

Annual Report
of the
State Police Division

Dover, Delaware
March 10, 1943

To the Chairman and Members of the
State Highway Department
Dover, Delaware

Sirs:

I respectfully submit herein a report of the activities of the State Police Division of the State Highway Department for the calendar year 1942 in which are included recommendations for the year 1943.

You will find included only the more important items of activities; however, I have on file a detailed report of each Bureau of the Division which is readily available for examination at any time.

STATE POLICE DIVISION

Pearl Harbor and the war events which closely followed opened the scene on what proved to be the most unusual and revolutionary year in the history of the State Police organization. Criminal investigation and identification work increased tremendously while traffic enforcement decreased by one-third, a personnel recruiting and in-training program was initiated, a driver improvement program was established, and the radio communications system was completely modernized. Some of these factors were a result of the war conditions while others were accomplished in spite of the war.

The State Police has taken a very active and leading part in civilian defense preparedness programs and in matters closely associated with internal security. Our activities have not been confined to any one phase of these new subjects but have extended to practically every branch of activity even though, at times, they were only remotely associated with normal police procedure.

Our participation in these related fields originated several years back when the Federal Bureau of Investigation requested the assistance of our Bureau of Criminal Investigation in conducting important inquiries relative to subversive activities of suspected persons and organizations within the confines of our State. By reason of having at our disposal, trained investigators, we have been able to expeditiously handle these matters and return complete and comprehensive reports.

In addition to investigations for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, we have closely cooperated with the Army and Navy Intelligence and other branches of our Federal Government engaged in the war effort.

Then too, we had our normal program consisting of local criminal investigation, identification, traffic enforcement, fire-arm instruction, modernization of our communications system, personnel training, driver improvement, school safety and general police duties.

It is gratifying to call to your attention the close spirit of harmony existing between all agencies with whom we cooperate. It is also pleasing to apprise you of the loyalty and unselfish spirit of our personnel in devoting extra time and effort in getting the job done.

Tabulations relating to the Bureaus of Criminal Investigation, Identification, and Traffic are appended.

BUREAU OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

The Bureau of Criminal Investigation has now been functioning for a period of three years. Its development and progress under the guidance of Lieutenant Carl Schnetter, graduate of the National Police Academy, has been very encouraging.

During the year, 2,863 criminal cases were investigated as compared to 2,503 cases in 1941 for an increase of 13.1%. This is evidence of the increased functions of this Bureau and the service which it is rendering to the public.

Larceny is the greatest criminal problem which confronts the Bureau. There were 214 charges of larceny placed against persons. It is interesting to note the intelligent manner in which the investigators handled these cases. Of those persons brought to trial, 95.6% were convicted.

Six States, the City of Wilmington, the Federal Government and several Penitentiaries were assisted in apprehending 133 fugitives; 110 motor vehicles valued at \$41,591 were recovered and returned to their owners; and other property amounting to \$42,632 was recovered and returned. It is interesting to note that of a total of \$84,233 of stolen property recovered, \$52,945, or 62.8%, was recovered by the personnel of Station No. 2 at State Roads.

The Bureau also assisted the Federal Bureau of Investigation by investigating 130 cases pertaining to our "Internal Security."

BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION

The war with its subsequent activities increased tremendously the volume of work in this Bureau. During seven years of the existence of Identification work, 1935 to 1941 inclusive, 30,150 fingerprints were recorded, processed, and filed as permanent records. During the past year, 27,731 fingerprints were recorded which is a program nearly equivalent to the first seven years work.

There are now in the Bureau 57,881 fingerprints of which some 20,000 remain to be processed before being filed as permanent records.

In addition to the fingerprinting work, 988 films were developed, 1607 photographs printed, 640 enlargement prints made, 281 photostat copy prints made, 229 fire-arms registered, and 67 persons from other organizations instructed in fingerprinting technique.

