



The Metropolitan Police

Information From Archives D 16

Search No. 1. Service Records – Attestation and Joining

Standard charge: £45

Catalogue reference: MEPO 4

MEPO 4 contains alphabetical registers of joiners from September 1830 to April 1857, and from July 1878 to 1933, and Attestation Ledgers for Warrant Numbers 51491 to 146379, from February 1869 to May 1958.

Catalogue reference: MEPO 3

MEPO 3 contains the joining papers and particulars of certain distinguished officers.

Index to Officers who joined 1880-89

Information that this source should reveal:

MEPO 4/333-339 Alphabetical registers of joiners (Sept 1830 – April 1857, July 1878 – 1933) The earliest volumes give names and addresses of referees.

MEPO 4/352-360 Attestation Ledgers (warrant numbers 51491-146379, Feb 1869 – May 1958) should give the signatures of recruit and witness.

MEPO 3/2883-2922 Joining papers and particulars of certain distinguished officers.

Factors affecting success of a search:

The files in MEPO 3 may be closed for at least 75 years – next of kin need to seek the Departmental Record Officer's permission to view.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:
In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- The full name of the police officer*
- The police officer's warrant number*
- The officer's date of entry into the Metropolitan police force
- The officer's date of leaving the Metropolitan police force
- In order to search the attestation papers the date of attestation must be known

Our normal fee for one search in the Service Records (Attestation and Joining), providing the information detailed above is supplied, is £45. However, if the records in MEPO 3 are closed our fee is unspecified.

Search No. 2. Service Records - Leavers

Standard charge: £30

Catalogue reference: MEPO 4

MEPO 4 contains the Register of Leavers, March 1889 to January 1947.

Information that this source should reveal:

The class of officer, certificate rating, date certificate sent to division, number of documents officer was entitled to, date documents sent to division (these last two only available up to 1913-1914). Whether 'RP' (resignation permitted) or 'RR' (resignation required).

Factors affecting success of a search:

The officer's name, warrant number and approximate date of leaving need to be provided.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:
In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the police officer*
- the date of leaving the service *
- the police officer's warrant number

Our normal fee for one search in the Service Records (Leavers), providing the information detailed above is supplied, is £30.

Search No. 3. Service Records - Miscellaneous

Standard charge: £45

Catalogue reference: MEPO 2

MEPO 2 contains the 1875 nominal roll of officers sworn in to supplement the work of the regular force.

Catalogue reference: MEPO 4

MEPO 4 contains the numerical registers of warrant numbers 1 to 3247, from September 1829 to March 1830; returns of deaths whilst serving, 1829 to 1889; certificates of service for warrant numbers 74201 to 97500, January 1889 to November 1909.

Catalogue reference: MEPO 7

MEPO 7 contains details of the careers of special constables, including those pensioned, promoted, dismissed and transferred, from November 1835 to January 1852.

Catalogue reference: HO 65

HO 65 contains an alphabetical register of Metropolitan police officers 1829 to 1836.

Information that this source should reveal:

MEPO 4: The numerical registers of warrant numbers record the dates of appointment of officers and reasons for their removal from the force. The certificates of service provide personal information including; a physical description, date of birth, trade, marital status, residence, number of children, name and place of last employer, previous public service, surgeon's certificate, postings to divisions, dates of promotion or demotion and cause of removal.

MEPO 7: These records contain general and confidential notices and instructions on personnel matters, including recruitment, promotions, transfers, awards, retirements, and dismissals, and other instructions or notices to be brought to the attention of all ranks.

HO 65: should give details of promotion or demotion.

Factors affecting success of a search:

It will also be necessary to know the name, approximate dates of service and warrant number of the police officer. For a search regarding details of promotion or demotion approximate dates of promotion or demotion would be helpful. For returns of deaths an approximate date will also be necessary.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:
In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the police officer*
- dates of service*
- the police officer's warrant number
- for a search into the returns of deaths in the force, an approximate date of death is necessary
- for searches regarding promotion and demotion relevant dates would be helpful

Our normal fee for one search in the Miscellaneous Service Records, providing the information detailed above is supplied, is £45. A search in MEPO 7, however, particularly for dates after 1889 and/or if the dates of service are unknown, is likely to be more and is unspecifiable.

Search No. 4. Pensions Records

Standard charge: £45

Catalogue reference: MEPO 21

These records are the registers of pensions awarded to Metropolitan police officers who retired or resigned from the force between 1852 and 1993, and who were granted, or who (after 1890) qualified for, a police pension.

