

Constable Ernest Vincent

Ernest Frank Vincent joined the Metropolitan Police on Monday 26th October 1925. At that time the officers in training received their prospective divisional posting immediately, and he took up the collar number 113G from that date. After his training Ernest left the Peel House training school in Regency Street, Pimlico to work at City Road police station.

On the 16th August 1932 he transferred to N division, taking up a new divisional number of 463N at Waltham Abbey. The following year, at the time of the divisional change from 'N' to 'J', undertaken on the 1st August 1933, he changed his collar number to 464J.

During his service in the town police he had lived with his wife and family variously at 62. Honey Lane, Ruskin Avenue, Patmore Road and Pick Hill.



At the end of the 1939-45 war he was still living at the Pick Hill address, when he became embroiled in a dispute with a neighbour. The matter came to the notice of senior officers of the police service, and Ernest was sent for by them. The dispute was such that these senior officers decided that Ernest was in the wrong and that the only remedy was to transfer him to a distant beat.

Rather than suffer such an onerous transfer, he resigned from the service after twenty years on the beat. He had too many local connections to give them up. He bought four cottages, Prospect Cottages, in Copthall Green, Upshire, and set up as a nurseryman, growing mushrooms.

He later became a gardener to one of the large houses in the village. Following his death three of the four cottages were sold off, his wife retaining number 3. His twenty years service remained pensionable. His wife being an immensely proud 'police widow' until her death there in the late 1980's.