), No. 1 Area, to co-ordinate the planning and associated arrangements needed to effect a smooth transfer of responsibility for policing. The committee met on 12 occasions and, in addition, research teams spent much time at Heathrow on assessment and evaluation. Every aspect of organization, administration and operations at the airport was carefully examined and an assessment of the requirements was presented to the committee by a senior officer of the branch or department concerned. The complexity of this task can be judged from the fact that the committee found it necessary to commission 24 project studies, the results of which were consolidated in my report to the Home Office. In considering the policing requirements at Heathrow Airport it was necessary to take account of its physical features, complexity of commercial operations and intensity of activity throughout the 24 hours of every day. Considered together, these factors created an environment for policing which was without parallel within the Metropolitan Police District.

The Metropolitan Police assumed responsibility for the policing of London (Heathrow) Airport on 1st November, 1974, and this necessitated the creation of a twenty-fourth land division. The new division is known as Airport Division. It comprises Heathrow Sub-Division, covering the area formerly policed by the B.A.A.C., and West Drayton Sub-Division, consisting of areas that were formerly within "T" and "X" Divisions. The need for efficient security arrangements in and around Heathrow meant that it was not possible to adhere to the policy that police and local authority boundaries should be determined. The constitution of Airport Division contains other features which are departures from the normal policy of the Metropolitan Police but these special arrangements are considered essential for the efficient policing of the airport and are not regarded as creating a precedent in relation to the remainder of the Metropolitan Police District.

The conditions of service which had been enjoyed by police officers serving at Heathrow were, variously, taken from Police Regulations, derived from Civil Service conditions or peculiar to the B.A.A.C. Negotiations in respect of the conditions of transfer for these officers were conducted between the Home Office, the B.A.A.C., my Personnel and Finance Departments and the various staff associations, and the areas of difference were quickly narrowed to those of compulsory retirement ages and the conditions for payment of rent allowance.

The differences were eventually resolved and on 1st November 288 men and 38 women officers of the B.A.A.C., ranging in rank from chief superintendent to constable, transferred to the Metropolitan Police with, ultimately, only six men and one woman declining to transfer. In addition, 62 traffic wardens and nine other civilian staff transferred to the Metropolitan Police civil staff.

Negotiations also took place between my Finance Department and the B.A.A. to ensure that, in accordance with the undertaking given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office during the second reading debate on the Policing of Airports Act, no additional costs would be incurred by the Metropolitan Police as a result of the transfer of responsibility.

It is, of course, a new experience for the Metropolitan Police Force to have the responsibility for policing an airport in its entirety. The planning of the take-over and future organization proved to be an undertaking of some magnitude but as a result of a high degree of co-operation and much hard work by all concerned the necessary preparatory work was successfully completed in a remarkably short time. The full list of those who helped in this task is a very long one and I am most grateful for the valuable contribution made by every organization and individual involved. There is no doubt that the general atmosphere which prevailed while the project was carried through played a significant part in the resolution of the many problems which inevitably arose in the period up to the vesting day. Many "teething troubles" remain to be overcome but I am sure that continued hard work, patience and understanding will soon achieve a level of efficiency in policing which will benefit the airport and the public interest and at the same time be a credit to the Metropolitan Police.

Complaints

In last year's Report I stated that the Deputy Commissioner was to examine our system for investigating complaints with a view to finding a simpler and quicker means of dealing with minor cases. The aim was to ensure that officers who are the subject of a complaint of this type should learn of the outcome of an investigation within 48 hours of being informed of the allegations. Such a procedure demands the delegation of authority to divisional commanders, but unfortunately the extent to which this can be achieved is constrained by absence of a legal definition of what constitutes a complaint and by the terms of Section 49 of the Police Act 1964. Although it was possible to introduce a very limited scheme which provides for an accelerated investigation into less serious matters, this procedure can be applied only to a very small proportion of the complaints received and many of these are of the type which in any event normally result in complaints making an unreserved withdrawal when seen by an investigating officer. In the six months following its inception the accelerated complaints procedure was invoked in only 25 cases, representing less than one per cent of the number of complaints received in that period, but there is no doubt that in the small number of cases where the procedure has been applied the officers complained of have learned of the result of the investigation more quickly than they would otherwise have done. However, it has been found that it is rarely possible for an officer to be informed of the outcome of an investigation within 48 hours and the necessarily limited scope of the scheme has regrettably prevented it from having a major impact and bringing about the hoped for improvement in the morale of the Force.

You announced to Parliament on 30th July your outline plan for introducing an independent element into the procedure for dealing with complaints against police and, as you know, consultation is now in progress between your representatives and those of local authorities and the police about the principles and practicability of change. I have already communicated to you my considered views on the outline scheme but I feel it proper to place on record my fears that the proposals in the form in which they were published are unwieldy and impracticable and would result in the creation of an administrative machine of a size which would be out of all proportion to the seriousness of the alleged defects it seeks to remedy.

From June, 1972, until the beginning of 1974 the number of serious complaints under investigation by A.10 Branch increased each month. However, during 1974, the second complete year in which the branch has been in operation, the number of cases under investigation stabilized and remained approximately the same throughout the year. It has thus been possible to keep the establishment at a total of 69 police officers of all ranks. Experience has continued to show that the mechanism of the branch is efficient and that serious complaints are dealt with thoroughly and impartially.

Consultation with the staff associations

In last year's Report I mentioned that the Policy Committee had agreed to hold joint meetings with representatives of the Joint Executive Committee of the Police Federation and the Executive Committee of the Metropolitan Branch of the Superintendents' Association. Three informal meetings were held during 1974 and these proved to be of considerable value to all concerned, providing opportunities for the frank discussion of matters of mutual interest. I propose to continue this practice. I also decided that informal meetings which were already being held between divisional commanders and their local Federation representatives should be put on a more regular and formal basis. Joint meetings between commanders and representative of the three Federated ranks, including the C.I.D., are now being held three times a year. It is not intended that these meetings should impinge on the normal channels of communication and representation, but rather that they should cover matters affecting contentment and efficiency. In addition, chief superintendents were encouraged to maintain close contact with representatives in their sub-divisions. I hope that this series of measures will establish better two-way communication, which I regard as an essential ingredient for the well-being of the Force.

The Force and the Police Federation, both in the Metropolis and at national level, suffered a great loss in August with the retirement of Police Sergeant Peter Joiner, M.B.E. His contribution to the welfare and efficiency of the Force and of the police service generally was immense and, while I am sure his successors in the various offices he held will prove equally worthy, I know his wise counsel will be sorely missed.

Kenneth Alfred Lampert Parker, C.B.

The year saw the retirement on 31st August of Kenneth Parker, who had been Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District since May, 1967.

It is difficult to pay adequate tribute to his contribution to the efficiency and well-being of the Force during his period of office. That may sound rather fulsome. But those not familiar with Metropolitan Police lore will be unaware

that there has not always been concord between Commissioners and Receivers since the two offices were created in 1829. At times relations have been so distant as to be comic or tragic, according to the viewpoint of those affected. There grew, and was virtually encouraged, a tradition among the police that any unwelcome decision emanated from the Receiver; successive Commissioners did little to correct that impression. Happily, in more recent times there emerged a more harmonious relationship, which was fostered by Parker's predecessor, Mr. W. H. Cornish, C.B.

Parker assumed office just about the time that the Commissioner's and Receiver's Offices were formally merged and from the beginning he set a pattern of wholehearted co-operation and devotion to the Metropolitan Force which was adopted by his colleagues. A former head of the Police Department of the Home Office, a Cambridge man of academic distinction, he brought extensive professional knowledge of police affairs, a fine mind and a deep devotion to the well-being of the police to a task for which he was uniquely fitted. He rapidly earned the confidence, respect and admiration of his police colleagues and with the formation of the Policy Committee in 1972 was able to play a major part in the whole range of Metropolitan Police affairs.

We have a number of tangible reminders of his tenure of office—the Peel Centre, the Lambeth Support Headquarters at Imber Court sports ground. A no less important feature of his work for the Force was his successful promotion of the claim for an increased London allowance. He and his staff did extensive research and were untiring in their efforts to provide the necessary evidence and logic to persuade the staff associations and the Police Council to support his claim. To him as much as to anyone must go the credit for the first meaningful allowance of £275. It is only right that his part in that achievement should be recognized.

No Commissioner can ever have received more willing and valuable help from a Receiver. Few departures from Scotland Yard can have been regretted so much or with such good cause.

CHAPTER 2

Personnel and Training

Manpower

The establishment and strength of the regular Force are set out in Appendix 1. On 1st November the authorized establishment was increased by 573 officers, from 26,055 to 26,628, to provide for the formation of the Airport Division on the assumption of responsibility for policing London (Heathrow) Airport. The strength of the Force at the end of the year was 21,924 (20,298 men and 726 women), leaving a deficiency of 5,604 officers against the authorized establishment. There were 25 officers on central service or secondment and 150 in inter-force units, at universities or attached to and paid by other authorities. There was a net increase in strength of 71 officers, the number of men falling by 22 and the number of women increasing by 93. However, but for the transfer of 326 officers (288 men and 38 women) from the British Airports Authority Constabulary there would have been a net decrease in strength of 253 officers, the number of men dropping by 310 and the number of women increasing by 55.

Recruitment

The total number of applications received was 2,744 (2,067 from men and 677 from women), an increase of 42 compared with the 1973 figure of 2,702 (2,359 from men and 343 from women).

The numbers of men and women who attended for examination were 1,322 and 362 respectively, compared with 1,411 and 197 in 1973. The numbers of men and women joining the Force were 1,010 and 193 respectively—three more men and 86 more women than in 1973. These figures exclude the 288 men and 38 women transferred to this Force from the British Airports Authority Constabulary but include 60 men and 11 women re-engaged after previous resignation, 17 men who re-joined on transfer, 46 men and three women who transferred from other forces and 13 men who had previously served as cadets with other forces. Former Metropolitan Police cadets accounted for 366 of the men joining, of whom 256 (21 per cent of the total recruits or 25 per cent of the male recruits) were serving cadets attested on reaching the age of 19.

The average age of all recruits, at 22 years 2 months, was higher than in 1973 and 44 per cent of those who joined were single men, compared with 71 per cent in the previous year.

The average weekly intake into the Training School was 23, an increase of four on the 1973 figure.

During the year 14 graduates joined the Force, of whom three entered under the special scheme for the recruitment of those with higher educational qualifications.

Central and overseas service and secondments

A total of 33 officers were engaged on duties away from the Force, serving with H.M. Inspectorate of Constabulary, the Police College, the International Criminal Police Organization, the Home Office, the Department of Health and Social Security, the National Co-ordinator of Regional Crime Squads, the Police National Computer Unit, a district training centre, the Royal Ulster Constabulary and overseas police forces. At the end of the year 25 officers were still so engaged.

Removals from the Force

Reirements and other removals from the Force are classified in Appendix 2.

Awards to widows and children

There were 418 widows' pensions granted during the year, compared with 401 in 1973. Allowances were granted in respect of 35 children.

Staff reporting

In view of changes made in the initial training programme and the need to ensure that all assessments are based on the same criteria, the system of reporting upon probationer constables has been amended. Consideration is being given to the issue of notes for the guidance of sergeants who report upon probationer constables. In addition, the progress reporting system for cadets is being examined with a view to bringing it into line with the procedure for reporting on police officers. A further review of all aspects of the arrangements for staff appraisal is to be undertaken shortly. During the year further job descriptions were compiled for a variety of posts within the Force, either to update and improve the existing library of job descriptions or in connection with the evaluation of particular posts.

Police College

Inspectors' courses were attended by 78 inspectors, including 14 from the C.I.D. and one woman.

Intermediate command courses were attended by four superintendents, including two from the C.I.D., and nine chief inspectors, including five from the C.I.D.

The eleventh senior command course from 28th April to 10th August was attended by four chief superintendents, including one from the C.I.D., and three superintendents, consisting of two from the C.I.D. and one woman.

Ten officers, including two from the C.I.D., are attending the thirteenth special course, which commenced on 15th September.

Training

New accommodation at Peel Centre

Training began to benefit fully from the improved facilities offered by the new buildings at Peel Centre, Hendon. As I mentioned in Chapter 1, Her Majesty The Queen formally opened Peel Centre on 31st May. The ceremony began with the unveiling of a statue of Sir Robert Peel which had been generously donated to the Force by the Court of Common Council of the City of London.

Her Majesty was then shown the most interesting features of the new classroom and administration block (Peel House) and saw displays of operational police work. She also saw a demonstration of driving skills on the Driver Training School's skid-pan and watched a physical training display by cadets in the gymnasium of the Cadet School.

Uniform Branch Training School

The 16 week recruits' course was completed by 869 men and 126 women 52 more men and 30 more women than in the previous year. On 31st December 262 men and 60 women were still under training. During training 93 men and 35 women resigned voluntarily, a decrease of nine men and an increase of 17 women compared with 1973; one man died and two were returned medically unfit.

Two courses for non-gazetted officers from overseas forces were completed during the year and a third course began on 4th November. A total of 61 officers attended. A further three officers from overseas attended the basic recruits' course.

The final course for probationers was attended by 818 officers, of whom 39 obtained over 85 per cent of the final examination marks; the average mark attained was 69 per cent. There were 54 failures at the first attempt, but of the officers concerned 47 passed at the second attempt and two at the third attempt; three probationers who failed once and two who failed twice later resigned.

An additional training centre has been opened at Acton Police Station to cater for the training of probationers who were formerly members of the British Airports Authority Constabulary and for airport familiarization courses for Metropolitan Police officers posted to Airport Division. Prior to the transfer of responsibility for policing Heathrow on 1st November, informal five day familiarization attachments to Metropolitan Police stations were arranged for a total of 65 chief inspectors, inspectors and sergeants of the B.A.A.C. Subsequently, two week courses for ex-B.A.A.C. inspectors and sergeants have been held at Peel Centre and further training for other ranks is in hand.

By the end of 1974 the field training programme had been running for two years. Classes are held at the nine continuation training centres and uniformed sergeants and constables on ordinary duty and with between two and 30 years' service receive one day's instruction every six months. Each of the four six-monthly training cycles has been attended by approximately 10,000 officers. Effective use has been made of audio-visual aids in order to explain the work of various Headquarters departments.

As in previous years, courses were held for constables, sergeants and inspectors about to be promoted, for potential Training School instructors and for officers who transferred from other forces or re-joined this Force. A 14 week course for overseas police instructors was attended by 14 officers. A total of 748 recruits

to the Metropolitan Special Constabulary attended initial training courses at the continuation training centres and basic training continued to be given to recruits to the traffic warden service and to park-constables of the Royal Parks. Special courses were arranged for instructing Metropolitan Police officers and members of provincial forces in the action to be taken at the scene of an explosion or on the finding of a suspected explosive device. Instruction in disarming techniques was provided for Metropolitan officers.

After completing a course at Garnett College, an inspector of the instructional staff gained the teacher's certificate of the London University Institute of Education in theory of education and practical teaching. Another inspector is now studying for this award. Seven members of staff gained the City and Guilds Teacher's certificate at the Hendon College of Technology and a further seven are now studying for this award.

Detective Training School

In August the first change was made in implementation of the recommendations of the working party on training with the inauguration of an introductory course for temporary detective constables. In the near future refresher courses in criminal law and procedure will be introduced for constables, sergeants and inspectors.

In addition to preparing research papers individually, students on the advanced course now undertake collective research in depth into relevant subjects and present their findings to an invited audience. A project on community relations created such great interest that it was subsequently presented to senior officers, including those of the Community Relations Branch.

The closed-circuit television studio has been greatly improved and more training is now conducted there, including exercises relating to interviewing techniques, searching and scenes of crime work. The fingerprint, photographic and scenes of crime courses have developed well as a result of the better teaching facilities and equipment available.

During the year 957 officers attended the various courses of detective training, an increase of 134 on the 1973 figure. The total included 84 temporary detective constables attending the new introductory courses.

The six week advanced course was attended by 114 officers, of whom 51 were Metropolitan. The 10 week initial (senior) course was attended by 30 officers, of whom 29 were from other home forces and one was from an overseas force. The number of officers attending the 10 week initial (junior) course was 423, of whom 238 were Metropolitan, 181 from other home forces, two from the Channel Islands and two from overseas forces. A total of 132 detective sergeants of this Force attended three week refresher courses.

The six week standard fingerprint course was attended by 37 officers from other home forces and overseas forces. In addition, 26 officers from other home forces attended the two week advanced fingerprint course and 18 civil staff of the Fingerprint Branch attended a special three day course. Six week photographic courses were attended by 33 officers from other home forces and overseas forces. Six week scenes of crime courses were attended by 42 officers, of whom one was Metropolitan, 40 were from other home forces and one was from an overseas force, and a further course for civil staff was attended by 18 scenes of crime officers of C.7 Branch.

Instruction in beat crimes investigation for probationer constables of the uniform branch continued throughout the year and was received by 1,039 officers. In addition, 318 sergeants of the uniform branch received one week's instruction on the supervision of beat crimes investigation as part of their four week probationer sergeants' course.

The instructional staff have continued to give lectures at the Police College and at detective training schools throughout the country and have lectured extensively on courses held at the Peel Centre for officers of the uniform branch of this Force and from overseas forces.

Driver Training School

The introduction on 1st April of the new programme of courses recommended by the working party on training led to a number of changes at the Driving School. Two types of standard car course are now held. Provisional licence holders and Traffic Division officers still attend the five week standard course at the school, but full licence holders now receive four weeks' training made up of three weeks on division, during which time they receive 14 hours' instruction each day, and one week at the Driving School. Another change has been the replacement of the one day of instruction and testing on the utility van by a two day van course. The intermediate car course was replaced by a new course covering broadly the same ground, designated phase I of the advanced course, and the old advanced course, unchanged in content and length, became phase II. Although the combined duration of the two phases, at six weeks, remains the same as that of the separate courses they have replaced, advanced training is now concentrated into a period of 15 weeks. In the nine weeks between the two phases the student drives an area wireless car on operational duty without supervision.

Upon the formation of the new Airport Division, the Driving School had to determine whether the many drivers among the officers transferred from the British Airports Authority Constabulary were able to drive to the Metropolitan Police standard. These drivers were tested and, bearing in mind that the majority of them had received only a limited amount of training, their standard of driving was found to be satisfactory. Not surprisingly, the standard of the advanced drivers who had been trained at other approved driving schools was particularly good.

The full programme of training was resumed following the lifting of the restrictions on the use of petrol imposed towards the end of 1973. However, the Force policy of economising in the use of motor fuel continued to be carefully followed.

The table below shows the number of Metropolitan Police officers and members of other services who attended the various courses of instruction, together with the results of the tests:—

Course	Passed	Failed	Total
Car, standard (at Driving School)	204	27	231
Car, standard (in divisions)	1,024	15	1,039
Van	477	12	489
Car, advanced (old style)	77	19	96
Car, advanced (phase I)	102	15	117
Car, advanced (phase II)	71	13	84
Diplomatic Protection Group (phase I)	34	15	49
Instructors	7	1	8
Special advanced courses*	14	—	14
Familiarization for Traffic Division officers on removal duties	125	6	131
Roadworthy protection	12	—	12
Heavy goods	28	19	47
Motor cycle, lightweight	30	—	30
Motor cycle, standard	94	9	103
Motor cycle, advanced	29	—	29
Traffic wardens, motor cycle	45	2	47
Traffic patrol, standard	95	1	96
Traffic patrol, advanced	39	5	44
Totals	2,307	159	2,666

*Attended by eight Japanese Police officers and six members of other services.

Driving tests on cars, vans or motor cycles were given at the Driving School to 30 officers, of whom 24 passed. Most driver testing was again carried out in divisions, however, and of 638 officers tested 616 were successful.

The school received 2,213 visitors during the year.

Defensive weapons

A total of 429 officers qualified in the use of pistols and revolvers after attending the four day basic training course. Two courses for potential instructors were attended by 13 officers from provincial forces.

It was necessary to continue to use the outdoor range at Purfleet and also to make use of the outdoor range of R.A.F. Uxbridge and I am grateful to the Officers in Charge of these ranges for the facilities that were made available. I am also grateful to the Director of the Quality Assurance Directorate (FVE) for letting us have the use of training facilities at Woolwich Arsenal.

Home defence and war duties training

The one day refresher course for sergeants and constables with between five and 20 years' service was attended by 1,517 officers, including 100 from the City of London Police. The three day war duties course for senior ranks was attended by 260 officers, including 14 from the City of London Police. In addition, 50

members of the civil staff attended the one day course and nine attended the three day course. Probationers continued to receive 10 hours' basic war duties instruction and officers attending pre-promotion courses also received training in war duties.

Courses held at the Home Defence College, Basingstoke, York, were attended by 29 officers and 8 officers attended the London Region air reconnaissance courses held by the University of London Air Squadron.

Telecommunications

Prior to the installation of terminals to the Police National Computer, half-day appreciation courses were held in 31 sub-divisions for selected officers.

The five day teleprinter operating course was attended by 438 officers and two members of the civil staff. At the beginning of the year the length of the basic radio telephony course was reduced from three days to two. The two day course was attended by 871 officers and a further 193 officers attended one day courses.

The training of probationers in the use of personal radio equipment during their initial training course and the lectures on this subject to third phase cadets, followed by field exercises, were continued.

Swimming and life saving

There were 266 non-swimmers among recruits entering the Training School during the year. Of these, 210 had attained a satisfactory standard on posting to divisions and the remainder should become proficient with further practice.

Recruits and members of the training staff gained 22 bronze medallions, one bar to the bronze medallion, four awards of merit and one teacher's certificate awarded by the Royal Life Saving Society.

First aid

In the principal Force competition, "J" Division won the Parsons Shield.

Promotion examinations in police subjects

The annual examinations for constables and sergeants were held in January and April. The results were as follows:—

	Candidates	Successful
Sergeants		
Competitive	296	24*
Qualifying	338	39
Constables		
Competitive	1,326	260
Qualifying	202	18

* In addition, 74 sergeants who sat as competitors reached the qualifying standard.

Complaints against police officers

During the year 4,155 persons made a total of 6,478 complaints against police officers, compared with 3,940 persons who made 5,869 complaints in 1973. These figures represent increases of five per cent in the number of complainants and 10 per cent in the number of complaints. Of the complainants, 258 (six per cent) were found to have made substantiated complaints, compared with 265 (seven per cent) in 1973. The number of complainants who had been arrested or reported for an offence was 1,610 (39 per cent of the total), compared with 1,430 (36 per cent) in 1973.

Allegations about the attitude of officers towards members of the public again formed the largest single category of complaint. There were 1,187 of these, 72 more than in the previous year. Allegations of assault increased by 10 per cent and allegations of bribery and of mistaken arrest were both more numerous than in the previous year. There was a reduction in the number of substantiated complaints of bribery but increases in those of assault, attitude to the public and neglect of duty.

By virtue of Section 49 of the Police Act 1964 a copy of the report of the investigation into a complaint has to be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions unless the complaint alleges an offence with which the officer concerned has been charged or the chief officer of police is satisfied that no criminal offence has been committed. During the year consideration as to the possibility of a criminal offence having been committed was given to 1,557 complaint cases. I was satisfied in 12 of these that no possible criminal offence had been committed and the remaining 1,545 cases were sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions. He recommended no criminal proceedings in 1,461 cases, but disciplinary action was taken in 45 of these.

Proceedings against the officers involved were taken in 84 cases (69 of which concerned traffic offences). In 51 cases (46 concerning traffic offences) the officers were found guilty. In three of the 33 remaining cases the officers were found not guilty and in 30 cases the proceedings had not been completed at the end of the year.

Eight officers were charged forthwith with criminal offences without the papers being referred to the Director. Five were found guilty and in three cases the proceedings had not been completed.

Discipline

The number of officers punished for various defaults, including six whose appeals had been outstanding at the end of 1973, was 116, compared with 155 in the previous year. There was one appeal outstanding at the end of the year. Disciplinary Boards dealt with 34 officers, compared with 63 in the previous year. Eight officers were dismissed from the Force and seven were required to resign.

A total of 91 officers resigned from the Force before the completion of a criminal or disciplinary enquiry.

Health

Men

The number of days' work lost to the Force through sickness and injury was 259,830, compared with 287,473 in 1973. Allowing for the decrease in the

strength of the Force, the loss was eight per cent less than in 1973; it was equivalent to having 712 men off strength throughout the year. The number of days lost per man on the strength decreased from 14.3 in 1973 to 13.3.

Uncertificated absences for periods not exceeding three days accounted for the loss of 75,101 days, 29 per cent of the total.

Appendix 3 gives details of the sickness losses by groups of diseases.

Of the 23 deaths which occurred during the year, 10 were attributable to illnesses in the circulatory diseases group and one to the growths group. The remaining deaths were due to various causes.

Of the days lost through injuries on duty, 9,070 were due to assaults by prisoners (a reduction of 3 per cent compared with 1973); 5,687 due to motor cycle accidents when the injured officer was riding (an increase of 18 per cent); 5,106 due to accidents when the injured officer was driving a car or was a car or motor cycle passenger (a reduction of 22 per cent); and 607 due to accidents while an officer was examining premises (a reduction of 51 per cent).

Details of the number of officers injured as a result of being assaulted while on duty are given in Appendix 4.

Of the absences arising from injuries off duty, the largest single cause was injuries suffered in sport and games, which accounted for 7,047 days (12 per cent less than in 1973). The next most frequent cause was accidents involving vehicles when the injured officer was either the driver or a passenger, which accounted for 1,894 days (28 per cent less than in 1973).

The following table shows, by age-groups, the average number and length of spells of sickness only.

Sickness by age-groups (excluding injuries and accidents)

Age-groups	Average number of spells per man on strength		Average length of spell in days		Percentage rate of sickness	
	Certificated	Uncertificated	Certificated	Uncertificated	Certificated	Uncertificated
Under 25 years ..	0.7	2.0	8.6	1.7	1.5	0.9
25-29 years ..	0.5	1.9	9.6	1.9	1.4	1.0
30-39 years ..	0.4	1.6	12.1	2.0	1.5	0.9
40-49 years ..	0.4	1.4	16.4	2.1	1.8	0.8
50 years and over ..	0.4	1.0	17.8	2.2	1.9	0.6
All ages ..	0.5	1.6	12.2	2.0	1.6	0.9

These figures are similar to those of previous years, with the younger men absent more frequently than the older men but for shorter spells of sickness.

Women

The sickness rate for women police was 4.3 per cent. The rate for certificated sickness was 3.2 per cent and for uncertificated sickness 1.1 per cent. Respiratory and digestive ailments accounted for over a half of the days lost.

Medical and dental services

During the year a total of 1,303 officers and cadets (compared with 1,357 in 1973) were admitted to hospital, 170 of them to St. Thomas' Hospital and its associate hospitals.

The Metropolitan Police Medical Centre at Hendon admitted 612 patients (compared with 622 in 1973), comprising 213 men, 35 women and 355 cadets from this Force and nine men from other forces. The Convalescent Home at Hove received 220 patients from the Force (208 men, eight women and four cadets), compared with 255 in 1973.

A total of 184 officers and cadets (180 men, three women and one cadet) were discharged from the Force or Cadet Corps for reasons of ill-health, compared with 150 in 1973.

Dental inspections of cadets at six monthly intervals and of probationers during their initial and final training courses have continued, as also have regular medical checks of cadets.