BUREAU OF TRAFFIC

Twenty less persons were killed in motor vehicle traffic accidents during 1942 than during the previous year. This resulted in a 27% reduction in the death rate. An even greater decrease, 36%, was experienced in the number of persons injured. Enforcement activities also showed a sharp decline, there being a 46.9% and 36.5% reduction in traffic arrests and reprimands respectively. These percentage decreases can all be largely attributed to the reduced amounts in travel, speeds, and personnel. However, the enforcement index of 5.1 and the ratio of reprimands to arrests, 4.2 to 1, maintained during the year indicates that there was present a satisfactory quantity of enforcement.

Cooperation with Federal Agencies extended into two fields; the enforcement of the requested 35 mile per hour speed limit and dim-out regulations. Notification of violations of the speed limit were sent to the Office of Price Administration in 257 cases; 415 reprimands were issued for



PRIVATE REED FINGERPRINTING A CIVILIAN AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS

structed in the proper use of firearms; 50 revolvers were repaired; and 14,000 rounds of ammunition were moulded and reloaded. In addition, Sergeant Shockley was acting Station Commander, from August until January, during the absence of Sergeant James R. Wood who attended the National Police Academy of the United States Department of Justice.

COMMUNICATIONS

The radio communications system was completely modernized during the first three months of 1942. The old amplitude modulation system was replaced with a frequency modulation system. Five stations and 35 mobile transmitters were purchased and installed in the police stations and patrol cars. This system permits station to station, station to car, car to station, and car to car communication. It is more economical and a vast improvement over the old system. It also permits inter-state exchange of radio traffic.

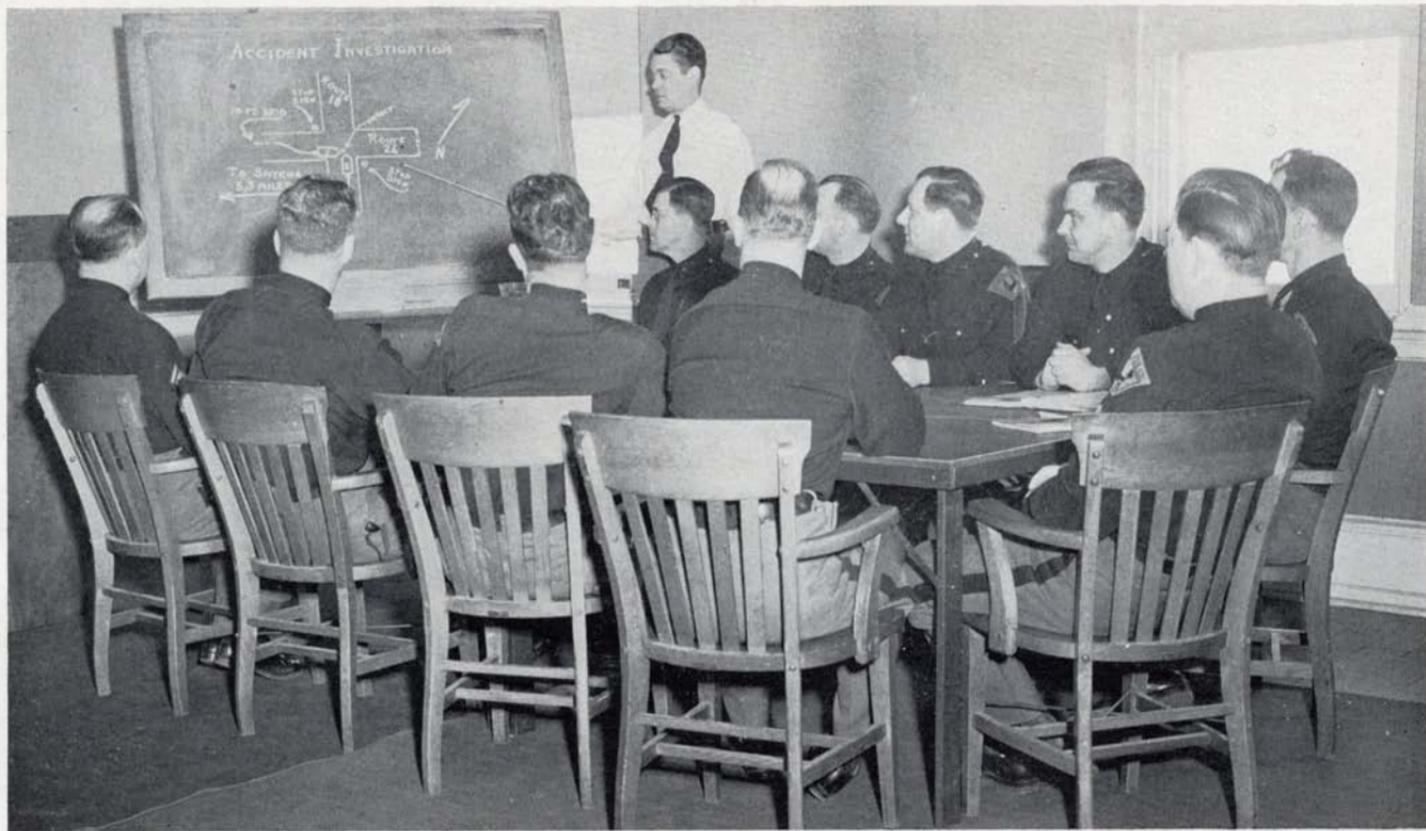
A summary of the traffic exchanged by the various radio stations and the location of each station follows:

