

Summary of extracts taken from the seven surveys of Arisaig Police Station Records.

The area covered from Arisaig police station extended to Meoble, Oban Loch Morar, Ranochan, Kinlochailort, Roshven, Glenuig and Ardnish. Many of the entries refer to other parts of the police area and most of these have not been abstracted here. Only those relevant to Moidart are given. This is a summary of only some of the most significant events shown in the fuller set of abstractions.

Police Officers

William R. Sharpe began sometime before 14/3/1925, the first records available, and left 23/5/1927.
A.J. Matheson - 23/5/1927 till 18/5/1928.
John Black - 18/5/1928 till 30/7/1929
PC MacBean - 1/8/1929 till 15/12/1935 (5½ years)
PC Logan 16/12/1935 till 21/10/1946 (or later?). At least 11 years.

Communication

Railway phone used to report a death August 1927. Other phones were not available at this time.
Phone installed at Police Station - February 1937.
Communication to Roshven and Meoble was mostly by walking, sometimes by boat. Early transport was mainly by bicycle.

Deaths

Vagrant found dead at Laggan - May 1929
Railway ganger killed repairing on a railway bridge - June 1938
Two were killed by a train at Loch Dubh - July 1939
Richard Baxter (3) killed by accidental scalding - July 1939
A body was found washed ashore at Smirisary - December 1940
W. McGill, a Pedlar, was found dead in Carmore Cave, Glenuaig. March 1941
Drowning by accident - October 1941.
Suicide at Arnipol - July 1942
Airman's body found - September 1942
Bodies found at Ardnish - October 1942
Old Age Pentitioner's death Polish - September 1943
Airman's body washed ashore at Roshven - January 1945

Accidents

A sawmill accident - February 1926
Police accident from Bicycle - June 1926
Children's nurse falls from bicycle, break failure - July 1927
A car hits a horse cart - July 1933
Road works accident - March 1938
Dog killed in vermin trap - December 1943
Dr William Macdonald killed in an accident at Polish - March 1946
Roadman fell from a lorry - March 1946

Illnesses

There are quite a number of illnesses reported.
Measles - December 1927
Lunatic - April 1931
An insane was conveyed to Inverness - January 1933

Fires

Lochailort Hotel shed burned to the ground - April 1938
Signal box burned at Lochailort Station - April 1941
Byre at Meoble burned to the ground - June 1933

Car on fire destroyed - July 1934
Arisaig House destroyed by fire - September 1935
Malicious fire at Polish - April 1940

Thefts, frauds

Tree theft from Lochailort - February 1928
Railway ticket avoidance - November 1928
Sheep stealing Inverailort. Many night watches made between November 1931 till May 1932.
Theft of Blooms from Larach Mor - March 1932 also February 1938
Theft of railway carriage leather straps - October 1935 also November 1938
Bicycle theft - April 1936.
Lochailort Station office broken into - April 1936
Rowing boat stolen at Polish - January 1938
Deer poaching - July 1938
Deer poaching and an attack on the policeman who was trying to catch them - November 1938
Diluted milk fraud - February 1933
Lochailort Station Shop thefts - December 1944 and April 1945.

Assaults

A visitor had his dog destroyed for attacking a ewe - July 1927
Assault - August 1926;
Insulting - May 1928
Assault - Gamekeeper at Inverailort charged with assault and threatening to break a local's head in two. - July 1931
Miss MacRae of Lochailort Hotel threatened to have the hotel blown up and the barman was assaulted - March 1939.
Cameron-Head had a document burned by chauffeur employee and was assaulted and injured by him - January 1939.

Arrests

A number of arrests are given.
A person was arrested who had deserted from the Argyll and Southern Highlanders - March 1927.

Breach of the Piece

e.g. June 1932, July 1932, August 1933, September 1933, June 1939 (at Lochailort Inn), February 1939, March 25 1939, March 29 1939, May 1939, February 1941, January 1946.
Indecent exposure - November 1930.

Poaching

Salmon poaching - Arienskill May 1928, November 1930, Arnipol September 1936 and November 1938, Lochailort May 1940
Deer poaching - July 1938, November 1938, May 1940 Inverailort.
November 1938 - a notice was received by the police station that deer poaching had nothing to do with police.

School boys

Boarded schoolboy tries to escape home on a train - November 1941
A boarded out boy was charged with putting long screws on the railway so that the train passing would flatten it out and he could make a whistle from it - June 1943.
Three children of guardians charged with malicious mischief - March 1944
Boarded schoolboy charged of theft - June 1944.
Three boarded children charged with theft from a chapel - January 1945

A Pram axle and two pram wheels stolen by two boarded out children - June 1945

Animals

Sheep Clipping & dipping were frequently examined by the police.

