

No. 6 Police Training Centre Sandgate Folkstone Kent (later No. 6 DPTC).¹

By Dr. Peter Kennison

As a collector of police memorabilia and having recently acquired my father's police pictures I am keen to find out more about the Training Establishment that he attended at Sandgate Kent in 1952. Of special interest to me was seeing my father's end of course class photograph which is shown below.



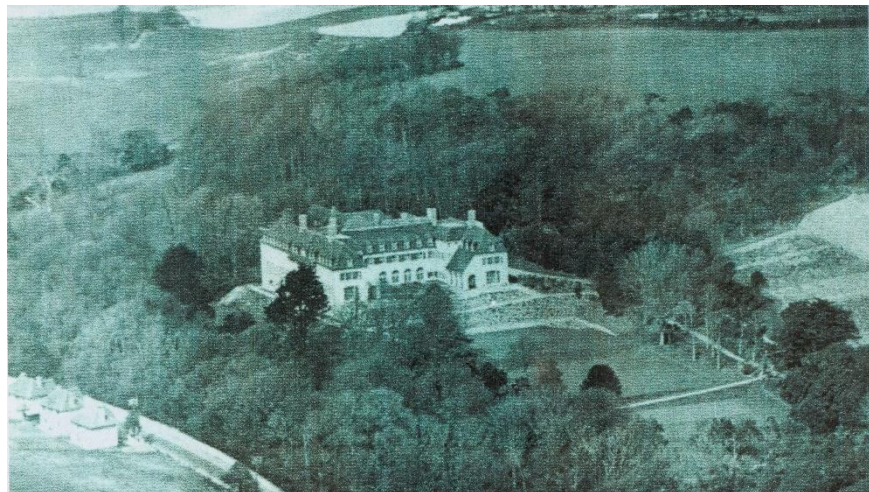
Researching the details of the early origins, use and development of the site interesting facts and events are revealed.

These include some historical facts and details of a few fascinating events and some informative newspaper articles.

No. 6 Police Training Centre was situated south

west of Folkstone harbour and half way to Hythe beach the picture above shows the south aspect of the training establishment. Today a futuristic building occupies the site owned by the Saga Group insurance and called Enbrook Park CT20 3SE situated above St. Pauls Church and below the Martello Tower facing the sea².

The site was originally built on land called Enbrook Park which was part of what constituted a portion of Coolinge Farm with its lush green arable pastures. The farm had Celtic origins and over several centuries it devolved into a significant agricultural estate located in the Sandgate and Cheriton areas of Folkestone, Kent. On site the estate was primarily known for its preserved historic buildings and the schools that eventually occupied its lands³. In 1806 the 27 acres of land was bought by John Bligh, 4th Earl of Darnley, who intended to



An ariel photograph of the Training Centre taken in the 1960s.

¹ <https://british-police-history.uk/f/kent-county-cadet-to-constable>

² Google maps accessed 8th January 2026

³ https://www.google.com/search?q=what+was+Coolinge+farm+Sandgate+Kent&gs_l accessed on 21st December 2025

use it as a coastal retreat for him and his family. The estate and buildings passed through various members of the Darnley family since that time and was sold in 1919 becoming part of a charitable Trust.

By the Mid-1850s the renowned Gothic Revival architect Samuel Sanders Teulon (1812–1873) was commissioned by the Darnley family to build a house on the estate. However, he was known for his distinctive and individualistic approach, characterized by a notable use of polychrome brickwork and elaborate architectural planning. He has often been described as a "rogue" architect for his original, rather than strictly doctrinal, interpretation of the Gothic style. Teulon designed and oversaw the building of Enbrook House on the property using ragstone quarried from the estate. For more than 100 years the estate remained in the ownership of the Darnley family.