Civil staff

A total of 15,777 civil staff were employed at 31st December, comprising the following broad groups:—

	Full-time staff	Part-time or casual staff
General administration and support staff in Headquarters departments ..	4,122	—
Professional, technical and scientific staff	1,431	—
Industrial workers in garages, maintenance depots, etc. ..	1,249	—
Catering staff (including industrial grades)	1,035	394
Executive officers, clerks, typists, etc., in divisions	1,860	—
Telephonists in divisions	232	367
Traffic warden grades	1,791	—
Cleaning staff	487	1,188
School crossing patrols	—	1,506
Miscellaneous	—	115
Totals	12,207	3,570

The civil staff strength figures in the Report for 1973 included 348 part-time or casual catering staff shown as 267 full-time equivalents and 489 full-time cleaners shown as part-time or casual staff. On the new basis of computation the total number of civil staff employed at 31st December, 1973, was 15,287, comprising 11,721 full-time staff and 3,566 part-time or casual staff.

Due partly to pay increases awarded during 1974, the abnormally high wastage rate and severe recruiting difficulties reported last year eased slightly for all grades except traffic wardens and school crossing patrols. Following discussions with the British Airports Authority and the various staff associations concerned, 62 traffic wardens and nine other civilian staff transferred from the

B.A.A. to the Metropolitan Police civil staff when the Force took over responsibility for the policing of London (Heathrow) Airport on 1st November. Civil staff continued to replace police officers in administration units. By the end of the year executive officers had taken over from 54 sergeants in charge of the process sections of units.

A new feature was introduced into the training programme in September when a series of two day seminars was started for staff who undertake secretarial duties at committees and other meetings. The number of civil staff courses and seminars held regularly is now 12. These cover induction into the office, basic knowledge about the organization, clerical skills, general supervisory and management techniques and practices, and the development of specific management skills. In October the training section organized the first of a series of one day conferences for all grades of civil staff to provide these aged 37 years and over with advice and guidance on preparing for retirement. There was a most encouraging response and 100 officers attended the initial conference. By the end of 1973 the intensive training programme of recent years had reduced substantially the number of clerical staff requiring basic training and had eliminated the back-log of reporting officers awaiting the one day training course on job appraisal reviews. In consequence, fewer of these two courses were needed in 1974. The training section was therefore able to concentrate more of its resources on the various seminars devoted to the development of particular skills and to extend the length of the divisional staff training course from five days to eight. Excluding those attending the initial pre-retirement conference, the number of staff trained on internal courses organized by the civil staff training section was 2,818, a reduction of 288 compared with the previous year.

Civil staff again made good use of the facilities available for furthering their education or acquiring academic, professional or technical qualifications. A total of 334 officers attended courses on release from their official duties and a further 92 were granted financial assistance to pursue courses of study at evening classes. There was an increase in the demand for specialist seminars and short courses and 236 officers undertook training in various professional, managerial and craft fields in order to improve their knowledge and skill in areas directly related to their duties.

Sport and police functions

Metropolitan Police Athletic Association

The association enjoyed another active year and while no outstanding successes were achieved the overall level of performance of the majority of the sections was good. It is apparent that participants in almost all sports now adopt professional attitudes and it has been evident for some time that sections and individuals will find it increasingly difficult to achieve the degree of success they once enjoyed. That all those representing the association continue to do so well reflects considerable credit on them.

The open police boxing championships were reinstated at the Royal Albert Hall following their cancellation in 1973 and boxers from Ireland, Italy, West Germany and the United Kingdom participated. Although the competitors from this Force failed to win a title, the standard of boxing was extremely high and the spectators enjoyed a splendid evening's entertainment.

Details of the representative and individual honours which were won are given in Appendix 5.

Horse shows

The 46th Metropolitan Police Horse Show and Tournament was held at Imber Court on 26th and 27th July. Provincial police forces and the City of London Police competed in the various classes. The armed services were represented by contingents from the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the Household Cavalry Regiment, the Royal Military Police and the Royal Army Veterinary Corps' Training Centre.

The Mounted Branch competed at seven horse shows during the year and did extremely well to win the best trained police horse class at the Royal Windsor Horse Show; the King George V champion challenge cup for the best trained police horse of the United Kingdom, the supreme championship in skill at arms and the Dunhill supreme horse championship at the South of England Show; the police horse of the year and inter-constabulary condition and turn-out pairs competition at the Horse of the Year Show; and the team test-pegging championship at the Dunhill International show jumping championships.

The Mounted Branch activity ride was performed at the Southsea Show and the Greater London Horse Show.

Metropolitan Police Band

Under its Director of Music, Major William Williams, M.B.E., A.R.C.M., the Metropolitan Police Band performed on a number of ceremonial occasions, including the official opening of Peel Centre, Hendon, by H.M. The Queen, and at many police and public engagements.

In addition to performances at Eastbourne and Bournemouth, the band provided music at carol concerts in All Souls Church, Langham Place, and Westminster Abbey.

Honours

Details of honours and awards received in 1974 are shown in Appendix 6.

Changes among senior officers

Details of changes which took place involving senior police officers and senior members of the civil staff are given in Appendix 7.

CHAPTER 3

Public Order: Operations: Other Police Duties

Public order

Demonstrations

I have referred to certain major demonstrations which caused problems for police, and to some other aspects of public order, in Chapter 1.

At the beginning of the year Emergency Regulations were in force and a three day working week was widespread. During January a number of marches and lobbies of Members of Parliament took place in support of the miners and in protest at the three day week. These passed off peacefully with no disorder.

On 17th March 320 supporters of the Welsh Language Society held a meeting at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, to draw attention to their demands for Welsh language channels on television and radio. After the meeting those assembled marched to Whitehall and a petition was handed in at 10 Downing Street. At least half the marchers sat down in the roadway in Whitehall, completely blocking the southbound carriageway to traffic. Speaking in Welsh, police officers repeatedly asked the persons sitting on the road to move but all their requests were met with point-blank refusals and ultimately 60 persons had to be arrested.

On 28th April 21,000 supporters of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children held a silent march from Speakers' Corner to Whitehall in support of their request for the repeal of the Abortion Act. In the course of the march counter-demonstrations were mounted by supporters of Women's Liberation and the International Marxist Group. The demonstrations passed off peacefully and there was no disorder.

On 29th April 11,500 members of the National Union of Teachers marched from Speakers' Corner to Millbank, S.W.1. After dispersal, the participants made their way independently to the Palace of Westminster to lobby their Members of Parliament about their London weighting allowance. These events passed off without incident.

On 1st May about 3,000 persons took part in the annual march organized by the London Joint May Day Committee, proceeding from Apsley Street, W.C.2, to Speakers' Corner. The participants were orderly throughout.

On 19th May some 1,200 supporters of the General Union of Arab Students assembled at Speakers' Corner to mark the anniversary of the end of the British mandate in Palestine. Their meeting lasted about one hour, during which time a rival meeting in support of the Jewish cause was taking place nearby. From time to time a small number of people from each group attempted to provoke disorder at their rivals' meeting and two arrests were made during this period. Upon the termination of the meeting organized by the General Union of Arab Students those who had attended formed up and marched to the south gate of

Kensington Palace Gardens, the location of the Israeli Embassy. En route, Jewish groups made sporadic attempts to assault some of the marchers. The marchers dispersed outside the Commonwealth Institute in Kensington High Street and by the time they had done so a further 13 arrests had been made as a result of five separate incidents.

On 9th June a march was held in memory of Michael Gaughan, the I.R.A. member whose death was mentioned in Chapter 1. Led by a colour party with a mock coffin, about 860 persons marched to Smith Square, S.W.1, where letters were delivered to the headquarters of the Conservative and Labour Parties. The members of the colour party were reported for wearing political uniforms but no prosecution was authorized.

During the visit to this country of the Bolshoi Ballet Company from 12th June to 20th July there were numerous demonstrations, mainly by various Jewish groups in protest against the detention of Jews in the Soviet Union. Some attempts were made to interrupt the performances at the Coliseum, St. Martin's Lane, W.C.2, and those responsible were ejected. On 27th June white mice were released during the first act of a performance and tucks, tomatoes and leaflets were thrown on to the stage. Those responsible were ejected and one of them was later arrested for threatening behaviour.

On 22nd June 5,600 members of the National Union of Students marched from Victoria Embankment to Speakers' Corner in memory of Kevin Gately, the young man who died during the demonstrations in Red Lion Square to which I referred in Chapter 1. The march led to two arrests, one for threatening behaviour and one for possessing an offensive weapon.

On 11th July 6,200 members of the National Union of Teachers marched from Speakers' Corner to Millbank, S.W.1. They then made their way independently to the Palace of Westminster to lobby their Members of Parliament. No disorder occurred.

Following the overthrow of Archbishop Makarios and the Cypriot Government on 15th July, numerous demonstrations were held by various Cypriot, Greek and Turkish groups in support of their respective causes. On 15th July 1,000 supporters of the Union of Cypriots in Britain held a march from Park Street, W.1, to the Greek Embassy, 1A, Holland Park, W.11, and on the following day 1,560 Greeks and supporters marched to the Greek Embassy from Speakers' Corner. When Archbishop Makarios arrived in this country on 17th July he was welcomed by 1,500 supporters at Claridge's Hotel, Brook Street, W.1. On each of these occasions the demonstrators were excited and volatile, but no disorder occurred. After the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, a number of marchers went to the Turkish Embassy in Belgrave Square. On 20th July Greek Cypriots marched from Camden Street, N.W.1, to Whitehall, and supporters of a rival group tried to intervene as the marchers passed through Trafalgar Square; eight arrests were made. On 21st July 5,000 members of the National Union of Cypriots held a march from Speakers' Corner to Trafalgar Square via the Turkish Embassy. Although there was much booing and shouting both at the embassy and in Downing Street, the demonstration was orderly and no arrests were made.

During August and September the various groups with an interest in Cyprus affairs continued to hold marches and demonstrations, but with one exception

these events passed off without untoward incident. The exception was a march on 14th August organized by the National Co-ordinating Committee for Cypriots in Britain in protest against alleged Turkish aggression in Cyprus. About 3,000 supporters assembled at Park Street, W.1, near the Cyprus High Commission, and marched to Speakers' Corner, demonstrating en route at the United States Embassy in Grosvenor Square and the Turkish Embassy in Belgrave Square. As the march passed the Grosvenor House Hotel the participants halted and chanted their support for Archbishop Makarios, who was staying there. When the head of the march reached a point opposite the Turkish Embassy the marchers stopped. They were extremely excited and became increasingly violent. After about five minutes the demonstrators decided to charge the Turkish Embassy, which was protected by a box cordon of police, and as missiles were being thrown it was necessary for police to clear the area immediately in front of the embassy. During this process the march broke up in disorder and 11 arrests were made. The marchers then left Belgrave Square but did not continue to Speakers' Corner as had been planned. Fourteen police officers and one demonstrator were injured.

In Chapter 1 I referred to a procession on 11th August organized by the Political Hostages Committee. Following that march all those arrested were taken to Paddington Green Police Station to be dealt with. As prisoners were being released on bail later that evening, a man parked an old van at the rear of the police station. When stopped by police he refused to furnish any explanation and was taken into the station for further enquiries to be made. On seeing him being taken into a station, a crowd of forty persons who were awaiting the release of those previously arrested entered the station demanding to know why the man was being detained. Disorder broke out and it was necessary to clear these people from the police station; five people were arrested during the incident.

On 15th September 10,000 supporters of the Chile Solidarity Campaign held a meeting in Trafalgar Square to express their opposition to the Chilean Government and its actions. The meeting was preceded by marches of 6,000 persons from Speakers' Corner and 500 from Euston. No untoward incident occurred.

During the early hours of 12th October the crew of a wireless car chased a man who had been seen committing an offence. In order to evade them the man entered the Carib Continental Club, Cricklewood Broadway, an unlicensed dance club mainly frequented by West Indian youths. The car crew summoned the aid of two other police officers and, with the co-operation of club officials, entered the club and made a discreet search to trace the offender, finally locating him in a toilet and arresting him. As the police officers were leaving the club with the arrested man, a disturbance arose; fighting broke out and bottles were thrown both inside and outside the club. Police reinforcements had to be called to restore order. During the melee 15 police officers and at least 10 members of the public were injured, some requiring hospital treatment. A total of 42 persons were subsequently taken to Golders Green and Willesden Green Police Stations to assist police in their enquiries and 12 were eventually charged with causing an affray and possessing offensive weapons.

On 27th October about 2,000 supporters of the British Peace Committee of the Troops Out of Ireland Movement marched from Clerkenwell Green, E.C.1, to Temple Place, W.C.2, in support of their demand for the withdrawal of troops from Northern Ireland. On arriving at Temple Place, the demonstrators held a

meeting. From the outset there was some heckling from the crowd and a minor disturbance followed. Police went among the spectators in an effort to restore order and found it necessary to arrest one person, whereupon a section of the crowd tried to release him from police custody. In the ensuing fracas further disorder occurred and eight more arrests were made.

During the year there were a number of poster parades, pickets and small-scale marches in response to the escalation of the problems in Northern Ireland and the Middle East and the situation of Jews and Ukrainians in the Soviet Union. These demonstrations were of a minor nature, each being supported by fewer than 100 persons, and all of them passed off peacefully.

On 26 occasions police were called upon to prevent breaches of the peace while High Court and County court writs were executed to repossess premises occupied by squatters. Apart from the incident at Centre Point referred to in Chapter 1, there was no serious disorder.

Industrial disputes

During the year there were 290 industrial disputes in London, compared with 191 in 1973, most of which were of a minor nature.

In the early part of the year the miners' strike and the ensuing three day working week necessitated increased policing in respect of anticipated picketing and the enforcement of Emergency Regulations. In addition, demonstrations by teachers, hospital ancillary workers and nurses put further pressure on police in the sphere of public order.

In March members of the National Association of Local Government Officers in several London Boroughs commenced industrial action over London weighting allowances which continued until August. On 8th May members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers held a one day strike in protest against the sequestration of union funds to enable compensation ordered by the Industrial Relations Court to be paid to Con-Mech Ltd. On 24th May some members of unions at the B.B.C. Television Centre began industrial action over pay which lasted for two months. During May and June members of the Confederation of Health Service Employees took part in short withdrawals of labour at various London hospitals to draw attention to their pay dispute.

In June members of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades held a strike as a result of a dispute with the Newspaper Publishers' Association over pay. For two weeks from 11th November members of the National Union of Journalists employed on local newspapers were also on strike over a pay claim. On 3rd December members of the Bakers' and Allied Confectioners' Union commenced industrial action over pay. Although there were queues outside some non-union bakeries, no disorder occurred and the dispute terminated after one week.

Major incidents

There were no major accidents within the Metropolitan Police District in 1974. However, the terrorist campaign of bomb attacks in London, which had commenced in the previous year, continued throughout 1974. The most serious bomb explosions occurred on Wednesday 17th July in the White Tower, Tower of London. E.I., when one person was killed and 37 were injured, and on Thursday 7th November at the Kings Arms Public House, Frances Street, Woolwich, S.E.18, when two persons were killed and 33 injured.

On both occasions the central casualty bureau was set up to handle the numerous enquiries from relatives and friends of those involved. As news spread of the incident at the Tower of London, many of the enquiries came from overseas. The Force major incident procedures were invoked as necessary to deal with these occurrences and worked well.

Public events

During the year there were two State Visits to this country. The first was undertaken from 30th April to 3rd May by Queen Margrethe of Denmark and Prince Henrik. Having arrived at Greenwich by ship and driven to Home Park, Windsor, to be received by H.M. The Queen, the visitors drove in a State Carriage Procession to Windsor Castle. The second visit was made from 9th to 12th July by the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and the Raja Permaisuri Agong. On this occasion the visitors arrived by air at London (Gatwick) Airport and subsequently drove in State from Victoria Station to Buckingham Palace.

H.M. The Queen opened Parliament twice during 1974, on 12th March and 28th October. On the first occasion there was no state ceremonial, but on the second there was a full State Opening.

Special Patrol Group

The Special Patrol Group continues to provide a mobile reserve of experienced officers who can be deployed quickly and efficiently in support of divisional or Headquarters officers. During 1974 the work of the group ranged across a wide spectrum of police duty, from the basic tasks of assisting divisions with crime prevention and dealing with unexpected incidents to anti-terrorist patrols, high security escorts and the maintenance of public order. The work is arduous but the morale of the group remains high. This is reflected in the results achieved.

During the year assistance was given to twelve divisions, but on a few occasions the assignments had to be terminated and the group redeployed on security or anti-terrorist activities. Despite this, the group was responsible for a record number of 2,270 arrests for crime, an increase of 14 per cent on the 1973 figure. Other arrests totalled 992, a decrease of 26 per cent compared with the previous year which reflected a total concentration on security duties in the weeks prior to Christmas. The group also dealt with 483 serious traffic offences, an increase of 20 per cent over the previous year, and made 13,001 stops of persons in the street and 28,303 stops and searches of vehicles, representing a decrease of nine per cent and an increase of 40 per cent respectively.

In the course of the year the group spent much of its time on security duties. Apart from providing units on a daily basis in central London and at London Airport, it undertook specific security duties on the ceremonial occasions of Trooping the Colour and Beating the Retreat and at the Royal Tournament and Epsom Racecourse. In June the whole group took part in security operations at London (Heathrow) Airport in conjunction with army units.

Towards the end of the year the formation of the Airport Division and of the Diplomatic Protection Group released Special Patrol Group officers at a time when they were much needed to supplement the central divisions on anti-terrorist patrols. From mid-October onwards all members of the group were deployed in central London and the assistance they gave at bomb incidents which occurred during this period again emphasized the necessity of having available a mobile

reserve of experienced and resourceful officers. There is no doubt that the speed and expertise with which they evacuated buildings and cordoned off affected areas helped to minimize fatalities and injuries in central London.

It is encouraging that both the C.I.D. and the uniform branch are making more requests for the assistance of the Special Patrol Group. During 1974 the group undertook a total of 192 special assignments lasting one or two days, including helping with murder enquiries and searches for murder weapons, searches for missing children, the control of demonstrations, control at football grounds and escort duties.

The group continued to maintain close liaison with "C" Department and assisted the Serious Crime Squad, the Bomb Squad, the Drugs Squad and Special Branch. During the year the Criminal Intelligence Branch agreed to allocate five specific tasks to the Special Patrol Group and each of these was undertaken by a small team from a different unit. All the enquiries were completed successfully, resulting in the arrest of a number of "target" criminals who had been very active and the clearing up of several hundred housebreakings. Over the years the group has developed a wide knowledge of the drugs problem, particularly in relation to the West End of London, and its activities in this field led to a large number of arrests, including those of several dealers in possession of substantial amounts of drugs.

Helicopters

As a result of the increased use of helicopters for police duties, air and ground units have developed closer liaison and greater expertise. The extensive field of view afforded by helicopters and their ability to range quickly over wide areas have greatly improved the effectiveness of ground forces in dealing with a large variety of police tasks.

The great versatility of helicopters has been displayed in the numerous tasks in which they have been utilized. Apart from assistance at everyday incidents which police are called upon to deal with, these have included the trailing for many miles of persons suspected of being involved in a blackmail threat, supplying valuable aerial photographic evidence in a murder case and helping Traffic Control to deal with wide-spread traffic congestion caused by a major demonstration.

Crime prevention service

The year proved by far the busiest since the Metropolitan Police crime prevention service was inaugurated at the end of 1967 and the number of security surveys undertaken increased substantially to over 17,500. In addition, a flood of requests was received for advice on protection from various forms of bomb attack. The knowledge and experience of security matters which crime prevention officers have gained over the years enabled them to give useful guidance and assistance.

The services of the Headquarters staff were in continual demand by large organizations and well-known institutions and many lengthy and protracted security surveys were carried out at places considered vulnerable to terrorist attack.

In spite of the greatly increased workload, some 1,300 talks were given and members of the Headquarters staff took part in several television and radio broadcasts, a most effective way of disseminating crime prevention advice. At the request of the French Government, the head of the crime prevention service went to the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Police at Lyon to address senior French police officers on crime prevention methods in this country.

By the end of the year a large-scale crime prevention programme was under way on the new Airport Division and it is hoped that in due course this will lead to a considerable improvement in security there.

During the year over 1,000 people visited the crime prevention section, including many police officers from various parts of the world.

Mounted Branch

The strength of the branch at the end of the year was 202 officers, against an establishment of 210.

During the year 15 horses were purchased, five were sold as temperamentally unsuitable and 14 were humanely put down. The strength of horses on 31st December was 191, against an establishment of 201.

The training of recruits continued throughout the year at the Mounted Branch Training Establishment, Imber Court, and all officers of the branch attended refresher courses there.

During 1974 the branch was responsible for 119 arrests, 2,757 summonses, 2,766 verbal warnings and 957 stops.

Thames Division

The River Thames continues to be used increasingly for recreation, leisure and sporting purposes and the growing number of private craft and modernization of passenger boat services were noticeable features of the year. The hovercraft commuter service referred to in last year's Report was withdrawn and replaced by a hydrofoil service operating between Greenwich and Westminster Piers. Late in the year the Greater London Council accepted responsibility for running and maintaining six piers used by the river passenger services.

Of the total of 40 persons rescued from the river during the year 21 were rescued by private persons and it is gratifying to be able to report that five of the rescuers received awards for bravery from the Royal Humane Society. Unfortunately, the dangers of the river are not always apparent and, as in previous years, talks were given to children at riverside schools with a view to improving river safety. Over 90 schools were visited.

During 1974 police patrols recovered 61 dead bodies from the river, of which nine could not be identified. Police were called upon to deal with 194 accidents, of which 40 involved personal injury and 154 damage only.

Underwater Search Unit

The unit was involved in 95 searches which occupied a total of 292 days, and a further 10 days were spent in training or on exhibition activities. One search in Sussex lasted for eight days. The searches resulted in the recovery of seven bodies, 14 firearms, five knives or other offensive weapons, 12 motor cars, three motor cycles and a great deal of other property, including numerous items of silverware and costume jewellery.

Dogs Section

At the end of the year 260 dogs were on the operational strength, compared with 250 in 1972, and a further 20 were under training. A total of 45 dogs were disposed of because of age or illness. Of the 56 puppies reared during the year, 27 were disposed of as unsuitable and 29 were in divisions being walked.

During the year officers of the section were responsible for 7,412 arrests and 1,823 summonses; 65 missing persons were found and 224 items of property recovered. The operations unit of the section organized 40 large-scale searches and provided security patrols for embassies, prisons and courts.

Police officers from Australia, Eire, Trinidad and many provincial forces attended training courses of various kinds and were supplied with dogs. The deputy chief instructor was attached for a period to the Israeli Police Force in order to advise on bringing their methods of police dog training up to date.

Two Home Office courses for instructors were attended by four Metropolitan officers and 20 officers from provincial forces, all of whom reached the required standard.

One officer with a dog specially trained in searching for human remains was seconded for two months to the United Nations force in the Suez area. Together with officers and dogs from provincial police forces, they were instrumental in recovering the bodies of many soldiers who had been killed in the Sinai Desert during the war in the autumn of 1973.

Building work was begun at the Dog Training Establishment in the autumn on an improvement scheme which will provide a new administration block and a new kennel complex.

Narcotics detection

During the year the Labrador dogs specially trained in the detection of narcotics were successful in 370 of the 764 calls they attended; 906 persons were arrested for misuse of drugs and other offences. One particular case serves to illustrate the effectiveness of the searching teams. While a team were assisting Customs and Excise officers at London (Heathrow) Airport, the two dogs employed indicated several large crates covered with hessian. When opened, the crates were found to contain leather footballs, within which were rubber bladders. Examination revealed that some of the bladders contained individually wrapped slabs of cannabis resin. This find led to the arrest of six persons for drugs offences and to the recovery of a large amount of cannabis resin at a provincial seaport.

Explosives detection

The number of dogs specially trained in the detection of explosive substances was increased to eight. The dogs attended 782 calls and again proved of great value in the thorough and speedy searching of areas where it was suspected that explosive substances had been placed. On several occasions the dogs were used outside the Metropolitan Police District. The searches covered, inter alia, government buildings, some large centres of entertainment, exhibition halls and many places of historical interest as well as individual houses or flats and cars parked in the street or in car parks. They were often carried out in circumstances involving real personal danger, and the positive and authoritative approach of the dog handlers served to reassure both their colleagues and the general public.

At scenes of explosions they searched with the aid of their dogs for vital evidence and gave valuable assistance to the officers engaged in this extremely important work. The outstanding achievement by an explosives detection dog was the discovery of a primed explosive device containing 3½ lbs. of gelignite. The device was found some minutes after police officers had carried out a visual search.

Aliens and Commonwealth citizens

The number of registered aliens living in the Metropolitan Police District on 31st December was 108,704, compared with 110,647 at the end of 1973, a decrease of 1,943 or two per cent.

During the year the Metropolitan Police enforced deportation orders in respect of 112 aliens and 201 Commonwealth citizens (compared with 115 and 299 respectively in 1973) and supervised the departure of 60 aliens and 13 Commonwealth citizens (50 and seven respectively in 1973). In addition, nine aliens and 58 Commonwealth citizens were repatriated (14 and 53 respectively in 1973) and two exclusion orders were enforced.

Court proceedings

The number of persons dealt with by the courts in 1974 having previously been charged at a police station within the Metropolitan Police District was 138,493. In previous years a person who was charged simultaneously with both an indictable offence and a non-indictable offence was counted in both categories; in 1974 such persons have been included only once in any one case. Thus the figures are not comparable with those for 1973. The number of charges and further charges brought was 202,201; of these, 47,906 were for indictable and non-indictable traffic offences, including thefts and unauthorized takings of motor vehicles; 84,591 for other indictable offences; and 69,704 for other non-indictable offences, of which 60 per cent were for drunkenness.

The number of persons summoned to appear at magistrates' and juvenile courts in 1974 was 175,463, in respect of a total of 226,401 offences. In relation to 77 per cent of these persons the summons was issued at the instance of the Metropolitan Police; in relation to the remainder it was issued at the instance of other authorities or organizations or of private persons.

Further details regarding persons proceeded against together with the results of the prosecutions are given in Appendix 9, which, also includes the 1973 figures.

Betting, gaming and lotteries

During the year eight warrants were executed in respect of unlawful betting, compared with two in 1973. Seven cases were decided and fines and costs imposed by the courts totalled £3,518; in one case £834 was forfeited.

The number of gaming warrants executed was 103, compared with 78 in 1973. Of this total, 14 related to gaming on machines, one to machines and cards, three to dice and cards or dice alone, 65 to cards and 20 to pai-kau. In addition, eight cases of gaming with cards and three of gaming on machines were dealt with by way of summons. During the year 115 gaming cases (some of which originated in 1973) were decided; fines and costs imposed by the courts totalled £18,845 and orders were made for the forfeiture of 14 machines.

No warrants were executed in connection with lotteries but one case from 1973 was dealt with by way of summons under the House to House Collections Act 1939 and fines and costs imposed by the court totalled £500.

At the end of the year 24 clubs were licensed for gaming other than bingo and 156 clubs for bingo only under the provisions of Part II of the Gaming Act 1968. A further 37 members' clubs were registered for gaming under the Act.

Clubs

At 31st December there were 2,990 clubs operating under registration certificates and 663 operating under justices' licences. The combined total of 3,653 represented an increase of 36 on the previous year's figure.

During the year 10 raids were made on registered clubs, 22 on licensed clubs and nine on clubs which were neither registered nor licensed. Proceedings were completed in respect of 36 cases (of which one arose from a raid in 1971 and 17 from raids in 1973) and fines and costs imposed by the courts totalled £7,692.

Licensed premises

Apart from the clubs previously mentioned as operating under a justices' licence, there were at the end of the year 9,391 premises licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquor for consumption on the premises. Of these, 2,881 had restaurant, residential, or combined restaurant and residential licences. The number of off-licensed premises was 4,025.

During the year 64,921 special orders of exemption were granted to licensed premises and clubs, of which 19,291 were for the Christmas and New Year period. The corresponding figures for 1973 were 65,312 and 19,816 respectively. A further 5,342 special orders of exemption were granted for the general elections held in February and October.

