

Scottish Police War Record

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POST-WAR POLICE Ex-Servicemen Only as Recruits

SCOTTISH WAR RECORD

ENTRANCE to the Police Force directly after the war is likely to be restricted to Servicemen.

"For two or three years after the war," said Brigadier-General R. M. Dudgeon, D.S.O., M.C., H.M. Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland, speaking at the weekly Press Conference in St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, yesterday, "with the exception of young lads in the Police service at the moment as boy clerks, there will be no entrants into the Police, except those who have served their King and country in battle. It is only just that the ex-Serviceman should have the right to a steady job, reasonably paid, and a reasonably good home."

Asked whether this was an official decision, General Dudgeon said:—"It is not absolutely official, but Chief Constables are right-minded on this."

MISGUIDED MUD-SLINGING

Speaking of the record of the Scottish police during the war, General Dudgeon said that, in the first two years of it, young constables had a lot of mud slung at their heads. It was said by misguided people that they were dodging the Fighting Services. The reply to that was that they were "frozen." He had at least 800 letters from young constables, pleading with him to get them out. They were not allowed to go. There was the scare of invasion, and the Government thought it essential that, if things did go wrong, there would be a strong force of experienced officers to deal with the situation.

Five young constables deserted from the Scottish Police and were found in the Services. They were not too harshly dealt with, but disciplinary action had to be taken.

General Dudgeon called attention to the record of service of regular Police officers in Scotland, serving with the Navy, Army, R.A.F., and A.M.G.O.T. to December 31 last. This showed that there were 1200 officers on service, and that of these 89 had been killed or had died from wounds, and that the following decorations had been won:—1 D.S.O., 1 D.F.C., M.M. and Bar, 10 D.F.C.s, 1 M.C., 1 D.F.M., 1 D.C.M., and 2 M.M. The following commissions have been granted to members of the Scottish Force:—Royal Navy, 17 Sub-Lieutenants and 4 Lieutenants; Fleet Air Arm, 3 Pilot Officers; Royal Marines, 1 Second Lieutenant; Army, 17 Second Lieutenants, 62 Lieutenants, 16 Captains, 3 Majors, and 3 Lieutenant-Colonels; R.A.F., 37 Flying Officers, 40 Pilot Officers, and 9 Flight-Lieutenants; Amgot, 13 Lieutenants, 4 Captains, 1 Major, 3 Lieutenant-Colonels, and 1 Colonel.

With the exception of those in A.M.G.O.T., all these commissions were granted to young constables.