“The High Victorian Movement in Architecture, Stefan Mehtesius commented on the construction stating;

“A remarkable instance of cottage features being engrafted upon a small country house is S. S. Teulon's Enbrook (Kent) of 1853. There are no parapets or stone-framed gables, the roof is allowed to project over the walls the many gables are hipped. Enbrook may be compared to Pugin's own house 'The Grange at Ramsgate (see projecting bay windows, but Teulon abandoned the heavy barge boarding of the gable in favour of neater contours p.53”.⁴

The granddaughter of Lord Darnley the countess of Chichester inherited the property and the house became known as Chichester House, being rebuilt in the Cape Dutch style. Like many of the great



families of the nation during WW1 the house became a convalescent home for wounded soldiers and sailors. See picture at left)⁵ In 1919 the Enbrook House estate was purchased by for the Red Cross for a charitable Trust

- the Royal Star and Garter Home (Richmond)⁶ who used as a seaside retreat for the wounded the ex-soldiers and sailors. These patients remained there pending rebuilding of the Star and Garter hospital at Richmond in 1924 and once these were complete the occupants returned to London. The empty building allowed for restructuring and repairs to be made and the same year Enbrook House was

⁴ <https://archive.sandgatesociety.com/uploads/document/5cfe39420c097.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/folkestone/news/the-hidden-gem-park-loved-by-locals-that-now-faces-an-uncert-282010/> accessed 13th January 2026

⁶ <https://archive.sandgatesociety.com/18> accessed on 9th January 2026

entirely redesigned and rebuilt by Sir Edwin Cooper FRIBA who retained Teulons imposing East Wall and many others architectural features.

In 1941 the centre was again requisitioned, this time by the Ministry of Works for use by the National Fire Service. Later in 1946 the site was handed back to the Royal Star & Garter Home (known as Enbrook House) and the Sandgate Star and Garter branch leased it to the Home Office for national police training purposes. Opened by Home Secretary Sir Frank Soskice July 1947 as No. 6 District Police Training Centre for constable's recruit training the Home Secretary would on occasions become the Reviewing Officer at Passing out parades.

By the late 1940s and early 1950s, England and Wales initially used 8 National Police Training Centres (also known later as District Training Centres) for basic recruit training. However, a revision of teaching methods, policy and systems was needed given the vast numbers of demobbed armed forces men returning from the front. Recruiting methods and training was remodelled nationally using a more professional approach not only for recruits but for instructors and staff as-well.

Key locations like Bruche (North West) which opened in 1946⁷ Bridgend (South Wales), and Eynsham Hall (Oxfordshire), alongside the prestigious Police College at Ryton on Dunsmore for senior ranks, creating a structured, district-based system to manage large post-war recruit numbers, with evolving curricula moving beyond technical skills to broader education. After the 2nd World War, a re-organisation of police training at all levels saw the introduction of a number of regional training schools. The List of Training Centres were;



Entrance gate to the Training centre

No. 1 District Police Training Centre, Bruche, Warrington, Lancashire

No. 2 Plawsworth, Yorkshire Easingwold (Plawsworth took all of the students for this district. Plawsworth was a hutted centre and adjacent to an NCB open cast mine which was being extended it was replaced by Newby Wiske)

No. 3 Pannal Ash, Harrogate, Yorkshire

No. 4 Ryton on Dunsmore

No. 5 Eynsham Hall, Nr. Witney, Oxfordshire

⁷ Randles, M. G. (2006) Bruche A Collection of Memories. Birkenhead, Wirral, Country wise Limited.

No. 6 District Police Training Centre, Sandgate Road, Sandgate, Nr. Folkstone, Kent. Leased by Ministry of Works for Home Office. Opened in 1946 and transferred to the Police as No. 6 Training Centre. It closed in 1975 and transferred its resources to the nearby Grosvenor Hall.