Drunkenness

During the year 41,193 persons (37,857 men and 3,336 women) were proceeded against for drunkenness or drunkenness with aggravation and 36,448 of them were convicted. These totals were respectively 3,914 and 2,679 fewer than those for 1973. In addition, 736 persons proceeded against for other offences were also charged with drunkenness, resulting in 569 convictions. Persons prosecuted for being under the influence of drink or drugs when driving or in charge of vehicles are not included in the figures above.

Of the convictions for drunkenness and drunkenness with aggravation, 3,028 (involving 2,788 males and 240 females) were of persons in the 18 to 20 age group and 706 (involving 628 males and 78 females) of persons under 18 years of age.

Comparative figures of persons proceeded against for drunkenness, showing the proportion per 1,000 of the estimated population, are given in Appendix 10.

Obscene publications

In Chapter 1 of my Report for 1973 I gave detailed information about the activities of the Force in this field. The scale of these activities is demonstrated by the fact that 431 prosecutions or other court proceedings involving 265 individuals or companies were concluded during 1974. In addition, 51 arrest

warrants were in existence at the end of the year in respect of persons, more often than not casual employees in bookshops, who had either evaded the service of, or failed to answer, a summons.

During the year 245 new cases were submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions and 186 searches were carried out under the authority of warrants granted under the Obscene Publications Act 1959.

Despite this high level of activity, complaints continued to be received from time to time that shops were still selling obscene material. It is not generally appreciated by those who complain to police or to the press, television and radio about the display of apparently obscene magazines and other material that the attitude of the courts towards them has changed greatly in recent years. The sincerely held belief of some members of the public that a particular publication is obscene would not necessarily be upheld by a court. Prosecutions brought under the Obscene Publications Acts and based on the unlimited display of the male or female body are unlikely to succeed. The question of what is obscene in terms of the law has now become an extremely complex matter and police can do no more than bring to bear their knowledge and experience in order to satisfy themselves that a *prima facie* case exists before making application for a search warrant. While complaints will no doubt continue to be made about some material, I am satisfied that there are now very few shops in London which are regularly able to stock or sell truly obscene literature or articles.

Firearms

The number of new firearm certificates granted was 985 and 2,650 expired certificates were renewed. Totals of 151 new applications and 34 applications for variation of certificates were refused, compared with 171 and 43 respectively in 1973. Cancellations of certificates totalled 1,364, including 129 on refusal of applications for renewal (165 in 1973) and four on revocation. There were six appeals to crown courts, of which five were dismissed and one allowed. At the end of 1974 there were 11,049 current firearm certificates, a decrease of 379 compared with 1973.

The number of short-gun certificates granted during the year was 3,948, including 83 short-term visitors' certificates, and 6,612 expired certificates were renewed, including 10 visitors' certificates. Refused applications totalled 232 and 27 certificates were revoked. There were eight appeals to crown courts against refusal to grant a short-gun certificate, of which five were dismissed and three allowed.

The number of firearms dealers registered with the Force on 31st December was 286, two more than at the end of 1973. A total of 21 dealers' certificates were cancelled because the holders had ceased to trade in firearms and two applications for registration were refused.

The number of charges brought or summonses issued under the Firearms Act 1968 was 691 and the number of cautions administered was 918. In addition, 10 summonses were issued under the Metropolitan Police Act 1839 or the Highways Act 1959, mainly in connection with misuse of air weapons.

During the year 2,712 firearms of all descriptions (including 1,170 pistols and revolvers and 231 shot-guns) were surrendered or confiscated and small shells, grenades and assorted ammunition amounting to 205,404 rounds were received.

Missing persons

During the year 5,018 persons were recorded in the central index as missing, compared with 4,587 in 1973. This total included 350 boys and 264 girls under 14 years of age and 934 boys and 1,806 girls between the ages of 14 and 17.

Details of 1,348 missing persons were recorded in the index at the request of provincial and overseas forces, compared with 1,180 in 1973.

At the end of the year 370 persons were still recorded as missing from the Metropolitan Police District, the largest category being 121 girls in the 14-17 years age-group.

Deceased persons' property

During the year the property of 604 deceased persons was taken into the possession of police for safe-keeping and subsequently disposed of either to relatives who had been traced or through the Treasury Solicitor.

Lost property

The number of articles found in cabs and deposited with police was 10,130 (61 more than in 1973). Of these, 4,138 were restored to their owners and 2,179 were returned to the cab drivers who deposited them. The remainder, unclaimed by either loser or finder, were mainly disposed of by sale.

Articles reported found in the street totalled 117,098 (7,285 fewer than in 1973). Of these, 108,412 were deposited with police and the remaining 8,686 were retained by the finders. The number of items restored to losers was 46,290. The number of losses reported to police was 134,753 (4,411 more than in 1973).

Abandoned vehicles

Police made enquiries about 1,393 apparently abandoned vehicles, 70 more than in 1973. Local authorities removed a large number of vehicles they themselves had found as well as 1,146 of the abandoned vehicles reported by the police.

CHAPTER 4

Crime

The crime statistics for the year

Indictable offences known to police; arrests and crimes cleared up

Details of the numbers of indictable offences known to police and of offences cleared up are shown in Appendices 11 and 12 respectively. The classification adopted in these tables has been brought into line with that employed by the Home Office in the annual Criminal Statistics for England and Wales. In respect of those indictable offences involving direct financial loss to the victims, Appendix 13 gives a breakdown by the estimated value of property (including cash) stolen.

The table below provides a summary of all indictable crimes known to the Metropolitan Police during the last five years. The crimes have been divided into seven broad categories which differ slightly from those used in the corresponding table in Chapter 4 of last year's Report. The categories have no direct correspondence with those used by the Home Office and reflect a circumstantial rather than legal classification. The variations within each category are analysed in detail later in this chapter.

Period	Total(a)	Categories of crime†							
		Crimes of violence		Robbery and other violent theft	Burglary	"Auto-crime"	Other theft and handling	Fraud and forgery	Miscellaneous
		Homicide, assault, etc.							
1970	124,680*	7,911	3,825	74,847	90,227	116,310	25,547	9,013	
1971	145,096*	8,267	4,466	102,005	116,701	23,297	10,639		
1972	154,445	8,756	5,194	76,525	103,839	115,159	31,787	13,186	
1973	155,248	9,848	4,237	72,635	104,166	113,582	31,993	14,763	
1974	111,797‡	6,924	5,570	85,283	134,928	127,989	30,000	19,025	
1973:									
1st quarter	80,575	2,075	1,208	17,510	23,101	25,861	7,687	3,134	
2nd quarter	89,566	2,617	984	17,963	27,163	29,742	8,279	3,818	
3rd quarter	87,652	2,598	912	17,550	26,913	28,033	8,212	3,565	
4th quarter	97,254	2,558	1,133	19,603	30,969	30,946	7,797	4,248	
1974:									
1st quarter	97,613	2,280	1,457	21,039	31,174	30,244	7,150	4,269	
2nd quarter	98,930	2,363	1,288	20,519	32,175	30,218	7,611	4,858	
3rd quarter	102,442	2,335	1,171	20,617	33,548	31,742	8,211	4,598	
4th quarter	114,814	2,806	1,736	24,068	38,031	35,785	7,088	5,300	

* The figures for 1970 and 1971 have been adjusted to take account of subsequent changes in the law relating to criminal damage.

† Because this classification scheme is new, the figures for years prior to 1974 contain a small element of estimation.

‡ The number of additional crimes recorded during 1974 as a result of the assumption of responsibility for policing Heathrow Airport on 1st November is negligible, being less than one per cent of the total for the final quarter.

(a) These figures exclude many offences committed on London Transport and British Rail premises within the Metropolitan Police District and investigated by officers of the British Transport Police. Efforts are being made to obtain statistics of such offences in order that a more complete picture may be given in future years.

In order to compare the rates of increase in the different categories of crime the following table shows the same figures in index number form, with 1970 taken as the base year.

Year	Crimes of violence							
	Total	Homicide, assault, etc.	Robbery and other violent theft	Burglary	"Auto-crime"	Other theft and handling	Fraud and forgery	Mixed-larceny
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1971	106	105	117	104	113	100	112	118
1972	107	111	136	102	115	99	141	146
1973	109	124	111	97	120	98	142	164
1974	127	123	146	115	150	110	131	211
Percentage variation 1974/73	+16	+1	+31	+19	+25	+13	-6	+29

In last year's Report I referred to an exceptional increase in recorded crime in the fourth quarter of 1973 and to indications that this trend would continue, at least during the first half of 1974. The figures given in the first table not only confirm this prediction but also show a further large increase in the final quarter of 1974. The total for that quarter was 34 per cent higher than the corresponding total two years previously. There was, moreover, little sign of this new crime-wave diminishing in the early months of 1975.

The figures in the above tables depict an unremitting increase in the volume of crime. However, as I reported in Chapter 1, the bulk of that increase has occurred in the less serious offences and the C.I.D. has achieved considerable success in its fight against the most serious forms of crime. In particular, the figures for one or two categories of serious robbery indicate that the professional robber has lost some ground; there has been a reduction not only in the number of bank robberies, as mentioned in Chapter 1, but also in high-value robberies generally. In 1970 there were 94 robberies in which cash or goods to the value of £5,000 or more were stolen. Because of inflation the equivalent amount in 1974 was more than £7,000, and during the year there were only 81 robberies involving £7,000 or more. In the main, the increase in robberies has been restricted to those involving less than £1,000.

In the face of the heavy increase in recorded crime, 98,326 arrests were made of persons suspected of committing indictable offences, following which they were either charged or, in the case of the majority of juveniles, referred to the juvenile bureaux. This total represents an increase of 11 per cent over the 1973 figure and the arrests resulted in 114,357 crimes being cleared up, an increase of 8 per cent by comparison with the previous year. While these figures constitute

a considerable achievement on the part of the Force, we were unable to keep pace with the rate of increase in crime with the result that the proportion of crimes known which were cleared up fell from 29.8 per cent in 1973 to 27.6 per cent in 1974.

Crimes of violence

The following table covering the last five years isolates the most serious offences, which are included in the homicide, assault, etc., category, the first of the two which come under the general heading of "crimes of violence". Homicide comprises murder, manslaughter and infanticide.

Year	Total	Homicide	Attempts and threats to murder	Rape	Causing death by dangerous driving	Wounding and other acts endangering life	Other wounding and assaults
1970	7,911	103	102	141	100	665	5,797
1971	8,257	118	131	107	115	685	7,200
1972	8,756	113	120	135	140	783	7,465
1973	9,848	110	111	132	109	924	8,452
1974	9,924	142	113	156	125	912	8,456

While the overall total for this category rose by less than one per cent by comparison with the previous year, the number of homicides was substantially higher than in any recent year. The 142 homicides may be considered as 133 distinct cases, compared with 104 cases in 1973; 13 of these cases (involving 15 victims) were regarded as manslaughter from the outset. A total of 119 homicides were cleared up during the year. There was also one case of child destruction, which has been included under "wounding and other acts endangering life".

The other category under the general heading "crimes of violence" (robbery and other violent theft) consists mainly of robberies, to which have been added certain similar offences. The latter are mostly snatches, which are closely allied to street robberies.

In relation to robberies only, the following table gives a breakdown by circumstances of the number of offences known to police in each of the last five years.

Year	Overall total	Of business property			Of personal property			Conspiracies
		Total	In transit	On premises	Total	Following sudden attack in the open	Otherwise	
1970	2,559	986	394	592	1,573	979	594	50
1971	2,727	1,107	461	646	1,620	1,174	446	49
1972	3,167	1,073	373	700	2,033	1,544	489	61
1973	2,680	1,019	322	697	1,661	1,424	237	31
1974	3,151	1,188	372	816	1,916	1,454	462	47

By comparison with the previous year's figures 1974 saw an increase in every group shown, but even so the number of robberies of business property in transit was lower than it had been in 1970. There was also an increase in the number of robberies in which firearms (actual, imitation or supposed) were involved, from 348 in 1973 to 438 in 1974. In the final quarter of the year there was a particularly heavy increase in robberies and an even worse one in other violent thefts.

Of all crimes of violence known to police during 1974, 19 per cent were committed between the hours of 9 p.m. and 3 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

Further details of all crimes of violence recorded during 1974 may be found in Appendix 14. Breakdowns of both categories are given by the relevant Home Office classifications in part A, by the circumstances in which the offences occurred in part B, by the types of weapons involved, if any, in part C, and by whether or not injury was caused in part D.

Burglary

After four or five years during which there was little or no increase in the number of burglaries known to police, this category regrettably followed the upward trend in crime generally in 1974. The next table gives a breakdown of the number of burglaries recorded during the last five years. It will be seen that most of the increase has occurred in forcible entry offences.

Year	Total ^a	Forcible entry		Walk-in	
		In dwellings	In non-residential buildings	In dwellings	In non-residential buildings
1970	34,841	24,370	22,621	19,801	8,659
1971	37,693	24,181	21,221	21,826	10,111
1972	36,532	25,085	21,263	20,319	8,675
1973	32,673	23,543	21,335	18,231	8,103
1974	38,283	29,905	27,298	18,934	9,828
Percentage increase 1974/73	+18	+20	+29	+2	+18

^a These figures exclude a small number of cases involving violence which have been classified as "other violent theft" and included in crimes of violence. There were 35 such cases in 1974.

"Auto-crime"

Because "auto-crime" is so prevalent nowadays the fact that there has been an increase of 30 per cent in the number of offences recorded in this category in the space of only four years has had a profound effect on the overall crime figures. The table below reveals that the increase has been mainly concentrated in offences involving removal of the vehicle. Normally a car is regarded as stolen rather than taken and driven away if it is not recovered within a calendar month. It is to be hoped that as the proportion of motor vehicles with steering locks increases this trend will be checked and even reversed.

Year	Total	Removal of motor vehicle		Theft from vehicle	
		Theft	Unauthorised use	Moved	Not moved
1970	30,227	8,199	23,554	15,385	35,130
1971	30,223	8,118	22,413	14,613	31,308
1972	30,438	9,573	22,990	13,711	33,023
1973	28,166	10,187	22,667	15,348	28,465
1974	34,228	11,132	26,899	20,820	33,203
Percentage increase 1974/73	+21	+10	+11	+31	+16

Other theft and handling

This category includes theft from the person (travellers' cheques, etc.), theft from dwellings, theft from vehicles, etc., as well as all other types of theft not included elsewhere. In 1974 the number of offences recorded in the first of these groups increased dramatically to 5,064 compared with 3,421 in the previous year. However, much of this rise may be attributed to an increasing tendency for losses of property from the person to be recorded as crime and to the difficulty of establishing definitely whether the property in question was indeed stolen rather than lost. Reported cases of shoplifting continued to increase, the total being 20 per cent higher than in 1973.

Fraud and forgery

There was a six per cent fall in the number of offences in this category generally but increases were recorded in serious frauds, a numerically small group, and in cheque frauds, which accounted for nearly 65 per cent of the overall total. The cases of fraud and forgery recorded in 1974 can be broken down as follows:-

Fraud by an employee	153
Obtaining money by forged documents	2,365
Obtaining money by worthless cheques	17,030
Otherwise obtaining money by deception	10,306
Frauds on the public	594
Total	30,080

Motor Insurance

This category comprises mainly of criminal damage (of more than £20 in value), which constituted 75 per cent of the 1974 total and has accounted for more of the large increase in the number of miscellaneous offences since the beginning of the decade. Criminal damage of £20 or less in value is not included in the figures but in 1974 recorded offences of this kind did not rise quite so steeply as the more serious cases, the increase over the 1973 figure being 23 per cent compared with 37 per cent for the over £20 group. Clearly, the effect of inflation is such that an increasing proportion of criminal damage offences are falling into the over £20

group and it would seem advisable for crime statistics generally to include all recorded offences of this sort. Among the other crimes included in the miscellaneous category are sexual offences.

Criminal Investigation Department

General

This section of the chapter follows the traditional pattern, dealing in broad terms with the activities of the various elements of the C.I.D. during the year under review. However, I feel sure that brief summaries of some of the important and interesting cases which were dealt with during 1974 will not only be of interest but also serve to convey something of the real nature of police work in connection with crime and criminals at the present day. These are given later in this chapter in a new section entitled "Crime as it is".

As I have already indicated in Chapter 1, the reorganization of "C" Department has proved most effective and in 1974 the C.I.D. achieved a notable level of success in the fight against the most highly organized and professional criminals.

Flying Squad, No. 9 Regional Crime Squad and Robbery Squad

Once again, the Flying Squad, the No. 9 Regional Crime Squad and the Robbery Squad were in the forefront of C.I.D. operations and in the course of the year their co-ordinated activities and close co-operation with the Criminal Intelligence Branch resulted in a large number of important arrests in the field of major crime. During the year the three squads were together responsible for 1,653 arrests and the recovery of property worth almost £3,100,000. But these impressive results were achieved at the cost of intensive pressure on individual officers, as is evidenced by the fact that nearly two-thirds of the Flying Squad regularly worked more than 100 hours overtime each month. Despite these difficulties, morale in all three units remains exceptionally high and there is every expectation that this excellent spirit will be maintained.

The year saw the culmination of a massive bank robbery investigation which had been based at Wembley and involved both Flying Squad and Regional Crime Squad officers. During the course of this operation, which started in September, 1972, enquiries were made into 58 major armed robberies committed between 1965 and 1972 and involving almost £3 million. A total of 150 persons were arrested and at the Central Criminal Court in 1974 these persons were convicted of robbery, conspiracy to rob and associated offences. The 27 most prominent offenders were sentenced to a total of 315 years' imprisonment, excluding concurrent sentences. A notable feature of this case was that following his arrest one of the original suspects agreed to supply the police with a great deal of valuable information about the activities of his former associates. The effectiveness of the police protection offered to this individual would appear to have encouraged an increasing number of major criminals to assist the police in this way. I remarked on this trend in Chapter 1.

Bomb Squad

As I reported in Chapter 1, the intensification of the I.R.A. bombing campaign placed a massive burden on the already strained resources of the Criminal Investigation Department. Throughout the year it was necessary to supplement

the permanent strength of the Bomb Squad by a large but fluctuating number of officers on loan from both Headquarters branches and divisions. However, these arrangements imposed certain limitations on the continuity of the Bomb Squad's activities and towards the end of the year the permanent establishment of the squad was increased to a more realistic size. At the same time, in order to achieve maximum operational flexibility the strengthened squad was placed under the full-time control of a commander.

I have referred earlier to the outstanding and courageous work of the members of the Bomb Squad and the explosives officers. I would also like to pay tribute to those officers from provincial forces who have been temporarily attached to the Bomb Squad since the increase in violence during the last few weeks of 1974 and who have performed their demanding duties most effectively. The welcome lull in the bombing campaign in early 1975 limited the number of these loans but the willingness of all forces to participate in such arrangements was a most encouraging example of inter-force co-operation.

C.I.D. Central Office

During the year the C.I.D. Central Office, of which the Bomb Squad forms part, was particularly hard hit by the squad's demands for additional manpower and as a result the other Central Office squads, namely the Murder Squad, Reserve Squad and Serious Crime Squad, were required to operate with strictly limited strengths. Nevertheless, these units still handled a large number of major crimes and, in particular, the Serious Crime Squad continued to achieve outstanding success in its operations against organized criminals.

Special Crime Branch

Other offences which require specialized investigation, for example those involving forged currency, drugs, extortion and works of art, are now the responsibility of the Special Crime Branch (C.13), which was created in 1973 as part of the general reorganization of "C" Department. I commented last year on the initial success of these arrangements and I am pleased to report that this branch continued to make most encouraging progress in 1974.

As a result of strenuous efforts on the part of the Counterfeit Currency Squad, forgeries of the £10 note which caused concern during 1973 have now almost completely disappeared. In addition, the numbers of forged £1 notes and United States dollar bills which were issued in 1974 showed very substantial reductions compared with the previous year. In July a new and exceptionally deceptive forgery of the £5 note came to notice. Detailed enquiries by C.13 officers identified the four persons who were believed to be principally responsible for this note and by the end of the year these individuals and a total of 16 other persons had been arrested in connection with the forgery.

The C.13 Dangerous Drugs Squad also enjoyed a successful year. Once again the drug most commonly encountered was cannabis and as a result of the squad's activities some 2½ tons of this drug in its various forms was seized, part of this amount being confiscated in conjunction with H.M. Customs and Excise during operations at London Airport.

During the year the total number of persons suspected of drug offences and stopped in the street under Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was 5,766 and there were 2,345 resultant arrests.

The perennial problem of illegal immigration continued to receive close attention during the year. Working in conjunction with the Central Drugs and Illegal Immigration Intelligence Unit, C.I.D. officers investigated some 250 cases and arrested 53 suspects. The same squad handles extradition enquiries from other countries and in 1974 there were 124 such cases, which involved 23 arrests. One case of particular interest was the widely publicized extradition of a former detective chief superintendent of the Hong Kong Police, who was returned to Hong Kong to face charges of corruption.

C.I.D. Branch also has responsibility for investigating offences in the fields of fine art and philately and during the year the squads involved recovered property valued at over £775,000, more than double the 1973 figure. The officers concerned have developed considerable expertise in these specialized areas and this has done much to facilitate their close co-operation with commercial dealers throughout the world.

The Central Cheque Squad, which was formed in 1973 to combat cheque and credit card offences, achieved especially encouraging results during the year, being responsible for the arrest of 83 persons for offences involving over £2 million. In addition to this central unit, a number of divisional cheque squads are maintained in the inner London area and these have also achieved good results.

C.I.D. in divisions

In last year's Report I expressed concern over the fact that as a result of the increasing pressures on available manpower much of the C.I.D. work in divisions was being done with at too junior a level. I regret to say that owing to the steep rise in the number of crimes reported to police during 1974 and the heavy and long-term demands of specialist units, such as the Bomb Squad, the situation on divisions has continued to deteriorate. As the number of divisional C.I.D. officers, although clearly inadequate, cannot readily be increased, the necessarily protracted nature of the most important enquiries inevitably means that on many divisions an increasing number of the more complex crime investigations are being handled by relatively inexperienced officers. There is of course no easy solution to this problem. However, in view of the recent successes which Headquarters squads have achieved by concentrating their efforts upon particular criminals it seems likely that a similar approach would be beneficial to many of the more serious divisional investigations. To this end the formation of divisional crime squads is currently being considered and it is hoped that these can be introduced without greatly increasing the present strain on divisional resources.

London (Heathrow) Airport

The assumption by the Force of responsibility for policing Heathrow Airport added significantly to the demands being made upon the C.I.D. and it was necessary to transfer to the airport 36 C.I.D. officers who had been serving elsewhere. Although this requirement has inevitably weakened C.I.D. coverage in other areas of London, there is no doubt that it is essential to maintain a substantial detective strength at Heathrow in view of the consistently high value of the goods in transit and the wide range of opportunities which the airport offers to the criminal. The scale of the crimes which can occur in this environment is clearly illustrated by the theft in January, 1974, of a mailbag containing

\$1 million in travellers' cheques en route from New York to London. This case is being investigated by Flying Squad officers, who have already been responsible for the recovery of cheques to the value of \$700,000 and for the arrest of six persons, five of whom are awaiting trial.

Metropolitan and City Police Company Fraud Branch

In the field of major fraud the year saw not only a continued growth in the number of offences but also a significant increase in the number of professional criminals becoming involved in what are known as "long firm" frauds, whereby bogus companies use credit facilities to obtain large quantities of goods which they sell for quick profits. It seems that in the current economic climate many sophisticated criminals see much scope for reaping high rewards from direct and other fraudulent activities. At the end of 1974 the Metropolitan and City Police Company Fraud Branch had in progress a total of 280 major investigations in which the money at risk amounted to £223 million, an increase of 80 cases and some £110 million compared with the previous year. This exceptionally heavy volume of work and the continuing manpower requirements of special enquiries such as the Poulson case placed great pressure on the limited resources of the branch. Nevertheless, in the course of 1974 it effected 186 arrests for fraud, compared with 83 in the previous year.

Central Drugs and Illegal Immigration Intelligence Unit

In its second year of operation the Central Drugs and Illegal Immigration Intelligence Unit continued to provide a very effective service to all police forces throughout the country. The unit has established excellent relations with several public bodies, in particular H.M. Customs and Excise and the Immigration Service, and we are most grateful for their help and co-operation. At present the unit performs a purely support function, concerning itself mainly with the evaluation and dissemination of intelligence information, but it is possible that in the future its role will be extended to include a greater responsibility for the actual collection of this data.

Interpol

The significant increase in the level of international crime in recent years has resulted in a steady and continuing growth in the importance of Interpol, the body responsible for promoting mutual assistance between police forces throughout the world. During 1974 Interpol continued the process of supplementing its communications network. New radio teleprinter links were established between several of the organization's 120 member countries, including the United Kingdom, and the phototelegraphy facilities which had first been introduced in 1972 were further extended. In addition, detailed consideration is currently being given to the development of a computer-based record system at Interpol Headquarters in Paris. The increasing pressure upon the Interpol network is illustrated by the fact that since 1968 the volume of messages and enquiries handled by the United Kingdom Interpol Bureau at New Scotland Yard has risen by an average of 12 per cent a year. This expanding workload is making increasing demands on our C.I.D. manpower and it is therefore hoped that in the future it will be possible for the national bureau to be staffed by provincial personnel as well as by officers from this Force.

Support Services

During the year the growing burden of operational work handled by the C.I.D. inevitably gave rise to a significant increase in the demands made upon the "C" Department Support Services. The Fingerprint Branch not only devised particularly intensive effort to the identification of those responsible for the upsurge of terrorist activity but also dealt with an exceptionally heavy volume of more routine case-work. In the course of the year some 163,500 new criminal records were added to the national fingerprint collection, compared with 145,000 in 1973.

The Criminal Record Office also had a demanding year and for the first time the annual total of searches carried out exceeded 2 million. At the same time, considerable progress was made in converting the records to meet the requirements of the Police National Computer.

I mentioned earlier that the Criminal Intelligence Branch has continued to provide invaluable information to officers engaged in major enquiries and in many of these cases considerable use has also been made of the technical expertise of C.7 Branch. These branches have vital roles to play in modern criminal investigation and it is therefore most satisfying to record that in 1974 both units were faced with an unprecedented demand for their services. Ultimately, of course, the success of the Criminal Intelligence Branch is determined by the quality of the information it receives and in this connection the experimental collator scheme currently operating in part of the Metropolitan Police District has proved of immense value.

Another welcome development was the continued increase in the use made by provincial forces of the facilities offered by the Metropolitan and Provincial Police Crime Branch. During the year the number of cases handled by the branch rose by almost 10 per cent compared with the total for 1973, which had itself been a record. Moreover, it was particularly encouraging to see that the volume of enquiries undertaken on behalf of the more distant forces, notably those in Scotland, showed an increase of more than a half over the previous year.

For the Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory the year was one of great significance. As a result of the increasing value of scientific techniques in the detection of crime and the steady growth which is foreseen in the demand for forensic examinations, authority was granted for the Laboratory to employ several additional scientists. A vigorous recruiting campaign was conducted and by November all the newly authorized posts had been suitably filled. Of even greater importance, however, was the Laboratory's move in June, 1974, to larger and much better equipped accommodation in the new Support Headquarters at Lambeth. This complex operation was completed most efficiently in only 12 days and during this period the Laboratory continued to provide a service for major cases and for the analysis of drug and blood alcohol specimens which reflected much credit on all the staff concerned. The new facilities are in every respect a great improvement on the old and there is no doubt that in its new home the Laboratory will continue to enhance its already illustrious international reputation.

