

Constable Edward Day

Edward Day was born in 1926.

After military service he joined the Metropolitan Police in 1953, he was then aged twenty-seven and was contracted to serve for 25 years.

After only one year's service he was posted to Waltham Abbey as P.C.333J in 1954. He was destined to remain at the station for the rest of his life.

He lived in a police supplied house situated within the 'New Road' estate in Princesfield, Upshire, with his wife, Pamela and five children. Many police at the time sought to leave police quarters and to use their rent allowance to pay a mortgage on a home of their own. Ted never did.

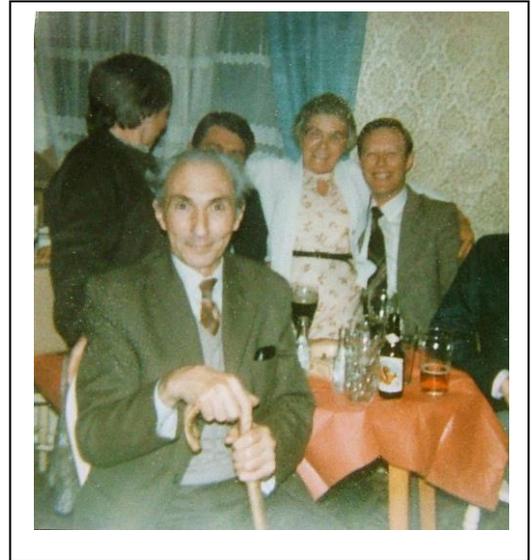
When the home beat system was introduced in 1965 he was allotted the Upshire beat, and remained on it for a number of years, before deciding to return to normal street duties with the relief, in 1974.



Having completed his required 25 years of service in 1978 he decided to complete 30 years and take a higher pension that would enable him to take a lump sum that would assist him in buying a house on retirement. He continued to remain on the harder normal duties rather than return to home beat or take up office duties to see him through to his target of 30 years.

In a profession where most were young and usually retired by the age of 50 Ted was always an older figure. His arrival on early turn was always the centre of attraction as he looked like death warmed up, although he was reportedly never placed sick throughout his service.

The jibes turned sour however shortly afterwards, when cancer was diagnosed. He deteriorated quickly and although he was not to retire a final retirement party was held for him in an upstairs room in The Sultan Public House in Sewardstone Road early in the summer of 1982. Virtually everyone of his colleagues was there.



Ted finally succumbed to the cancer on 25 July 1982 when he collapsed at home in the evening. By the time P.C. William Fox had arrived there, he had been taken to St.Margarets Hospital in Epping, being pronounced 'dead on arrival'

In spite of his obviously terminal illness he was always welcoming to visitors, and thoughtful of their discomfort, even managing typical black 'Police Humour' as to his ultimate fate.

On Friday 30 July he was buried at St. Thomas' Churchyard in Upshire. On the same day his death was announced in the local paper and Police Orders.

He would have completed his target of thirty years service the following January but there was still a silver lining to the story that illustrates the major advances in police pensions that had taken place over 100 years.

At this time 25 year pensions, requiring an 8% deduction, were 2/3rds final basic pay. The widows pension was 2/3rd of the pension as long as the marriage pre-dated the retirement. Both were affected detrimentally if a lump sum was taken at retirement in place of maximum pension paid monthly. In addition to the pension provision – for which a significant percentage of the salary was taken – there was a Death in Service Group Insurance for which a weekly premium was charged. This was basic whole life insurance and it ceased on retirement.

Ted did not make the 30-years pension payout but the insurance paid out a similar amount and that paid for the house. It seems that overall his death in service was to provide a 'better deal' – the funeral was paid for by the police, the pension was paid in full because the lump sum had not been extracted and therefore the widows pension was significantly larger for Pamela.