Information that this source should reveal:

These records include physical descriptions, date and place of birth, marital status and dates of service. Up to October 1923 they also include names of parents and next of kin, details of past promotions and postings, and an intended address in retirement. From September 1923 the records include the date and place of marriage (where appropriate), wife's date and place of birth and physical description. The series contain some volumes relating to widows' pensions.

Factors affecting success of a search:

It will be necessary to know the name of the officer concerned, their warrant number and date of leaving.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:
In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the police officer *
- the date of leaving the service*
- the police officer's warrant number

Our normal fee for one search in the Metropolitan Police Pensions' records, is £45.

Search No. 5. Gallantry awards and other medals

Standard charge: £45

Catalogue reference: MEPO 2

These records include information regarding the King's Police Medal, its institution and grounds for award 1909 to 1912

Catalogue reference: MEPO 7

Includes notifications of awards in the Police Orders

Catalogue reference: HO 45

The Honours and Awards subject code/sections of this series give details of the King's Police Medal Awards

Catalogue reference: ZJ1

Official public notification of awards in the *London Gazette*

Information that this source should reveal:

MEPO 2: contains a list of awards 1909 to 1912

MEPO 7: contains notices and instructions on personnel matters including awards and instructions or notices to be brought to the attention of all ranks regarding notifications of awards.

HO45: contains details of awards for the King's Police Medal 1909 to 1912.

ZJ1: contains copies of the *London Gazette*, the official newspaper of the government and gives the official public notification of awards.

Factors affecting success of a search:

The approximate date of the award needs to be provided.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:
In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name of the police officer*
- the date of award*
- the police officer's warrant number

Our normal fee for one search in these series of records, providing the information detailed above is supplied, is £45.

Search No. 6. Records of police work and other investigations

Standard charge: £60

Catalogue reference: MEPO 2

Office of the Commissioner: Correspondence and Papers. Records up to 1969

Catalogue reference: MEPO 3

Office of the Commissioner: Correspondence and Papers, special series. Records up to 1969

Catalogue reference: MEPO 4

Office of the Commissioner: Miscellaneous Books and Papers. Records up to 1969

Catalogue reference: MEPO 26

Registered Files, Crime. Records after 1969.

Catalogue reference: MEOP 28

Registered Files, General. Records after 1969

Catalogue reference: MEPO 38

Special Branch: Registered Files. Records after 1969.

Information that this source should reveal:

MEPO 2: Correspondence and papers relating to Metropolitan Police work including special duties regarding the protection of royalty and other distinguished persons, public buildings and dockyards. Files relating to the organisation of the Metropolitan Police including financial matters such as police pay. Police work at several historical events and disturbances. Files on women police. Files on particular crimes, including many *causes celebres*, many of which are still subject to extended closure.

MEPO 3: Files of the Metropolitan Commissioner's Office dealing with special police duties, attempted royal assassinations, the lunacy laws, baby farming, murder and other matters. Also contains general orders of the Commissioner and personal files of senior officials and selected women police officers.

MEPO 4: Metropolitan Police Commissioner's miscellanea including complaints by members of the public, office regulations, Daily Police Reports, papers relating to the Commissioner's Office, arrangements for the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II, state weddings and funerals, posters and publicity material and war diaries.

MEPO 26: Registered files relating to criminal investigations by the Metropolitan Police. Those selected for preservation show the development of policing techniques and procedures, changes in policy and other issues relating to the investigation of crime. Notable major cases are also preserved.

MEPO 28: Metropolitan Police registered files relating to a range of general matters not covered by other specific classifications, including firearms registration, licensing of clubs, arrangements for ceremonial occasions and public morals.

MEPO 38: Registered files relating to the work of the Metropolitan Police Special Branch (MPSB). The records include both policy files and individual case papers.

Factors affecting success of a search:

Please note that some records in these files can be closed for up to one hundred years.

These records could potentially be researched in order to answer your enquiry. There is no guarantee, however, that they contain information relating to the subject of your enquiry, or, indeed, even any mention of this person or persons. We ask you to be as specific as you can about the information you require and that you provide accurate information of the type cited below to allow us to pinpoint the possible relevant sources for you.

The precise details of name, warrant number, case name or number or the date of case are essential to enable us to find relevant sources.

Details required to carry out a search, and our Charge for a search:

In order to carry out a search for our normal fee, the following information is required:

- the full name and warrant number of the police officer*
- the case name or number, and date of case *

Our fee for this search will need to be assessed on an individual basis, but will be at least £60.