

AN EXTREMELY FINE 1924 THE KING'S POLICE MEDAL PHOTO AND DOCUMENT GROUP AWARDED TO A METROPOLITAN POLICE CONSTABLE AND EX ROYAL MARINE, WHO WAS BADLY INJURED STOPPING A RUNAWAY HORSE IN LOUGHTON HAVING CHASED IT ON A MOTOR CYCLE AND CAR BEFORE FINALLY AND SOMEHOW MANAGING TO GET FROM THE MOVING CAR ONTO THE HORSES BACK AND BRING IT TO A HALT!



KING'S POLICE MEDAL, 1ST TYPE, COINAGE HEAD, G.V.R., WITH GALLANTRY RIBAND 'P.C., JOSEPH ALLEN, METROPOLITAN POLICE.'

K.P.M. *London Gazette* 1 January 1924. The original recommendation states:

'On the evening of the 16th October 1922 this officer attempted to stop a mare which had bolted 2 1/2 miles with an uncovered trolley at Loughton but he was struck on the chest by a shaft of the trolley and knocked down. He then mounted behind a passing motor cyclist and overtook the runaway but again unsuccessful in his efforts to stop it. He resumed the chase in a motor car and overtaking the animal climbed over the rear of the trolley on to the mare's back and brought it to a standstill. The constable sustained injuries to his leg and was placed on the sick list.'

Joseph Allen, a labourer from Forest Hill, London, was born on 10 April 1883 and enlisted into the Royal Marine Light Infantry (No 13626) on 13 November 1902. Serving aboard H.M.S. *Albion*, *Aboukir*, *Endymion* and *Patrol*, with periods ashore with Chatham Division, he was discharged on 5 August 1910 (paid £8) and enrolled into the Royal Fleet Reserve. On 26 September 1910 he joined the Metropolitan Police as a Constable, No.420, of 'J' Division (Hackney); which seems the likely reason for leaving the Marines.

On 2 August 1914, Allen was recalled to service and 3 days later embarked on H.M.S. *Marmora*, an armed Merchant Cruiser recently requisitioned by the Admiralty. Leaving *Marmora* on 10 August

1916, he joined *Antrim* 4 days later, serving until 2 April 1917 and for the duration of the War seems to have served ashore with Chatham Division, *Pembroke (Hibernia)* and *Victory*. During his wartime service he variously held the ranks of Private, Lance Corporal and Acting Corporal. He was discharged from war service in February 1919 and returned to the police.



For his services during the Great War, Allen was awarded the 1914 Star trio, which were claimed via the Metropolitan Police in January 1921 and in November 1921, he received the Royal Fleet Reserve Long Service, Good Conduct Medal, having been discharged from the Reserve the previous August.

On October 1922, Constable Allen performed his act of gallantry, which resulted in him being badly injured. Injured when knocked down by the horse and trolley when he tried to stop the horse from bolting, he then got on the back of a passing motor cycle and on reaching the runaway, presumably tried to get onto the trolley and fell off, injuring his leg. As if this wasn't enough, he must have flagged down a car and on overtaking the horse, somehow managed to get from the moving car to the moving trolley and then on to the back of the horse itself, which he was able to bring to a standstill!

For his 'exceptional courage', he was presented with a cheque for £7 by the Bow Street Reward Fund and a year later was further recognised with the award of the King's Police Medal.

Constable Allen was finally discharged from the Police on 28 September 1934, when he was pensioned 'in consequence of injury received on duty'. His Metropolitan Police discharge certificate (present in group) notes his conduct as 'exemplary' and lists him still with 'J' Division. The nature of the injury which resulted in him being pensioned is as yet unknown.

SOLD TOGETHER WITH THE FOLLOWING ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS ETC:

- 1) Metropolitan Police discharge certificate dated 5 October 1934 confirming his resignation in consequence of injury received on duty.
- 2) Typed citation for the award of the King's Police Medal.

3) Newspaper cutting relating to his gallantry and noting the presentation of a cheque for £7 given to him for his action, given by the Bow Street Reward Fund.

4) Three original photographs of Constable Joseph Allen in uniform; one, in postcard format, wearing his King's Police Medal, presumably on the award being made. Two further 20 x 15cm press type photos, both damaged in places; the first guarding Prince Edward (later Edward VIII). This clearly 1930's as Allen is noticeably older but his police number, 420J, can still be seen. The second is a policeman directing traffic. This is presumably Constable Allen but its not clear enough to see his number.



5) A fine large 23 x 19cm bordered portrait photograph (removed from frame) of a police officer wearing a Coronation 1902 medal (Metropolitan Police issue) and a King's Police Medal. Originally believed to be Constable Joseph Allen, it is definitely not. This medal and document group came direct from the family and it is therefore likely this is another family member, probably an older brother or perhaps an uncle or cousin. A Charles Allen of the City of London Police was awarded the King's Police Medal in 1923, so a possibility but given he wears the Coronation 1902 medal, it would suggest it is a pre 1930 award. This Officer's number is 233 though unfortunately the Division letter can't be seen but this still may help nail down who it is.

