



The South Australian Police Historical Society Incorporated.

Patron – Mr. G. Stevens, APM , Commissioner of Police

Police Barracks, Port Road, Adelaide, South Australia.

Postal Address: SA Police Historical Society (33)

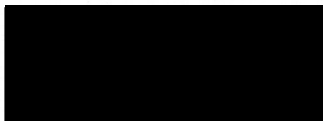
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The South Australian Police Historical Society is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission ABN: 52 532 096 208.

18 August 2016



Dear Luke,

Thank you for your request for information from us on Lawrence Vernon LENTON.

Please find enclosed in our research folder a receipt for payment for Researching Fees together with a DVD containing photographs of Lawrence which we have on our database.

I have also enclosed information relative to the photographs, a copy of Lawrence's Service Record and a copy of a newspaper clipping.

I hope that this folder will meet with your satisfaction. I regret that we could not find a 'portrait' photograph for you, but unfortunately we do not have this on file.

Thank you again for your request.

Yours faithfully,

Kate Woodcock
Photographic Section/Researcher
SA Police Historical Society Inc.

NAME LENTON, Laurence Vernon REG. No. 631 DISTRICT Metro.

Date Joined Service 27/1/1947 Retiring Date 30/6/1980 Date of Birth 17/8/1919

Ranks	Date of Appt. (Substantive)	Date of Appt. (Acting)	Other Ranks	Date of Appt.	Examinations Passed Date Gazette
Const. (Appt. confirmed)	<u>27/1/48</u>		Junior Const. . .		Det. 2/Gde. <u>12/4/50</u>
1st Class Const. . . .	<u>10/8/57</u>		Special Const. <u>27/1/47</u>		Det. 1/Gde. . . .
Senior Const.	<u>10/8/61</u>		Proby. Const. . . <u>1/7/47</u>		Sergt. 3/Gde. <u>23/7/53</u> <u>37</u>
Sergt. 3/Gde.		<u>2/10/61</u>	Det. Const. 2/Gde. <u>22/3/54</u>		Sergt. 2/Gde. <u>2/9/58</u>
Sergt. 2/Gde.			Det. Const. 1/Gde. . . .		Sergt. 1/Gde. . . .
Sergt. 1/Gde.			Det. Sergt. 3/Gde. . . .		Insp. 3/Class. <u>21.9.61</u>
Senior Sergt.			Det. Sergt. 2/Gde. . . .		WAR SERVICE
Insp. 3/Class	<u>14/12/61</u>		Det. Sergt. 1/Gde. . . .		R/S. RAN
Insp. 2/Class	<u>17/12/64</u>		Det. Senior Sergt. . . .		REMARKS
Insp. 1/Class	<u>4.1.68</u>				Designated Det. <u>10/8/57</u>
Sen. Insp.	<u>8/2/73</u>				
Superintendent	<u>1/4/74</u>				

1500-3.53 2416
CI SUPT

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Name LENTON, Laurence Vernon

P.A. 27/1/48

LENTON Laurence Vernon
Awards, Good Work, Commendations, etc.

Offences and Punishments

1500-10.51 129

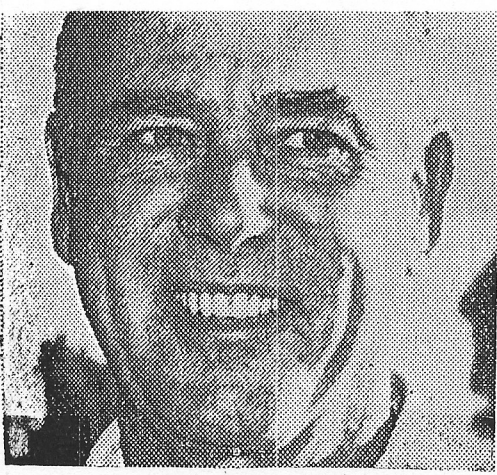
Queens Police Medal 1970

LONG SERVICE & GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL 1971

FAMILY.	ADDRESS.	OTHER QUALIFICATIONS	RATINGS.
M 11.12.46	131 Collins St.	Inter Cert.	
M 10.4.50	Broadview Gdns.	Engine Watch Keepers Cert.	1959 Ot
M 10.12.51	261.1904	St. Johns Amb. First Aid Cert.	1960 Ot
		Public Speaking Cert.	1961 Ot
		Leave Bank Committee.	
		* See Personal File	
		Proclaimed member of Police Force under 1904 Act	

