

Under Orders Dan Orchmyn



In 1879, the Chief Constable, Major Leadbetter, moved into his new office here in County Buildings, Wrexham's new police station. From this building, the Chief Constable issued orders and reminders, publicly acknowledged good policing and punished those whose behaviour fell below his high standards:

June 4th 1879 – The Chief Constable wishes all men who can grow good beards and moustaches to do so, those who cannot are not to wear chin tufts, but to shave as formerly.

1880 Government Inspection – When the inspecting officer approaches, the men will be called to attention. Not a man will move a muscle, but all are to look straight to the front. Belts are to be worn and not too loose. Hair to be cut short.

December 27th 1882 – In future whenever a sentence of flogging is to be carried out, it must be in the presence of a Sergeant or other superior officer who will report to the Chief Constable in writing that the punishment was properly inflicted.

August 27th 1885 – The Chief Constable further cautions the men to be careful on duty not to allow themselves to be treated to leave their posts for refreshment without proper permission to do so. The credit of the force suffers in the eyes of the public by such conduct. Duty first. Pleasure afterwards. Don't mix the two.

November 12th 1888 – To Superintendants Concerned: Police Constables who are ordered to move will invariably leave to their successor the names of any bad or suspicious characters on their beats. These names are to be treated in perfect confidence.

December 13th 1889 – The Chief Constable again wishes Constables to understand that it is no part of their duty to caution a prisoner on his being apprehended. To interrogate him is of course wrong, but to stop a man's own statement is to defect the ends of justice.

October 27th 1890 – Complaints of lads annoying young women on the streets at night have been received. Every effort must be made by the Police particularly on Saturday and Sunday night to put a stop to such annoyances.

June 10th 1891 – The Superintendants will instruct their men to pay more attention to locomotives used on the highways and see that there is a man 20 yards at least in advance and that the person in charge produces a licence on being asked to do so.

June 29th 1891 – The Chief Constable is extremely satisfied at the zeal and activity displayed by PCs Beresford and Lea in the capture of two burglars at Holt.

Yn 1879, symudodd y Prif Gwnstabl, yr Uwchgapten Leadbetter, i'w swyddfa newydd yma yn Adeiladau'r Sir, gorsaf newydd yr heddlu yn Wrecsam. O'r adeilad hwn y bu'r Prif Gwnstabl yn rhoi gorchmynion a nodiadau atgoffa, yn cydnabod plismona da ar goedd ac yn cosbi'r rhai nad oedd eu hymddygiad yn cyrraedd ei safonau uchel:

December 12th 1896 – PC30 Davies is dismissed for giving unreliable evidence in Court. The Chief Constable impresses on the force the great dangers of untruthfulness; the innocent may be punished and the guilty escape if the Constable does not speak the truth.

November 11th 1897 – The Chief Constable is much pleased to recognise the plucky action of PC30 Morgan in stopping a runaway horse, an act always accompanied by considerable danger. (PC Morgan promoted to 2nd Class and 1st Class if completes another 12 months' service well.)

January 21st 1901 – In consequence of the death of Her Majesty The Queen, the Denbighshire Constabulary will wear a Mourning Band on the left arm of their great Coat and Tunic.

June 22nd 1902 – Innkeepers and the Coronation: I am strongly opposed to any extension of time, generally, on Coronation Day. The usual hours of closing are ample for all ordinary purposes of refreshment and any extension tends to a prolongation of the excitement attending such functions.

May 20th 1903 – The attention of the Police is directed to the dangerous speed of Motor Cars, The outside limit speed is 14 miles an hour, but any speed which is to the common danger renders drivers of motors liable to prosecution.

