

Arisaig Police Station 1925-1928
R91/D/C/5/5/1 at Fort William Archives

1925

First entry is dated Saturday March 14 1925 by PC William R Sharpe at Arisaig. At 10am engaged at Station writing and patrolling the village. Attended Trains and Post Office. To Station at 5pm. 8 miles. 7 hours.

Night duty. Patrolled about the village and vicinity from 7pm to 10pm. 4 miles, 3 hours on duty.

Monday 16th April. Cycled by way of Borrodale and Beasdale to Lochailort. Called on Hugh Cameron Station agent and returned by same way to Station at 5pm.

April 12. I cycled by way of Borrodale and Lochailort and Inverailort where I called on Mrs. Cameron-Head (64), residing there and took the following statement :- At about 4.30pm on Sunday 12th inst. a man of the tramp class - about six feet in height - called at the back door of Inverailort House and asked for tea and while waitress Florence Robertson went to fetch the tea he smashed the light above the door." Took statements from Florence Robertson (50), single, Lady's Maid in the employment of Mrs. Cameron-Head of Lochailort and Francis Cameron (28), single, Barrest, is residing at Inverailort Castle, Inverailort :- and these sent description of man by telephone (Rly) to Insp. stating that man had been seen at Glenuig 8am on 13th inst. walking Kin Loch Moidart.

Saturday April 18. Proceeded to Mallaig by train where I was inspected by Chief Constable along with PC Boa at 12.30

April 28 till May 5. On duty in Mallaig with PC Boa on Leave duty.

May 6. Conferred with PC Boa at Morar. Cycled by way of Back of Keppoch.

June 10. Called on Hugh Cameron Lochailort Hotel

July 9 Cycled by way of Bridge of Keppoch and Morar to Mallaig Police Station. There inspected by Col. Ferguson, HM Inspr. of Constabulary for Scotland, and Chief Constable at 12.30.

July 31. Went to Clipping of Sheep, property of Sir W(?) Nicholson of Arisaig and Allan Cameron, Farmer, Camasdaroch, Arisaig.

August 3 John MacDonald, Farmer Suinsletter. Seventy of his stock of B.F. Ewes were missing.

August 6. Patrolled by way of Suinsletter and Scamadil making enquiry re sheep missing from Suinsletter.

September 16. Visited Hugh Cameron, Station agent at Lochailort.

October 27 till November 10. On duty at Mallaig.

1926

February 11. Statement from Angus MacParish (65), married, saw miller, residing at Druimindarroch, While working at the sawmill at Borrodale he was caught on a stick, throwing it upwards striking him on the face causing severe injuries to right jaw bone and knocking him unconscious some feet away from the bench on which he was working. His son, Angus MacParish (17), single, labourer, was working along with him at the time and ran for assistance.

March 30 till April 3. Leave of absence. (4 days)

April 3 till April 10. Duty in Mallaig.

June 29. Patrolled the village attended Trains and Post Office and proceeded cycling to Lochailort. Called on Hugh Cameron, Station agent, and on returning had a serious cycle accident in the Public Road about three quarters of a mile North of Lochailort. My break failing to act, my bicycle got out of control with the result that I was thrown over the Parapet of a bridge sustaining serious cuts to face and head. Was picked up and conveyed home by car by Dugald Matheson, Lochailort. Here to Station at 9pm.

June 29 till August 15 (48 days). Off duty.

August 17. Received Inspr.'s memo of the 6th inst. re Lochaline Gathering Games.

August 31 Statement of complaint from Alexander McSween (53), married, Railway Surfaceman, residing at Achnaskeen, Arisaig, of assault against Alexander McEachan (64), married, crofter, Glenan, Arisaig. The assault took place on the Public Road near Cainete (?) Bridge, Saturday 13th last. Witnesses;- William Grant (45), married, Estate Manager, Borrodale; Donald McEachan, residing Achnaskean, Arisaig; Mary Ann McSween (19) and Alex. McSween (13), son and daughter of complainer.