Location	Messages Sent	Messages Received
Penny Hill	3,801	4,300
State Roads	7,219	5,190
Dover	7,481	6,717
Georgetown	5,376	1,066
Bridgeville	3,608	14,765
Total.....	27,485	32,038

In addition, the State Roads station sent 1,981 messages via teletype to the nine States using this service and received and filed 16,200 incoming teletype messages.

COMPENSATION INCENTIVE PLAN

The compensation incentive plan was conceived during the early months of the year by the former Superintendent William A. McWilliams, now Major McWilliams, U. S. Army. The plan has two main objectives; first to establish in-training schools in order that members of the force may be tech-



TRAFFIC IN-TRAINING SCHOOL

nically trained in the fields of criminal investigation, identification, traffic, and firearms; and secondly, to compensate members of the force on the basis of a rating system.

The beneficiaries under this plan are the public, State Police Division, and members of the force: The public by reason of the better service rendered; the Division as a result of more efficient operation; and members of the force due to the fact that they may approach their problems in a more intelligent manner and receive additional compensation as a result of their better understanding of the respective fields of Police endeavors.

As of December 31, 1942, forty-four men had qualified under one or more phases of this plan. Sub-divided they are:

Criminal Investigation	26
Identification	0
Traffic	8
Firearms	35

RECOMMENDATIONS

I am submitting the following recommendations for the year 1943:

1. That the electric scales now located at Headquarters at State Roads be moved to a point of advantage on the Governor Printz Boulevard.
2. That a permanent recruiting and training program be adopted to function under the guidance of a recruiting and training officer.
3. That provisions be made to completely revise the Motor Vehicle Code before the next session of Legislature.
4. That a plan be formulated for the resumption of the School Driver Training Program at the cessation of the war.
5. That a small laboratory be established at Headquarters for the use of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

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5. That a small laboratory be established at Headquarters for the use of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

6. That as part of the Post-War building program, the following projects be given consideration:
 - a. Construction of new approaches to the scales at Stations No. 1 and No. 2.
 - b. Enlargement of Station No. 4.
 - c. Provision of adequate garaging space at Stations No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3.

