

Arisaig Police Station 1935-1938
R91/D/C/5/5/4 at Fort William Archives

The first entry is by P.C. MacBean on January 1st 1935. He had began duties at Arisaig on August 1st 1929. His last entry was made on Sunday 15th December 1935. PC Logan began duties at Arisaig on December 16th 1935.

The last entry was by PC Logan made on July 19th 1938.

1935

- January 1 till January 12 Ten inspections of Road Fund Licenses are reported.
- January 15 -18. There are four entries :- Inspected stockowners registers re Movement of Animals (records) order of 1925.
- February 22 Warned, cautioned and charged Williamena MacRae (40), single, Hotel Proprietrix, The Hotel Lochailort, with Cond. Roads Act 1920 Sec. 13 in respect of motor car JS3407 failing to apply for license during "days of grace" i.e. 1st to 4th January. She replied "I was ill at the time and overlooked the matter".
- March 7 8pm visited Astley Hall where exhibition of pictures were given by W. Mack Mallaig. Found all in order.
- May 6 Patrolled about Astley Hall during Broadcast of HM the King's speech at 8pm. Proceeded to hill at Achraig where a large number of people were gathered and a fireworks display was given and a bonfire lit by Miss Astley Nicholson, afterwards attended at Astley Hall during dance held there till 3am.
- June 20 Assisted in securing a mad Ayrshire cow which had escaped from Railway Station premises and now wandering about the public road. The cow was secured and conveyed in motor float to Fort William.
- July 19 Friday Patrolled on the field at Macus farm where Arisaig and District Highland Games were held. About 600 people were present and at 5pm all passed quietly.
- July 31 Made enquiry re complaint of Mrs. Cameron-Head Inverailort re alleged reckless driving of a motor car on 28th. Got no trace of car referred to.
- August 27 7am train to Fort William. On duty at Lochaber Games.
- September 7 (Photocopy available). Saturday. At 3a.m. Archibald MacMillan reported that a telephone message was received at the Hotel - where he resides- from Arisaig House, the Mansion House, the property of Miss Astley Nicholson, and on arrival found that the main part of the building was ablaze, and although a hose was continually played on it, it had no effect. A large number of people had gathered, and most of the furniture and effects in lower part of house were saved. All the furniture and valuable pictures in second and third floors were lost. I remained on duty there making enquiry and noting statements from witnesses till 8am when fire was getting lower. At 9am I phoned particulars to Inspector MacKenzie Fort William. I afterwards returned, and remained about till arrival of Procurator Fiscal at 5pm. The damage is roughly estimated at £50,000. No person was injured.
- October 16 Visited Astley Hall during exhibition of pictures given by Mr. Will Mack. All passed over quietly.
- October 18 Cycled to Lochailort and called at Inverailort and informed Mr. Cameron-Head re his house in London (see memo of 12th inst. from Metroplilton Police re same).
- October 29 Theft of railway carriage straps from passenger train on 28th inst. I cycled to Beasdale and made enquiry. I questioned Ian Dempster (29), single, motor Lorry driver, 2 Beasdale Cottages, who at first denied the theft, but later admitted same. I charged him with offence. He replied "I was silly to touch them". I took possession of two straps handed to me by Dempster.
- November 14 7am proceeded to Astley Hall and took up duty at the Polling Station in connection with Parliamentary Election, Inverness Division. Mr William Grant, Estate Manager, Borrodale, was Proceeding Officer, assisted by Mr. Lachlan

- (1935) Gillies, Registrar, Morrach, as clerk. I remained on duty till 9pm when all passed over quietly.
- November 25 Delivered Firearms certificate no. 1751 to Peter Blackburn, Roshven.
- November 29 Night duty. Attended exhibition of pictures at Astley Hall given by Hercher Bros. All passed over quietly.
- December 1 Delivered Firearms certificate to William Gillies, Easan.
- December 15 The last entry made by PC MacBean,
- December 16 (Written from here onwards by PC Logan). Left Station at Banavie and joined 10.15 train ex Fort William with which I proceeded to Arisaig arriving there at 11.15 when I conferred with PC MacBean who directed me to my lodgings and handed over to me Secret Letters of this station.