November 12 Statement received on theft of oilskin coats.

November 13 Took statement from Amie MacParish (35), Back of Keppoch; Hugh McCourn (13), orphan, school boy residing at Back of Kepoch re alleged theft of two oilskin coats.

November 20. Attended dipping of sheep at Suinsletter, property of John Macdonald farmer there.

1927

May 23 New police officer. PC A.J. Matheson. Left Inverness and travelled to Fort William where I remained overnight.

March 24. PC A.J. Matheson left Fort William and travelled to Arisaig and engaged at office duties.

March 25 I proceeded to Beasdale and there arrested PTE (Private) Ian Dempster, absentee from Depot of A & S Highlanders at Stirling. Conveyed him to Fort William by passenger train. Handed to Insp. MacKenzie at 4pm.

Sunday May 29. Attended evening service in RC Church here till 7pm. I was met by William Macdonald (47), crofter, Back of Keppoch. Lodged complaint against Stewart Forbes Fraser (60), Joiner Contractor, Arisaig. Fraud B & L to the amount of £35/10/0. Took statements from witness Annie Jane Macdonald (14), daughter of complainer and that of Anne MacIntyre or Macdonald, mother of complainer.

May 30. Made enquiries re Stewart Forbes Fraser. This man came of (lit) the 11.37am train from Fort William and I challenged him about his board and lodgings Back of Keppoch and he said he was going to settle with them when he would go over this morning.

June 21. Met Patrick Quirn, Pedler, who made application for a Pedler's Certificate.

June 22 Made enquiries re Mrs Toban, sender of case and bottle containing note, found at Loch nan Uamh by Norman N. Doncaster residing at Ardnambuth, Lochailort. Found no trace of a lady of this name.

July 5. Came on the scene of an accident whereby Morag (?) Beaton (27), single, Children's Nurse, met with an accident owing to her bicycle brake breaking. She received a cut in the back of her head.

July 22. Attended the dipping of 165 sheep owned by John Beaton, Keppoch and Duncan Macdonald, Arisaig Hotel and 86 sheep of Macdonald, Gortin. Thereafter attended dipping of Sir Arthur Nicolson's sheep at Carnoch.

July 22. Met William Macfarlane, Hyndland, Glasgow. While on a walk his dog a bullterrier worried a ewe and that same was in dying condition. I proceeded to the place where the sheep was and found same on the seashore. Later I proceeded to the house occupied by Angus McInnes (60), gamekeeper, and informed him about this sheep and he accompanied us to the spot where the sheep was and identified it as being his property. The accused Macfarlane wished to have his dog destroyed and had same done by McInnes at his request. McInnes values his cheviot ewe at £3 which accused said he would settle about.

July 29. Sheep dipping Kinloid

August 3 Enquiries into the sudden death of John MacEachan (93), crofter, Bridge of Keppoch. Took statements from Donald MacEachan, son; Sarah MacEachan,

