

restricted. The Force continued to expand and develop on modern lines, with increased mobility, mechanisation and modern communications but always handicapped by the inadequate accommodation. The Central Station was modernised so far as possible — the single men's living quarters and the Superintendent's house being taken into the Station accommodation and the war-time Control Centre built in the prisoners' exercise yard being retained for the Information Room and Traffic Department. To allow the first of those, Penn Hall was purchased as the single men's home.

In 1952 the Force was re-organised in three Divisions to increase operational efficiency, but all three had still to share the same accommodation.

Meantime, extensive plans for a modern Civic Centre for Wolverhampton had been adopted. These included new Police Headquarters and Courts, but as these were to come at the end of the

Civic Centre programme, it became more and more imperative to provide additional accommodation for immediate needs.

At last, in 1961, sanction was received to build at Grove Street the first of our separate Divisional Stations and this reaches fruition with the opening of the new Station.

Simultaneously, the Watch Committee acquired extensive former factory offices at Dunstall Road for conversion to a new and very well provided Force Headquarters. The conversion is well advanced and will be completed in 1964/65; indeed, the administrative block will be occupied almost simultaneously with the opening of Grove Street Divisional Station.

The establishment of the whole Force is now 282 (265 men and 17 women) with 22 Police Cadets and a commensurate civilian staff.