Licences for dogs, shooting and vehicle driving are frequently given.

No dog license, Williamina MacRae Lochailort - April 1928

A dog attacks sheep - July 1927

Dog chases deer - April 1928

Dog attacks- June 1939. Several entries to make sure that the dog has been destroyed.

A Roshven dog, owned by a soldier away on duty, attacks sheep - January 1943.

A dog is caught in a vermin trap - January 1944.

Special and Unusual events

Concealed pregnancy of a cook at Roshven House - April 1934.

Duke of York - July 1930

Coming of Age party - September 1933

September 1933 - the King's speech on the radio.

King's broadcast and celebration - May 6 1935.

23 days of duty at Lochmaddy in connection with sheep dipping - February 1936

On duty at the British Aluminium Factory Fort William - 42 days. June 1936

Shinty final - April 1937.

Coronation bonfire - May 12 1937

Prime Minister - August 1937

Picture exhibitions - e.g. May 1935, October 1935, November 1935, February 1938, May 1938.

A whole whale came ashore at Bunacaimbe, 19 feet long - November 1939

Medals were presented by the Chief Constable on behalf of his Majesty the King to Special

Constables, D.MacMillan, H. Cameron and W. Grant - March 1942

The Sergants' Dance - May 1943

Instructed to go to Ceremony of Hydro-Electric scheme to be commenced at Morar. May 1946.

Tinkers and Pedlars

Police seem to have had to carry out censuses on vagrants every six months and some of the results of these are given in the full documents.

e.g. In June 1927 an Irish pedlar applied for a certificate. In September 1927 13 "vagrants" were questioned and names were taken, 12 Stewarts and 1 Williamson. In October 1927 three vagrants were challenged, one "a travelling musician". In March 1928 8 tinkers were questioned. On May 3 1928 12 tinkers were challenged (McMillans of Inverness) and on May 10 1928 10 Stewart Tinkers were challenged. In June 1928 a Jewish pedlar was questioned. In July 8 Stewart tinkers were challenged.

War time

Bomb dropping heard - April 1941.

Army prisoners taken from the Outer Hebrides and from Mallaig to Fort William by train. June 1941

Dead bodies were found during the war, see e.g. in 1942 September 8, October 17, 20, 22, 24, 25, November 1 and in August 1944 at Barnacle Island, Loch Ailort.

The army sometimes obstructed police duties - see January 1944

Thefts. Antiques were stolen from Inverailort Castle in March 1943. Lochailort House was also broken into in April 1945. Roshven House was broken into in June 1940. See June 12,13 and 17 1940.

A mine was washed ashore in August 1939, also August 1942. A mine was removed by a Disposal Squad in November 1942. A 16 foot torpedo came ashore at Rhue Farm in January 1944.

A mine explosion on December 1940 is described.

A Bomber wheel was found washed ashore at Portnaluchaig. December 1944.

Aliens e.g. French Alien called for Registration. Had to show passport, pay a fee and produce photos. September 1939.

Lighting Instruction regarding lighting were received and distributed - September 1939.

Air Raid Protections - these meetings are first mentioned in April 1938. Posted up notices re meeting in Arisaig Public Hall Monday 25th April 8pm re Air raid Precautions. Five ARP lectures (Air raid Precautions) were given in January 1939. Other ARP meetings are mentioned. Began patrolling with an ARP Warden in October 1939. Steel helmets were received in November 1939.

Meeting on the use of anti-Gas Mask Helmets by children - February 1940.

Flashing lights were observed on several occasions e.g. December 1939 and February 1940.

Army huts were built at Roshven House - June 1940. Men employed by W. Torse & Co. public Works Contractors to construct Army huts at Inverailort - June 1940.

Sentry boxes are mentioned at Borrodale in June 1940 and at Lochailort in March 1942.

Enemy planes dropped bombs - April 1941.

A concert and Dance were held at Astley Hall in aid of Glenshian Military Hospital - July 1941

A dog, owned by a lieutenant at Roshven House was worrying, local sheep and he was charged and found guilty. January 1943.

Public Events

Lochaline Gathering Games August 1926, 1929, 1930, 1932, 1935 (600 present)

There are many references to the cinema, the first being noted in November 1933.

Farms

Sheep clipping had to be inspected by the police e.g. July 1925, November 1926, July 1927, September 1927, July 1928, August 1929.

Certificates and Licenses

There are many references to various licenses - shooting, fishing, stalking, driving.

There are many references given to firearm certificates.

Licenses given to the Cinema, Astley Hall - November 1933, February 1934, April 1937 etc.