- daughter of deceased; Ann MacVarish or MacEachan, widow of deceased. Phoned particulars by Railway phone to Insp. Mackenzie Fort William.
- August 4 Proceeded by Mail train to Mallaig. Inspected by the Chief Const. and Major W.D. Allan, HM Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland.
- August 6th to 18th. On duty in Mallaig in absence of PC Boa granted annual Leave of Absence till 20th Inst.
- August 18th. - unwell
- August 19th until August 29 - off duty with flu.
- September 1 White fox terrier disappeared from Morar Hotel.
Challenged vagrants:-
Mary Chisholm or Stewart (64); Mary Stewart (4); James Stewart (33); Alexander Stewart (27); James Williamson (20); Jessie Macdonald or Stewart (26); Alick Stewart (24); Gracy Stewart or Stewart (54); John Stewart (54); Jemima Stewart (14); Charles Stewart (10); Peter Stewart (27); Catherine Stewart (18).
All vagrants of no fixed residence.
- September 8 Engaged at office duties making out sheep dipping return for the first Period.
- Saturday September 17th till Tuesday 4th October - leave of Absence granted. (17 days)
- October 8 Challenged Peter Macallister (68), vagrant; William Hill (30), travelling musician; Helen Macintyre or Hill (32); Betty Hill (5).
- October 11 Received a Petroleum license for Williamina and Julien MacRae, Hotel keepers, Lochailort Hotel. Delivered the license to the named persons.
- October 23, 24, 28. Fire at Arisaig Hotel.
- November 4 Delivered firearms certificate to Joseph MacLeod, Essan, Lochailort.
- November 9 Called on Duncan Macdonald, The Hotel, Arisaig and collected Petroleum license number 144 for renewal, also renewal fee of 10/0 for same.
- November 10 Called on F. Matheson, The Stores, Arisaig and collected his Explosive License for renewal together with fee of 1/0 for same.
- November 14. Called on Lachlan Gillies, Cycles Agent and collected his petroleum License for renewal. Also fee of 5/0 for same.
- November 16 Called on F. Matheson's Store Arisaig on application for a carbide of Calcium License. Got application form filled in and collected fee of 5/0 for same.
- November 26. PC Boa unwell. On duty in Mallaig November 27 till December 7. (11 days).
- December 13 Outbreak of measles at the Parish Church Manse. The party being affected is Rachael Macpherson (16), domestic servant there.

1928

- February 21. Met William Grant (50), Estate Manager, Borrodale. Lodged complaint. Some person or persons did cut down and carry away four oak and three birch trees from a wood at Lochailort, the property of Sir A. Nicholson of Arisaig and that of Julian McRae, The Hotel, Lochailort. Afterwards proceeded to Lochailort Hotel. Statement from said Julian McRae (74), Hotel Keeper re the theft. Afterwards made enquiry and found a clue.
- February 27 Continued enquiry re theft of wood. Failed to find the culprit. When at Lochailort, I found on the roadside a pair of Gent's leather gauntlet gloves.
- February 28 Made enquiry re pair of Motor Gauntlet Gloves found by me at Lochailort. Found no trace of loser.
- March 23 Proceeded to Arisaig House where I saw Sir Arthur William Nicholson, aged 76 years, Proprietor of Arisaig Estate, Arisaig and warned, cautioned and charged him with Contravention of the Roads Act 1920, sec. 13 in respect of a Motorcar SY3109. Survey (?) report of 24th curt. re same.
I challenged John McMillan (55), Margaret Wells or McMillan (48) ; William Higgins (20); Isaac Higgins (38); Harriet MacMillan or Heggins (27); John Heggins (4); Ester Heggins (1 year 6 months); Alexander Sinclair (54) - all tinkers of no fixed residence.