Administration

I mentioned in last year's Report that one of the important effects of the reorganization of the "C" Department in 1973 was to place the bulk of the department's administrative work under the control of a single deputy assistant

commissioner who was also made responsible for the management and organization of the C.I.D. as a whole. A heavy burden of work was found to be entailed in the discharge of this wide range of responsibilities. A "C" Department secretariat, employing senior members of the civil staff, was established during the year to help relieve the pressure and also to provide, where necessary, increased administrative support for other senior officers in the department. These arrangements are already having a beneficial effect and in the course of the year the deputy assistant commissioner in charge of administration was able to devote much more attention to the continuing process of improving the deployment and organization of C.I.D. resources. In this connection the most pressing difficulty is, of course, the shortage of manpower. Studies of the rapidly rising case-load handled by individual detectives each year clearly show that unless additional men can be made available in the future the C.I.D., as I indicated in Chapter 1, will be forced to concentrate more and more upon the most serious crimes at the expense of the more routine investigations.

Crime as it is

As I stated earlier, this new section of Chapter 4 contains brief summaries of a selection of the more interesting cases which the Force tackled during 1974.

Crimes of violence

Many murders occur as the result of a domestic dispute or an outburst of passion, but this is by no means always the case. For example, a man offered payment of £5,000 for the murder of a person who was believed to be about to give incriminating evidence to the police. This offer was taken up and an axe and sheets of plastic were bought with the aim of ensnaring the victim into a car, killing him with the axe and disposing of his dismembered body in a disused well. Fortunately, police became aware of these intentions and through the combined efforts of officers of C.13 Branch, the Flying Squad and the Criminal Intelligence Branch the plan was foiled.

In many cases violent crimes arise out of other less serious offences. For example, in January three men entered a flat, severely assaulted and tied up the owner, and began to ransack the premises. However, they were soon disturbed by a second occupant of the flat, who was struck on the head in the ensuing struggle and sustained a wound which subsequently required 50 stitches. Nevertheless, he retaliated by stabbing one of the intruders with a knife, causing him serious injury, and then ran into the street, where he raised the alarm before collapsing on the pavement. Although all three intruders escaped from the scene, the one who had been wounded was arrested shortly afterwards on a bus, having fainted through loss of blood, and the other two were eventually arrested following intensive police enquiries. Unfortunately, the owner of the flat died of his injuries a few hours after the attack and therefore following their arrest all three men were charged with murder.

In parallel with the general rise in the level of violent crime in recent years there has been an increasing tendency for the most dangerous criminals to be permanently armed in case of arrest by the police. During the year a person wanted for attempted murder and armed robbery tried to leave the country at Harwich. He was stopped and searched by Special Branch officers and local police and was found to be in possession of a loaded automatic pistol which was cocked and ready to be fired.

The use of firearms and other weapons in resisting arrest

Police officers are, of course, only armed in exceptional circumstances and therefore considerable bravery is required on the part of the ordinary policeman if he is to intervene in cases where criminals use or threaten to use firearms. Nevertheless, on numerous occasions in the past police officers, without thought for their own safety, have successfully overpowered and disarmed dangerous criminals of this type. Unfortunately, injuries do occur and perhaps the incident which provided the outstanding example of this during 1974 was the attempted kidnapping in March of H.R.H. The Princess Anne, which was referred to in Chapter 1. In the course of the incident the armed assailant who tried to seize the Princess wounded two policemen, of whom only one was armed, and two members of the public before he was eventually taken into custody by a third police officer.

Another example of police courageously tackling an armed criminal occurred in October when two policemen in west London recognized a man who had been reported for firing a gun at a number of youths. When confronted by the officers the man drew a knife and stabbed them both in the chest. Despite their injuries the officers were able to overcome their attacker and he was subsequently charged with attempted murder.

Many acts of violence against the police occur when a criminal is pursued from the scene of his crime. In one such case during the year two armed men and a woman who it was believed had earlier stolen a quantity of property and cash from an off-licence in south London were chased and stopped by two police officers who had been on mobile patrol in the area. When the officers approached the suspects' car the criminals threatened them at gunpoint. After a brief struggle one man ran off with one of the policemen in pursuit, while the driver of the car and the woman started to attack the remaining officer with kung fu sticks. This officer received serious head wounds but nevertheless successfully beat off the attacks until police reinforcements arrived, when both the car driver and the woman were quickly arrested. Other police officers joined the chase after the first man and he was eventually cornered in an empty building and arrested without further difficulty.

In another incident of this sort, which took place in April, a temporary detective constable was shot in the leg and a uniformed officer run over as they tried to apprehend three men involved in the robbery of a London Electricity Board office. Later in the year a police constable was shot in the shoulder when attempting to deal with an armed bank robbery.

In October officers of the Robbery Squad, the Flying Squad and the No. 9 Regional Crime Squad were first attacked with clubs and then run down by an escape car after they had thwarted an attempt to steal wages from a stationer's shop.

Large numbers of crimes committed by one person

An extreme example of protracted criminal activity by a single individual was a long series of crimes investigated by Special Patrol Group officers during the year. Following very extensive enquiries and prolonged periods of observation, the officers arrested a suspect who subsequently admitted that he had committed four or five breakings per week over a period of four years.

In another instance, divisional C.I.D. officers carried out intensive observation following numerous burglaries in north-east London. They eventually arrested a man who not only confessed to a number of previous offences but also possessed a ledger containing the names and addresses of 1,000 potential burglary victims.

Burglary

Burglaries account for a large and increasing proportion of the major crime dealt with by C.I.D. officers and this would seem to be partly due to the fact that the burglar, perhaps more than any other type of offender, is likely to remain active until actually caught. For example, following a spate of burglaries from different hotels early in the year Flying Squad officers kept observation on a number of suspects, one of whom was eventually arrested and searched as he left a hotel building in suspicious circumstances. He was found to be carrying a large quantity of jewellery, which he admitted he had just stolen, and was also in possession of a screwdriver and a master key of the hotel in question. Subsequently, more jewellery was found in the offender's car and at his home address 41 keys were discovered, 16 of which were identified as being the property of various hotels in central London.

In the course of the year there was a marked increase in the number of aggravated burglaries. A particularly interesting case of this type occurred when a sub-post office was broken into and a safe containing over £1,000 in cash was blown open. The explosive used in this incident was identified as Gomm 15, a consignment of which was known to have been stolen in France during July, 1973. The identification was extremely significant as this variety of explosive had been used only once before in this country, when another sub-post office had been similarly attacked earlier in 1974 and cash, stamps and postal orders to the value of £6,000 had been stolen. Following police investigation, four men found to be in possession of a quantity of Gomm 15 were arrested and charged. However, no conclusive evidence has yet been found to link these men with the burglaries in question. Enquiries into this case are continuing and close liaison is being maintained with the Surrey Constabulary, in whose area the arrests were made.

In another case of aggravated burglary a man entered a motel in north London, allegedly seeking accommodation. After conversing with the night porter, he asked if there was a pay telephone on the premises and was directed to one in another part of the motel. A short while later the night porter, having become suspicious, went to the telephone and saw that the man was attempting to steal cash from it. The porter immediately hit the man over the head and as the thief fell to the ground a loaded 9 mm. Browning automatic pistol dropped from his pocket. Following a chase, the porter captured the man and held him while police were called. When the man's car was examined it was found to be stolen and to contain a loaded shot-gun with the barrel sawn off and ammunition. The accused then made a statement under caution, admitting to a number of offences under the Firearms Act 1968 as well as other offences of burglary and the theft of several motor vehicles.

Robbery

As I reported in Chapter 1, the number of bank robberies in the London area has continued to fall, thanks largely to the skill and dedication of officers of the Robbery Squad and other specialized units. During the year the per-

severance of these officers was clearly illustrated by a widely publicized case in which a person who was suspected of having participated in an armed bank robbery in 1972 was eventually traced to Spain and, following a successful application for his extradition, arrested for the offence in question.

In one of the small number of bank robberies that occurred in London during 1974 four men armed with batons gained access to a bank through a rear fire escape door which had been tampered with beforehand. They entered the vault by using duplicate keys and stole some £180,000 in used bank notes while forcibly detaining a bank cashier in a nearby store-room. Although the men escaped in two cars bearing false number plates, they were eventually identified as a result of police enquiries. By the end of the year two arrests had been made.

Many of the serious robberies which are planned are prevented by prior police action. For example, members of the Robbery Squad kept observation on a post office in north London following receipt of information that a robbery was to take place. In due course a suspicious looking man, wearing blue overalls and carrying a tool-box, was seen to go to the door of the building and was immediately stopped. A truncheon, an air-pistol, a stocking mask and a knife were discovered in the tool-box and the man admitted that it had been his intention to rob the premises.

In another case, an officer of the Flying Squad infiltrated a gang who were planning the armed robbery of a bank in the West End of London. By this means the officer was able to join two of the gang, one of whom was employed by the bank, when they carried out a detailed inspection of the bank building early one morning. In fact, observation was being kept by other members of the squad and the two men were detained as they left the premises.

Combined operations

One of the most pleasing developments in 1974 was the increase in the number of cases in which specialized units at Headquarters combined successfully with each other and with divisional officers to bring about the arrest of wanted men. This trend has been illustrated by many of the preceding examples, but there were other noteworthy cases of this kind. For instance, £70,000 was demanded from a major soft drinks company in London against the threat that poison would be placed in the firm's products and two men were subsequently apprehended in Manchester. Their arrest followed a large-scale operation during which surveillance was maintained by officers of the No. 1 and No. 9 Regional Crime Squads and the Criminal Intelligence Branch. One of the men was later convicted of blackmail.

In another case, Flying Squad officers uncovered a complicated conspiracy to rob involving four men who were eventually arrested in possession of stolen security guard uniforms, a shot-gun with the barrel sawn off and a large quantity of ammunition. These arrests were effected after three months of intensive observation and would not have been possible without the invaluable assistance of Criminal Intelligence Branch and other specialist units.

In September two armed men, disguised with scarves and balaclava helmets, entered the premises of a well-known coin dealer and forced the staff to lie on the floor while a third man stole gold coins to the value of £130,000 from a safe. Following extensive investigation by "C" Division officers, in close

collaboration with Criminal Intelligence Branch and the Regional Crime Squad, all three men were ultimately convicted and most of the coins were recovered.

Towards the end of the year a combined operation involving three of the regional crime squads, the Criminal Intelligence Branch and the Port of London Authority Police resulted in the discovery of a major criminal network concerned with the theft of cargo containers en route from London, Southampton and other ports to various parts of the country. A number of persons have already been arrested in this case, including night-watchmen, dockers and haulage firm employees, and a large amount of stolen property has been recovered.

In a further case, members of the Serious Crime Squad, in conjunction with officers from the Fraud Squad, the Stolen Motor Vehicle Investigation Branch and the Special Patrol Group, made a large number of arrests following lengthy enquiries into the activities of unscrupulous traders in second-hand motor vehicles. The traders had been systematically defrauding members of the public and numerous hire-purchase companies by failing to settle outstanding debts on vehicles which they had agreed to buy or accept in part-exchange.

Fraud and forgery

Many cases of fraud and forgery involve considerable ingenuity on the part of the criminal and their successful investigation demands a great deal of patient and painstaking detective work. During the year a case which necessitated lengthy periods of observation by officers of a divisional cheque squad resulted in the arrest of a number of persons who were suspected of having used stolen cheques, credit cards and other documents to obtain cash and goods of a total value of more than £70,000 from premises in London, Manchester and Glasgow. By early 1975 eight persons had been convicted in this case.

During 1974 there was a significant reduction in the number of forged bank notes issued compared with the previous year and this could well indicate that at present other forms of forgery are thought to offer greater rewards. For example, in March two men used forged instruments prepared in the name of a fictitious concern to defraud a company of over £12,000. Subsequent police enquiries resulted in their arrest and conviction.

Identifications by means of fingerprints and descriptions by witnesses

Each year a large number of criminals are successfully identified by means of fingerprints discovered at scenes of crime or descriptions provided by first-hand witnesses. During the year there was a notable illustration of the usefulness of fingerprint techniques. Prints left at the scenes of a number of housebreakings were identified in the Fingerprint Branch as those of a convicted criminal who had escaped from prison in 1971. Following this identification, the man's movements were traced and he was eventually rearrested in September, 1974. At his trial he pleaded guilty to seven charges and asked for 215 other offences to be taken into consideration, all of which had been committed during this 31 years of freedom.

Another example of an initial identification achieved with the help of Fingerprint Branch was a case in which identifiable marks were discovered on a drain-pipe at the scene of an attempted rape. These marks were later found to match the fingerprints of a man who was stopped by police in suspicious

circumstances and he was subsequently convicted of a number of offences, including actual bodily harm, rape and burglary.

Early in 1974, following a spate of distinctive burglaries in south London, two men were seen leaving the scene of a further burglary of the same type. Although the witness caught only a glimpse of the men, she was able to provide police with descriptions which were detailed enough for "photo-fit" pictures to be prepared. The pictures were circulated to stations in the surrounding area and some two weeks later two men who fitted the descriptions were stopped and questioned by police in the Bantstead area. A large amount of stolen property was subsequently discovered at the home address of one of the men, and in due course both were formally identified by a number of witnesses who attended identification parades.

Offences involving employees

During 1974 there appears to have been a marked increase in the number of serious cases of this type. For example, following several thefts from the loading and delivery bays of a famous London store observation was kept by divisional C.I.D. officers. This finally resulted in the arrest of 14 men, of whom seven were employed by the store and seven were tradesmen who frequently visited the premises.

In another case, to which I referred earlier in this chapter, Flying Squad officers foiled an attempt to dispose of travellers' cheques to the value of \$1 million which it was believed had originally been stolen by persons employed as loaders at Heathrow Airport.

What appeared to be a further example of planned crime among employees of a large organization came to light in August when allegations were made in a television programme that dustmen employed by a London borough had been demanding money from households with the threat that refuse would not be collected until payment was made. Police investigations suggested that there was substance in these allegations and also revealed that large quantities of council property were missing. Enquiries are continuing but 61 men have already been committed to the Central Criminal Court on charges of blackmail and theft.

Demanding money with menaces

In the light of the continuation during 1974 of the bombing campaign by I.R.A. terrorists it was predictable that a few unscrupulous criminals would attempt to obtain money by threatening their victims with bomb attacks. In one case a man telephoned a bank in south London and threatened that unless his instructions were followed and £15,000 was deposited in a place of his choosing he would detonate explosive devices already planted on the premises. Police were immediately called to the scene but a search revealed no trace of any bombs. Despite subsequent enquiries, no clue was found as to the identity of the hoaxer.

A somewhat similar case occurred several months later at another bank in south London. However, on this occasion the offender entered the premises and, during a pre-arranged interview with the manager, placed a genuine-looking "bomb" on the counter and threatened to detonate it unless he was given a large sum of money. The staff managed to evacuate the building while

the manager kept the man talking and eventually the latter panicked, grabbed the contents of a cash drawer and fled. Police were called immediately and with the aid of a description supplied by the bank manager soon located the man at a nearby railway station. When challenged by two policemen the offender threatened them with a second realistically designed "bomb", but the officers showed considerable courage and managed to overpower and arrest the man. Both "bombs" were found to be hoax devices.

Illegal immigration

The attempted entry into this country of illegal immigrants is always likely to attract the attention of the news media and, through them, of the general public. Many such attempts fail, thanks largely to the vigilance of Special Branch officers at ports throughout the country. A good example of this occurred when Special Branch officers stopped a man who had arrived at Southend Airport from abroad. The man was driving a Volkswagen van and inside the vehicle was a replacement engine which the driver claimed he was importing. However, in the course of a very thorough search four spot welds were noticed under the floor covering and, when these were forced open, four illegal immigrants were discovered in a cavity beneath the vehicle.

In another incident, police at Folkestone suspected that a cattle lorry loaded with untreated sheepskins was being used for the purpose of transporting illegal immigrants. The lorry was closely inspected but on this occasion it seemed initially that the suspicion about the vehicle was unfounded. Nevertheless, Special Branch officers followed the lorry to its destination and there discovered 16 sacks containing approximately half a ton of cannabis resin, of which the estimated value was more than £500,000.

Drugs

Fortunately, the illegal use of controlled drugs and trafficking in them has not become as much of a problem in this country as it has in many other parts of the western world. I referred earlier in this chapter to the continued success of the C.13 Dangerous Drugs Squad and there was a typical example of this unit's effectiveness in August when two prisoners were caught in the act of counting out and weighing LSD tablets which would have realized £40,000 on the illicit market.

In another case later in the year a lengthy period of observation by C.13 officers resulted in the arrest of six men and the seizure of five kilos of cannabis oil.

The Flying Squad has also been involved in the investigation of drug offences. In July officers from this squad raided a derelict house and arrested two prisoners who were growing cannabis plants which could eventually have been sold for almost £250,000.

Crime on public transport and in public places

In recent years there has been a disturbing growth in the number of crimes committed against both persons and property on public transport and in other public places. A particularly serious aspect is the growing incidence of late night assaults on London Transport bus crews, which culminated early in 1975 in the death of a bus conductor after an incident over a fare. Such offences

are extremely difficult for the police to prevent, but it is hoped that the recent proposals to extend their power of arrest on public transport vehicles and to encourage a larger police presence among the travelling public will help reduce the number of attacks.

Another form of criminal behaviour on public transport which causes considerable concern is the damage caused by gangs of so-called football supporters travelling to or from a match. On a number of occasions railway carriages have been almost completely wrecked. This problem, together with other acts of petty vandalism affecting bus and railway services, indicates that the whole question of combating criminal behaviour on public transport needs continuous review.

Incidents in which criminal damage is caused without obvious reason are not, of course, confined to public transport. During the year there was a noteworthy example of such an incident occurring in a public place when a man entered the Victoria and Albert Museum, picked up a can of paint which had been left unattended by workmen and, apparently on the spur of the moment, threw it through a glass display cabinet, breaking 54 eighteenth century wine glasses valued at several thousand pounds.

Handling stolen goods

In conclusion, there were two further cases involving museums which are of some interest. In the first, a man who was suspected of stealing a number of antique clocks from a London museum was kept under lengthy observation by divisional C.I.D. officers and members of the Regional Crime Squad. He was eventually arrested with another man while in possession of the clocks, and in due course both men were charged with handling stolen goods.

The second case began with a burglary in 1973 at the Provincial Archaeological Museum of Potenza, Italy. Exhibits worth over half a million pounds were stolen, but most of these were soon recovered by the Italian Police and seven suspects were subsequently charged with the crime. However, in July, 1974, three men approached a number of art dealers in the London area, attempting to dispose of a further exhibit from the museum, a statuette dating from 460-480 B.C. and valued at more than £20,000. The three men eventually attended the British Museum in order to obtain a certificate of authenticity, whereupon the statuette was recognized and police were informed. Detailed enquiries were carried out by divisional C.I.D. officers and in due course all three men were arrested.

CHAPTER 3

Traffic

Accidents and casualties

Accidents

During the year there were 51,047 accidents resulting in death or injury, a reduction of 3,228 (six per cent) compared with the previous year. This was the lowest annual total since 1957 but then, as in 1974, events were influenced by a fuel crisis. The numbers of accidents involving death, serious injury and slight injury in each of the 10 years up to and including 1974 are shown in Appendix 15. Appendix 16 shows the distribution of fatal and injury accidents in 1974 by months, together with the corresponding figures for 1973.

Accidents in the area covered by the 12 inner London police divisions numbered 18,172, a decrease of 1,488 (eight per cent). In outer London there was a decrease of 1,740 (five per cent) to 32,875.

The mild winter, the shortage and higher cost of petrol, the three day working week and the lower speed limits all influenced the number of accidents. However, even allowing for these special factors the long-term tendency appears to be downward and there are grounds for optimism that the measures of recent years, including road safety education, legislation, traffic management and enforcement, are paying dividends.

The reduction in the accident total compared with that for the previous year is equivalent to 22 accident-free days. Averaged over the whole year the number of accidents per day was 140, the average for weekdays being 145 and for Sundays 107. As usual, the worst weekday period was 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., which is also the busiest traffic period. On Sundays the worst period for accidents was again 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The table below shows that for every 100 personal injury accidents occurring between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. in the 12 months immediately before the introduction of breath-testing there were 87 accidents in the corresponding period between October, 1973, and September, 1974. However, for the latter period the figures also show an accident index of 88 at other times of the day. This demonstrates that by comparison with the "before" situation in 1966/67 the reduction in accidents during the period 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. is now virtually indistinguishable from the reduction at other times of the day. In other words, it appears that the initial impact of the breath-testing procedure has almost completely disappeared.

Period (October to September)	(1) Accident index 10 p.m.-2 a.m.	(2) Accident index at other times	(3) Difference between (1) and (2)
1966/1967	100	100	—
(before breath test)			
1967/1968	75	97	22
1968/1969	81	98	17
1969/1970	83	99	16
1970/1971	86	95	9
1971/1972	88	98	10
1972/1973	92	95	3
1973/1974	87	88	1

In 1974 New Year's Day was an official public holiday for the first time. Although it still produced 93 accidents, this was 66 less than the average for 1st January over the previous five years. Compared with 1973, fatal and injury accidents during the Easter, Spring and Late Summer Bank Holiday periods decreased by 101 (15 per cent), 77 (14 per cent) and 76 (15 per cent) respectively. However, over the Christmas period (23rd-27th December) there was an increase of 118 (23 per cent).

Accident characteristics

Appendix 17 shows where the injury accidents occurred and how many vehicles were involved. Some 70 per cent of injury accidents occurred at or near a junction of some kind. Of the accidents at junctions, 27 per cent involved a pedestrian and a single vehicle. Eight per cent of all injury accidents involved pedestrians on or within 50 yards of a crossing facility. About one in six of all injury accidents involved a single vehicle only.

There were 314 (11 per cent) fewer pedestrian injury accidents on, or in the vicinity of, zebra crossings. The new zigzag markings seem to have had some effect, but exactly how much is difficult to measure.

An analysis of the various classes of vehicles involved in accidents is shown in Appendix 18. Of all the vehicles involved during 1974, 65 per cent were cars and cabs.

Casualties

Casualties by class of road user and degree of injury are shown in Appendix 19. A total of 64,618 persons were killed or injured in road accidents. This was 4,606 (seven per cent) fewer than in the previous year. The number of deaths increased by one but there was a reduction of 305 (three per cent) in the number of road users seriously injured.

The following table shows the number of casualties among different classes of road user in 1973 and 1974 for every 100 casualties in 1965, the year in which the present boundary of the Metropolitan Police District was established.

	1965 = 100	1973 ¹	1974 ²
Pedestrians	96	89	
Pedal cyclists	51	49	
Motor cyclists	48	50	
Drivers and passengers	101	91	
All road users	84	79	

"Motor cyclists" includes all riders of two-wheeled motor vehicles. This is the only group which shows an increase compared with the previous year, reflecting on the one hand the renewed popularity of motor cycles and on the other the growing tendency for younger riders to use fast machines which come within the definition of a moped. I commented on the latter trend in Chapter 1.

Child casualties

Casualties among children amounted to 9,816, a decrease of 1,083 (10 per cent) compared with the previous year and 2,250 (19 per cent) compared with 1972. The number of children killed during 1974 was 57, as against 75 in 1973 and 88 in 1972. Full details are shown in Appendix 20.

Casualties among child pedestrians decreased by 781 (12 per cent). Child pedal cyclist casualties fell by 90 (six per cent) and other child casualties (mostly passengers in motor cars) decreased by 212 (eight per cent).

Of the child casualties, 14 per cent were under school age, 41 per cent between five and nine years old and 45 per cent in the 10 to 14 age-group. Compared with the previous year, the reductions in these age-groups were 21 per cent, 12 per cent and four per cent respectively.

The substantial reduction in child casualties during the last two years can be partly attributed to improvements in child road safety education and publicity, of which the Green Cross Code is a prime example.

Accident prevention

Application of accident intelligence

Teams of the Accident Prevention Unit have continued to give close attention to road junctions of high accident risk. Their activity at these specially selected sites has continued to bring about an effective reduction in accidents of about 24 per cent.

Application of the accident intelligence system has now been extended to cover lengths of road with a high accident risk and the results of the first completed assignments are encouraging. Management Services Department has examined the possibility of converting the system to a computer-based operation and a programme has been agreed for implementation during 1975.

In the course of the year officers of the Accident Prevention Unit dealt with more than 241,000 offences by, or instances of poor road sense among, drivers and pedestrians; a verbal warning or advice was given in 94 per cent of these cases.

Traffic management

Automatic traffic signals

Traffic signals were installed at 92 new sites and 11 existing sets of signals were removed. The net increase of 81 sets brought the total number in operation in the Metropolitan Police District at the end of the year to 1,678.

Speed limits

Surveys were made within the Metropolitan Police District during the first four months of the year on 13 sections of main routes to which the 50 m.p.h. emergency speed limit applied. The results indicated that although the limit was initially well respected the level of compliance decreased throughout the period in which the Order was in force. While the first results showed that at only one of the 13 survey points were more than 25 per cent of motorists exceeding 50 m.p.h., follow-up surveys after seven and 15 weeks revealed that there were six and seven sections respectively with that proportion of offenders.

The number of personal injury accidents recorded on the sections of route studied decreased by 20 per cent by comparison with the corresponding period of 1973. However, this change cannot with certainty be attributed directly to lower vehicle speeds. Due to the fuel shortage vehicular flows were reduced and there was some indication that the need for economy in the use of fuel had the effect of curbing fierce acceleration and more aggressive driving.

It is intended to carry out studies of the influence of the new fuel economy speed limits introduced at the end of 1974.

In last year's Report I mentioned a review of speed limits on major roads in the Metropolitan Police District which, it was hoped, would lead to more realistic—and safer—speed limits being introduced. Unfortunately, no further progress was made during 1974.

Bus lanes

A further 19 bus lanes were introduced by the Greater London Council, bringing the total in operation at the end of the year to 63. I commented about bus lanes generally in Chapter 1.

Prohibition of long commercial vehicles in central London

The experimental prohibition Order referred to in last year's Report continued in operation. The initial experience that most drivers of long commercial vehicles observed the restrictions was maintained, and the need for positive enforcement action, undertaken by police in the course of normal duties, was minimal. (The prohibition, covering a slightly enlarged area, was made permanent in April, 1975, when the experimental Order expired.)

Environmental measures

In December the Greater London Council introduced an experimental scheme in Camrose Avenue in the London Borough of Harrow with the aim of preventing large vehicles, except buses, using this residential street. This has been achieved by dividing a very short stretch of the road into four lanes. The outside lane in each direction has been designated for buses only while the two centre lanes, for use by other traffic, have each been physically restricted to a width of six feet six inches. Provided the very short stretches of bus lane are observed (there are warning signs on all approaches) the scheme should effectively exclude all other large vehicles. This is the first use of this device in London and the experiment will be carefully observed during 1975.

Controlled parking

The only major controlled parking zone introduced during the year was in the London Borough of Camden. Some existing zones were marginally extended and in one borough a controlled parking zone was partially introduced.

Restrictions on waiting by commercial vehicles at night were introduced within the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, the London Boroughs of Bromley, Camden, Croydon, Hammersmith, Lewisham, Newham, Southwark and Waltham Forest, and the Knightsbridge area of the City of Westminster. The existing lorry parking zone in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets was extended to cover the whole of the Borough.

Cab ranks

Nine new ranks were appointed, 10 existing ranks were altered and one was cancelled with the prior agreement of the cab trade. At the end of the year the total number of ranks was 497 and these provided 2,585 cab spaces, 16 more than at the end of the previous year.

Bus and coach operations

During the year the normal consultation between police and the London Transport Executive continued on a wide variety of matters, including new or altered routes and the siting of stopping places and related passenger shelters.

The "Dial-a-bus" service first mentioned in my Report for 1972 came into operation in October. The service uses 16 seat vehicles and operates between Golders Green Station and points within Hampstead Garden Suburb. It appears to be reasonably popular and so far has not created any problems for police.