No. 7 Eastwood Park, Falfield, Gloucestershire

No. 8 District Police Training Centre, Bridgend, Glamorgan



SE No. 92. **No. 6 DISTRICT POLICE TRAINING CENTRE.** 1952 PHOTO: T. H. I. 63 ANERLEY I PHONE: 5VC

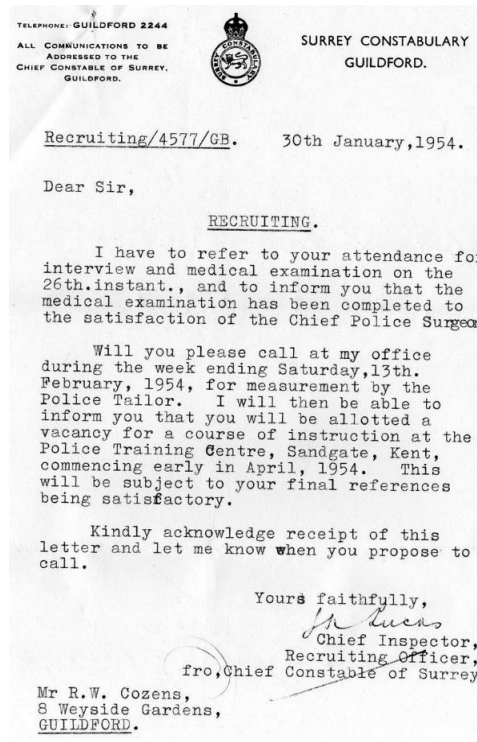
- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| R. Gibson,
<i>Kent.</i> | G. H. Keen,
<i>Berkshire.</i> | B. Haffenden,
<i>East Sussex.</i> | L. Burwell,
<i>East Sussex.</i> | E. Stoner,
<i>East Sussex.</i> | M. Clarke,
<i>Hampshire.</i> | A. E. Roots,
<i>Kent.</i> | | | |
| T. H. R. Wakefield,
<i>Surrey.</i> | A. S. Mace,
<i>Surrey.</i> | B. W. Fry,
<i>Portsmouth.</i> | C. Barton,
<i>Portsmouth.</i> | D. S. Harding,
<i>Surrey.</i> | E. Bedson,
<i>Berkshire.</i> | R. A. Britton,
<i>Hampshire.</i> | S. R. Smith,
<i>Kent.</i> | | |
| F. C. H. Berryman,
<i>Surrey.</i> | A. P. Keene,
<i>Hampshire.</i> | T. Cottam,
<i>Kent.</i> | R. Godden,
<i>Hampshire.</i> | D. Stepney,
<i>Eastbourne.</i> | K. Whitehead,
<i>Berkshire.</i> | W. J. Attrill,
<i>Hampshire.</i> | D. J. L. Huckle,
<i>Kent.</i> | L. W. Fletcher,
<i>Berkshire.</i> | |
| A. L. Baxter,
<i>Portsmouth.</i> | F. E. Kennison,
<i>Surrey.</i> | G. B. Legge,
<i>Bournemouth.</i> | L. R. Rhimes,
<i>Surrey.</i> | D. H. Sivyer,
<i>West Sussex.</i> | E. A. Thomson,
<i>Kent.</i> | S. J. Copas,
<i>Surrey.</i> | R. M. White,
<i>Hampshire.</i> | E. L. Austin,
<i>Hampshire.</i> | S. R. Armstrong,
<i>Portsmouth.</i> |
| Mott, W. A. Pack,
<i>ire.</i> | Sgt. A. Milton,
<i>Kent.</i> | Sgt. R. Harris,
<i>Hampshire.</i> | Supt. H. C. Price,
<i>Metropolitan.</i> | Ch. Supt. R. Roberts,
<i>West Riding.</i> | M.B.E. Insp. L. H. Gurney,
<i>Kent.</i> | Sgt. N. Taylor,
<i>West Sussex.</i> | R. J. Hindry,
<i>Kent.</i> | J. S. Downs,
<i>West Sussex.</i> | S. Pet
<i>Portsmouth.</i> |

Joining the Police. A potential recruit applied to join the police and submitted their application to the relevant Chief Constable of the force they wished to join. Following an interview and a medical check the successful applicant was allotted a day at headquarters to be fitted for a uniform which was worn for the duration of training. A date set to attend the Training centre was later sent to the applicant for commencement of training (See Surrey Police Letter below).

The History of the training centre

The No. 6 District Police Training Centre taught recruits from towns and counties in South east England commencing after WW2 for recruits (and later cadets) from the counties of Kent, Surrey, Berkshire, East Sussex, West Sussex, Hampshire, Hastings, Portsmouth, Brighton Bournemouth, Reading, and Eastbourne. This was a residential recruit training centre which formed part of the students 2-year

probation. The centre was initially housed in the Star & Garter building however later, during the 1960s and 70s, it also utilized the Enbrook House building as well. The building housed a large canteen/cafeteria area, class rooms and dormitories.