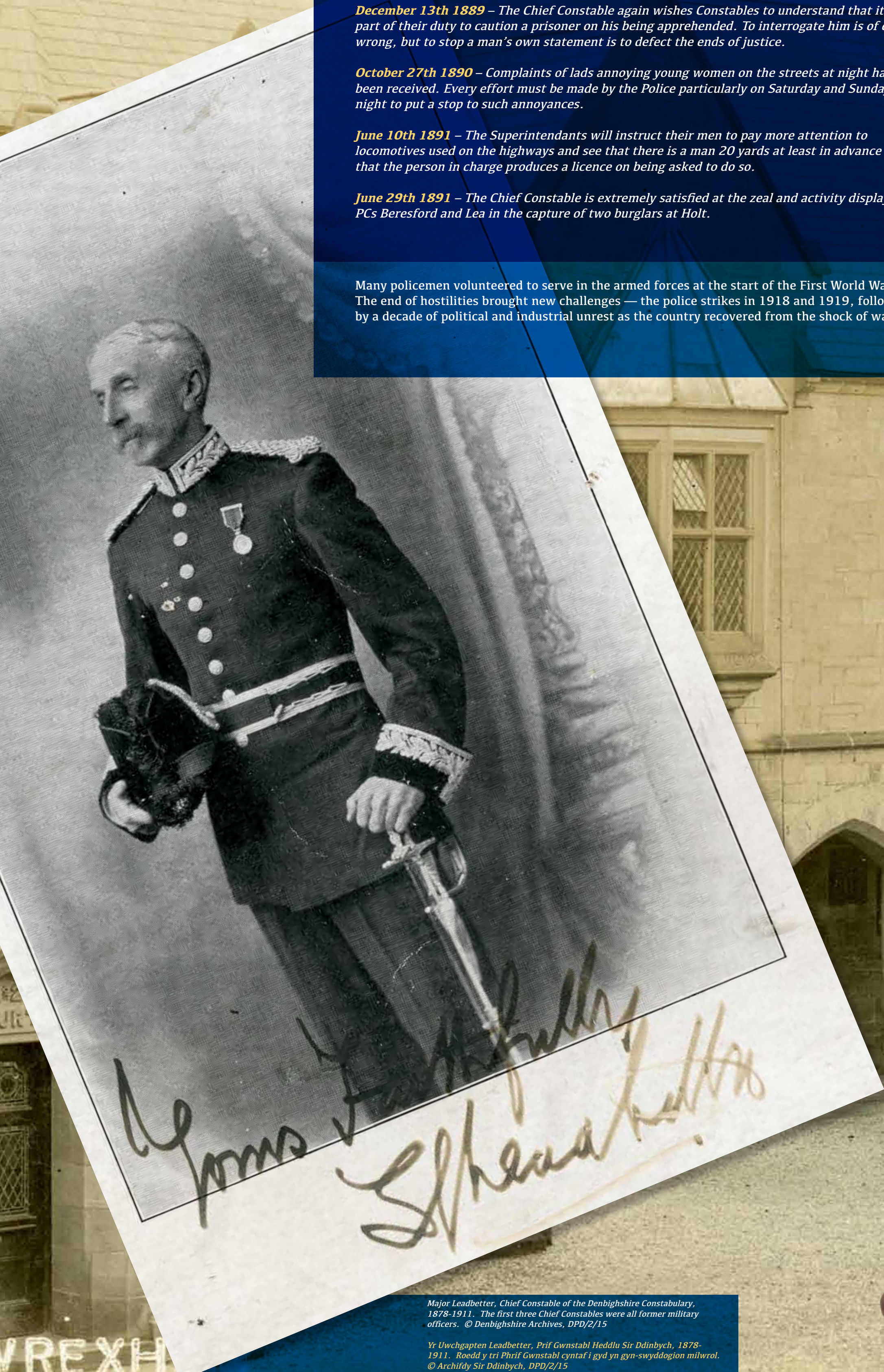
January 6th 1910 – Parliamentary Election 1910 – Constables in charge of Polling Booths will not permit any woman to enter a polling booth on Election Day.

August 23rd 1912 – Conveyance of Prisoners to Prison – If a prisoner destroys his clothes whilst confined in the Police cells, he should be provided with the necessary clothing to ensure decency, and must not be conveyed to prison in a sack or wrapped in a blanket. The clothes provided must be of the poorest possible quality, otherwise it will be an inducement for prisoners to destroy their own.

August 13th 1914 – Telegram – Home Office Please keep a special watch to prevent aliens travelling by night by motor car for purposes of committing outrages. Motor cars belonging to Germans may be seized. No German may possess a motor car without written permission of the police. Motor car garages should be warned not to hire cars to aliens.

Many policemen volunteered to serve in the armed forces at the start of the First World War. The end of hostilities brought new challenges — the police strikes in 1918 and 1919, followed by a decade of political and industrial unrest as the country recovered from the shock of war.

Gwirfoddolodd llawer o blismyn i wasanaethu yn y lluoedd arfog ar ddechrau'r Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf. Daeth diwedd y rhyfel â heriau newydd — streiciau'r heddlu yn 1918 ac 1919, yn cael eu dilyn gan ddegawd o anniddigrwydd gwleidyddol a diwydiannol wrth i'r wlad ddod ati i hun ar ôl braw'r rhyfel.



Major Leadbetter, Chief Constable of the Denbighshire Constabulary, 1878-1911. The first three Chief Constables were all former military officers. © Denbighshire Archives, DPD/2/15

Yr Uwchgapten Leadbetter, Prif Gwnstabl Heddlu Sir Ddinbych, 1878-1911. Roedd y tri Phrif Gwnstabl cyntaf i gyd yn gyn-swyddogion milwrol. © Archifdy Sir Ddinbych, DPD/2/15



The Bridewell Sergeant, who lived on the premises, was responsible for any prisoners in custody. The cells lined a corridor behind the arcade at the front of this building. (WREMA 2007.6)

Roedd Sarsiant y Carchar, oedd yn byw yn yr adeilad, yn gyfrifol am unrhyw garcharorion yn y ddalfa. Roedd y celloedd ar hyd coridor y tu ôl i'r arcêd ar flaen yr adeilad hwn. (WREMA 2007.6)