

HISTORY OF THE MALTA POLICE

By M.M.T. Part 2

The first task allotted to the new Force was the taking of preventive and remedial measures to combat the plague of 1814. Proclamation X of 1814 shows how the Force tackled this arduous task and gives the chain of command of the corps. This proclamation reads:

1. The Inspector General of Police, who will receive his orders direct from His Excellency the Governor, shall be the Head of the whole Police in the Island, and shall give such orders and instructions upon all points connected with the Police, as the nature of the case may require.

2. Under the Inspector General there shall be two Deputies, whose orders as coming from him are strictly to be attended to, and in Valletta there shall be in addition, three Adjutants, the one to be considered as Adjutant for the Marina, and that part of the Town to the Southward of Strada Reale, the second of Strada Reale, and the Districts to the Northwards, and the third of Floriana, whose orders as coming from the Inspector General, are equally to be attended to.

3. The Deputy of each District has, under the Inspector General, the charge of the Police in his own District. — He shall forthwith with the aid of his clerk, make out an accurate return of the whole of the population within his District; and he will take care that at the door of each house there be affixed a list of all persons residing therein, which list is to be corrected weekly, and a copy thereof regularly transmitted to the Inspector General.

It shall be the duty of the Deputy frequently to call forth the inhabitants of such houses, to see that they are in perfect health; and he will take care that the Sick Searcher under him be constantly and unremittingly employed in enquiring into the health of the District, and that regular reports thereof be sent to the Inspector General's Office every three days, when no case of sickness oc-

curs; but when such does occur, a report must instantly be made to the Inspector General, who will communicate the same to the Proto-Medico, that the necessary measures may be forthwith adopted to ascertain the nature of the complaint; and the latter with this view, will appoint regular Medical Practitioners to superintend the health of the various Districts.

The said Deputy will equally take care that the "Capi delle Strade" under him do, in their respective streets, make similar visits and regularly report to him the occurrences therein.

Forms of the different reports to be made, will be transmitted to the Deputies by the Inspector General.

4. As nothing is more materially conducive to the preservation of health, and the prevention of Contagious Infection, than the utmost attention to cleanliness, the Deputy of the District is particularly charged with this essential object; — and the Sergeant of Police under him will consider this as a most important part of his duty. No dirt is permitted to be thrown into the streets, but must be carried to such places as shall be pointed out by the Superintendent of

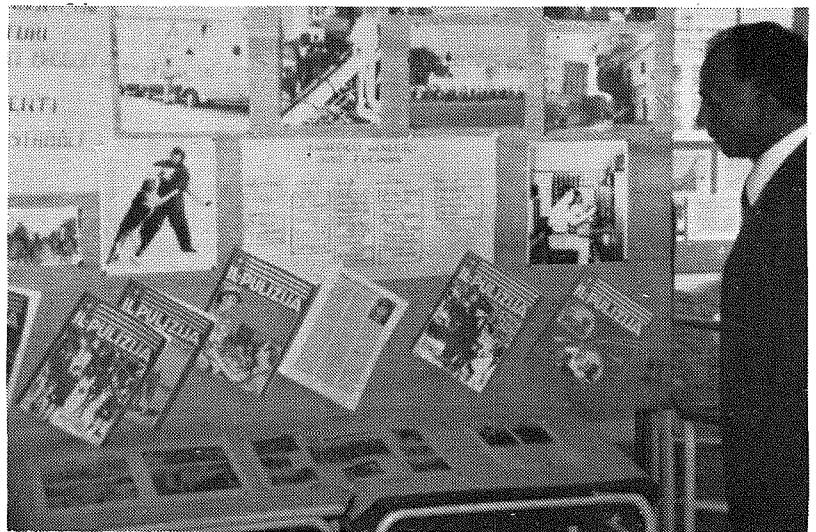
the streets, and sanctioned by the Inspector General.

The Deputy, the Sick Searcher, and the Sergeant of Police, will make frequent visits into all Lodging Houses, Magazines, Stores, Cellars and all low buildings, — and report, whenever they find any such buildings not perfectly clean, and in proper order, to the Inspector General who is charged with enforcing due attention to this most important object.

Members of the new Corps below the rank of Adjutant became known as sergeants of police. Incidentally the minimum height required to enlist in the new police force was five feet five inches.

King Tom then regrouped the three Maltese military contingents namely the 'Maltese Provincial Battalion', the 'Maltese Veterans' and the 'Malta Coast Artillery into one infantry regiment known as the ROYAL MALTA FENCIBLE REGIMENT. Fencible in those days meant that the regiment was raised for local defence duties and that it was not subject to overseas service.

This regiment which was founded in 1815 besides military and coast guard duties performed civil police service, the Police Force and the Fencible Regiment were under the same command, that of Francesco Rivarola and there was much flexibility and interchangeability of duties between the two forces.



Il-magazin tagħna "IL-PULIZIJA" mogħti prominenza f'esibizzjoni mtella' mis-Surmast John M. Testa fl-isko'la sekondarja tal-Marsa għal Jum Ir-Repubblika.

Is-Sur Testa huwa wieħed mill-lecturers li qegħdin jagħtu l-lectures lill-Kuntistabblijiet li se jersqu għall-eżami tas-Surģenti.