On the last six Saturdays before Christmas the London Borough of Harrow operated an experimental mini-bus service between car parks not normally used at weekends and the central shopping area. As no charge was made to passengers there was no licensing requirement, but police kept a close watch on this experiment in case traffic difficulties arose. In the event the experiment ran smoothly.

In recent Reports reference has been made to the difficulties caused by the ever-increasing number of coaches bringing tourists to London and taking them on guided tours to places of interest. The problem persisted in 1974 and once again these large vehicles caused considerable disruption to other traffic, particularly when parked in the central area. For this reason it was necessary to prohibit parking in Lambeth Palace Road, where many coaches were stopping to allow tourists to view and take photographs of the Palace of Westminster on the other side of the Thames. Although the tourists now have a slightly longer walk from the new setting down and picking up points, there has been no great objection to the scheme and it has solved a troublesome traffic problem.

Disruption to traffic caused by coaches has also been slightly reduced as a result of a scheme introduced in 1973 by the Department of the Environment. This limits the number of coaches allowed into the Royal Parks at the time of the daily ceremony of Changing the Guard. Initially the scheme had little effect on the overall coach situation, but it became evident during 1974 that coach operators had revised their itineraries to take account of the new arrangements and there was far less "bunching" of coaches during the mornings in the streets near Buckingham Palace.

Despite these improvements, the need for off-street coach parks within walking distance of the main tourist attractions remains as great as ever.

Traffic offences

General

Information about the number of persons proceeded against for traffic offences is given under the heading "Court proceedings" in Chapter 3 (page 51) and in Appendix 9.

Statistics relating to traffic offences which were dealt with by proceedings or disposed of by formal caution during the year, and comparisons with 1973, are set out in Appendix 21.

There were also 336,411 verbal warnings, compared with 426,991 in 1973. Of these, 48,075 were given for inconsiderate driving, 24,818 for exceeding a speed limit, 109,341 for causing obstruction, 22,747 for infringements of the vehicle lighting regulations and 17,253 for dangerous or defective vehicles. Pedestrians were given 73,560 verbal warnings.

In addition, 281,923 reports of suspected vehicle excise offences were sent to the Greater London Council, compared with 353,511 in 1973. Of these cases, 187,586 were reported by police officers and 94,335 by traffic wardens.

Proceedings for causing death by dangerous driving

Prosecutions for causing death by dangerous driving initiated during 1974 numbered 119, compared with 109 in 1973, and all cases were sent for trial. The crown courts tried 130 cases, including some outstanding from the previous year, and 93 convictions were recorded. In 1973 there were 140 trials and 105 convictions.

Drink and driving

During the year there were 12,603 completed prosecutions for driving or attempting to drive or being in charge of a motor vehicle when unfit to drive through drink or drugs, or with a blood alcohol concentration above the prescribed limit. (The comparable figure in 1973 was 13,322 and not 13,327 as erroneously shown in last year's Report.) There were 10,777 convictions at magistrates' courts (11,329 in 1973). A total of 1,442 cases (1,265 in 1973), including some outstanding from the previous year, were heard at crown courts, and 1,022 (921) convictions were recorded. Sentences included 201 terms of imprisonment (198 in 1973) and 214 suspended sentences (177), and periods of disqualification were imposed in 10,880 cases (11,533).

Details of the results of breath tests and analyses of blood or urine specimens are shown in Appendix 22.

Disqualifications

Disqualifications in respect of traffic offences were ordered in 20,955 cases, compared with 23,471 in 1973, 20,028 in 1972 and 17,931 in 1971.

Fixed penalty and excess charge tickets

The number of traffic tickets issued during the year was 2,316,345. Of this total, 2,012,335 were fixed penalty notices, an increase of 74,793 (four per cent) on the 1973 figure, and 304,010 were excess charge notices issued at the parking meters which are supervised by traffic wardens on behalf of the local authority. The latter figure was 32,039 (10 per cent) lower than in 1973, when the number of excess charge notices issued was 336,099 and not 284,590 as erroneously shown in last year's Report. Details of fixed penalty notices that were issued by police officers and traffic wardens are shown by offences in Appendix 23.

By 31st December action had been completed in respect of 81.7 per cent of the fixed penalty notices issued during the year, compared with 81.3 per cent in 1973. The results of completed fixed penalty notice cases are shown below in percentage terms with the 1973 figures for comparison.

	1973	1974
Paid	57.1	57.7
Payment unenforceable* or excused or offender not identified, etc., within time limit for proceedings	41.7	40.5
Proceedings instituted	1.2	1.8
	100.0	100.0

*e.g. The recipient was entitled to diplomatic privilege or was an overseas visitor and had left the country.

Traffic Division

On 31st December the police strength of the division (including the staff of the cab law enforcement section) was 1,093 against an establishment of 1,322. In addition there were 170 civil staff, including 52 vehicle removal officers.

Traffic patrols reported 62,388 offences during the year, 1,044 fewer than in the previous year. Of these offences, 59,672 were dealt with by summons and 2,716 by written caution, compared with 60,222 and 3,210 respectively in 1973. (These figures are included in the totals of traffic offences given in Appendix 21.) Verbal warnings given by traffic patrols numbered 214,407, compared with 287,548 in 1973. Arrests numbered 2,440, of which 1,538 were made in connection with crime.

Accompanying abnormal loads, convoys, special vehicles, etc., occupied 9,818 man-hours, or 503 fewer than in the previous year. The number of abnormal load movements notified to police rose from 16,665 in 1973 to 16,841 in 1974 but the number of such loads accompanied fell from 1,123 to 1,064.

Accident investigation

In the last three Reports reference was made to the increasing use of the technique whereby traffic accidents are investigated in depth and reconstructed by use of mathematical formulae. In the majority of cases to which the technique has been applied the deductions have been accepted by criminal and coroners' courts, and the reconstruction technique is now applied whenever appropriate as part of normal procedure.

A further 107 Traffic Division officers received standard accident investigation training bringing the total so trained to 654, of whom 76 have also received advanced training in the technique.

Removal of vehicles

In exercise of their powers under the Removal and Disposal of Vehicles Regulations 1968 police removed or caused to be removed to pounds or police stations 67,753 vehicles which had been left in a dangerous or obstructive position or in contravention of a statutory prohibition or restriction. This was 2,523 fewer than in 1973.

During the year a further "Z wagon" was brought into service and at 31st December three of these full-lift vehicles and four lift and tow vehicles were in use. This expensive equipment is necessary to lift and remove the increasing number of illegally parked vehicles which cannot be moved in other ways.

Public Carriage Office

Cabs

The number of cabs in service on 31st December was 11,012, 606 more than a year earlier. These cabs were operated by 6,304 different owners, of whom

5,746 had only one cab and nine had fleets of 100 or more. The number of cabs fitted with two-way radio again increased significantly, from 1,347 to 1,797. Of these vehicles, 1,624 operated in central London on three separate circuits: the third circuit opened in May.

Cabs licensed during the year numbered 11,492, 653 more than in 1973. New cabs licensed for the first time totalled 1,426, 95 more than in the previous year. Of the total number of cabs licensed at 31st December, 57 per cent were not more than four years old compared with 61 per cent in 1973. Diesel-powered cabs formed 94 per cent of the total.

Despite the increase in the number of cabs, the total found unfit in service continued to fall, being 3,247 compared with 3,405 in 1973. Of these vehicles, 973 (30 per cent) were allowed to remain in service on condition that defects were remedied within 48 hours.

Taximeter tests carried out during the year totalled 16,598. Rejections numbered 211, representing a rate of 1.3 per cent compared with 1.2 per cent in 1973.

Cab drivers

During the year 5,346 cab drivers' licences were issued, compared with 5,392 in 1973 and 5,145 in 1972; 132 applications for licences were refused. Revocations and suspensions of existing licences numbered 17 and 53 respectively. On 31st December there were 15,699 licensed cab drivers, compared with 15,238 twelve months before. The ratio of drivers per 100 cabs fell from 146 in 1973 to 143.

Cab driving tests totalled 1,151, 342 fewer than in 1973. There were 259 failures, representing a failure rate of 23 per cent. The number of people applying for the first time to take the knowledge of London examination was 1,732, 103 fewer than in 1973. Attendances for oral examination fell from 25,871 in 1973 to 20,968 and there was a drop in the total of successful candidates from 1,188 to 952, of whom the majority had originally applied prior to 1974. Included in the total of successful candidates are 115 who were granted suburban licences and 53 suburban drivers who qualified for full London licences.

Offences by cab drivers

Persons reported under the special laws relating to London cab drivers numbered 299. The numbers of summonses and convictions for the more serious offences involved are shown in the table below. The standard of conduct of most cab drivers remains high.

Offence	1973		1974	
	No. of summonses	No. of convictions	No. of summonses	No. of convictions
Taximeter offences	17	13	20	11
Disregarding cab rank regulations	31	48	69	54
Refusing to be hired	24	16	36	37
Failing to wear badge	20	18	35	14
Playing elsewhere than at a rank	11	10	15	12
Demanding or taking more than legal fare	11	7	14	9
Using insulting language	14	8	12	7
Carrying excess passengers	2	2	7	2

Drivers and conductors of public service vehicles

During the year 10,421 drivers' licences were issued, compared with 9,984 in 1973 and 9,975 in 1972; 29 applications for licences were refused. Revocations and suspensions of existing licences numbered 16 and 57 respectively. Examiners of the Public Carriage Office conducted 655 driving tests, 75 more than in 1973. There were 240 failures, representing a failure rate of 37 per cent compared with 35 per cent in 1973.

The number of licences issued to conductors was 5,003, compared with 4,884 in 1973 and 5,160 in 1972, and 11 applications for licences were refused. Revocations and suspensions of existing licences numbered three and one respectively.

Police transport

At the end of the year the transport fleet consisted of the following vehicles:—

<i>Police section</i>	
Cars, vans, etc.	2,159
Motor cycles	381
	2,540
<i>Support services</i>	
Cars, coaches, vans, etc., including spare vehicles	958
	3,498

At 31st December 2,804 police officers were authorized to use their private cars on duty, an increase of 12 over the previous year. In addition, during the year 429 officers were temporarily authorized to use their cars for special enquiries.

Accidents

Police operational vehicles were involved in 2,259 accidents of all kinds on the highway. The mileage per accident was 20,787 for cars, 28,848 for motor cycles and 21,028 for the whole of this part of the fleet. After detailed investigation police drivers were held to be entirely or partly at fault in 1,019 accidents, giving a mileage per blame-worthy accident of 46,360 for cars, 51,432 for motor cycles and 44,047 for all operational vehicles.

One police officer received fatal injuries in an accident involving a police vehicle.

CHAPTER 6

Specialist and Support Functions

Solicitor's Department

The shortage of professional staff to which I referred in my Report for 1973 eased slightly: during the year there was a net increase of four solicitors in the department. The commitment at crown courts increased and the number of cases handled at that level was the highest since the department's formation in 1935. In the autumn new crown court centres opened at Knightsbridge and Sharnbrook.

Details of the work dealt with in the department during 1974 are given in the table below.

	1973	1974	Comparison
Total number of cases	27,812	26,468	-1,326
Traffic cases (including drink and driving offences)	10,683	8,638	-2,045
Commitments to crown courts	10,703	12,169	+1,466
Appeals to open courts	2,011	2,144	+133
Appeals to Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) and House of Lords	96	82	-14
Attendances at courts of summary jurisdiction	20,951	18,779	-2,182
High Court (various)	13	21	+8
County court sessions	14	9	-5
Divisional Court cases:			
Completed	26	35	+9
Discontinued	5	8	+3
Concluded	11	7	-4

Management Services Department

The newly formed Management Committee to which I referred in last year's Report met five times during the year to review the progress of work in hand and to consider proposed new projects. I was pleased to be able to be present at some of the meetings. The interchange of views has helped to develop interest in research and to bring to light ideas for further studies of Force problems. It has also been helpful for the staff of Management Services Department to have the opportunity to participate in general discussion of issues that arise in the course of their work.

Progress was made in regard to three other matters which I mentioned last year. The survey of the "C" Department information and record systems was completed and the purchase of a computer approved. The process of selecting suitable equipment was in hand at the end of the year.

The continuing rise in crime has sharpened the need for the C.I.D. strength of the Force to be deployed to the best advantage. Schemes for the concentration of operational resources at a smaller number of strategically situated stations and the use of clerical support groups were further developed.

The study of police procedures associated with the prosecution of cases at court led to the issue of an interim report describing the arrangements at courts in the Metropolitan Police District for fixing dates and times of hearing of both charges and submissions. Procedures used at some courts save time and expense for both courts and police and, in many instances, the defendants also. The possibility of extending the use of such procedures is being urgently explored. Other matters connected with court procedures, including the method of preparing plans for production in traffic cases and the use of occasional courts for certain remand cases, are still under consideration.

The lengthy task of implementing the vehicle fleet management scheme continued. Full particulars of vehicles bought since 1st September, 1974, are being recorded on computer with the object of developing the vehicle replacement part of the scheme. Comparison with results obtained manually is now possible and refinements found to be necessary can be put in hand.

The index of stolen paintings was transferred to a computer during the year and there were some early successes in identifying found paintings. Crimes of this type seem to come in waves, however, and so far only limited use has been made of the records.

A perennial problem for most police forces is disposing of abandoned and other vehicles that come into their possession and clutter up police station yards and car pounds. Management Services Department has examined the action taken in respect of each of the various categories of vehicles (including prisoners' property and vehicles held in connection with criminal investigations) and will make recommendations as to the appropriate action to be taken in each case.

A review was begun of the despatch van service which has been operated for many years between all police premises in the Metropolitan Police District. The service has been under great strain because of the new buildings to be served and the constant growth in the number of items to be carried. Like all such services it is the object of criticism but preliminary findings suggest that the users may be as much at fault as the service: careless addressing and lack of co-ordination at points where despatches are handled are common causes of delay in delivery.

Other work of the department included a review of the working of the Photographic Section of C.3 Branch, the setting up of an experimental central tape transcription service and the provision of estimates of demand for married quarters and section house accommodation.

The Force suggestion scheme yielded 272 suggestions (an increase of 40 compared with 1973), of which 21 were adopted in whole or in part, 117 were rejected and 134 were still under consideration at the end of the year. Awards totalling £150 were made to the originators of the best suggestions. A suggestion made in a previous year concerned the safe storage of stray military munitions which are handed in at police stations and held pending collection by army ordnance disposal staff. The proposed solution could not be adopted but it was clear that there is need for such storage and a very effective structure consisting of a stack of old vehicle tyres was devised. Its installation at stations is under consideration.

Public Relations Department

News and Information

As I have mentioned in Chapter 1, there can be little doubt that our policy of working more closely with the press and broadcasting organizations is proving

beneficial to them, the Force and the public. Journalists and producers are alert to take advantage of the fact that news and opinion relating to the activities of the Metropolitan Police is now more freely available. Their increased interest is being reflected in more extensive and better informed coverage of police matters, not only in the form of news items but also in features, commentaries and leading articles. Most representatives of the news media understand the difficulties we face as a result of our more open relationship with them and adopt a responsible approach. It would, however, be unrealistic not to recognize that the pressures and demands generated by the press, television and radio are such that our relations with those who work in these fields will never be entirely without friction. Nevertheless, the disadvantages of our new policy are likely to be far outweighed by the benefits deriving from the fact that the public are now receiving fuller and more accurate information about our affairs than at any time in the past.

The increase in news coverage and improvement in the accuracy of reporting are largely self-generating now that news media representatives are aware of the better facilities available to them and can see for themselves the growing public interest in our work. The expansion of News Branch activities, to which I referred in Chapter 1, has resulted in its handling news traffic concerning all departments of the Force and covering a very wide range of subjects, instead of concentrating mainly on crime and violence as in the past. Nevertheless, one of the main reasons for the heavy volume of news traffic throughout the year was the number of sensational occurrences. These included the Cardland affair, the reappearance of Ronald Biggs, the attempted kidnapping of H.R.M. The Princess Anne, the search for terrorists, the Lennon case, the Milburn case and the search for Lord Lucan. The Poulson case, the numerous bomb incidents and the disorders in Red Lion Square also attracted a lot of attention.

During the year B.B.C. Television was frequently helped to present the police point of view in current affairs programmes, including "Midweek", "Nation-wide" and "Day and Night". Similar assistance was given to I.T.V. in connection with such programmes as "This Week", "Today" and "World in Action". The making of the programmes, and of numerous television and radio news items, was made possible by the ready and able co-operation of the many police officers of all ranks who took part. A cordial and productive relationship has been developed with the broadcasting staff working in these fields and new features being planned by both the B.B.C. and I.T.V. offer further scope for co-operation in publicizing police matters.

Since the planning stage of the transfer of responsibility for policing Heathrow Airport a senior information officer of the News Branch has been assigned to assist the commander of the Airport Division in dealing with press and broadcasting matters. This is a new departure in press relations work in that the officer concerned, backed up by the News Branch, shares the responsibility for news control and distribution with the British Airports Authority and works directly with a divisional commander.

As I mentioned in Chapter 1, the London Weekend Television programme "Police 5" and the longer "Police 5 Special" again provided the C.I.D. with valuable information in difficult crime cases. A statistical summary of the results of appeals made on these programmes is given in Appendix 24. The children's programme "Junior Police 5" had another successful year. The 61 appeals made,

most of which related to major robberies of various kinds, produced useful information in 32 cases, helped to bring about five arrests and led to the recovery of 14 vehicles which had been used for the purposes of crime.

Recruitment publicity

The year saw several significant innovations in publicity in support of the work of the Recruiting Branch.

In January, for the first time for some years, an advertising campaign aimed specifically at recruiting women was launched in the national and local press. As I indicated in Chapter 1, the response to this campaign fully met our expectations: its success was probably the main reason why there were more than twice as many women applicants for the Force than in the previous year.

The main recruiting campaigns of the two previous years, based on the slogans "Dull It Isn't" and "Wear the Badge of Courage", had helped to sustain the rate of male recruitment. It was clear, however, that a new approach was required if the persistent net decrease in strength experienced since mid-1972 was to be halted and the trend reversed. A thorough and wide-ranging review of our advertising arrangements, which had been instituted at the end of 1973, resulted in the appointment of a new advertising agency with effect from April. The agency's campaign strategy, which was based on exhaustive research, was implemented at once. It included eye-catching full page advertisements in the southern editions of selected national newspapers. These described frankly the nature and challenge of modern police work in London and the career opportunities open to young men and women of sound character who are imbued with a sense of public service. As a result of the groundwork laid by our continued advertising and the additional benefits we derive from the national recruiting campaign sponsored by the Home Office we shall be in a strong position to take advantage of any opportunities offered by changes in the general employment situation, particularly in the London area.

As was mentioned in Chapter 1, a transportable advice centre produced for the Careers Section was taken into use. Publicity campaigns were mounted in support of the recruiting tours to Cambridgehire, Devon and Dorset, the National Careers Exhibition and local events such as the Windsor Horse Show and the Southsea Show. Advertising directed at potential cadets has been continued and the sustained publicity back-up to the work of the Careers Section in the last few years has helped to keep the demand for places in the Cadet Corps at a very high level. At the beginning of the year recruitment advertising for the Metropolitan Special Constabulary was mounted in support of the recruiting campaign referred to last year and in Chapter 7 of this Report. The campaign, together with national press advertising sponsored by the Home Office and the promotional efforts of local units, brought about a substantial increase in the strength of the special constabulary.

Community relations publicity

During the year there was a considerable increase in the amount of publicity arranged and visual aid material produced in support of the work of the Community Relations Branch.

The next children's "Help the Police" competition, which is to be held in the spring of 1975, is being run by the Community Relations Branch. The planning of the competition in co-operation with the Inner London Education Authority went on through much of the year. I am grateful for the continued support of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and British Airways, who have again agreed to entertain the winners. There is every indication that the competition will once again prove outstandingly popular and a highly successful means of encouraging children to learn more about the work of the police.

Much work was devoted to producing, for junior schools, a four part wall-chart in full colour describing the role and work of the police. This has proved most popular and like the previous wall-chart, of which over 30,000 copies were distributed nationally, will help to further the progress of understanding between young people and the police. For secondary schools, a wallet containing information sheets and other aids for project work is being prepared and will be available in 1975. It is worth recording that the majority of the 2,400 written enquiries for information and assistance received in the Publicity Branch during the year came from school-children engaged in projects connected with the police.

During the year supporting publicity was provided in connection with three competitions sponsored by the Force. The "Clearway" Trophy competition, an inter-school road safety quiz open to children in the eight to 16 age-group, is based on the Highway Code and conducted on the lines of the B.B.C. programme "Top of the Form". The initial stages of the competition are organized by the London Boroughs, whose representative teams then meet in knock-out rounds for a place in the final at County Hall. The winning London team faces a team from the provinces in a challenge match on the Thames Television programme "Mappin". A special booklet entitled "Your Police and You" was produced in connection with the "Pondus" Trophy competition, a quiz open to children in the nine to 12 age-group and testing knowledge of the police and of the Highway Code. The competition is organized on the basis of police divisions and areas and culminates in a final at New Scotland Yard. I was pleased to be able to attend the 1974 final. The "Rosebowl" Trophy window display competition, which is sponsored jointly by the Force and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, is open to Junior Accident Prevention Councils, schools, scout troops and youth groups generally. This competition also takes place in stages and the winners' awards are presented at a ceremony at New Scotland Yard. The underlying purpose of these competitions is to develop awareness in young people of their responsibilities as citizens and the need for care on the roads.

I attach the greatest importance to young people being educated in these spheres, and particularly in understanding the role and work of police in society. Steps are being taken to increase the output of films, visual aids and printed material, either for use by the Community Relations Branch or for direct issue to schools and youth organizations.

Traffic Department publicity

Once again the Metropolitan Police stand was an outstanding feature of the International Motor Show. Traffic patrol officers, with the aid of a specially prepared audio-visual programme, gave visitors a "Crash Course" on what action should be taken at the scene of an accident and explained how the "999"

emergency telephone system should be used. The officers also described the procedure they themselves adopt both at the scene and by way of post-accident investigation and process. This subject was clearly of great interest to the motoring public. The attendance at the stand was the highest ever and the leaflet relating to the presentation was in great demand. Furthermore, the television and radio authorities and the press responded wholeheartedly to our appeal for wider publicity and the "Crash Course" thus influenced a very large public.

Publicity in respect of the traffic warden service

During the year further progress was made in enhancing the estimation in which the traffic warden service is held by the public both by constructive press and broadcast publicity and by direct contact with the public through exhibitions and a public speaking programme. News releases ranged in content from routine official announcements to information about the voluntary efforts of groups of wardens to help handicapped children and the aged at Christmas. National, provincial and local newspapers and magazines featured nearly 100 articles which gave us positive support in our efforts to help the public to understand and appreciate the work of traffic wardens in London. Extensive coverage was given to the provision of mopeds for traffic wardens to enable them to enforce parking regulations more effectively in the outer suburbs.

In their first full year the arrangements made for traffic wardens to give illustrated talks about their work at meetings of various local clubs and groups proved well worthwhile. By the end of the year a large number of speaking engagements had already been arranged for 1975.

Two static display features on the themes "Traffic Wardens and Other Road Users" and "Traffic Wardens and the Controlled Parking System" were taken into use for road safety exhibitions and police exhibitions of a general nature. They are serving a useful purpose by informing the public about the nature of the duties that wardens are called upon to perform.

General publicity

On the occasion of the opening by H.M. The Queen of the Peel Centre, Hendon, facilities were provided for both B.B.C. and commercial television, *Movietone* News, and the national and local press. The event received extensive coverage.

As I mentioned earlier, the Publicity Branch received during the year 2,400 written enquiries from all over the world seeking information and guidance on a wide variety of police topics. These ranged from "Jack the Ripper", still the subject of a steady flow of correspondence, to the provisions of new legislation. The departmental library was able to meet almost 800 requests from the public for cuttings and photographs and also supplied 3,400 photographic prints to the press and publishers. Help with research was given to four authors.

Frequent requests for filming facilities were made by the Central Office of Information and other producers and we were pleased to assist the Inner London Education Authority in the production of educational films about the working of the juvenile bureaux and the rights of citizens. Facilities were also arranged for B.B.C. and commercial television and radio programmes covering almost every aspect of police work and organization. Of particular note was an edition of the B.B.C. Radio programme "Twenty Questions" which was recorded at Peel Centre and concentrated on police-related subjects.

Exhibitions of all kinds continued to play a significant part in familiarizing the public with the work of the Force. Eight major police exhibitions were mounted and a considerable contribution was made to Lambeth Safety Week. Assistance was given with display material at eight police open days, including two at cadet training centres, and at 36 local shows in which the Force participated.

Films

Two new films, "Watch Out They're About" and "Police Call 1972", were completed and issued during the year. The first was a crime prevention film dealing with burglary, theft from offices and "autocrime". The second recorded the trip to Canada made by the winners of the "Help the Police" competition held in 1972 and will be used to promote interest in the 1975 competition.

Earlier films produced for the Force continued to be in great demand. In the course of the year the departmental library made 1,300 loans of films and a further 1,100 were made through outside library services; our films were seen by well over a million people. "Policeman" remains the most popular and was shown in its entirety by B.B.C. Television. "Without Due Care", our most recent film about the work of the traffic police, was voted the best British entry and won a Bronze Hugo at the 10th Chicago International Film Festival, where "Policeman" had previously won a Gold Award. "Your Police and You" continued to be shown widely and to make a useful contribution to greater public understanding of the role of police in society.

Visitors

Substantially fewer people with a professional interest in police work visited New Scotland Yard than in the previous year. The reduction was due to the application, on security grounds, of stricter standards of eligibility. Parties of more than 12 visitors were accepted only in exceptional circumstances. However, there was an increase in the number of official attachments to the Force and much interest was shown in the branches dealing with drugs and with public order and in the Complaints Against Police Investigation Branch (A.10). In addition, considerable interest was shown in the work of the Bomb Squad, but because of the pressure under which the squad was working visits were restricted to those with special qualifications or needs. Towards the end of the year applications began to arrive for officers from provincial forces to study the way in which the newly formed Airport Division is going about its work. It is expected that there will be an increase in such applications in view of the current importance of airport policing and the fact that further transfers of responsibility for that task are pending.

Catering

The steeply rising cost of food continued to be a matter of concern. The unavoidable increase in the price of meals resulted in a greater demand for dishes at the lower end of the price range and made-up dishes.

The general shortage of staff in the catering industry continued to cause difficulties. New methods of recruitment, based on local recruitment of lower grades, were introduced during the year and proved partially successful. Hopes that a new and widely circulated recruitment brochure would help to bring in

more staff have, unfortunately, been largely negated by the imposition of restrictions on civilian staff numbers. However, a new staffing formula which is being worked upon should enable the available staff to be employed to the best advantage.

Catering facilities were provided at 173 buildings, including police stations, section houses, training centres and premises housing Headquarters branches of the Metropolitan Police Office. Several catering units were closed in the course of the year, but new ones were opened at a number of places including Heathrow, West Drayton and McNaghten Section House. The central food production unit referred to in last year's Report will not be ready for operation until mid-1975, but an experiment being conducted with "cook-freeze" meals is proving successful.

There was an increase in the number of occasions on which special catering arrangements had to be made for police officers on duty to preserve public order at demonstrations and sporting and other events. In particular, the special security measures taken to protect Heathrow Airport made it necessary to provide large-scale operational catering facilities from January until October. Almost 100,000 meals and snacks were supplied in the biggest continuous exercise of this kind so far undertaken by the Catering Department. The continuation of the campaign of bomb attacks also led to additional demands for operational catering.

