

Port of London Authority Police Archive

The PLA had their own police force, comprised of a merger of private dock police forces when the PLA came into being in 1909. The Police were responsible for the protection of London's commercial docks and had powers to stop and search people in the Docks and on docked ships. They dealt with criminal and accidental cases as well as giving assistance for state visits.



The archive holds many staff summary sheets of members of the police force dating back to the separate dock police forces, which includes various key moments in their careers e.g. dates of service and ranks. There is also a range of records from criminal investigations to correspondence and training that the PLA police undertook.

The PLA police records can be found under PLA/PLA/POL on our collections database (not currently available to view by the public), and include records that fall into the sections below:

- PLA/PLA/POL/1 - Personnel
- PLA/PLA/POL/2 – Police cases
- PLA/PLA/POL/3 – Police assistance
- PLA/PLA/POL/4 – Police orders
- PLA/PLA/POL/5 – Police Accommodation
- PLA/PLA/POL/6 – Correspondence
- PLA/PLA/POL/7 – Plans (engineering / dock layouts)
- PLA/PLA/POL/8 - Publicity

Please be aware that records are patchy in some areas and we may not hold records of an individual officer or particular event.

For any PLA police related enquiries, please email **portriverarchive@museumoflondon.org.uk** (or write to Port and River Archives, Museum of London Docklands, West India Quay, London E14 4AL).

If you are looking for a relative please include as much information as you have, including (if possible) the full name, full dates of birth / death and estimated dates of employment of the person you are looking for.

We receive a high volume of enquiries and aim to answer them within 20 working days; however this may increase if the service is particularly busy. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause to you.

Please note that some of the collection may be closed due to the sensitive nature of the records and inclusion of personal data. If enquiring about an individual, that person about whom you are asking for information must be deceased in order for us to assist you. If you are requesting information about a living individual, under the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR, the person in question or individual acting on their behalf must submit a Subject Access Request. Guidance on how to do this will be provided upon request.