6) A rare original 1909 Warrant for the King's Police Medal. This ripped in places and repaired with old tape but complete.

7) Royal Army Ordnance Corps Gazette for July 1938. With 'Pte Allen' inscribe to front cover.

8) Original Certificate of Service for Joseph Allen (13626) Royal Fleet Reserve.

In recognition of his exceptional courage in stopping a runaway van horse at Woodford on October 16th last, P.C. Joseph Allen (J) was presented by Mr. Graham Campbell at Bow Street Police Court, with a cheque for £7 drawn on the Bow Street Reward Fund. On his first attempt the Constable was struck by one of the shafts and was knocked down. Recovering himself he mounted a passing motor cycle, and about half a mile further along the road made a second unsuccessful attempt to stop the horse. Though badly injured in the leg he again pursued the runaway in a motor car, and overtaking it climbed into the rear of the van and on to the horse's back. This time he succeeded in bringing it to a standstill.

The Chief Commissioner, who brought the facts to the notice of the magistrate, wrote that P.C. Allen risked serious injury regardless of his own safety and displayed great courage and determination worthy of the highest praise. Mr. Graham Campbell said that he fully concurred in these observations, and in handing the cheque to the officer expressed his sincere wishes for his future in the Force.

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KING'S POLICE MEDAL.

Joseph Allen.

Constable, Metropolitan Police.

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On the evening of the 16th October 1922 this officer attempted to stop a mare which had bolted 2½ miles with an uncovered trolley at Loughton but he was struck on the chest by a shaft of the trolley and knocked down. He then mounted behind a passing motor cyclist and overtook the runaway but was again unsuccessful in his efforts to stop it. He resumed the chase in a motor car and overtaking the animal climbed over the rear of the trolley on to the mare's back and brought it to a standstill. The constable sustained injuries to his leg and was placed on the sick list.





The names of all ports to be entered in the column marked 'Ports' from the date of entry to the date of discharge. If the name of the port is not known, the name of the ship should be entered in this column.

Rank	NAME	Division or Ship	No. on Ship's Books	Date of		Cause of Discharge from Division or Ship	Character on Final Discharge and on Final Discharge from the Service	Ability	Recommendations for Medal and Gravity (M.M.R.) and for Special Reserve	Commandant's or Captain's Signature
				Entry	Discharge					
	Joseph Allen	Chatham Division				Re-enrolled in R.F. Reserve				W. Ormsby Lieutenant Major WM Major Registrar R.F.R.
						5 August 1920 Discharged from R.F.R. (No discharge of R.F.R. Reserve)				

THE KING'S POLICE MEDAL.

The KING has been pleased to issue a Warrant under His Majesty's Royal Sign Manual to the following effect:—

EDWARD, R. & I.

EDWARD THE SEVENTH, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India, to all to whom these presents shall come: Greeting!

Whereas We have taken into Our Royal consideration the good services which are rendered by officers of the Constabulary forces and by persons serving in Fire Brigades within Our Dominions and in Territories under Our Protection or Jurisdiction and the heroic acts of courage and instances of conspicuous devotion to duty of such persons which are from time to time brought to Our notice:

And whereas We are desirous of distinguishing such meritorious conduct by some mark of Our Royal favour:

We do by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, institute and create a new Medal to be awarded for such acts of courage and conspicuous devotion to duty.

Firstly.—It is ordained that the Medal shall be designated and styled "The King's Police Medal."

Secondly.—It is ordained that the King's Police Medal shall consist of a circular Medal of Silver with Our Effigy on the obverse, and on the reverse a design emblematic of Protection from danger, and shall bear on the rim the name of the person to whom the Medal is awarded.

Thirdly.—It is ordained that the Medal shall only be awarded to those of Our Faithful Subjects and others who being members of a recognized Police Force or of a properly organized Fire Brigade within Our Dominions or in Territories under Our Protection or Jurisdiction, have performed acts of exceptional courage and skill or have exhibited conspicuous devotion to duty; and that such award shall be made only on a recommendation to Us by Our Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Fourthly.—It is ordained that the names of those upon whom We do confer this Decoration shall be published in the London Gazette, and that a Register thereof shall be kept in the Office of Our Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Such Register shall show the name and rank of the person holding the Medal, the Police Force or Fire Brigade of which he is or was a member, and particulars of the action for which the Medal has been awarded.

Fifthly.—It is ordained that each Medal shall be suspended from the left breast, and the riband, of an inch and three eighths in width, shall be dark blue with a narrow silver stripe on either side.