NAME	TENURE	TALENTED PERSON	SENIORITY AS
5537/2	10	10	10

LAW-ENFORCING LENTONS



The Lenton law-enforcers. From left — First Class Constable R. Lenton, Chief Superintendent L. V. Lenton, Senior Chief Superintendent N. R. Lenton, Inspector D. N. Lenton.

POLICEMEN WITH GUNS

Generations of New Zealanders have taken for granted that an unarmed police force is fundamental to their sort of law enforcement. Inevitably it becomes a matter of real public concern when an annual report of the Police Department warns Parliament that this much cherished concept may be in jeopardy, unless recent trends in the use of weapons by criminals are checked.

Behind the carefully chosen words of the report lies, quite obviously, a disturbing sense of frustration. For this, much of the blame must rest on a society that sometimes seems more preoccupied with protecting the civil rights of lawbreakers than with caring for the rights of the police. When, it could fairly be asked, have demonstrators taken to the streets to protest against the bashing of a policeman?

Yet the incidence of assaults on members of the force in carrying out the duties for which the public, no less, employs them has reached alarming proportions. Just as disturbing should be the ease with which the delinquent and the criminal can gain possession of lethal weapons.

Proposed amendments to legislation may remove some of the handicaps under which the force labours at present. If the changes are ineffective, the annual report says, police service organisations may make representations for their members to be provided with means to protect themselves.

But would not the abandonment of the principle of an un-

armed force increase, rather than reduce, the risks? The report itself admits it would be a retrograde step. Would it not encourage the sort of street gun battles that have become a horrible part of police work in some other countries? To the sick mind, policemen with guns are likely to represent a challenge rather than a deterrent. It is also an unhappy fact that an armed police force usually operates in an armed society.

It would be misleading to suggest that policemen in this country, when selected for dangerous patrols and duties, are not issued with firearms. But to arm the force in general, and as a matter of routine, would be something altogether different. It must increase the dimensions of danger not only for the police but also for innocent bystanders.

The better solution surely lies not in more guns but in stepping up the control of lethal weapons. Condign penalties for misuse could be more effective, and certainly would be more preferable than armed warfare between police and criminals.

Perhaps, too, the concept of armed offenders squads — one of the most successful of modern police innovations — is capable of further development and adaptation to meet wider needs. But in the final analysis, the solution — with or without an armed force — must come from Parliament, the courts and the public. The community must stand by the police; conversely, police standards are shaped largely by public attitudes.

Senior Chief Superintendent Noel ("Knocker") Lenton, who will retire this week from the SA Police Force to become an Investigator in the Crown Law Department, is the senior of four Lentons in the Force.

His brother Laurie was recently promoted from superintendent to chief superintendent. His son Dean has just been made an inspector, and his nephew Robert is a first class constable.

Senior Chief Superintendent Lenton, a Queen's Police Medal holder, was awarded four honorable mentions and two special mentions during his police career of 41 years.

Noel Lenton's friends do not know the origin of the nickname "Knocker," and neither does he, although he recalls that he "pugged a bit" in the old days and fought in the police boxing championships at the Town Hall in his youth.

He will be farewelled at the Police Retiring Officers Dinner at the Hotel Australia tomorrow night along with 15 other old colleagues, including Chief Inspector Paul Turner, Constable Mick Galvin and Detective-Sergeants Bob Hule and Jack Giles.

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