Respectfully submitted,

ROGER P. ELDERKIN
Captain Commanding

A P P E N D I X

Record of Criminal Arrests

Abortion	2
Aiding and Abetting	2
Arson	11
Assault	7
Assault and Battery	159
Assault to Kill	18
Assault to Rape	2
Breaking and Entering	28
Breaking and Entering (Larceny)	63
Cruelty to children	1
C. C. D. Weapon	14
Discharging firearms	2
Disorderly conduct	164
Disorderly House	3
Disturbing the peace	39
Drunk and disorderly	241
False pretense	4
Federal	60
Forgery	9
Fugitive	57
Gambling	41
Indecent exposure	2
Incorrigibles	4
Larceny	214
Larceny of motor vehicles	37
Malicious mischief	13
Manslaughter	2
Material witness	51
Mental	3
Miscellaneous	43
Murder	10
Non-support	18
Parole violator	1
Possessing and receiving stolen goods	16
Pointing firearms	1
Rape	2
Resisting arrest	3
Riots	3
Robbery	11
Runaways	31
Threats	20
Toying with female minors	7
Trespassing	48

Vagrancy	24
Violating age of consent	4
Wife beating	10
Worthless checks	4

TOTAL..... 1,509

Total number investigations	2,863
Value of property recovered	\$84,223.04
Automobiles recovered	110
Fugitives apprehended	133

Record of Fingerprints

By Year and Type:

Year	Personal	Applicant	Criminal	Circular	Total
1935 .....	....	....	335	....	335
1936 .....	....	....	1,179	40	1,219
1937	271	....	1,899	70	2,240
1938	241	....	3,391	236	3,868
1939	245	....	4,811	140	5,196
1940	266	494	5,324	1,806	7,890
1941	68	2,518	5,071	1,745	9,402
1942	6,573	13,772	5,963	1,425	27,731
Total.....	7,664	16,784	27,973	5,460	57,881

Identifications of Persons with Previous Record by Year:

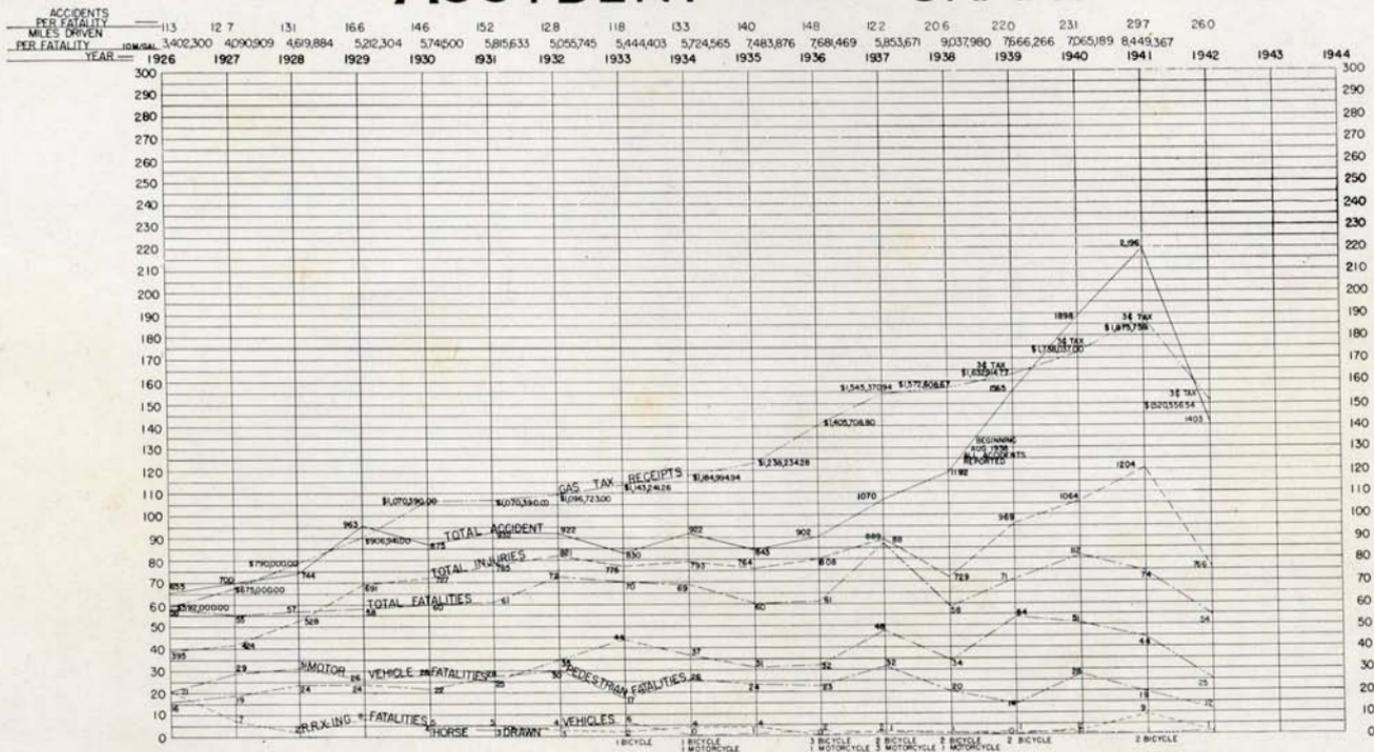
Year	Number Identified
1935	20
1936	300
1937	354
1938	742
1939	1,663
1940	2,185
1941	2,229
1942	2,778

