

Sergeant Edward Banks

Edward Joseph Banks was born in Wimbledon on the 22nd September 1903, and at the age of twenty one joined the Metropolitan Police in August 1925. After initial training at Peel House, in Regency Street, S.W.1 he was posted to T Division as PC 451T.

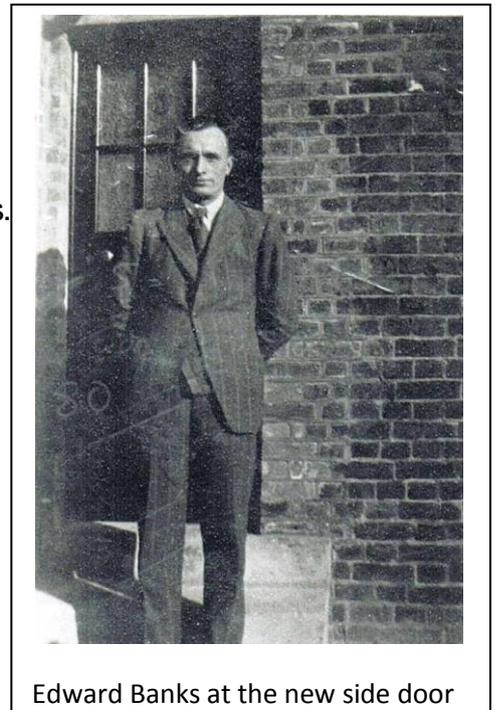
His initial service was at the Hounslow and Hammersmith police stations on T Division, prior to promotion to Acting Sergeant and a posting to the Isleworth station.

In 1928 he married Audrey, a marriage that was to bear them two children, a boy born in 1931 and a girl in 1937. In 1931 he received promotion to the rank of (full) sergeant and in August, following Edward's completion of the short course at Peel House Training School. In Pimlico the family packed up and moved into the accommodation in the police station in Sun Street. Audrey was already heavily pregnant. A month after arriving, on the 29th September, she gave birth to their first child David at the station.

As if the arrival of a first child were not traumatic enough the accommodations at the station were undergoing a major re-modelling, with the addition of partitions to the previously open plan and communal living quarters, and the opening of a doorway [see right] into the yard for the sole use of the residents. This doorway was to be used for residential access through until 1965 when the quarters were finally removed from the station.

In August of 1933 Waltham Abbey was one of those stations involved in the transfer from 'N' Division to 'J' Division, and Sergeant Banks relinquished his previous collar number of 92N in favour of a new number 95J.

The stay of the Banks family was quite short at Waltham Abbey as Edward continued to be, in modern parlance, 'Upwardly mobile'. He qualified for promotion to the SPS rank on the 13th December 1934, and the following year set off with his family to Lavender Hill, south of the Thames.



Edward Banks at the new side door

Later in his service Edward was also to serve as SPS at Battersea. In October 1936 he underwent one of the early driving courses at the Hendon Driving School in NW London before finally attaining the rank of Inspector prior to retiring in 1950 from service at Carter Street and Walworth Road.

Following retirement he moved down to Torquay with Audrey and died there in 1972, aged 69 years. Although Edward figured at Waltham Abbey in only a minor way, like very many of his ilk, here today and gone tomorrow, he did actually manage to feature, just once, in the Refused Charges Book in 1934 as well as the 1933 transfer list.

In 1987 his son David came to the station from his new home in South Hamilton, Massachusetts USA looking for his birth-place. It is amazing just how many people turned up at the police station door under similar circumstances.