

## THE WOLVERHAMPTON POLICE FORCE

The opening of a new and purpose built Station is a comparatively rare experience in any Police Force. In our case, July 15th, 1964, is an outstanding date, for it is the first occasion of such a function for one hundred years. On the last occasion the Station was part of a larger scheme — the present Wolverhampton Town Hall — and even then it was incomplete because for a time the cells and the 'barracks' remained at the old Town Hall in Garrick Street.

At the time of this change the Force establishment was 62.

By the end of World War I the Force had grown to 116 men, but the women who had served during the war period were disbanded in 1919.

During the 1920's the Central Station was evidently found no longer adequate, for during that decade, proposals were made for the provision of a

new Police Headquarters and Courts; indeed by 1930, a site was chosen and plans were being drawn up. They did not materialise.

The 1930's were a decade of substantial building progress in the Police Service generally, and in this respect the Force began to lag behind for, as it continued to grow (by 1937 it had an establishment of 147), its Headquarters became more and more overcrowded and inadequate. Little progress was made however in building, and development to relieve the pressure was limited to the acquisition of a small office in the grounds of a police house at Bushbury and the purchase of a commercial firm's Bowls Club Pavilion at Heath Town for use as a district Station.

During and after World War II the need for new and much larger accommodation grew more intense but building programmes were, at that time, severely