1936

- January 17 till February 1 Leave of absence granted by C.C.
- February 3 6.30 train to Fort William where I was measured for New Uniform.
- February 11 6.30 train to Fort William where I sat Police Examination. Left Fort William 5pm. Night duty 7 till 10pm.
- February 18 Proceeded by train to Mallaig. Hence by steamer to Kyle and Lochmaddy, arriving there 6pm and 19th inst. for duty in connection with Sheep (Double) dipping. Returned 14th March from Lochmaddy. (23 days of duty at Lochmaddy).
- April 1 Learned that a Gent's Hercules cycle was missing and believed stolen from Arnipol. Soon after I got trace of two men proceeding a bicycle towards Mallaig. The thieves were arrested in Mallaig after phoning to police there.
- April 2 Charged two prisoners Angus Reid (23), single, labourer from Stornoway and Norman McLeod (19), single, motor driver, Stornoway. Conveyed them to Fort William where they were both charged with the theft of the bicycle from a barn at Arnipol, the property of James Polson (27), single, Gamekeeper at Arnipol.
- April 11 Left 12.30 by train. Proceeded to Speanbridge for duty in connection with the Shinty Final.
- April 14 Made enquiry re theft of flowers from Garden owned by J.A. Holmes, stockbroker, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, but found no trace.
- April 17 The Office of Lochailort Railway Station was attempted to be forced open. Made enquiry at Lochailort and noted statements from Hugh Cameron (59), widower, Station Master and Flora Elizabeth Cameron or MacNaughton, single, Lochailort. Found no trace of guilty party but suspect Norman MacLeod and Angus Reid, labourers, Stornoway, who passed on 1st April.
- April 25 William Grant (59), married, Estate Manager, Borrodale reported that some person maliciously cut two balata belts each 40 feet long on the sawmill at Borrodale. I noted his complaint. Later attended clay pigeon shooting at Keppoch.
- April 27 Made enquiries re malicious cutting of sawmill belts. Made statement from John Smith (50), married, sawmiller residing at Drumindarroch. Found no trace of offender.
- April 28 Further enquiry on sawmill belt. Suspected Alexander Cameron (18), single, General Labourer, Carnoch.
- April 29 In presence of complainer he admitted having been responsible for the cutting of the belts. Formally charged him with the offence to which he made no reply.
- May 1 Informed by Wm. Grant, (59), married, Estate Manager, Borrodale that a piece of brass, 3" long, 1" broad, ¼" thick, found in the turbine of Borrodale sawmill last December. Asked to find out if Alex Cameron was also responsible for this.
- May 4 Made enquiry into case of Malicious Mischief. Called at Carnoch and saw Alex. Cameron (18), single, General labourer, Carnoch. He admitted to me that he was responsible for this mischief. Formally charged accused to which he made no reply.

June 3-4 On leave of Absence granted by PC Fraser for the purpose of attending the funeral of a friend at Taynuilt.
 (1936)
June 18 On duty at the British Aluminium Factory Fort William till 30th July. 42 days.
August 10 Made enquiry for Charles Mooney (14), schoolboy residing at the Sheiling, Back of Keppoch, who left home on afternoon of 9th. He joined passenger train to Fort William at 10am but left the train either at Lochailort or Arisaig station on wrong side of carriage. At midnight learned that he returned home.
August 25 Duty at Victoria Park Lochaber Games. 9am till 6pm.
August 28 Cycled to Mallaig and arrived 7.30am. Met Mail Steamer Lochmor and was inspected by General Dudgeon, HM Inspector of Constabulary for Scotland and the interim Chief Constable.
September 8 Made enquiry re alleged poaching at Arnipol. Found no trace of poachers.
September 15 Made enquiries at Lochailort re poaching at Arnipol. No trace. Made enquiry re motor Lorry belonging to Miss MacRae, Lochailort Hotel damaged on 12th inst.
November 30 Leave of absence granted till December 12th. December 1st Date of marriage.
December 27 Engaged taking census of Vagrants.