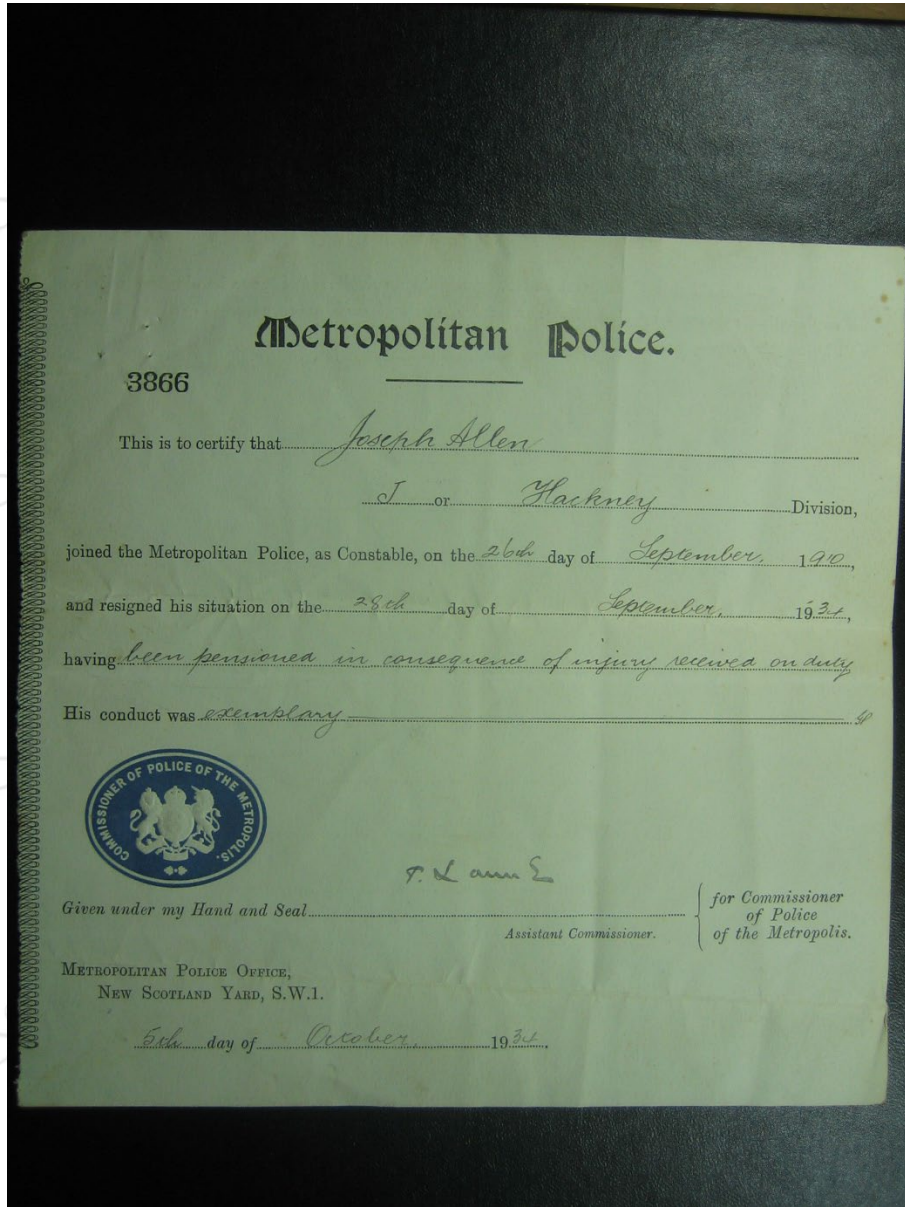
Sixthly.—It is ordained that any act of gallantry which is worthy of recognition by the award of the King's Police Medal, but is performed by one upon whom the Decoration has already been conferred, may on a recommendation to Us by Our Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, be recorded by a Bar attached to the riband by which the Medal is suspended; and for every such additional act an additional Bar may be added.

Seventhly.—In order to make such provision as shall effectually preserve pure this honourable Decoration, it is ordained that if any person on whom the Decoration is conferred be guilty of any crime or disgraceful conduct which in Our judgment disqualifies him for the same, this Medal shall, by an especial Warrant under Our Royal Sign Manual, be forfeited, and his name shall be forthwith erased from the Register of those upon whom the said Decoration shall have been conferred. And every person to whom the said Medal is given shall before receiving the same enter into an agreement to return the same, if his name shall be so erased as aforesaid under this regulation. It is hereby further declared that We, Our Heirs and Successors, shall be the sole judges of the circumstances demanding such forfeiture.

Given at Our Court at Saint James's, the seventh day of July, one thousand nine hundred and ninth year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command.

H. J. Gladstone.



Condition GVF. A really quite superb group, recently to the market from Constable Allen's family.