

Constable John Wonnacott

John Wonnacott was a West Country man born 30th June 1845 in Abbotskerswell near Newton Abbott in Devon.

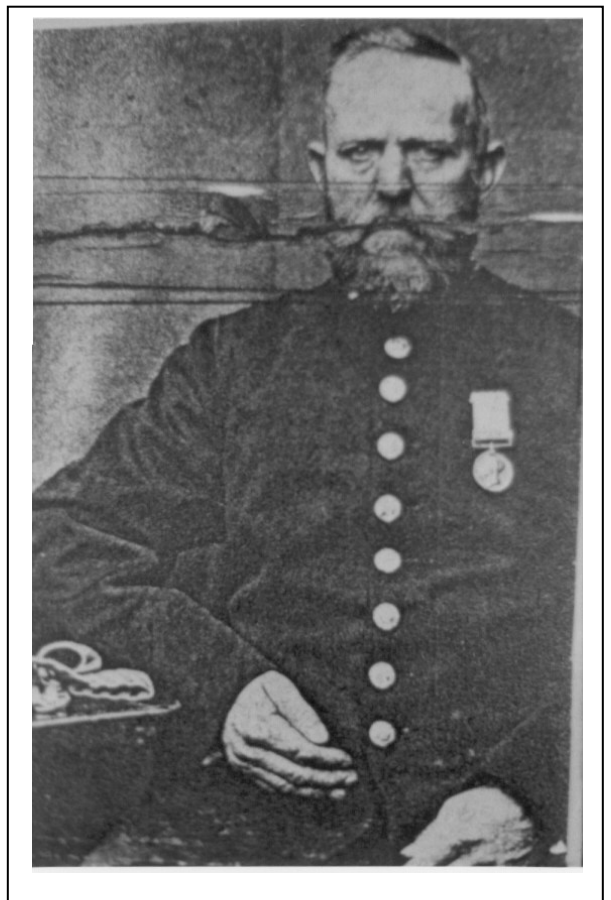
Prior to joining the police he worked as a labourer. On 30th October 1871 he joined the Metropolitan Police and was posted to the 'N' or Islington Division stationed in the Stoke Newington area. It appears that he retained the same divisional, collar number, of 383N throughout his service.

After serving ten years at Stoke Newington, on 19th September 1881, John was transferred to the Royal Gun Powder Factory [RGPF] at Waltham Abbey. He was thirty-six years old.

He spent seventeen years at the RGPF and does not appear in any surviving documents that might indicate his activities in this time. It is known that he was in receipt of both the 1887 Queen Victoria Jubilee medal and the bar marking 1897 Jubilee but only because of a photograph of him wearing it just before he retired.

He retired from the RGPF on 15th August 1898 having served for almost 27 years in the police; he was aged 53 years and a widower living at 8 Sidney Road, Waltham Cross. This road has since been demolished. His only next of kin was listed as his brother Edward.

An annual pension of £55.9s.4d was payable – the cost shared between the War Department and the Metropolitan Police. It is believed that he is the same man shown as a civilian chief clerk within the RGPF in 1910.



After the Great War he had moved to live at 13 Victoria Villas in Waltham Abbey. He died there aged 79 years on 1st February 1924 and was buried in the Old Town Cemetery on the 6th of the month.