The new Catering School is functioning well and the number and variety of training courses and trade tests have been increased. A number of demonstrations and tests of food-stuffs have been carried out and new cooking and kitchen equipment has been tested. During the year a conference was held with suppliers.

An improved accounting system is being examined with a view to establishing trading results more quickly by producing weekly returns from each unit. It is considered that the system would provide more efficient financial control but its implementation is dependent upon the recruitment of more divisional catering officers.

New liaison arrangements with the Chief Architect and Surveyor's and Chief Engineer's Departments have resulted in improved works, maintenance and salvaging of equipment and more effective control of the cleaning of kitchens.

Police buildings and residential accommodation

The police office at Ham was completed and taken into use during the year.

At the end of the year work was in progress on a divisional station at Croydon, the sub-divisional station and section house at Marylebone, the sub-divisional stations at Barnet and Southall, and the sectional stations at Chiswell and Barnes.

The final stages of work on the class-room and administration block at the Peel Centre, Hendon, were completed early in the year and a start was made on the swimming pool complex. Planning of the multi-storey car park, industrial building, training roads and residential accommodation for catering staff reached an advanced stage, but like many other building projects which are in the planning stage these schemes have had to be deferred for the time being due to the restrictions on public expenditure.

The final stages of work on the new Support Headquarters at Lambeth were completed during the year and the building is now fully occupied.

Major alterations to the police stations at Harrow Road and Golders Green were completed, together with the additional stabling for the Mounted Branch in the grounds of the No. 4 Area sports club at Hayes, Kent. Work continued on the modernization of the sub-divisional station at Tottenham and on the conversion into office accommodation of the former Peel House in Regency Street. The improvement scheme at the Dog Training Establishment at West Wickham was started, as was the conversion into offices of the former women police section house in Aybrook Street. A property acquired in Streatham is being altered to serve as a central food production unit for the Catering Department. Additional office accommodation is being provided at Holborn following the transfer of the Forensic Science Laboratory to Lambeth and a new firearms training pistol range is being constructed at Lippitts Hill. It is hoped to acquire a property in Earls Court Road to provide additional accommodation for Kensington Police Station and arrangements are being made to provide accommodation at Greenwich to house a switching centre as part of the programmed automation of the telephone network mentioned later in this chapter.

The installation of generators in operational buildings continued and is expected to be completed during 1975.

Progress continued to be made on acquiring sites and extending existing sites; a suitable acquisition was the site for the new station currently being built at Croydon.

At the end of the year section houses, women police hostels and residential training centres provided accommodation for 3,064 officers, a decrease of 207 compared with the previous year. Camden Section House was closed in April and Finsbury Section House in December; Twickenham women police hostel is due to close in 1975. McNaghten Section House was fully reopened in July following amelioration. Elliott Section House was closed in September for amelioration; Olive Section House and Ravenscourt Section House are due to close in 1975 for amelioration. The new Marylebone Section House is due to open in 1975.

At the end of 1974 the number of married quarters was 4,305, a decrease of 216 compared with the previous year. While 84 sets of quarters were acquired, 300 sets were disposed of or taken over as office accommodation.

The user survey conducted by Management Services Department showed that houses are preferred to flats and emphasized the need for central heating, a large kitchen, a garage and other modern features. A start has been made on the modernization of housing stock with the acquisition of a number of new houses to replace the less popular blocks of flats. This programme will continue over a number of years. It is also intended to modernize some existing houses and flats but this has had to be shelved for the time being because of restrictions on spending.

During the year 305 officers vacated quarters to purchase their own homes or to rent accommodation, compared with 308 in 1973.

Supplies

The year was one of considerable importance for the branches responsible for stores and supplies. In the spring the clothing and general stores, together with

the branch which purchases supplies, moved into purpose-built accommodation in the new Support Headquarters at Lambeth. In the autumn the furniture store moved from the cramped and unsatisfactory accommodation it had occupied at Nile Street to a refurbished store at Chicklade Wood. These moves were carried out with a minimum of inconvenience to the Force. The resulting improvement in the layout and amenities of the stores has made a useful contribution to the efficient storage, handling and distribution of supplies.

A new raincoat of improved appearance and comfort, with a detachable inner lining for additional warmth, is being introduced for all ranks.

Communications

Automation of the telephone network

During the year switching centres were taken into operational use at Leman Street, for "G" and "H" Divisions, and at West End Central, for "A" and "C" Divisions. These two centres, together with those opened at Wembley and Paddington in 1973, provide an automated telephone service for eight divisions. The programmed automation of the whole of the Metropolitan Police telephone network continues and it is anticipated that a switching centre for "B" and "F" Divisions will become operational during 1975.

In order to provide interim improvements in telephone facilities at police stations where automation is not due until the later stages of the programme the replacement of manually operated telephone switchboards with small automatic installations was continued.

Vehicle identification and control

Planning continued for a command and control project embracing one division of the Force. It is anticipated that during 1975 useful progress will be made towards implementing an experimental system.

Information Room

During the year 649,405 calls were received in the Information Room from members of the public. Emergency ("999") calls from private persons and police officers in the street totalled 618,847, an increase of 30,036 over the figure for the previous year. During 1974 a total of 1,265,247 telephone messages were received in Information Room.

Central vehicle index: computer bureau

During the year the central vehicle index ceased to exist as a manual index of vehicle records upon the operational commissioning of the Police National Computer. A number of computer terminals giving on line access to the computer have been commissioned at police stations and the area formerly occupied by the central vehicle index has been converted into a computer bureau providing computer terminal services for police stations not yet equipped with their own terminals. The programme for providing additional computer terminals at police stations will continue during 1975.

Automatic alarms

At the end of the year 33,080 alarm installations of the kind which operate automatically and directly over the "999" public telephone service were recorded as being located in the Metropolitan Police District. The number of new installations notified to police in 1974 was 1,681, while the number of removals was 162. Altogether, 88,790 calls from these alarms were received in Information Room, compared with 88,282 in 1973. The 1974 figure includes 2,202 maintenance calls and calls of a like nature which have to be answered but are not included when the false alarm rate is calculated. In 301 cases (325 in 1973) the calls were the result of either actual or attempted burglaries.

During 1974 a further 64,465 calls from alarms connected directly to commercial central stations operated by alarm companies were forwarded verbally to Information Room by central station staff using the "999" system. In 184 cases (186 in 1973) the calls were the result of either actual or attempted burglaries.

The total number of calls received from the two alarm systems was 153,255. False calls totalled 150,568 and continue to present an extremely serious problem.

With a view to making the most efficient use of manpower and resources, arrangements have been made for an Alarm Section to be established in Information Room early in 1975. Alarm calls received via the "999" system will be routed to the new section and central stations will be afforded direct access to it over two-way speech circuits.

Teleprinters

The number of outstations operating on the Metropolitan Police teleprinter network increased by two to 121. The programme of equipping sectional stations with teleprinters for reception only, which I mentioned in my two previous Reports, continued. The internal telegraph traffic of the Force again increased and during the year 3,986,597 messages concerning divisions were handled in the Telegraph Office at New Scotland Yard.

During the year 211,592 telex messages were handled, an increase of 38,404 over the figure for 1973. Telex messages received from other forces in the United Kingdom and overseas totalled 151,543 and 60,049 messages were despatched from this Force. Express messages circulated by means of the telex system numbered 337, an increase of 116 over the 1973 figure.

Radio

At the end of the year the number of vehicles and river craft fitted with Force radio totalled 2,350. The three additional Force radio channels mentioned in last year's Report were taken into use, increasing the number of operational channels to 11. The number of personal radio networks was increased to 83 and by the end of the year the number of personal radio sets in use within the Force was 6,500, of which a proportion were available to specialist branches.

During 1974 the Interpol radio station for the United Kingdom (Interpol London) transmitted 10,034 messages to and received 11,030 messages from other member countries of the Europe-Mediterranean Region of the International Criminal Police Organization. The existing wireless telegraphy network was supplemented by a European radio-teletype service and 10 member nations indicated their willingness to join the supplementary network. The new network already carries more than a third of the United Kingdom's Interpol radio traffic.

CHAPTER 7

Auxiliary Formations

Cadet Corps

A total of 1,488 applications to join the Cadet Corps were received. During the year 988 candidates were examined and 447 joined, of whom 56 in the 174 to 184 years age-group attended the short course lasting one term before proceeding to the cadet centres for further training. The number of cadets attested as constables was 256 (compared with 279 in 1973) and 110 cadets left the Corps (88 in 1973).

For the third successive year recruitment reached a record level, but wastage was slightly higher than in 1973. However, of those who left the Corps 20 per cent transferred to other forces and to were not lost to the police service.

The Corps continued to train cadets from other forces and by the end of the year a further 52 cadets from Kent, 26 from Surrey and 12 from the Royal Ulster Constabulary had undergone or were undergoing training.

Last year I reported that the introduction into the training programme of a term of programmed community service had proved most successful. I am pleased to say that this success has been maintained to a point where the demand from the London Boroughs for cadets attached to this phase exceeds the number who can be made available.

Cadets under training at Hendon continue to be given every encouragement and opportunity to further their general education and improve their academic qualifications. As in past years, a small number of former cadets now serving in the Force qualified for entry to a university and were provisionally accepted for admission.

The Corps continued its full programme of adventure training, which is aimed at developing initiative, character and confidence. Seven teams were entered for the exciting and highly competitive Devizes to Westminster canoe race and the Corps took second place in the junior class. Two teams, each consisting of six cadets, achieved success in the Ten Tons expedition: the senior team completed the 60 mile arduous route and the other team the 50 mile intermediate route. Participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme is, of course, purely voluntary, but during the year cadets obtained two more gold awards, bringing the overall number gained by members of the Corps to 245. Cadets obtained a total of 61 higher awards of the Royal Life Saving Society: four cadets obtained the advanced teacher's certificate, the highest award open to their age-group.

The Cadet Corps now has 21 sport sections and again achieved numerous successes in a wide range of activities. The Corps competed in many Police Athletic Association national competitions and, notwithstanding the general improvement in standards resulting from the amalgamation of a number of

police forces and associated cadet forces, acquitted itself admirably. Four gold medals were won for wrestling, three gold medals for judo and the silver awards for both individual and team cross-country running. The Corps soccer team won the Police Reserve Cup for the third time in five years, while the rugby team also had an extremely successful season, especially in seven-a-side competitions. In the police cadet national life saving competition the Corps finished second against strong opposition. The walking team is acknowledged to be one of the leading junior teams in the country. The high standard that the Corps attains in sport continues to be reflected in the large number of co-cadets who are regularly selected to represent the Force.

During the last athletics season five cadets represented the Metropolitan Police Athletic Association on a number of occasions and it is worthy of note that the Force team has now been promoted to the National Athletics League. Many cadets with sporting talent are entering the Cadet Corps and every effort is made to ensure that those displaying high potential receive instruction from national coaches. It is hoped that this policy will help to produce within the Force in coming years more sportsmen of national, and possibly even international, standard.

Special Constabulary

As foreshadowed in last year's Report, the Metropolitan Special Constabulary launched a large-scale recruiting drive in January. Although this project was intended to continue throughout the year, all divisions made a concentrated effort in the initial stages. During that period the news media gave the campaign valuable publicity for which I am most grateful. Towards the end of the year the Home Office initiated a further national recruiting campaign for the special constabulary. It is most gratifying to be able to report that as a result of the local and national campaigns 765 recruits joined the Metropolitan Special Constabulary during the year, compared with 335 in 1973. Wastage due to resignations and deaths remained at much the same level as in previous years (340 officers were lost, compared with 289 in 1973) and a considerable number of those who resigned joined a regular police force. The net gain of 445 officers during the year brought the strength at 31st December to 2,090 men and women, against an establishment of 10,702.

I am pleased that you authorized the sum of £12,000 to be spent in 1974/75 on providing the Metropolitan Special Constabulary with additional publicity material. By the end of the year plans for a further recruiting drive were well advanced.

A working party was set up in January with the task of defining more precisely the role of the Metropolitan Special Constabulary and the duties and responsibilities of the various ranks. Its report is expected early in 1975.

The special constabulary continued to demonstrate its loyalty and devotion to duty both at local level and at major public events. Substantial numbers of volunteers gave valuable assistance to the regular Force in connection with such events as the Boat Race, the Easter Parade, Trooping the Colour, the State Opening of Parliament, the Lord Mayor's Show and the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Cenotaph.

During the year members of the Metropolitan Special Constabulary performed 80,377 tours of duty and spent 62,745 hours in training. The comparable figures for 1973 were 58,832 and 27,684 respectively. I wish to record my thanks to all those who have so readily sacrificed their leisure time for this form of voluntary public service.

Traffic wardens

At the end of the year the strength of the traffic warden service was 1,791, a decrease of 79 compared with the 1973 figure. The total was made up as follows:—

	Men	Women	Total
New traffic warden controllers ..	3	3	6
Senior traffic warden controllers ..	15	2	17
Traffic warden controllers ..	23	15	38
Traffic warden supervisors ..	88	80	168
Traffic wardens ..	480	1,085	1,565*

All grades 609 1,182 1,791

*Including 27 men and 35 women who joined the service on 1st November on transfer from the British Airports Authority.

The level of recruitment fell below that of 1973 and wastage continued to exceed recruitment. A survey of the reasons for wastage showed that 66 per cent of traffic wardens leaving the service did so for domestic or other reasons over which management had little control.

In last year's Report I mentioned that in an effort to offset the effect of reduced manpower greater use was being made of transport. During 1974 50 Puch "S" type mopeds were taken into operational use and a number of traffic wardens were authorized to use their private vehicles while on enquiry duties. An additional mobile enforcement team was introduced to enforce waiting restrictions in further areas where it was not possible to provide full-time coverage.

School crossing patrols

At the end of the year the number of school crossings approved for supervision was 1,837. This was 27 fewer than at the end of 1973, approval having been given for 25 new crossings and withdrawn in respect of 52 places where a crossing was no longer required. Of the total, 69 crossings were approved for supervision by police and 1,768 for supervision by civilian patrols, compared with 76 and 1,788 respectively in 1973.

At 31st December the number of crossings covered by adult patrols was 1,506 and a further 26 were covered by senior boys and girls from schools; there was a deficiency of 236 civilian patrols, compared with 241 at the end of the previous year.

School crossing patrols were originally intended to relieve police of a responsible but routine task and thereby enable them to be released for other duties. However, with the increase in the number of crossings over the years the provision of police or traffic wardens to cover crossings vacated because of sickness or other reasons is becoming a heavier commitment than the original task. The possibility of transferring responsibility for school crossing patrols to local authorities is being investigated.

APPENDIX 1

Establishment and strength of the regular Force on 31st December, 1974

	Commr. D. Commr. & Asst. Commr.	D/Asst. Commr.	Com- manders	Chief Supts.	Supts.	Chief Inspectors	Inspectors	S.P.S., Sergeants (1st Class, C.I.D.)	Sergeants	Constables	Temp P.C.s (C.I.D.)	Totals
UNKNOWN BRANCH												
Strength for ordinary duty:												
Men		10	36	134	105	348	608	121	2,573	12,879	—	16,874
Women		—	1	2	4	6	25	—	42	541	—	620
Seconded		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
On central service		—	—	4	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	15
Elsewhere*		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total uniformed strength		10	37	140	111	355	633	121	2,615	13,420	—	17,425
Uniformed establishment		10	38	131	134	257	826	121	3,100	18,439	—	23,137
Over establishment		—	—	7	—	—	24	—	—	—	—	152
Under establishment		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Net total under establishment		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT												
Strength for ordinary duty:												
Men		5	17	66	89	160	310	19	971	838	771	3,246
Women		—	—	1	1	1	5	—	19	49	24	100
Seconded		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
On central service		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Elsewhere*		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total C.I.D. strength		5	18	67	90	161	315	19	990	887	795	3,397
Total C.I.D. establishment		5	18	68	91	162	316	21	1,007	903	801	3,465
Over establishment		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Under establishment		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Net total under establishment		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS FOR FORCE												
Strength:												
Men	6	15	54	207	199	414	1,443	142	3,511	13,816	771	20,296
Women	—	—	—	2	5	6	30	—	39	587	24	726
Total	6	15	54	209	204	420	1,473	142	3,550	14,403	795	21,022
Establishment	6	14	54	194	240	402	1,429	142	3,519	15,262	803	20,628
Over establishment	—	—	—	14	—	18	44	—	—	—	—	213
Under establishment	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Net total under establishment	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* These figures comprise officers serving in other-force units, at universities or attached to and paid by other authorities.
† Includes officers in the No. 9 District Regional Crime Squad.

APPENDIX 2

Removals from the Force

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Year	Pensions							Injured on duty	Ill health (10 years' service or over; 5 years' or over from 1973)	Gratuities		Not entitled to pension or gratuity				Died	Total removals
	Service						Ill health (under 10 years' service; under 5 years' from 1973)			Resigned without pension	Discharged during probationary period	Misconduct cases					
	25 years	26 years	27 years	28 years	29 years	30 years and over						Required to resign	Dismissed				
Men																	
1965...	51*	24	15	15	8	201	14	19	3	495	—	3	11	27	886		
1966...	25*	7*	9	7	7	214	7	23	7	523	—	4	12	26	875		
1967...	23*	4*	3*	5	4	314	2	34	10	439	—	—	5	19	866		
1968...	19*	—*	1*	3*	3	278	12	24	7	405	1	2	6	25	788		
1969...	13*	4*	—*	—*	—*	249	10	23	8	501	—	9	8	26	860		
1970...	15*	1*	—*	—*	1*	63*	8	15	11	627	—	1	12	30	783		
1971...	125*	2*	—*	—*	—*	39*	11	30	10	577	—	15	12	34	855		
1972...	231	34	1*	—*	—*	32*	21	61	5	714	—	11	15	32	1,177		
1973...	223	110	39	1*	—*	36*	31	112	4	892	—	7	9	29	1,494		
1974...	165†	58	50	25	1*	18*	59	116	3	788	—	7	7	23	1,320		
Women																	
1965...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	75	—	—	—	2	81		
1966...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	76	—	—	—	—	82		
1967...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	76	—	—	—	—	83		
1968...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	63	—	—	—	—	67		
1969...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	68	—	—	—	—	73		
1970...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	83	—	—	—	—	96		
1971...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	81	—	—	—	—	86		
1972...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	84	—	—	—	—	88		
1973...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	122	—	—	—	1	133		
1974...	1	—	2	—	—	2	1	3	—	129	—	—	—	2	138		

* Figures for service pension affected by the stop on recruitment from September, 1939, to December, 1945.
† Includes one man compulsorily retired on reaching the age limit with less than 25 years' service.

APPENDIX 3

Sickness losses

Disease group	Total days of sickness and injury		Increase or decrease in 1974 compared with 1973		Average duration in days per spell during 1974	Days of sickness in each group as percentage of total	
	1973	1974	Number*	Per cent†		1973	1974
Respiratory (including colds, bronchitis, pharyngitis, tonsillitis, influenza, etc.)	85,144	78,978	- 6,166	- 6	4	30	31
Injuries and accidents	83,402	84,188	+ 786	+ 2	12	29	32
Digestive (including dyspepsia, gastritis, colitis, etc.)	51,114	43,465	- 7,649	-14	3	18	17
Bones and organs of movement (including lumbago, muscular rheumatism, etc.)	22,876	16,361	- 6,515	-28	10	8	6
Skin and cellular tissue	6,703	5,411	- 1,292	-18	7	2	2
Nerve, eye and ear diseases (including nervous debility and senile)	19,729	15,022	- 4,707	-23	6	7	5
Genito-urinary	9,770	7,521	- 2,249	-23	18	3	3
Circulatory	3,313	3,429	+ 116	+ 5	9	1	1
Infective and parasitic diseases (including tuberculosis and poliomyelitis)	4,623	5,101	+ 478	+12	15	2	2
Allergic, gland and metabolic diseases (including asthma)	658	325	- 333	-51	14	—	—
Growth	141	29	- 112	-79	5	—	—
All groups	287,473	259,830	-27,643	- 8	6	100	100

* Actual differences.

† Percentages adjusted to allow for changes in strength.

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APPENDIX 4

Police officers injured in 1974 as a result of being assaulted while on duty

Month	Number of officers reporting injury as a result of being assaulted while on duty*		
	Placed on sick list	Continued on duty	Total
January	41	101	142
February	34	90	124
March	40	105	145
April	29	107	136
May	36	150	186
June	84	379	463†
July	49	209	258
August	60	214	274
September	39	174	213
October	71	225	296
November	36	133	169
December	33	232	265
Totals	597(6)	2,333	2,931

* The figure exclude officers who were assaulted while on duty and either did not sustain or did not report injury.

† Includes officers injured as a result of assault suffered during the demonstrations centred on Riot Lion Square on 16th June (See Appendix D) to Appendix E).

‡ In 1973 the number of officers reporting injury as a result of being assaulted while on duty was 2,161. By comparison with the previous year, the 1974 total showed an increase of 1.2 per cent. (a) Includes the following nine officers who had to be admitted to hospital and together were absent from duty for a total of 585 days:—

Month	Officer's rank	Nature of injuries	How caused	Number of days on sick list
March	Inspector	Gunshot wounds	Shot at by gunman attempting to kidnap H.R.H. The Princess Anne	109
March	Police Constable	Gunshot wound	Shot at by gunman attempting to kidnap H.R.H. The Princess Anne	99
April	Police Constable	Head injuries	Assaulted by suspect	21
May	Sergeant	Head injury	Assaulted in public house, having placed himself on duty	31
July	Police Constable	Gunshot wounds	Chasing suspect after bank raid	56
October	Police Constable	Head injuries	Assaulted by group of men while effecting a stop in the street	30
October	Police Constable	Head injury/ concussion	Assaulted during disturbance in club while attempting to effect an arrest	87
November	Police Constable	Head injury	Assaulted while effecting an arrest	83
November	Police Constable	Facial injuries	Assaulted while effecting an arrest	88

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APPENDIX 5

Metropolitan Police Athletic Association—representative and individual honours

Representative honours

Constable Carver represented Great Britain in the Finnish field archery championship in Helsinki and in the Austrian field archery championship at Bad Gastein, where he took first place.

Constable Ellison represented Great Britain in the international "Moth" class dinghy sailing championships in Sweden.

Constable Chilton represented Great Britain in the European air weapons championships at Enschede, Holland.

Constable Mitchell represented Great Britain in the corporate ten pin bowling grand prix against France in Paris.

Sergeant Saddon represented Great Britain in the Lugano Trophy race walking championship (World team race walking championship) at Lugano, Switzerland and represented Great Britain and Northern Ireland in an international 20 mile walking match against Germany and Mexico in Hamburg.

Sergeant Hodgkinson was selected to represent Great Britain in an international 50 kilometre walking race from Prague to Podbrady and Sergeant Fogg was appointed team manager, but unfortunately they were unable to make the trip.

Constable Davis represented Great Britain in the World water polo championships in Belgium.

Constable Morgan represented Great Britain at weightlifting in the European Community cup at Udine, Italy, and Constable Whyte acted as team manager. Constable Morgan also represented Great Britain in an under 23 amateur weightlifting match against the U.S.A. at Leeds.

Sergeant Rees captained Wales in the three home amateur soccer internationals against England, Ireland and Scotland; captained Welsh amateur XIs against the Welsh universities and Welsh colleges of education; and was selected as vice-captain by the Middlesex Wanderers for another tour in the Far East, again playing against the national teams of Japan and Korea.

Individual honours

Chief Inspector Johnson refereed the Wales v. Scotland rugby match at Cardiff Arms Park, Ireland v. the Argentine at Lansdowne Road, Dublin; and, for the sixth year in succession, the county championship final at Twickenham.

Sergeant Norman acted as team manager for a British athletics team that visited Yugoslavia.

Sergeant Butler was selected as the English judge on the international panel of judges at the European tug-of-war championships in Nottingham.

Constable Youdon became the first serving police officer to be elected President of the Southern Counties Road Walking Association.

Sergeant Fogg won the Barking to Southend walk for the fourteenth time and the eighth successive year.

Constable Morgan became the first Metropolitan Police officer to win the British under 23 light-heavy weightlifting title.

Constable Whyte was awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship and visited Cuba to study weightlifting methods.

APPENDIX 6

Honours and awards received

George Cross

Inspector J. W. Beaton.

Royal Victorian Order

To be a Knight Commander (K.C.V.O.):

Mr. W. T. C. Skyrme, C.B., C.S.E., T.D., Constable, Metropolitan Special Constabulary.

Order of the British Empire

To be a Commander of the Civil Division (C.B.E.):

Mr. J. Ianca Elliott, B. Arch., F.R.I.B.A., formerly Chief Architect and Surveyor.

To be Officers of the Civil Division (O.B.E.):

Mrs. S. C. Booke, Q.P.M., formerly Commander.

Mr. B. N. Halliday, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, "C" Department.

Police Sergeant R. H. Pamplin, Secretary of the Staff Side of the Police Council for the United Kingdom.

Mr. F. J. Sheppard, M.C., Q.P.M., formerly Deputy Assistant Commissioner.

To be Members of the Civil Division (M.B.E.):

Mr. R. Bouden, Constable, Metropolitan Special Constabulary.

Mr. M. G. Down, Senior Executive Officer, "P" Department.

Commander R. Habershon, Inspectorate.

Mr. H. T. Hudson, Superintendent of Printing (now Controller of Reprographic Services), "C" Department.

Chief Superintendent J. G. Perry.

Detective Inspector K. D. B. Pryde (now Detective Chief Inspector), "C" Department.

Detective Chief Inspector P. Radford (now Detective Superintendent), "C" Department.

Mr. J. H. R. Trape, formerly Detective Chief Superintendent.

Chief Superintendent A. H. B. Williams.

Order of St. John

Admitted in the Grade of Officer (Brother):

Mr. D. Powis, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Inspectorate.

Promoted to the Grade of Officer (Brother):

Police Constable R. W. Shire.

Admitted in the Grade of Serving Brother:

Mr. J. H. Gerard, O.B.E., M.C., Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Inspectorate.

Police Constable D. H. Jeffery.

Police Constable J. H. Joslin.

Police Constable C. D. Little.

Commander A. J. E. Selway, Q.P.M.

Police Sergeant K. White.

George Medal

Police Constable M. J. Hills.

*Queen's Police Medal**For Gallantry:*

The late Police Constable M. A. Whiting.

Queen's Gallantry Medal

Police Constable G. H. Chaffey.

Police Constable (C.I.D.) P. R. Edmonds.

Police Constable B. N. Gage, "B" Department.

Police Constable F. H. Humm.

Police Constable A. K. Pointer (now Sussex Police).

Police Constable G. Usher.

Police Sergeant (C.I.D.) A. Wordsworth.

Police Constable (C.I.D.) J. R. Young.

*British Empire Medal (Civil Division)**For Gallantry:*

Police Constable G. M. Burrows, "A" Department.

Police Constable S. J. Conkey, "A" Department.

Police Sergeant (C.I.D.) W. I. Griffiths, "C" Department.

Police Constable J. Smith (now Temporary Police Constable (C.I.D.)).

Police Constable D. A. Wolfenden.

For Meritorious Service:

Mrs. D. L. Black, Assistant Storekeeper, "G" Department.

Police Sergeant P. Burrows.

Police Constable E. H. Fisher, "B" Department.

Police Constable W. S. Hills, K.P.S.M.

Police Sergeant (C.I.D.) R. Hopwood, "C" Department.

Police Constable G. R. Hutchings.

Mr. T. Maling, Foreman Cleaner, Chief Architect and Surveyor's Department.

Mr. R. S. Marks, Camp Supervisor, "D" Department.

Police Sergeant R. H. Plumridge, "A" Department.

Mrs. M. Rabbits, School Crossing Patrol, "T" Division.

Police Constable F. D. Rook.

Mr. C. E. Wand, Tester, Chief Engineer's Department.