1937

January 1 Patrolled village and neighbourhood of Astley Hall where dance was in progress. Off duty at 2am.
January 29 Received telegram re sheep missing from Inverailort and instructing me to make immediate enquiry. As my bicycle was broken down, I had no means of proceeding to Inverailort.
January 30 I interviewed Mrs. Cameron-Head, Proprietrix, re 12 sheep missing on 29th inst. Learned that a gate on field where sheep were kept had been left open and sheep had strayed to the muirs, nine of which were traced and brought back by John McBeth (50), married, shepherd in complainer's employment and residing at Rannochan and when I also interviewed him he stated that he was certain the other three sheep were also on the muirs but that complainer would not wait till he had a look for the twelve sheep and sent for Police without a search having been made first.
February 3 Delivered Petrol licenses to Miss Williamina MacRae Lochailort.
February 27 Reported re Installation of Telephone in Arisaig Police Station giving No.36 and which of the New Buildings it was installed in.
April 16 Attended Cinema Exhibition in Arisaig Hall and found that all conformed to the Regulations.
April 17 Sent on duty to Roy Bridge Shinty Final. 1pm till 5pm.
April 20 Attended Cinema Show by Herchar Bros. and found that all conformed to the regulations.
May 12 Patrolled Keppoch Hill where a Bonfire was lit for Coronation Celebrations at 11pm. Patrolled till 2am.
July 12 Proceeded to Lochailort and Inverosie, Meoble, where I saw John Macdonald (46), married, gamekeeper and formally charged him with con. of Firearms Act 1937 sec 1(1).
July 19 till August 7. Leave of absence.
August 30 Was told to be on duty at Arisaig Railway Station as the Prime Minister was travelling from Fort William to Mallaig.
October 12 Proceeded to Lochailort and Roshven to interview Peter Blackburn, Proprietor there re his motor car which he alleges is being taken out of his Garage at Lochailort by some unknown person or persons. Found on arrival at Roshven that he had gone to Fort William and returned to Lochailort and awaited his return at 5pm when I interviewed him and examined his Garage. Later made enquiry with a view to tracing offender but without result. I am of the opinion that car has not been interfered with and that Garage door is not properly secured.

December 15 Made enquiry into slight accident to Motor Lorry US628 owned by William Gillies, Glen House, Glenfinnan, which skidded on ice-bound surface of public road near Arisaig Hotel byre. No person was injured, but the lorry front axle was bent, right front mudguard bashed, Radious rods bent and main leaf of front spring broken. Dry Stone Wall of South side of road was knocked down for a distance of five feet. No complaint.

December 25-27 On leave of Absence granted by Insp. MacKenzie.

December 30 Took possession of Rifle from Donald MacLeod, Farmer, Laggan, Ardnish, who applied for a Certificate for same and as he had not previously held Certificate I am reporting him for Cont. of Firearms Act 1937.

1938

January 17 Received phone message from Lochailort to effect that James MacDonald, Surfaceman, Polish wishes to see me re his rowing boat having been stolen on 16th inst. 3pm I met complainer who informed me that his son Ronald MacDonald who is employed up Cuilidarach Camp saw that two men who stole his boat from a loch opposite Glenmamie and took it to the shore opposite said camp on 10th inst. They were Road workers employed by Carmichael Contractor, Cuilidarach, Lochailort. ???? Culidarach Camp where interviewed said Ronald MacDonald who stated that he did not know the names of accused but knew them by sight. Tested (?) description of accused and saw one of them. George Wilson (25), labourer, Cuilidarach Camp, Lochailort, who admitted being with Thomas McKay, aged about 24 years, single, labourer Cuilidarach Camp, Lochailort. Charged Wilson with this offence to which he replied. I did not know I was doing wrong as MacKay told me he had permission from the owner to use the boat and I accompanied MacKay. I then learned that MacKay had lifted his books and went in direction of Fort William. I later saw complainer who stated that he did not wish to make a charge against the accused but wish to give them a fright so that it would prevent a recurrence of the act.

January 20 Made enquiry for Norman MacLeod (22), Motor Driver, Stornoway, but found no trace of him having come this way.

January 26 Delivered Petroleum Licences to Miss Williamina MacRae, Lochailort Hotel (10/0) and Duncan MacDonald, Arisaig Hotel (15/0).

February 10 Attended Exhibition of Pictures in Astley Hall. Proceeded to Reservoir for village supply of water which was empty and boiler in house was in danger of bursting. Cleaned end of feed pipe and let water into tank.

February 24 Called on John MacNeil, RC Priest Arisaig, re particular of Baptism of Flora MacKintosh (nee MacDougall) and took extract from Church Register of Baptism re same and found that she was Baptysed (lit) on 31st May 1846 and also that she was married to Donald MacKintosh on 25 December 1877. Later made enquiry from old inhabitants here re this person but none of them could give me any information which would be useful.