Classes consisted of 35/40 recruits and trainees who underwent an intensive 13-week course covering such matters as Police Studies, street duty including criminal law, and marching drills. Drill was about deportment, uniform working as part of a team. Discipline, about pride in being a police officer.

There was an emphasis of physical fitness and particularly foot drill, and self-defence.

The course started with learning the history of policing⁸ with law and procedure being taught in classroom settings. Practical training for officers including law, investigations, and emergency response, used modern methods with role-playing techniques. Included was studying police law enforcement, criminal law, police procedure. A mock court introduced the students to the preparation and presentation of evidence and the testing of trainees in the practicalities of giving evidence effectively in court.

Recruits were taught the basics of first aid as prescribed by the St. Johns Ambulance. Throughout their service police officers were required to be holders of a current first aid certificate or similar. Later Civil Defence was added to the curriculum where the first line of defence in time of nuclear war was the thin blue line. Tear gas training formed part of this as well.⁹

Role playing was relied on to teach how the student police officer was to respond to traffic matters, accident or an arrest for shop lifting. What steps to take at the scene of a crime or what to do when a dead body is discovered. This helped them understand some of the situations, they might find themselves on the streets. Students were expected to learn by rote especially Acts of Parliament and essential paragraphs from the Instruction Book (IB) for the Metropolitan Police and Constabularies used Student Lesson Notes.



South aspect showing the entrance gate to the right

Recruits were required to pass 3 exams at the junior, intermediate and senior stages of their training. Failing these tests could potentially lead to an appearance in the office of the chief instructor or immediate dismissal from the force. Laziness was not tolerated.

⁸ <https://british-police-history.uk/f/kent-county-cadet-to-constable> Accessed on 22nd December 2026
⁹ <https://british-police-history.uk/f/kent-county-cadet-to-constable> accessed on 22nd December 2026

Physical fitness and Officer safety training: Recruit training needed to be tough and demanding. The recruits were initially tested on their levels of fitness in the gym and later out on the track and field. Being fit and strong was the central part of officer safety where learning self-defence tactics and holds was a vital part for officers ability to defend themselves in any confrontational situation. Learning about Officer Safety and how to correctly search prisoners and suspects could help save a life.

Students were encouraged to join teams at the training centre as it was important to engender a sense of competition in football, rugby, hockey and cricket endearing a rivalry and competitive spirit.

Trainees were given swimming lessons, with a notable and challenging part of the training taking place in the cold, open-air swimming baths (called Marina pool) located under the Lees in Folkestone. A canvas-covered truck would transport trainees to the pool. Trainees participated in drills, which also included getting dressed quickly after swimming lessons. Once able to swim a course of Lifesaving was undertaken with instructors teaching water safety and rescue methods as laid down by the Royal Life Saving Society.



Sudden death at the swimming lesson. However sadly on a cold March Day in 1964 during one swimming lesson an emergency occurred where the class had to put their learned skills into practice. Having completed their class tests the 47-year-old Kent police instructor Sergeant Jack Howard collapsed. Immediately two class members rushed forward to his assistance, rendering mouth to mouth however their efforts proved in vain as he was already dead. Howard a strong swimmer had already taken a dip in the sea prior to the tests. A petty officer during the 2nd World War with the Royal Navy he joined the Metropolitan Police in 1947 but returned to his native town Dover a year later where he served for 14 years. He left a wife however their two sons had been killed in the Blitz.¹⁰

Teaching Staff and Centre changes

There were other notable events during the life of the Training School and included changes in staff, promotions, significant events and accidents. Many personalities passed through the gates of the Training School including for example in 1948 after 27 years' in the police service Chief Inspector R. Crighton, Deputy Commandant of the No. 6 Police Training Centre, Sandgate, Folkestone, resigned to take up an appointment in South Africa.¹¹

"In August 1952 there was a passing-out parade at Sandgate of course 67 at No 6 District Police Training College where the Inspecting Officer was the Chief Constable Portsmouth City Mr A C West OBE accompanied Commandant Chief Superintendent R Roberts MBE (West Riding). In charge of the Parade was Superintendent H C Price (Metropolitan) who was Deputy Commandant. The Commandant congratulated the top student- PC Chapman (Hampshire) for obtaining highest aggregate marks on the course. Mr West also stated that it was commendable that thirty-one awards from the Royal Life Saving Society had been obtained by the class and that every man could swim and had qualified for First Aid".¹²