*Queen's Police Medal**For Distinguished Service:*

Chief Superintendent G. T. Ashdown.

Commander A. M. Bursdock.

Commander L. Garret, "A" Department.

Mr. P. B. Kavanagh, Assistant Commissioner, "B" Department.

Mr. W. A. Porter, formerly Chief Superintendent.

Commander M. D. Rodger, "C" Department.

Commander H. D. Walton, "C" Department.

Detective Chief Superintendent A. S. Whitford, "C" Department.

Chief Superintendent A. R. Williams, A.P.C.

Commendation by Her Majesty The Queen

Police Constable J. A. R. Boer.

Police Sergeant (C.I.D.) I. Brown, "C" Department.

Police Sergeant (C.I.D.) I. R. Crampton, "C" Department.

Police Constable G. Dickson.

Police Sergeant (C.I.D.) H. J. Dover.

Police Constable D. O. Hammond.

Police Constable D. McM. Kerr.

Police Constable (C.I.D.) C. E. Kirby (now Police Sergeant (C.I.D.)).

Police Constable P. A. J. Mackenzie, "B" Department.

Police Sergeant (C.I.D.) G. S. Mills, "C" Department.

Temporary Police Constable (C.I.D.) P. R. Monti (now Police Sergeant).

Police Constable W. B. O'Driscoll.

Police Constable (C.I.D.) B. A. O'Rourke.

Detective Inspector B. D. Riley.

Inspector M. J. Shadreck.

Police Constable F. Smith.

Police Sergeant (C.I.D.) R. R. Street, "C" Department.

Police Constable R. Ward.

Police Constable A. T. Wright.

*Insignia of the Order of the Dannebrog**Class II:*

Sir Robert Mark, Q.P.M., Commissioner.

Chevaliers of the Order of the Dannebrog

Detective Superintendent A. I. Dickinson, "C" Department.

Inspector R. C. Smith.

Médaille Royale de Reconnaissance de 2e Classe

Police Sergeant K. C. Dunnein.

*Panglima Setia Mahkota**Class II:*

Sir Robert Mark, Q.P.M., Commissioner.

The All Margku Negara

Detective Superintendent G. J. Lambert, "C" Department.

*Pingai Pangkuan Negara**Class I:*

Police Sergeant K. A. Rookaby.

APPENDIX 7

Changes among senior officers

Police

Mr. F. J. Sheppard, O.B.E., M.C., Q.P.M., Deputy Assistant Commissioner, retired from the Force.

Mr. J. H. Gerrard, O.B.E., M.C., Deputy Assistant Commissioner, was transferred to the Inspectorate.

Mr. W. H. Gibson, Commander, was appointed Deputy Assistant Commissioner and assumed responsibility in "A" Department for Operations.

Civil staff

Mr. K. A. L. Parker, C.B., Receiver, retired.

Mr. R. J. Guppy, C.B., Assistant Under Secretary of State, Home Office, was appointed Receiver.

Mr. J. Innes Elliott, C.B.E., B. Arch., F.R.I.B.A., Chief Architect and Surveyor, retired.

Mr. M. L. Belchamber, Dip. Arch., Dip. T.P., A.R.I.B.A., was appointed Chief Architect and Surveyor.

Mr. J. S. Courtney, Principal Information Officer, was promoted to Chief Information Officer B and appointed Deputy Public Relations Officer.

Mr. F. R. Pollard, O.B.E., Project Officer, "C" Department, retired.

APPENDIX 8

The Metropolitan Police and political demonstrations

by Sir Robert Mark, Q.P.M.

Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis

"On such evidence as I have seen there may well be good reason to wonder whether magistrates do always appreciate the gravity of an offence against public order. Abuse of liberty endangers liberty itself; it is a serious offence to depreciate the currency of freedom by resorting to violence and public disorder."

Lord Justice Scarman

1. The maintenance of order during political demonstrations has always been the most sensitive problem of the Metropolitan Police. The need to control the London mob without recourse to the Army was, in fact, one of the strongest reasons for the creation of the Force in 1829. Though each decade has produced its succession of problems we have never departed from the basic doctrine of minimum force, although improved communications have made possible more sophisticated and flexible methods of control and containment. It is surprising that political demonstrations throughout almost a century and a half have resulted in few serious casualties. The gathering of crowds to give violent expression to their views, a common feature of the late eighteenth and most of the nineteenth century, has given way to a new well-established tradition of comparatively orderly demonstrations marked only occasionally by violence, even then usually initiated by, and confined to, minority groups.

2. Annex A gives general statistics relating to demonstrations in the Metropolitan Police District in 1972, 1973 and 1974, while in view of the public interest aroused in the demonstrations centred on Red Lion Square on 15th June, 1974—which became the subject of the recent public inquiry under the chairmanship of Lord Justice Scarman—Annex D gives separate details in relation to the events of that day. The total number of political demonstrations in London during 1972, 1973 and 1974 was 1,321. Only 24 of these demonstrations involved disorder, resulting in a total of 623 arrests. In these three years 297 police officers, 49 persons who were arrested and 27 other participants were reported to have been injured, none fatally until Red Lion Square. However, not every civilian participant will report minor injury and there cannot, therefore, be any true record of all casualties. The figures nevertheless suggest an avoidance of extreme violence and a tradition of containment of activities which, though usually lawful, are often controversial, sometimes provocative and occasionally open to exploitation and misrepresentation, and which are frequently the cause of inconvenience to the public.

3. The years since 1945 have not been without their major issues for political demonstrations. Since the visit of Queen Frederika, Ban the Bomb, The Committee of 100, the Vietnam War and Stop the '80 Tour in their differing contexts are evocative words in the history of London political demonstrations. The violence arising from demonstrations in support of some of these issues was sometimes extensive. Any political cause or event, sometimes in lands far away, can produce demonstrations on the streets of London at very short notice and there has emerged a questionable tradition that the right to pursue that activity shall override all other considerations. The reported massacre at Wiriyamu in Portuguese Africa, the visit of the then Prime Minister of Portugal and the invasion of Cyprus are recent examples of this.

4. It is not possible to attribute to any one factor the general avoidance of extreme disorder and the comparative rarity of serious casualties in so long a history of political demonstrations. The underlying reason is perhaps our long-standing tradition of changing governments without bloodshed or tumult and a freedom of expression

unsurpassed elsewhere. This has allowed a unique relationship between the people and the police, who traditionally depend on goodwill rather than force in carrying out their duties. Of the more immediate reasons for the avoidance of serious disorder and casualties, perhaps the most obvious is an adequate police presence and a lack of weaponry. The police have never had any special weapons or equipment for crowd control. We rely on manpower, supported by horses where necessary, as the most effective and least harmful means of control, and we have nothing more lethal than a wooden truncheon on which to rely in emergencies. Similarly, demonstrators in this country rarely have recourse to lethal weapons, possession of which is, in any case, in many circumstances an offence involving liability to arrest. There is usually no intentional separation of police and demonstrators. The one escorts the other when walking in procession and even when facing each other outside an embassy or police station they are usually within touching distance; their mutual vulnerability being more evident than if seen at a distance.

5. Although the support of the public at large for police aims and methods is a major factor in keeping down the temperature at demonstrations and minimizing casualties, the lack of fatal and serious casualties has allowed unjustified complacency in the public attitude to political demonstrations. These are occasionally both violent and frightening and there has emerged a small minority of extremist causes whose adherents leave no doubt of their belief in the use of force and lack of scruple to further political aims. That these groups are contained without more serious consequences is in the main due to the fortitude, the training and the tolerance of the police and the inhibitions natural to their role. The limitation of police powers in dealing with demonstrators and demonstrators, the accountability of the police and their constant exposure to the news media and to parliamentary questions, and not least the fact that police have learnt from experience that in the long run restraint is usually the most effective way to preserve order and maintain control: all these factors have the effect of creating an unwillingness to abandon persuasion except as a last resort. This unwillingness has perhaps been reinforced over the years by growing police awareness of the tolerance of the courts in dealing with those found guilty of an offence.

6. Annex B shows the outcome of prosecutions arising from demonstrations in 1972, 1973 and 1974 and Annex C gives details of fines imposed. Annexes E and F give separate details of the outcome of prosecutions and fines imposed as a result of the events in Red Lion Square on 19th June, 1974. During 1972, in only 12 of 231 proved cases of threatening behaviour, assault on police, obstruction of police and of the highway, possession of offensive weapons and criminal damage did a court actually impose a prison sentence, none longer than three months. In 1973 not one of 754 proved cases resulted in a sentence of imprisonment that was not suspended; 17 of these cases were of assault on police and 10 of obstruction, which in practice is usually an attempt to liberate a prisoner. During 1974, notwithstanding an increase in violence and arrests, only 19 of 278 proved cases resulted in prison sentences, 13 of them suspended and none of the remaining six longer than three months.

7. The level of fines has generally been very low. Perhaps in some cases that is appropriate but there have been many in which convictions for violence have attracted derisory penalties of £10 or so. In mid-1974 that sum was the equivalent of £1.60 in the value of 1926 when the Public Order Act was passed. From an administrative point of view it could be argued that in present circumstances prosecutions involve a waste of scarce and expensive police manpower for no worthwhile result and that in London they could, without disadvantage, be handled in very serious cases intended for the higher courts, such as unlawful assembly or riot.

8. It is perhaps hardly surprising that in London the police feel that in controlling demonstrations they are at their most vulnerable. Contrary to popular belief, recourse to the courts is sometimes as much an ordeal for the policeman as for the demonstrator and the likelihood of achieving a result of value is clearly remote. The charges are usually contested and the hearing may, therefore, take place long after the event when the circumstances which gave rise to the demonstration are forgotten or no longer of public interest. The use of force will always attract extensive press and

television coverage and causes complaints against the police by persons involved in actual incidents and by others inspired by a variety of motives. So much is this reaction an accepted part of the demonstration formula that for all major events a complainant officer is designated as a routine measure. All those wishing to complain are directed to him to ensure their uniform and effective reception.

9. There is, therefore, a profound difference between the attitudes of the Metropolitan Police to demonstrations and that attributed to them by political activists who assume that the police act on behalf of the government of the day, that they will readily resort to the use of force, that they are a composite body sympathizing with the Right rather than the Left, that the courts are prejudiced in their favour and that they are virtually unaccountable for their behaviour when controlling demonstrations. Some of these beliefs may be prompted by folk memories, true or untrue, of the thirties. There is not, however, any foundation for them today.

10. Though its administration is subject to government approval, the Metropolitan Force, like provincial forces, is free from political interference in operational matters. We regard political demonstrations of every kind primarily with resignation, albeit a wary tolerance. Far from there being a sympathy for any particular party, any departure from reasonably orderly behaviour, whether by adherents of the Right, the Centre or the Left, is regarded by most London policemen with equal distaste. We do, of course, recognize that demonstrations are to be preferred to many other methods of protest, but our generally resigned and apprehensive approach to these events is hardly surprising once it is realized that an excess of fervour and extremist views can produce controversy, complaints, unrest, violence and lies in circumstances in which it is usually impossible to expose the truth and in which the police are often in the middle.

11. The courts, the press and the public probably do not appreciate the sophistication with which the extremist use political demonstrations to undermine confidence in established institutions. The planned counter-demonstration, the use of deliberate violence, the routine complaints of police brutality, the ready spokesman without evidence or conscience, all these constitute a technique with which London police are all too familiar. Like Lord Justice Scarman I do not doubt the sincerity of their feelings, but I am under no illusion about the lengths to which they are prepared to go. These are perhaps seen at their best in a letter printed in a national newspaper of 19th June, 1974, in which the writer eloquently, persuasively, more in sorrow than in anger commented adversely as an eye witness on police behaviour at Red Lion Square. Reason was not to know that the signature at its foot should have been that of Paul Josef Groebels since the letter was in the best tradition of the unscrupulous political propagandist. Enquiry showed that no such person as the signatory lived at the address from which the letter purported to come. Ironically, the deception was only revealed because it was conscientiously investigated as a complaint against the police.

12. The policeman does not, as is sometimes suggested, welcome a possible confrontation with extremist demonstrators. He knows that his behaviour will be scrutinized closely, that the rules governing his conduct are more strict than those applicable to the demonstrators and that the consequences for him are potentially more disadvantageous. In short, he feels apprehension rather than enthusiasm at involvement in a situation from which he expects nothing but trouble. His every instinct, when trying to keep rival factions apart, is to let them fight it out and to clear up the mess, but his sense of duty persuades him that the public interest requires the prevention or containment of disorder no matter what the risks or adverse consequences for him.

13. Political demonstrations seem to give satisfaction in the main to those taking part. The police as a whole are usually not interested unless affected by inconvenience or aroused by disorder and violence. Nevertheless, the right to hold them is much valued and jealously preserved. In the event of violence their is usually much comment on the extent to which the police exercised or failed to exercise control. Speculation

APPENDIX B (continued)

as to whether the police should have prohibited or regulated a political demonstration usually betrays a lack of knowledge of the law or of the difficulties of applying it. No useful purpose is achieved by prohibitions or regulations incapable of enforcement, or in respect of which judicial penalties are likely to be slight. Demonstrators who can rely on massive support, such as The Committee of 100 in the states, are unlikely to be deterred by such restrictions and political extremists are likely to welcome them. For both, disregard or defiance is sure to achieve maximum publicity at very little cost.

14. Almost all prosecutions arising from public demonstrations are tried in courts of summary jurisdiction in which penalties in the event of conviction are limited. There is a marked contrast between the chaotic violence of a demonstration at which a faction has been determined at all costs to provoke police reaction, to prevent the public expression of an opinion to which its members are opposed or to penetrate a symbolic target such as an embassy and the quiet and ordered atmosphere of a court days or weeks later. A note by the Solicitor to the Metropolitan Police of the current legislation and common law relating to the offences most commonly committed in the course of demonstrations is at Annex G for easy reference. Annexes B and C, showing the outcome of the prosecutions in 1972, 1973 and 1974, indicate that even the limited maxima available to the justices are rarely applied. Mistakenly or not, the police believe that this results from magistrate's unawareness of, or disagreement with, the Court of Appeal's answer to the defence of "Why pick on me?" frequently put forward by demonstrators plucked from among their fellows and brought before the courts.

15. The relevant part of the judgement of the Court of Appeal in what is known as the Garden House case is as follows:-

"The next point to be mentioned is what might be called the 'Why pick on me?' argument. It has been suggested that there is something wrong in giving an appropriate sentence to one convicted of an offence because there are considerable numbers of others who were at the same time committing the same offence, some of whom indeed, if identified and arrested and established as having taken a more serious part, could have received heavier sentences. This is a plea which is almost invariably put forward where the offence is one of those classed as disturbances of the public peace—such as riots, unlawful assemblies and affrays. It indicates a failure to appreciate that on these confused and tumultuous occasions each individual who takes an active part by deed or encouragement is guilty of a really grave offence by being one of the number engaged in a crime against the peace. It is, moreover, impracticable for a small number of police when sought to be overwhelmed by a crowd to make a large number of arrests. . . . If this plea were accepted, it would reinforce that feeling which may undoubtedly exist that if an offender is but one of a number he is unlikely to be picked on, or even if he is so picked upon, can escape proper punishment because others were not arrested at the same time. Those who choose to take part in such unlawful occasions must do so at their peril. . . . In the view of this Court, it is a wholly wrong approach to take the acts of any individual participant in isolation. They were not committed in isolation and, as already indicated, it is that very fact that constitutes the gravity of the offence."

16. When considering what action to take in respect of the declared intention to hold extremist demonstrations in support of any political persuasion, police observe scrupulously the principle declared to the House of Commons by a former Home Secretary:-

"If this is indeed a free country and we are free people, a man is just as much entitled to profess the Fascist philosophy as any other, and he is perfectly entitled to proclaim it and expound it so long as he does not exceed the reasonable bounds which are set by law."

17. Most political demonstrations pose problems no worse than those arising from inconveniences to public and police. There is adequate liaison between the organizers and the police and differences of opinion about police, timing and so on are usually

APPENDIX B (continued)

resolved amicably. By contrast, a small number of demonstrations present severe problems. Occasionally the organizers refuse to disclose details of their plans, or reveal a plan to which police object on grounds of inconvenience to the public or possible disorder, without criminal agreement being possible. Minority extremist groups joining demonstrations organized by much larger groups sometimes fail to disclose an intention to depart from arrangements agreed by the organizers with the police. Sometimes demonstrations are mounted at very short notice leaving insufficient time to agree arrangements or to brief all those taking part. Difficulties of this kind, as well as our own administrative problems, require the maintenance of a special department at New Scotland Yard to ensure a continuity of experience and uniformity of judgement always available to divisional commanders.

18. The Metropolitan Police have always been determined to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for an Order prohibiting political prosecutions for a specified period on the grounds that this encourages extremist minority groups to threaten violence with the object of achieving the suppression of opposition opinion. We believe that attempts by order or force to suppress free speech are not only wrong but unlawful and that behaviour of that kind must be resisted no matter what the inconvenience or cost. To give way to such threats is not only to defer to mob-ry but to encourage it.

19. The regulation of political demonstrations to reduce or rule out provocation and possible conflict is quite another matter. This can be both proper and necessary, but success must depend upon the adequacy of police manpower, the skill and determination of police leadership and in the last resort the willingness to meet force with force. The courts are unlikely to impose sentences that will have a practical deterrent effect save in really exceptional cases, such as the Notting Hill and Garden House riots. It is arguable, too, that the police, discouraged by apparent ministerial tolerance of unlawful violence by demonstrators and weary of harassment by complainants, journalists and political movements alike, have themselves been inclined to show excessive tolerance. Time after time they have remained passive in the face of missiles and physical assault, particularly in Grosvenor Square and Whitehall. They have done so not only because they recognize the dangers of open conflict but also because they are loath to invite the torrent of complaint and criticism sure to be provoked by more vigorous self-defence, however justified. Certainly the extremist minority groups these days show no sense of apprehension in threatening or actually assaulting police. But if the use of force by police officers appears to be the only way of securing Queen's Peace it is plainly the duty of the police to use, or to authorize the use of, such force as is needed and is lawful, and not to be inhibited from doing so either by the fact that the aims of the demonstrators are political or by the inevitable claim that any force used by the police is brutal.

20. The problem is, however, less one of the willingness and ability of police to contain violent extremists than of social attitudes. Extremist demonstrators see nothing improper in intimidating political opponents by threats of violence. They regard actual violence in pursuit of that objective as justified without any counter-attack by the police as provocative or worse. The public and, indeed, the courts, are so used to hearing this point of view that it does not arouse the reaction it deserves. Conduct that would provoke widespread condemnation in a football hooligan is considered in a political demonstrator. To the police, the difference is difficult to discern. We alone bear the brunt of it and no-one has in recent years done more than render lip service to our predicament. It is an interesting reflection of current attitudes that shoplifting in London should be punished more severely than violence in pursuit of political activities. Failure to persuade society of the need to view misbehaviour at political demonstrations in London with more positive disapproval will inevitably provoke demands for more severe punishment and control by permit or licence, which are regarded as unnecessary in this country. The former would be likely to create martyrs and the latter would involve the police in a highly undesirable process of appearing to approve or disapprove of political activities. Measures of that kind should, in any case, be unnecessary if the full weight of public opinion can be brought to bear on the problem.

APPENDIX 3 (continued)

21. The press can do most to lessen unlawful violence by giving it the publicity and disapproval it deserves and by focusing attention on court proceedings arising from it. It is, after all, public opinion to which political activists are most sensitive. The militant extremists who used violence in some of the industrial disputes of 1972, abusing the legal and traditional rights acquired by strikers over many years of industrial conflict, though not at all daunted by the police or the courts did not make the mistake in 1974 of risking adverse public reaction with a general election in the offing.

22. It is no less essential for the police to have public opinion behind them. This can only be done by impeccable behaviour, by open administration and by facilitating the widest possible press coverage before, during and after events. Public opinion, if sufficiently strong, can sway courts and politicians and, indeed, can influence the behaviour even of the political extremist. It can also exercise a salutary restraint upon the police themselves, while reinforcing our determination not to allow inconvenience, criticism, abuse and personal injury to deter us from upholding the public interest.

23. We shall continue to uphold freedom on the streets of London whatever the cost to us in danger, physical injury, libel and slander because that is one of the causes to which we, the police, are dedicated; and we shall hope by our conduct to deserve and achieve in that task the support and understanding of the press, of the public and of the courts, who alone have the power to determine whether our efforts will succeed or fail and whose decisions are, therefore, as important for the public as they are for us.

APPENDIX 3: ANNEX A

General statistics relating to demonstrations in the Metropolitan Police District in the years 1972, 1973 and 1974

In 1972, 1973 and 1974 there were respectively 470, 445 and 406 major events requiring special police arrangements, making a total of 1,321 during the three year period.

Of the 1,321 events:

- (a) 703 were not the subject of any subsequent report by local police, being both small and orderly.
- (b) 411 were handled by local divisions without an Operation Order being issued from New Scotland Yard. These events involved a total of 42,000 police officers.
- (c) 207 were covered by 95 Operation Orders. These events involved a total of 53,000 police officers. The figures below show that there was proportionately a heavy increase in the number of events covered by Operation Orders in 1974 compared with the two previous years.

Disorder occurred in 54 of these events and a total of 623 arrests were made; 740 charges were preferred and 18 juveniles cautioned.

Summary Table

	1972	1973	1974	Total for three year period
Total events:	470	445	406	1,321
(a) no subsequent report	253	235	194	703
(b) handled locally—no Operation Order covered by Operation Order	163	123	125	411
(c) (number of Operation Orders issued)	34	55	87	207
	(28)	(26)	(43)	(96)
Police manpower involved:				
(b) handled locally—no Operation Order	17,300	9,400	15,100	41,800
(c) covered by Operation Order	19,300	17,700	26,400	63,400
Number of events involving disorder	15	19	23	54
Number of arrests made	239	78	306	623
Number of injuries reported:				
(i) to police officers	230	47	126	373
(ii) to persons who were arrested	161	34	102	297
(iii) to other participants	24	8	12	49
	15	5	7	27

* including one fatal injury

Charge	Number of cases imposed	Amounts of fines										Average fine	Maximum fine
		£5 or less	£6-£10	£11-£15	£16-£20	£21-£25	£26-£30	Over £30	Over £30	Over £30	Over £30		
Penalizing or insulting words or behaviour	126	19	47	24	15	7	8	6	13	6	£15	£100	
Obstructing police	58	1	11	5	11	6	5	13	13	£26	£100		
Assault on police	60	16	28	6	16	11	5	13	13	£26	£100		
Use of offensive weapon	15	8	6	10	16	5	5	13	13	£26	£100		
Obstruction of the highway	119	86	22	10	10	16	5	13	13	£26	£100		
Criminal damage	12	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	£3	£400		
Totals	390	127	119	45	47	18	14	20	20	£3	£400		

demonstrations in the Metropolitan Police District in the years 1972, 1973 and 1974

APPENDIX 8: ANNEX C

[illegible]

As the end of 1974 there were 48 cases in respect of which proceedings had not been completed. In 27 of these cases warrants had been issued in respect of defendants who had failed to appear. 12 were for one month, 2 for two months (both for assault on police) and 13 for three months (3 of them for assault on police).

Results of charges brought against 623 persons arrested during demonstrations in the Metropolitan Police District in the years 1972, 1973 and 1974

APPENDIX 8: ANNEX B

APPENDIX 8: ANNEX 10

Statistics relating to demonstrations control on Red Lion Square on 15th June, 1974

Number of demonstrators in National Front March	900
Number of counter-demonstrators in "Liberation" march	1,000
Total number of demonstrators	1,900
Police manpower involved:	
Uniformed foot officers	711
Mounted officers	25
Support officers	122
Traffic Division officers	35
C.I.D. officers	30
Total from all ranks and branches	923
Number of arrests made	51
Number of injuries reported	54
(i) to police officers	46
(ii) to persons who were arrested	5
(iii) to other participants	3*

*Including one fatal injury.

APPENDIX 8: ANNEX 2

Results of charges brought against 51 persons arrested during demonstrations control on Red Lion Square on 15th June, 1974

Charge	Total offences	Proceed- ings completed	Cases disposed	Convictions		
				Total convictions including breach of peace	Fine	Suspended sentence or no sentence
Transferring or jostling, verbal or physical assault, common assault, obscenity, public order, criminal damage	51	51	51	51	51	51
Total	51	51	51	51	51	51

Of the 51 suspended prison sentences, 1 was for three months suspended for two years, 1 for four months suspended for two years and 1 for three months suspended for a year; the last two of these sentences were suspended on appeal. In fact, therefore, no-one served a sentence of imprisonment.

APPENDIX 8: ANNEX F

Details of fines imposed following the conviction of persons arrested during demonstrations centred on Red Line Square on 15th June, 1974

Charge	Number of fines imposed	Amounts of fines						Aver- age fine	High- est fine	Maxi- mum fine	Legal aid costs awarded	Cost awarded
		£5 or less	£6-£20									
			£6- £10	£11- £15	£16- £20	£21- £25	Over £25					
Threatening or insulting words or behaviour	13	2	2	1	1	2	—	£14	£20	£100	4	8
Obstructing police	12	1	2	3	4	1	6	£16	£20	£20	3	6
Possession of offensive weapon	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	£10	£15	£200	—	4
Totals	35	3	12	3	6	3	6				10	18

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APPENDIX 8: ANNEX G

Note of the current legislation and common law relating to the offences most commonly committed in the course of demonstrations

Prosecutions in the Metropolitan Police District arising from political demonstrations are usually brought under one or other of the following:—

- Section 4 of the Public Order Act 1936 — Having an offensive weapon at a public meeting.
SUMMARY TRIAL ONLY—3 months' imprisonment or £50 fine or both.
- Section 5 of the Public Order Act 1936 — Using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour or displaying any such sign.
ON SUMMARY TRIAL—3 months' imprisonment or £100 fine or both.
ON INDICTMENT—12 months' imprisonment or £500 fine or both.
- Section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 — Having an offensive weapon in a public place.
ON SUMMARY TRIAL—3 months' imprisonment or £200 fine or both.
ON INDICTMENT—2 years' imprisonment or unlimited fine or both.
- Section 51(1) of the Police Act 1964 — Assaulting a constable in the execution of his duty.
ON SUMMARY TRIAL—6 months' imprisonment (9 months' after previous conviction) or £100 fine or both.
ON INDICTMENT—2 years' imprisonment or fine or both.
- Section 51(3) of the Police Act 1964 — Willfully obstructing a constable.
SUMMARY TRIAL ONLY—1 month's imprisonment or £20 fine or both.
- In unusual circumstances, under Section 54(12) of the Metropolitan Police Act 1839 — For using indecent language.
SUMMARY TRIAL ONLY—£20 fine.
- In unusual circumstances, under Section 54(13) of the Metropolitan Police Act 1839 — For using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour.
SUMMARY TRIAL ONLY—£20 fine.

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APPENDIX B: ANNEX G (continued)

In exceptional cases, for example the Bloody Sunday Irish Demonstration or the Notting Hill Anti-Police March:-

8. Causing an Affray
9. Taking part in a Riot
10. Unlawful Assembly

11. Conspiracies to commit 8, 9 and 10 and Conspiracies to commit a public mischief or to trespass (subject to the decision in Kamara v. D.P.P.)

— 8, 9, 10 and 11 are ALL COMMON LAW INDICTABLE OFFENCES—imprisonment and/or fine with no limitation on either.