- April 3 Received correspondence from Insp. MacKenzie re Allan MacKenzie, 22 Birchwood Street, Dalmarnoch, Glasgow, candidate for Metropolitan Police and got each of these persons to fill in a certificate of enquiry re MacKenzie. Returned to Lochailort and called on Hugh Cameron Stationmaster and Julia MacRae, The Hotel.
- April 4 Proceeded to Roshven where I saw Mrs Vera Blackburn, Roshven, who employed Allan McKenzie, John Macpherson who gave McKenzie a reference and Angus Macdonald who also gave a reference to McKenzie who is candidate for the Metropolitan Police and got each of these persons to fill in a certificate of enquiry re McKenzie. Returned to Lochailort and called on Hugh Cameron Stationmaster and Julia MacRae, The Hotel.
- April 6 Received complaint from Angus MacInnes (60), married, gamekeeper, Millburn, Arisaig. On 11th inst about 6 to 7pm Murdo McMillan, Gamekeeper, Arnipol, found a dog belonging to the McRae's Lochailort Hotel chasing a stag.
- April 7 I noted a statement from John MacNaughton (52), married, Farmer, Glenmamie re stag worried by a dog on the 4th. Thereafter went to Arnipol. I noted a statement from Murdo McMillan (32), married, gamekeeper, residing Arnipol re stag being worried by a dog. From enquiry made, learned that the dog referred to is the property of William McRae (40), single, Niece of and residing with Julian MacRae, Lochailort Hotel. Later proceeded there where I warned, cautioned and charged her with Contravention of the Dogs Act 1871 Sec 2.
- April 9 Received CC Memo re my transfer to Colbost on May 22 1928. Also summons for service on Edward Howard Decker Garramore Arisaig containing a charge - exceeding the speed limit in London.
- April 17 Proceeded to Lochailort where I did duty at a dance held in the Lochailort Hotel under the auspices of The Commun na Teine Club till 3am for which a special permission was granted.
- April 19 Received copy of complaint for service on Williamina McRae, Lochailort Hotel, contrary to the Dogs Act 1871 and 1906. I served copy of complaint upon Williamina McRae. Thereafter served citations on Murdo McMillan, Gamekeeper, Arnipol Lochailort and John MacNaughton, Farmer residing at Glenmamie Lochailort for the Prosecution in the above case.
- April 23 Proceeded by the 7.30 train to Fort William where I gave evidence in the Sheriff Court against Williamina McRae charged with contravention of the Dogs Act 1891. After evidence was read, accused was found guilty and was ordered by the Court to keep her dog under proper control.
- April 26 Proceeded to Railway Station where I was inspected by CC on arrival of (lit.)the 11.30 train.
- May 3 Challenged tinkers :-
Peter McMillan (30); James McMillan (29); Catherine Stewart or McMillan (28); Margaret McMillan (8); Martha McMillan (5); Mary McMillan(2); Margaret Wilson or McMillan (29); Henry McMillan (9); Marta Wilson or McMillan (60); Elizabeth McMillan (18); Annie McMillan or Carmondie (24); Charlie Carmondie (8 months); all belonging to Inverness.
- May 10 Challenged ten Stewart tinkers belonging to Inverness. Names and ages all given.
- May 14 Prepared for my transfer to Colbost Skye.
- May 18 Duties performed by PC Black. Transferred by the 9.30 train from Roy Bridge and arrived at Arisaig at 11.30.
- May 19 At 1.30 proceeded to Mallaig by cycle and did duty with PC Boa till 1am when all was quiet.
- May 21 At 2pm proceeded to Beasdale and saw John MacDonald (50), married, labourer, who gave complaint that his next door neighbour had insulted his wife. Made enquiry and found no case.

- May 24 Received complaint from Kenneth Macdonald (57), married, Water Bailiff Arienskill that at 2.30am he caught seven men poaching for salmon in the River Ailort. Made enquiry from Arisaig and Mallaig. Found no trace.
- May 25 Letter received re Salmon poaching at Lochailort. Noted statement from witness William Cameron (34), Head Keeper, Lochailort Castle; John MacAuley (34), manager; and Ronald MacLeod (59), watcher, Essan Lochailort. Made enquiry but found no trace of the men.
- June 20 Received memo re Cardigan Jacket found by Mary Macdonald at Back of Keppoch and belonging to Jewish Pedlar Barnet Barlowirtzi (Stornoway).
- June 24. Taking census of vagrants at Lochailort. Found none
- Wednesday June 27 till Thursday 12 July - Leave of absence.
- July 16 Was informed by Margaret Macdonald Bunnacaimbe that a motor car had broken the leg of a calf belonging to her.
- July 20 Cycled to Mallaig where I was inspected 4pm by Major Allan, Inspr. of Constabulary for Scotland, and by the Chief Constable.
- July 28 1928. The last entry in the book. PC John Black. 9am came on duty and attended to Office duties, train and Post Office for letters. To station at 1pm. Resumed duty 2pm and patrolled village generally till 5pm when I proceeded to Mallaig and did duty there till 12 midnight . Returned to Station at 1.30 am. Travelled 30 miles and 14 hours on duty.