Central (Home Office) teaching methods ensure that all forces have a consistent standard of skills, knowledge, and ethical understanding required to protect the public, prevent crime, and provide a fair and effective service. Training other instructors called Student Instructors was the responsibility of

¹⁰ Tonbridge Free Press - Friday 06 March 1964

¹¹ Evening News (London) - Thursday 25 November 1948

¹² Folkestone, Hythe, Sandgate & Cheriton Herald - Saturday 02 August 1952

central (or National) training and this took place at Sandgate. Local training was performed by officers from forces within the recruit catchment areas.



No. 6 Centre Dining Hall and stage which was severely damaged by fire in 1968

Recruit course 92 took place in 1952 and the Teaching and supervisory staff consisted of Ps A. Milton (Kent), Ps R. Harris (Hampshire), Superintendent H. C. Price (Metropolitan), Chief Superintendent R. Roberts MBE (West Riding), Inspector L. H. Gurney (Kent), and course instructor was Ps N. Taylor (West Sussex).

In 1954 the teaching staff of Recruit Class 118 consisted of Chief Superintendent Pentecost (Surrey), Inspector Milton (Kent),

Sergeant B. P. Mason. (Hampshire), Superintendent D. L. Brown (Kent), Sergeant Marchbank (West Sussex), and Sergeant R. V. Wallace (Kent).¹³

In 1956 there was a change of leadership when Superintendent Gaskain became the commandant of No. 6¹⁴ until in 1958 the deputy commandant was Superintendent Donald Leslie Brown who later became the chief constable of Hastings.

By 1961 the teaching staff now included Sergeant A. Milton (Kent) Sergeant R Harris (Hampshire) Inspector L Gurney (Kent) Sergeant N Taylor (West Sussex) Superintendent H. C. Price (Metropolitan) and Chief Superintendent R. Roberts MBE (West Riding).

A class of potential student instructors (sergeants) also took place at Sandgate entitled No. 21 between 6th March and 15th April 1961. The Student Instructors Course were drawn from Central Training were Ps A. Burkett (Bournemouth) WPs R. A. Pothercary (Surrey), Superintendent Dowell (Kent) Chief Superintendent McDougall (Metropolitan), Inspector Riddick (Kent and Ps Moore (Portsmouth). John Stone who retired from the Surrey Constabulary and who died recently was one of those thousands of names who entered Sandgate in 1961. He said;



Sandgate Centre corridor to class rooms

¹³ Police Memorabilia Collectors Club www.pmcc-club.co.uk accessed 30th December 2025

¹⁴ Penrith Observer - Tuesday 07 October 1958

"I joined in December 1961 and did my training at Sandgate with Punchy Wallace the physical training instructor and Will Squires the drill sergeant. Our class instructor was Sergeant Hill (Kent) and Commandant Frank Brown".¹⁵

Recruit class 181 A3 Class took place between 25th September and 22nd December 1961 with Ps W. Squires, Drill Instructor (Kent) and Ps Wallace (Kent) Superintendent D. G. Vorley (West Sussex), Chief Superintendent F. A. Brown (Portsmouth), Inspector J. Cummings (Eastbourne) and J. M. Packham (Surrey).



Eynsham Hall No. 5 Police District Training school near Witney Oxfordshire.

Recruit Class 186 took place between 7th May and the 3rd August 1962. Their instructors were Ps W. Squires Drill (Kent) Ps R. V. Wallace (Kent), Superintendent D. G. Vorley (West Sussex), Chief Superintendent F. A. Brown (Portsmouth) Inspector A. F. Robinson (Eastbourne) and Ps J. E. Dean Hampshire and IOW.

In 1963 Police Superintendent Dennis Parkin, DSO (South Yorkshire)

who had lived for many years in Kent was appointed Commandant of No. 6 D.P.T.C., Sandgate, Folkestone having been promoted from Inspector to Chief Superintendent within a year.¹⁶

Class A2 of Recruit course 234 began in June 1968 and lasted until September. Their instructors were Ps W. P. Squires (Kent) the drill Instructor and Ps R. Wallace (Kent) Superintendent Morris (Kent) Chief Superintendent McDougall (Kent) Inspector Bowerman and Ps Cotton.

