

Metropolitan and City Police Orphans Fund

To commemorate  
the restoration of the Orphans  
War Memorial Boards

*Viewed on 29th June 2005  
by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales*



*The original Metropolitan and City Police Orphanage,  
Strawberry Hill, Twickenham established January 1st 1870  
and the Swimming Pool*

*The Metropolitan and City Police Orphanage was established in January 1st, 1870, to afford relief to as many of the necessitous orphans of the members of the Metropolitan and City of London Police Forces as the funds would permit: to provide them with clothing, maintenance and education: and to place them out in situations where there was a prospect of a successful career being secured.*

*Opened in 1870 by the then Commissioner Lt. Col. Sir Edmund Henderson the orphanage over the years developed into one of the best institutions of its kind. Facilities included a swimming pool, cinema, hospital, workshops, school and accommodation for over 200 children. Prize Days were graced by the attendance of Royalty, Lords, Ladies and Members of Parliament.*

*Funding was obtained from member's subscriptions and donations from a very generous public. Children who were not admitted to the orphanage were granted a compassionate allowance for financial support at home.*



*The War Memorial Hospital,  
opened on 29th June 1923 by HRH The Prince of Wales  
and one of the wards*

*On Friday 29th June 1923, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales (Edward VIII) opened the new War Memorial Hospital, built within the grounds of the Orphanage as a permanent memorial to the memory of the 387 officers of the Metropolitan and City of London Police who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War.*

*Their names appeared on two memorial panels erected in the main hall of the building, which after the opening were dedicated and offered prayers to by the Right Rev. Herbert E. Ryle, K.C.V.O., D.D., Dean of Westminster.*



*One of the original Memorial Panels  
which were on view in the main hall of the  
War Memorial Hospital*

*The Police Pensions Act of 1921 hastened the closure of the orphanage as it provided an incentive for the widows to keep their children at home. In December 1936 there were 114 children in the orphanage and 406 outside receiving the compassionate allowance of £20 per child per annum. On 31st July 1937 the orphanage closed.*

*On closure, the Memorial Tablets were given to the Metropolitan Police Service for safe keeping and were displayed at Old Scotland Yard until its closure; they were subsequently discovered in the old stores at Brixton prior to being transferred to the museum stores at Charlton.*



1

2

3

4

1. The one remaining severely damaged War Memorial
2. Detail showing the laser cut recess lettering
3. Sycamore laser cut veneer letters being inserted by hand
4. Detail of one of the new carvings

*It was established that one of the War Memorial Tablets was missing and the other severely damaged, in that only the top half remained. It would appear that the War Memorial Tablets were the only memorial\* to those officers who gave their lives in The Great War.*

*So it was decided that these panels should be replicated and put on show, with The Metropolitan Police Service providing the finance to replace the lost and damaged items.*

*In the summer of 2003 Linbrook Services were commissioned by the Metropolitan Police Service to research and manage the replication of the panels.*

*Traditional and specialist joinery and carving skills had to be complimented with cutting edge laser technology; used to replace the long lost skills of inlaid veneer lettering.*

\*There is a permanent Roll of Honour in the form of a Memorial Book containing the names of 1,076 members of the MPS, both regulars and auxiliaries, who lost their lives in the two World Wars, either whilst serving in the Armed Forces or as a result of enemy action in this country. The book is on display in Westminster Abbey where it was unveiled and dedicated in 1950.



*Detail from one of the finished panels  
on show outside the Simpson Hall at Hendon*

*The finished panels are now in place on the walls outside  
Simpson Hall at Hendon Police Training College.*

**Metropolitan and City Police Orphans Fund**

30 Hazlewell Road, Putney, London SW15 6LH Tel: 020 8788 5140 Fax: 020 8789 7047

Email: [office@met-cityorphans.demon.co.uk](mailto:office@met-cityorphans.demon.co.uk)