APPENDIX 9

Number of persons proceeded against in the Metropolitan Police District

Year and category of principal offence*	Number of persons proceeded against by month of		Year proceeded†	Outcome at magistrates' courts			
	Charge	Penalty		Convicted	Charge withdrawn/dismissed	Not for prosecution	Otherwise disposed of (1)
1973							
Indictable	56,371	5,741	48,813	43,443	4,741	13,183	1,428
Non-indictable	27,211	4,248	18,312	16,212	4,271	2,196	4,941
Traffic	2,488	(11,251)	146,389	146,389	1,790	5,611	511
Total	147,184	171,001	322,187	324,997	10,842	27,312	9,396
1974							
Indictable	51,136	5,666	43,136	42,319	3,231	11,293	1,493
Non-indictable	26,211	4,171	18,382	16,202	2,603	2,603	5,151
Traffic	2,418	(11,251)	142,944	141,433	2,641	1,874	1,616
Total	134,981	171,001	313,256	324,326	8,754	14,972	7,974

* "Indictable" and "non-indictable" offend article 10 of the Bill of Rights. The latter includes death and non-death offences.

† Persons who were proceeded against on more than one occasion during the year have been counted separately on each occasion. For example, a person may be charged on the same occasion for two or more offences (e.g. assault and carrying a dangerous weapon) and on a subsequent occasion for the same offence (e.g. assault and carrying a dangerous weapon).

†† Persons who were proceeded against on more than one occasion during the year have been counted separately on each occasion. For example, a person may be charged on the same occasion for two or more offences (e.g. assault and carrying a dangerous weapon) and on a subsequent occasion for the same offence (e.g. assault and carrying a dangerous weapon).

††† Persons who were proceeded against on more than one occasion during the year have been counted separately on each occasion. For example, a person may be charged on the same occasion for two or more offences (e.g. assault and carrying a dangerous weapon) and on a subsequent occasion for the same offence (e.g. assault and carrying a dangerous weapon).

†††† Persons who were proceeded against on more than one occasion during the year have been counted separately on each occasion. For example, a person may be charged on the same occasion for two or more offences (e.g. assault and carrying a dangerous weapon) and on a subsequent occasion for the same offence (e.g. assault and carrying a dangerous weapon).

††††† Persons who were proceeded against on more than one occasion during the year have been counted separately on each occasion. For example, a person may be charged on the same occasion for two or more offences (e.g. assault and carrying a dangerous weapon) and on a subsequent occasion for the same offence (e.g. assault and carrying a dangerous weapon).

Category of principal offences	Number of persons charged	Outcome at crown courts		
		Convicted	Acquitted	Otherwise disposed of
Non-traffic	12,044	8,968	2,996	70
Traffic	2,177	1,770	395	12
Total	14,221	10,738	3,381	82

APPENDIX 10

Persons proceeded against for simple drunkenness or
drunkenness with aggravation, and the proportion per
1,000 of the estimated population

Year	Number of persons proceeded against*	Estimated population	Number of persons proceeded against per 1,000 of population
1965	32,704	8,420,000	3.9
1966	30,501	8,389,000	3.6
1967	34,456	8,394,000	4.1
1968	37,731	8,251,000	4.6
1969	39,345	8,194,000	4.8
1970	39,674	8,161,000	4.9
1971	42,698	7,960,000	5.3
1972	46,303	7,640,000	5.6
1973	45,197	7,764,000	5.8
1974	41,193	7,647,000	5.4

* Persons who were proceeded against on more than one occasion during the year have been counted separately on each occasion.

APPENDIX 11

Indictable offences known to police, by Home Office classification*

Offence	1972	1973	1974	Percentage variation (1974/1973)
<i>Violence against the person:</i>				
1 Murder	113	110	142	+29
4a Manslaughter	87	88	94	—
4b Infanticide	33	33	19	—
2 Attempted murder	—	—	1	—
3 Threat or conspiracy to murder	140	109	125	+15
4b Child destruction	—	—	—	—
4c Causing death by dangerous driving	783	924	931	+1
5 Wounding or other act endangering life	3	2	—	—
6 Endangering railway passenger	—	—	—	—
7 Endangering life at sea	7,062	8,067	8,241	+2
8 Other wounding, etc.	16	7	16	—
9 Assault	1	2	1	—
12 Abandoning child under two years	9	22	11	—
13 Child stealing	11	9	—	—
14 Procuring illegal abortion	3	3	4	—
15 Concealment of birth	—	—	—	—
Group total	8,261	9,166	9,585	+2
<i>Sexual offences:</i>				
16 Burglary	63	66	73	—
17 Attempt to commit burglary, etc.	343	335	431	+29
18 Indecency between males	300	353	357	+3
19 Rape	135	132	156	+18
20 Indecent assault on a female	1,392	1,503	1,429	-5
21 Unlawful sexual intercourse with girl under 15	33	28	33	—
22 Unlawful sexual intercourse with girl under 16	340	288	260	-10
23 Incest	22	18	24	—
24 Procurement	5	8	—	—
25 Abduction	5	10	11	—
26 Bigamy	48	36	35	—
Group total	2,686	2,999	2,990	—
<i>Burglary:</i>				
28 Burglary in a dwelling	46,390	42,190	48,850	+16
29 Aggravated burglary in a dwelling	77	56	53	—
30 Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	30,108	30,447	37,414	+23
31 Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling	60	57	19	—
33 Going equipped for stealing, etc.	2,599	1,442	1,825	+27
Group total	79,234	74,192	88,163	+19

APPENDIX 11 (continued)

Offence	1972	1973	1974	Percentage variation 1974/1973†
Robbery:				
34 Robbery	3,167	2,680	3,151	+18
Theft and handling stolen goods:				
39 Theft from the person of another ..	4,340	4,883	8,353	+71
40 Theft to a dwelling other than from automatic machine or meter	17,022	15,619	15,643	—
41 Theft by an employee	5,404	5,138	6,030	+18
42 Theft or unauthorized taking from mail	23	30	30	—
44 Theft of pedal cycle	11,230	10,313	12,429	+18
45 Theft from vehicle	53,740	54,059	64,390	+19
46 Shoplifting	15,313	16,894	20,256	+20
47 Theft from automatic machine or meter	6,117	4,938	4,827	-2
48 Theft or unauthorized taking of motor vehicle	38,763	43,454	58,025	+34
49 Other theft or unauthorized taking ..	61,259	61,246	67,860	+11
54 Handling stolen goods	5,511	6,436	7,556	+16
Group total	220,924	223,210	265,207	+19
Fraud and forgery:				
51 Fraud by company director, etc. ..	27	21	15	—
52 False accounting	371	335	342	+2
53 Other fraud	24,932	26,218	25,503	-3
60 Forgery or uttering drug prescription	341	231	272	+18
61 Other forgery or uttering	6,094	5,169	3,948	-24
Group total	31,787	31,995	30,080	-6
Criminal damage(s):				
56 Arson	611	830	725	-13
57 Criminal damage endangering life ..	15	35	45	+4
58a Other criminal damage	7,222	9,336	13,158	+41
59 Threat, etc., to commit criminal damage	53	68	111	—
Group total	7,901	10,269	14,079	+37

APPENDIX 11 (continued)

Offence	1972	1973	1974	Percentage variation 1974/1973†
Other offences:				
55 Blackmail	142	139	192	+38
62 High treason	—	—	—	—
63 Treason felony	1	—	—	—
64 Riot	—	2	—	—
65 Unlawful assembly	—	—	—	—
66 Other offences against the State or public order	35	29	36	—
67 Perjury	39	30	29	—
68 Libel	—	1	9	—
76 Aiding suicide	1	—	—	—
99 Other indictable offences	277	336	278	-17
Group total	495	537	544	+1
Grand total	354,445	355,248	413,799	+16

* The offences enumerated are classified according to the original police assessment.

† Percentage variations are not shown where the 1973 total was less than 100.

‡ The theft figures differ from those published by the Home Office to the extent that offences involving less than £5 in value are excluded from the latter.

(a) Offences of criminal damage of £20 or less in value are excluded. The numbers of such offences recorded in the last three years were as follows:

1972	22,649
1973	27,347
1974	33,463

APPENDIX 12

Indictable offences cleared up, by Home Office classification

Offences	Number of offences cleared up*		Percentage of offences cleared up	
	1973	1974	1973	1974
<i>Violence against the person:</i>				
1 Murder	95	119	88	84
2 Manslaughter	88	83	98	83
4a Infanticide	15	8	65	42
2 Attempted murder	109	125	100	100
3b Threat or conspiracy to murder	109	125	100	100
4b Child destruction	109	125	100	100
4c Causing death by dangerous driving	109	125	100	100
5 Wounding or other act endangering life	723	667	78	72
6 Endangering railway passenger	1	—	50	—
7 Endangering life at sea	—	—	—	—
8 Other wounding, etc.	5,627	5,416	70	66
9 Assault	3	10	71	63
12 Abandoning child under two years	2	—	100	—
13 Child stealing	21	10	95	91
14 Procuring illegal abortion	8	3	89	—
15 Concealment of birth	3	2	100	50
Group total	6,697	6,444	72	67
<i>Sexual offences:</i>				
16 Burglary	53	65	80	89
17 Attempt to commit burglary, etc.	256	352	76	82
18 Indecency between males	550	539	99	100
19 Rape	93	128	70	82
20 Indecent assault on a female	789	723	52	51
21 Unlawful sexual intercourse with girl under 13	25	28	89	85
22 Unlawful sexual intercourse with girl under 16	234	197	81	76
23 Incest	36	18	95	75
24 Procurement	8	1	100	100
25 Abduction	9	9	90	82
26 Bigamy	34	36	94	103
Group total	2,087	2,096	70	70
<i>Burglary:</i>				
28 Burglary in a dwelling	5,895	6,218	14	13
29 Aggravated burglary in a dwelling	34	35	61	64
30 Burglary in a building other than a dwelling	6,265	6,859	21	18
31 Aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling	10	18	18	95
33 Going equipped for stealing, etc.	1,438	1,825	100	100
Group total	13,642	14,955	18	17

APPENDIX 12 (continued)

Offences	Number of offences cleared up*		Percentage of offences cleared up	
	1973	1974	1973	1974
<i>Robbery:</i>				
34 Robbery	920	903	34	29
<i>Theft and handling stolen goods:</i>				
39 Theft from the person of another	760	1,035	15	12
40 Theft in a dwelling other than from automatic machine or meter	2,672	2,590	17	17
41 Theft by an employee	4,850	5,597	94	93
42 Theft or unauthorized taking from mail	20	21	67	70
44 Theft of pedal cycle	806	823	8	7
45 Theft from vehicle	5,463	6,126	10	10
46 Shoplifting	15,749	18,850	91	93
47 Theft from automatic machine or meter	588	586	12	12
48 Theft or unauthorized taking of motor vehicle	10,264	12,269	24	21
49 Other theft or unauthorized taking	10,094	10,867	16	16
54 Handling stolen goods	6,422	7,355	100	100
Group total	57,598	66,179	26	25
<i>Fraud and forgery:</i>				
51 Fraud by company director, etc.	21	14	100	93
52 False accounting	348	342	103	100
53 Other fraud	17,495	16,462	67	68
60 Forgery or uttering drug prescription	178	195	77	72
61 Other forgery or uttering	3,353	2,487	63	63
Group total	21,293	19,500	67	65
<i>Criminal damage:</i>				
56 Arson	308	311	44	43
57 Criminal damage endangering life	6	12	17	27
58a Other criminal damage	2,620	3,359	28	25
59 Threat, etc., to commit criminal damage	58	101	85	91
Group total	3,052	3,783	30	27

APPENDIX 12 (continued)

Offences	Number of offences cleared up*		Percentage of offences cleared up	
	1973	1974	1973	1974
<i>Other offences:</i>				
35 Blackmail	114	158	82	82
62 High treason	—	—	—	—
63 Treason (low)	—	—	—	—
64 Riot	2	—	100	—
65 Unlawful assembly	—	—	—	—
66 Other offence against the State or public order	29	38	100	106
67 Forgery	31	28	103	97
68 Libel	—	8	—	69
76 Aiding suicide	—	—	—	—
99 Other indictable offences	330	265	98	95
Group total	506	497	94	91
Grand total	105,795	114,357	50	28

* The figures of offences cleared up may include crimes recorded in previous years. For this reason, the percentages of offences cleared up may exceed 100 in some instances.

APPENDIX 13

Indictable offences known to police in 1974, by value of property (including cash) stolen

Offence (Home Office classification)	Value of property stolen						Total number of offences
	Nil	Under £5	£5-£24	£25-£99	£100-£499	£100-£999 and over	
28, 29 Burglary—in dwelling	4,346	3,359	9,452	12,759	14,102	2,623	48,505
30, 31 Burglary—in non-residential building .. .	4,367	4,285	9,223	9,174	7,686	1,395	37,433
Total for burglaries	8,913	7,644	18,675	21,933	21,788	4,020	85,338
34 Robbery .. .	476	550	714	591	441	117	2,522
48 Theft or unauthorized taking of motor vehicle .. .	923	79	856	8,725	35,755	9,379	2,297
39 Theft from the person	354	1,407	3,868	1,988	624	64	48
40 Theft in a dwelling (except from motor, etc.) .. .	114	2,557	4,887	5,463	2,241	243	138
41 Theft by employee .. .	11	1,185	1,581	1,413	1,291	291	266
42 Theft from mail .. .	—	15	11	3	1	—	30
44 Theft of postal cycle .. .	—	561	7,502	4,314	32	—	12,429
45 Theft from "vehicles" .. .	945	8,285	21,077	25,282	7,429	762	310
46 Shoplifting .. .	27	11,733	6,600	1,583	270	31	20,236
47 Theft from motor, etc. .. .	154	1,309	2,786	569	8	1	—
49 Other theft or unauthorized taking .. .	649	13,365	24,187	18,809	8,450	1,212	788
Total for other thefts .. .	2,254	40,519	72,899	59,424	20,366	2,604	1,760
							199,826

* In cases where the vehicle was moved, the value of property stolen excludes the value of the vehicle.

APPENDIX 14

Details of crimes of violence known to police in 1974

A: Breakdown by Home Office classification

Classification	Number of offences
<i>Homicide, assaults, etc.</i>	
1, 4 Homicide and causing death by dangerous driving	268
2, 3 Attempts and threats to murder	113
5, 8, 9 Wounding and assault	9,168
16, 17 Burglary (part)	48
19 Rape	156
20 Indecent assault on a female (part)	151
Group total	9,924
<i>Robbery and other violent thefts:</i>	
34 Robbery	3,151
30, 31 Burglary (part)	55
31, 39 Demanding money with menaces and miscellaneous (part)	75
39 Theft from the person (articles)	2,289
Group total	5,570

B: Breakdown by the circumstances in which the offences occurred

Offences	Assaults, etc.	Robberies	Other violent thefts
<i>Robberies, etc., of business property:</i>			
—In transit	1	372	41
—On premises		816	18
<i>Robberies, etc., of personal property, where no previous association between assailant and victim:</i>			
—Following sudden attack:			
—In the open	73	1,454	2,013
—In other public places		179	188
—Following illegal entry	20	161	54
—Following short association	21	83	28
<i>Other violence, where no previous association known:</i>			
—Actual motive/attack	277	—	—
—Wanton discharge of firearms	142	—	—
—Attacks by members of the public on staff	478	—	—
—Others	5,115	—	—
<i>Robberies and other violence, where assailant related or known to victim</i>	3,015	46	70
<i>Attacks on police</i>	500	—	—
<i>Conspiracies and miscellaneous</i>	190	47	7
Totals	9,924	3,151	2,419

APPENDIX 14 (continued)

C: Breakdown by the principal type of weapon known to have been involved, if any

Type of weapon	Assaults, etc.	Robberies	Other violent thefts
Firearm, fired	259	30	—
Firearm (real, imitation or supposed), not fired	52	392	9
Sharp instrument	1,684	518	14
Blunt instrument	1,569	525	15
Noxious substance	63	35	7
Explosives	25	—	—
Totals of offences in which weapons were involved	3,652	1,233	45
No weapons involved	6,272	1,918	2,374
Overall totals	9,924	3,151	2,419

D: Breakdown on the basis of whether injury occurred

Cause of injury, if any	Assaults, etc.	Robberies	Other violent thefts
Injury caused by use of weapon involved	3,511	269	29
Injury caused otherwise (by punching or pushing, etc.)	6,249	1,962	540
No injury caused	164	1,040	1,850
Overall totals	9,924	3,151	2,419

APPENDIX 15

Accidents involving death or personal injury since 1965

Year	Number of accidents involving death or personal injury				Increase or decrease on previous year	
	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total	Number	Per cent
1965	849	10,950	52,234	64,033	+2,370	+4
1966	839	10,231	49,216	60,386	-3,727	-6
1967	750	9,521	43,439	53,750	-4,376	-8
1968	659	9,484	43,953	54,096	+76	+1
1969	718	9,837	43,288	53,893	-163	-1
1970	761	9,422	46,095	56,188	+2,295	+4
1971	739	8,944	44,669	54,352	-1,836	-3
1972	759	8,731	46,743	56,233	+1,881	+4
1973	697	8,036	45,532	54,265	-1,968	-3
1974	680	7,817	45,550	53,047	-1,228	-6

APPENDIX 16

Monthly accident totals

Month	1973	1974	Increase or decrease in 1974	
			Number	Per cent
January	4,610	4,248	-362	-8
February	4,058	3,325	-733	-18
March	4,643	4,013	-630	-14
April	4,318	3,819	-499	-12
May	4,637	4,532	-105	-2
June	4,447	4,248	-199	-4
July	4,457	4,071	-386	-9
August	4,230	3,882	-348	-8
September	4,595	4,691	+96	+2
October	4,850	4,737	-113	-2
November	4,713	4,837	+124	+3
December	4,707	4,064	-643	-14

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APPENDIX 17

Accident characteristics

	Vehicles per accident										Total
	One	One and more than	Total one	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight or more	
All accidents	378	221	599	870	69	2	2	1	—	—	1,542
Accidents involving personal injury	2,779	5,531	8,310	8,463	1,131	19	15	—	—	—	19,463
Accidents involving death	963	2,317	3,280	6,077	599	74	3	—	—	—	10,952
Accidents involving personal injury or death	1,816	2,888	4,704	4,770	675	93	18	—	—	—	12,058
Accidents involving death or personal injury	1,664	4,819	6,483	5,571	1,001	107	21	2	—	—	15,480
Not all are within 50 years of a crossing	8,318	14,584	22,902	24,537	3,571	439	65	8	3	2	51,044
Persons involved	—	91	91	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	99
Persons involved	—	910	910	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	944
Persons involved	—	2,559	2,559	110	9	—	—	—	—	—	2,679
Persons involved	—	3,242	3,242	155	10	—	—	—	—	—	3,913

* Accidents involving pedestrians, on or within 50 yards of a crossing. Prior to 1969 this section of the table included all accidents whether or not a pedestrian was involved.

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Vehicles involved in accidents

Types of vehicle	Numbers involved in		Percentage of total in		Percentage increase or decrease in 1974
	1973	1974	1973	1974	
Pedal cycles	4,045	3,854	4.6	4.6	- 4
Mopeds	1,650	1,664	1.9	2.0	+ 1
Motor scooters	880	564	1.0	0.7	- 36
Motor cycles	6,471	7,186	7.4	8.6	+ 11
Motor cycle, scooter or moped combinations	94	63	0.1	0.1	- 31
Cars and cabs	57,899*	54,431*	65.7	65.3	- 5
Buses and coaches	4,942	4,061	5.5	4.6	- 16
Goods vehicles— not over 1½ tons†	7,121	6,546	8.1	7.8	- 8
over 1½ tons†	1,250	1,229	1.4	1.3	- 1
over 3 tons†	2,112	1,578	2.4	1.9	- 25
Other motor vehicles	1,371	1,550	1.8	1.9	+ 1
Other non-motor vehicles	53	52	0.1	0.1	- 2
All types	88,089	82,416	100.0	100.0	- 5

* One or more cabs were involved in 1,373 accidents in 1973 and in 1,205 accidents in 1974.
† Unladen weight.

APPENDIX 19

Deaths and injuries by classes of road users

Class of persons killed or injured	Deaths	Serious injuries	Slight injuries	Total casualties
Pedestrians				
1974 totals	382	3,335	13,059	16,776
Comparison with 1973:				
Number	-15	-172	- 964	-1,151
Per cent.	- 4	- 5	- 7	- 6
Pedal cyclists				
1974 totals	22	409	3,239	3,670
Comparison with 1973:				
Number	- 9	- 6	- 172	- 187
Per cent.	- 29	- 1	- 5	- 5
Motor cyclists*				
1974 totals	74	1,307	6,882	8,263
Comparison with 1973:				
Number	+19	+ 22	+ 246	+ 287
Per cent.	+35	+ 2	+ 4	+ 4
Other road users†				
1974 totals	244	3,802	31,863	35,909
Comparison with 1973:				
Number	+ 6	-149	-3,412	-3,555
Per cent.	+ 3	- 4	- 10	- 9
All road users				
1974 totals	722	8,853	55,043	64,618
Comparison with 1973:				
Number	+ 1	-305	-4,302	-4,606
Per cent.	...	- 3	- 7	- 7

* Includes riders of mopeds, scooters, motor cycles and motor cycle combinations.
† Mainly drivers of, and passengers in, vehicles.

APPENDIX 20

Child casualties

Age	Total casualties		Number injured		Number killed	
	Pedal cycles	Others	Pedal cycles	Others	Pedal cycles	Others
Under 2 years	174	115	172	113	39	23
2 years	176	116	176	109	39	23
3 years	180	118	180	109	39	23
4 years	180	118	180	109	39	23
5 years	180	118	180	109	39	23
6 years	180	118	180	109	39	23
7 years	180	118	180	109	39	23
8 years	180	118	180	109	39	23
9 years	180	118	180	109	39	23
10 years	180	118	180	109	39	23
11 years	180	118	180	109	39	23
12 years	180	118	180	109	39	23
13 years	180	118	180	109	39	23
14 years	180	118	180	109	39	23
Totals (under 15 years)	1,430	959	1,424	959	341	204
1973 totals	1,520	1,099	1,594	1,010	370	210

APPENDIX 21

Traffic offences dealt with by proceedings or formal caution*

Office	Number of offences		Proceedings by means of				Formal cautions†	
			Charges		Summonses			
	1973	1974	1973	1974	1973	1974	1973	1974
Theft or unauthorized taking of motor vehicle	12,624	12,378	10,131	9,574	1,429	1,437	1,064	1,367
Drink and driving	13,322‡	12,603	5,917	5,400	7,405	7,203	—	—
Inconsiderate driving, including dangerous and careless driving, neglect of signals and directions, moving vehicle offences at pedestrian crossings, etc.	45,600	38,611	1,567	1,485	40,898	34,851	3,135	2,275
Exceeding speed limits, including limits applicable to roads and those applicable to particular classes of vehicle	17,638	17,813	160	238	17,339	17,416	139	159
Obstruction by stationary vehicles, including dangerous position, within the limits of pedestrian crossings, unauthorized waiting in controlled parking zones, etc. . .	38,037	38,184	743	515	33,205	34,159	4,089	3,510
Lighting offences	3,805	4,081	89	68	2,451	3,200	1,265	813
Vehicles or parts in dangerous or defective condition . .	22,734	15,311	1,067	732	20,381	13,584	1,286	995
Other offences related to vehicles, including those in respect of driving licences, insurance and test certificates, and to pedal cycles	82,504	81,634	25,191	21,110	50,702	55,081	6,611	5,443
Offences by pedestrians	8,951	8,938	8,876	8,784	60	127	15	27
Totals	245,215	229,553	53,741	47,906	173,870	167,058	17,604	14,589

* This appendix shows the number of individual offences on which action was completed during 1973 and 1974. It cannot be directly related to Appendix 9 in that some persons were charged with or summoned for more than one offence.

† "Formal cautions" includes written cautions and cautions by senior officers of juveniles in the presence of their parents.

‡ Not 13,327 as erroneously shown in Appendix 24 of last year's Report.

APPENDIX 22

Quarterly statistics of breath tests, analyses of specimens, etc.

	1973	1974				
	Total	Jan.-March	April-June	July-Sept.	Oct.-Dec.	Total
<i>At scene. Breath tests and arrests</i>						
Total of persons required to take breath test or arrested under S.5(5), R.T. Act 1972	28,156	6,437	6,118	5,823	5,989	24,367
Breath test negative	5,253	1,270	869	762	908	3,809
Breath test positive	19,638	4,374	4,461	4,300	4,129	17,264
Breath test refused	2,075	487	437	437	520	1,871
Arrest without breath test (S.5(5), R.T. Act 1972)	1,185	306	351	334	432	1,423
Total persons arrested/reported	22,898	5,167	5,249	5,061	5,081	20,558
<i>At station. Negative breath tests at stations and specimens for analysis</i>						
Breath test negative	1,812	460	434	436	421	1,751
Blood specimen given	18,603	4,113	4,202	4,045	4,062	16,422
Urine specimen given	1,659	403	418	381	376	1,578
Specimen refused	819	195	194	203	227	819
Totals	22,893	5,171	5,248	5,068	5,086	20,570
<i>Analysis of specimens</i>						
Under prescribed limits	5,316	1,090	1,022	961	923	3,996
Over prescribed limits	14,425	3,313	3,529	3,380	3,477	13,669
Not analysed—specimen insufficient or spoiled, etc. . . .	520	113	69	75	78	335
Total analyses, etc.	20,262	4,516	4,620	4,425	4,438	18,000

APPENDIX 23

Fixed penalty notices issued

Offences	By police			By traffic wardens			Totals		
	1973	1974	Increase or decrease in 1974	1973	1974	Increase or decrease in 1974	1973	1974	Increase or decrease in 1974
Parking place offences in controlled parking zones	5,055	7,153	+ 2,098	610,563	604,666	- 5,897	615,620	611,819	- 3,801
Restricted street offences in controlled parking zones	16,407	19,790	+ 3,383	779,414	865,360	+ 85,946	795,821	885,150	+ 89,329
Restricted street offences outside controlled parking zones (not clearways)	19,945	21,210	+ 1,265	359,084	340,965	- 18,119	379,029	362,175	- 16,854
Clearway offences	8,264	7,735	- 529	131,140	138,199	+ 7,059	139,404	145,934	+ 6,530
Vehicle lighting offences	1,321	1,097	- 224	361	73	- 288	1,682	1,170	- 512
Waiting offences on cab ranks	1,699	923	- 776	3,690	3,124	- 566	5,389	4,047	- 1,342
Waiting offences at bus stops	154	470	+ 316	228	1,427	+ 1,199	382	1,897	+ 1,515
Unspecified	21	37	+ 16	194	106	- 88	215	143	- 72
All offences	52,866	58,415	+ 5,549	1,884,676	1,953,920	+ 69,244	1,937,542	2,012,335	+ 74,793

APPENDIX 24

Results of appeals made on the London Weekend Television programmes "Police 5" and "Police 5 Special"

Subjects of appeals	Total number of cases shown on television	Cases in which there was no response	Cases in which information of no immediate use was received	Cases in which information received was of direct use in the investigation	Number of arrests directly attributable to the appeals
Murders and assaults	48	3	21	24	11
Bomb incidents	11	5	12	36	9
Robberies	53	—	5	3	1
Abductions/missing persons	7	—	1	3	5
Lorry hijackings	4	—	8	8	18
Thefts of paintings, antiques, silverware, objects d'art	20	4	10	15	25
Thefts of clothing and accessories	29	4	17	7	6
Thefts of jewellery, clocks, watches, lighters, metal	28	4	11	11	17
Thefts of food, drink, tobacco, radio and electrical equipment, cameras, musical instruments, furnishings	25	3	2	3	—
Missing vehicles	5	—	20	15	18
Property in police possession	15	—	9	7	1
Miscellaneous	17	1	—	—	—
Totals	282	24	121	137	111
Value of response (per cent)		8	43	49	
1973 figures for comparison:					
Totals	241	40	92	109	88
Value of response (per cent)		17	38	45	