

PRESENTATION TO SERGT. RYALL.

A gratifying token of the respect and esteem in which Sergt. F. RYALL (who recently retired on pension from the Borough Police Force after 30 years service) is held by the regulars and "specials", was witnessed on Thursday evening when he was presented with a gold watch by Mr. Capel MORRIS, chief of the Special Constabulary, and a gold chain by the Chief Constable on behalf of the regular force. There was a large attendance at the Police-station, and the proceedings were of a pleasant character.

In making the presentation on behalf of the Special Constabulary, Mr. Capel MORRIS said that none of them would ever regret the time they gave to help the borough police in the time of their country's peril, and when he heard of Sergt. RYALL's pending retirement he thought it would be nice to give him something in acknowledgement of their friendly relations with him at all times, and he was exceedingly grateful to the members for their generous response to his appeal. They had been out day and night in all weathers, and though a strict discipline they had all found Sergt. RYALL always ready to help and advise them and make their duties as pleasant as possible. In handing him the gold watch he, on behalf of all the "specials," wished the ex-sergeant every happiness in his retirement and that the gift would be a pleasant memory to him of the relations which had existed amongst them (applause).

Special Constable ESCOTT, as one of the oldest members of the constabulary, who joined in 1914, said the ex-sergeant had rendered them every assistance and they appreciated the cheery words he gave them on their sometimes, weary night patrols (hear hear).

The Chief Constable in presenting to the ex-Sergeant RYALL the gold chain, said it was sad to have to bid an official farewell to a good old servant and particularly so in the present case. The officer had served for 30 years and might have retired three years ago but the Watch Committee agreed with him that his services were necessary owing to the absence of so many of their men having joined H.M. Forces, and he willingly stayed on. With regard to the testimonial Mr. Capel MORRIS approached him on behalf of the "Specials," and Sergeant REES having got to know something about it all the regulars subscribed as much as they could afford towards a chain for the watch and which he had the pleasure of now presenting to him. He regretted that Sergeant REES was unable to be with them having a special appointment at Newport that evening. In all his experience he never worked with an officer more satisfactorily than he had done with Sergeant RYALL, one had only to tell him what was required and it was done, and his 30 years service had been the best a man could give. The ex-Sergeant was respected by everybody- he would not say loved because a police officer who did his work did not expect to be (laughter) - but nothing he could say would be in exaggeration of his regard for him and he was very sorry they had to part with him. In conclusion he expressed all good wishes for his future (applause).

P.C. PALMER, one of the demobilised constables from the Army, tendered a grateful acknowledgment of Sergt. RYALL's loyal work during their absence, remarking that he never wished to work with a better sergeant.

Ex-Sergeant RYALL, in acknowledging the gifts, said he had always tried to do his best and to place duty before anything else. No-one could work with a better Chief Constable than Mr. GREENSTREET and they had never had a cross word despite the strenuous times they had passed through which were apt to make them bad tempered occasionally (laughter). With the regular force so depleted and the men required for aliens work at the Pier head there had only been himself and the "specials" to attend to the duties of the town and their relations had invariably been on a most friendly footing. He thanked Mr. Capel MORRIS and the Special Constabulary as well as his late comrades in the Borough Police Force, and Miss WHEATLEY, for the help and courtesy they had always shown him and he assured them he highly appreciated their kindness and generosity (applause).

At the conclusion of the proceedings the company bade Sergt. RYALL a hearty farewell.