The centre catches fire. In September 1968 the centre caught fire and 70 police cadets who were training at the centre at the time fought a blaze at the No. 6 police training centre at Sandgate Folkestone. The cadets formed a human bucket chain to fight the blaze until the arrival of the fire brigade. Later three appliances tackled the blaze which severely damaged the dining hall and stage area on the ground floor of the three-storey building.¹⁷



The south lawns

Recruit students had to ensure their uniforms and helmets were looked

¹⁵ p3 Surrey Constabulary History 133 edited by Robert Bartlett.

¹⁶ South Yorkshire Times and Mexborough & Swinton Times - Saturday 23 November 1963

¹⁷ Kentish Express - Friday 13 September 1968

after at all times and free from fluff and dirt. Badges on helmets were highly polished with boots buffed and trousers ironed. It was important the recruits needed to have respect for the uniform they wore.

Officers were required to take a final examination to prove an acceptable level of suitability to continue their 2-year probation – the remainder of which was undertaken back in their forces and initially with a parent or tutor constable, on the streets.

In June 1962 the reviewing officer was Sir Joseph Simpson Metropolitan Police Commissioner (and former Chief Superintendent of the Surrey Constabulary) who said;

“...that the recruits had successfully completed a 13-week course of training that has given them a grounding in police law and practice, first-aid, lifesaving and swimming, self-defence, drill, physical education and Civil Defence”.¹⁸

Among guests who watched the parade and inspection by Sir Joseph, were Mr. Hermon Rutherford, Chief Constable of Surrey and chairman of the Chief Constables' Committee, representatives of many police authority committees in the Southern Counties, and the Mayor of Folkestone, Cr. Wilfred Lawrence.¹⁹



Sir Joseph continued with suggesting that the Sandgate Centre's 16 years of existence since 1962, the training of police constables and more than 6,530 cadets have been through the course. Not only were recruits taught at Sandgate but police cadets were too. Between them they have gained 6,062 St. John Ambulance Association awards, and 4,714 Royal Life Saving Society honours. And 712 non-swimmers have been taught to swim.²⁰

When not studying for the next day's test, they would be found washing their clothes, ironing their shirts and trousers or writing home to loved ones. Postcards of the Centre were available on sale at Sandgate produced by Lambert Weston and son of Folkstone. These postcards could be purchased at the centre and were written home to wives, partners and relatives keen to hear how the recruits were getting on. Personal hygiene was also an important factor and the instructors would teach the students about keeping clean and avoid infection.

In the picture above left Assistant Chief Constable Ted Post from the Surrey Constabulary is the Reviewing officer and he would have given these successful students valuable words of advice to aid them in their careers.

¹⁸ Kentish Express - Friday 29 June 1962

¹⁹ Kentish Express - Friday 29 June 1962

²⁰ Kentish Express - Friday 29 June 1962

Once a student had passed their final examination there was a passing out parade to which all the recruits looked forward to especially the course party in the evening. The Reviewing Officer police would examine and review and inspect the ranks of the successful candidates. Mothers, Fathers and other family members were invited to the parade to watch their sons (and later their daughters) qualify to the rank of constable. The reviewing officer also witnessed the students perform a complicated drill display which as one Senior officer noted "Their marching skills would be of credit to any Regiment of Guards". Also present were the local and national newspapers who took pictures and reported on the events of the day. One such passing out parade was reported in June 1965 when the Home Secretary Sir Frank Soskice visited the centre to inspect the 74 trainees passing out who had completed their 3-month course and salute the march pass. The PT display and drill demonstration were also viewed by the senior officer. The press said;

"The officers from Kent and other South Eastern counties, would be returning 'to their respective forces to go on the beat". The highlight was an "air sea rescue" specially suggested for Sir Frank to demonstrate raw co-operation that exists between the police "and the air sea rescue services".



1950 Unnamed Recruit class pictures wear flat caps rather than helmets

In the lecture to the recruits Sir Frank offered words of advice suggesting that a policeman had to have many qualities.

