

## He was divisional commander with police



*Mr NORMAN BURNS*

**RETIRED** police chief superintendent Mr Norman Burns, whose police career in the North-east spanned nearly 40 years, died at his home at 9 Grant Street, Elgin, yesterday. He was 69.

Born at Coupar Angus, he joined the police in 1939 and was stationed at Fraserburgh before serving as a captain with the Gordon Highlanders during the war. He also had a spell with the Commandos.

After further brief spells of police service at Fraserburgh, Cults and Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, he was promoted to sergeant in 1949. He moved to Elgin the following year.

In the mid-1950s he served at Banchory before moving back to Fraserburgh as inspector-in-charge in 1958.

In 1965 he returned to Elgin as chief inspector and rose to become the area's divisional commander, retiring in 1976.

He became secretary of the Moray Licensed Trade Association, and, in recent years, had been the chief guide at the Tamdhu Distillery reception centre at Knockando on Speyside.

He was a past president and active member of Elgin Rotary Club, and played a prominent part in the organisation of the now annual North of Scotland Bothy Ballads competition.

He was also a committee member of the Banff and Moray members' centre of the National Trust for Scotland.

Mr Burns, a recognised authority on the works of Robert Burns, was in popular demand throughout the country as a speaker at Burns' Suppers.

He is survived by his second wife, Janet, and by two married daughters.