February 28 Two men from Cuilidarach Camp Lochailort had stolen a bunch of Rhododendron flowers from the garden at Larrachmhor and owned by John Holmes, Forakin Bishoptown, Renfrewshire, and were now proceeding along public road towards Cuilidarach Camp. He stated that he had hired a motor car to follow them and requested me to accompany him. This I did and we overtook them near said Camp and I took possession of the flowers. They were Thomas Handley (25), labourer Cuilidarach Camp Lochailort. and John Sinclair (21), labourer, Cuilidarach Camp. I then formally charged them with this offence and returned to station at 6pm. Phoned Division Inspector as to whether man should be arrested or not and was informed no.

March 1 At 7.30 received message from Insp. MacDonald informing me of accident to workman at Road Works near Beasdale. Later learned from Dr. MacDonald,

- (1938) Tullochgorm, Arisaig that the injured man was suffering from fractured spine and was removed to Belford Hospital by ambulance.
- March 2 Made enquiry re George Cameron accident March 1st. Proceeded to Ardnish where I served Copy of Complaint on Donald MacLeod, Farmer there, charging him with Con: of Firearms Act 1937.
- April 10 Learned that a shed at Lochailort Hotel was burned to the ground on night of 9th inst. Learned from Miss Williamina MacRae Proprietrix of the Hotel that it was not known how shed went on fire. The damage to property is about £50.
- April 11 Made enquiries re fire at Lochailort. Questioned Thomas Chalmers (45), single, labourer at Carmichael's Road Works, Beasdale, who admitted being in shed on night of 9th inst. Later noted statement from Duncan MacBeth (24), Motor Driver, Lochailort Hotel and learned that Chalmers called at Hotel at 9am 10th that he was the worse of drink on night of 9th and did not return to Carmichael Camp. Formally charged Chalmers with fire raising to which he replied "I was put into the shed by the men at the Hotel and whether the shed was burned by me or not they clear me if they put me in there".
- April 12 Message re Thomas Chalmers (45), labourer, at Carmichaels Road Works, Beasdale re failure to pay £2 fine in Edinburgh for fraud and Lodgings and if he could not pay me to arrest him and that I would be met by patrollers which would convey him to Fort William. Proceeded to Beasdale where I saw Chalmers who could not pay fine and then arrested him and proceeded to Cuildarach Camp Lochailort with him and there handed him over to Sergt. Anderson Fort William.
- April 21 Posted up notices re meeting in Arisaig Public Hall Monday 25th inst. 8pm re Air raid Precautions.
- April 25 Attended meeting re Air raid Precautions.
- April 28 Investigated Complaint of F.S. Cameron-Head and found he had left for London. Interviewed Peter MacIntyre (35), joiner, Inverailort and John MacBeth, Rannochan, re alleged breaking and entering unoccupied house at Esan. Found house almost Derelict and woodwork of door and post etc. in an advanced state of decay. No damage was done to house.
- May 5 Attended Exhibition of Pictures in Astley Hall.
- May 10 Called on Dr. MacDonald as I was suffering from Sciatica. He ordered me off duty for at least a week.
- June 9 Petrolled to Beasdale where I learned that William Paterson (38), Navy ganger, employed with A & M Carmichael Road Contractors Beasdale, was killed near Railway Overhead Bridge, 300 yards North of Beasdale Railway Station. Saw the body and examined it with Dr. MacDonald Arisaig. The left hand was blown off and leg and lower part of body badly blown away. The accident occurred at 2.55pm. Was informed that body could be removed to Mortuary, Belford Hospital, Fort William. Noted statement from witnesses Peter Gay (19), nipper residing at Drimdhru; George MacLevy, Navy Fireman, Cuildarach Camp Lochailort; Robert McCoy (42), labourer, Cuildarach Camp; John Doilert (26), labourer, Cuildarach Camp. Made search for left hand and thigh bone missing, but did not find missing hand.
- July 6 I served citations to attend Sheriff Court Fort William on 22nd July 11 am to give evidence at the public enquiry held into the death of William Peterson - on the following witnesses - Peter Grey, John Docherty, Robert McCoy, Alistair MacPherson Carmichael, William MacAlpine and Robert MacDonald Yorston.
- July 19 This is the last entry in the volume. It was made by PC P. Logan and his entries continue in R91/D/C/5/5/5.