"You will need tact, a sense of humour and a deep understanding of human frailties.' The junior band of the 'Royal Marines from Deal were 'also on parade and they played a new march called "The 'Blue Light", which was specially written for the college by ' Capt. Peter Sumner. A helicopter from RAF. Manston hovered over the police college and winched up the police officer "in difficulties". Then the helicopter landed in an adjoining field where an ambulance was waiting to take the "patient" to hospital. Sir Frank said he was very impressed with what he had seen.

He told the officers:

"You all belong to the greatest police force in the world. You have chosen a career which will be hard and strenuous and you won't receive many thanks. But it is an honourable career and one which will enable you to render inestimable service to your fellow citizens."²¹

The passing out parade of Recruit Course 226 was worthy of special recognition given that it was the 21st Anniversary Parade at Sandgate on Friday 16th June 1967. The Reviewing Officer was the Rt Hon. Lord Cornwallis KBE MC Lord Lieutenant of Kent. Situated not far from Sandgate was the Royal Marines School of Music at Deal. A band would be supplied for passing out parades to supply music for the ceremony and occasionally for the events e.g. an evening dance. The Commandant at the time was Chief Superintendent G. S. McDougall (Kent) assisted by Deputy Commandant Superintendent C. Dowell (Kent). The Home Office supplied the Secretary and Chief Instructor namely Mr. G.S. Spackman and Chief Instructor J. B. Norris (Durham). Four Inspectors and 18 sergeants drawn from the recruiting area made up the rest of the teaching staff. Some 59 recruits passed out on that day.

The Order of Events started with the Parade Assemblies under the supervision of the Deputy Commandant. This was followed by an Inspection and march past. Next was a drill display organised by the drill sergeant W. P. Squires (Kent). R. V. Wallace (Kent) was responsible for the Physical Training (PT) Demonstration. Next the Band of the Royal Marines School of Music gave a recital by kind permission of Colonel N. S. E. Maude (Commandant). A display by the police dogs and handlers of the Kent County Constabulary (By kind permission of the Chief Constable of Kent R. D. Lemon). An address to the students came next by Lord Cornwallis (Lord Lieutenant of Kent) followed by a reply by F. J. Parsons JP Chairman of the District Police Authority Committee. Tea was served later on the terrace.

²²

The local newspapers further reported;

"A comprehensive programme of arena events has been arranged commencing with a pass-out parade of recruits and inspection by the Chief Constable of Hampshire. This will be followed by displays of physical training, foot drill, and a display by the Hampshire Constabulary Band. The arena events will be concluded by a display by Kent police dogs Police transportation, communication, major incidents and many other facets of police work will be featured within the centre, including closed circuit television and the reproduction of photographs within patrol cars".²³

In 1972 the Police Training Establishment was open for the first time to the general public not just the guests of the recruits passing out. This was a community safety exercise to open the doors and showcase the modern achievements currently taking place in policing.

A year later the District Training Centre was closed and eventually relocated to Grosvenor Hall, Kennington in Ashford previously a Metropolitan Police Phase 2 Cadet Training Centre. The Ashford Police Training Centre took over as the Training school for cadets and recruits and operated from 1973 until 2006, when it became a youth activity centre.

In 1977 Inter-City Tours Ltd (SAGA) purchased the 27-acre estate for around £200,000. The old Star & Garter Buildings, was demolished in 1996 and replaced by the SAGA Holiday Insurance Group's offices and pavilion complex was built in 2001.

²¹ Chatham, Rochester and Brompton Observer - Friday 25 June 1965

²² Correspondence leaflet published for the 21st Anniversary 1967 by F. J. Parsons (Kent Newspapers) Folkstone.

²³ Sheerness Times Guardian - Friday 25 August 1972

The picture below shows the Saga Building and Pavillion on a prederatory overlooking the sea at Sandgate.²⁴ It wasn't until March 2025 that SAGA moved into their new premises which now formed their Headquarters.

Today, parts of the area are still recognized as a valuable local recreation space whose green space is used free through which the public may wander.



²⁴ Courtesy of Hopkins Architects <https://www.hopkins.co.uk/projects/workplace/saga-group-headquarters/>