Total..... 10,271

Record of Traffic Arrests

Assault and Battery by Motor Vehicle	45
Brake Violations	65
Disregarded Stop Signs	357
Flare Violations	111

STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT ACCIDENT CHART



Improper Passing	26
Improper Turning	23
License Violations	631
Light Violations	106
Leaving scene of accident and Failure to Report Accident.....	86
Manslaughter	29
Miscellaneous Pedestrian Violations	3
Miscellaneous Reckless Driving Violations	305
Miscellaneous Violations	50
Other Equipment Violations	47
Overweight Violations	573
Sign and Signal Violations	153
Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol	148
Operating a Motor Vehicle Without Owner's Consent	32
Parking Violations	38
Pedestrian Intoxication	149
Reckless Driving	619
Registration Violations	207
Speed Violations	949
Violating Dim-Out Regulations	30
Total.....	4,782

Accident Data by Counties

County	Deaths	Personal Injury Accidents	Property Damage Accidents
Kent	16	247	377
New Castle	22	95	175
Sussex	16	156	305
Total.....	54	498	857

Accident Data by Stations

Station	Fatal Accidents	Personal Injury Accidents	Property Damage Accidents
Station No. 1	7	61	93
Station No. 2	13	173	269
Station No. 3	11	93	158
Station No. 4	9	90	195
Station No. 5	8	81	142
Total.....	48	498	857

All and Fatal Accidents by Type and Per Cent

Type of Accident	PER CENT OF TOTAL			
	Fatal Accidents	All Accidents	Fatal Accidents	All Accidents
Pedestrian	12	68	25.00	4.85
Other Motor Vehicles	20	743	41.67	52.96
Railroad Train	1	17	2.08	1.21
Street Car .....	..	1	0.00	0.07
Animal Drawn Vehicle	1	3	2.08	0.21
Bicycle	3	17	6.25	1.21
Animal .....	..	16	0.00	1.14
Fixed Object	2	209	4.17	14.90
Overtuned in Roadway .....	..	50	0.00	3.56
Ran off Roadway	7	265	14.58	18.89
Other Non-Collision	2	12	4.17	0.86
Miscellaneous .....	..	2	0.00	0.14
Total.....	48	1,403	100.00	100.00

Activities by Stations

Station	Hours Patrol	Hours Special Duty	Hours Station Duty	Hours Court	Hours Acc. Inv.	Hours Crim. Inv.	Total
Station No. 1.	20,325	3,394	9,476	1,048	594	4,691	39,528
Station No. 2.	16,597	6,074	10,568	501	1,322	6,591	41,653
Station No. 3.	13,160	1,550	11,534	619	700	3,618	31,181
Station No. 4.	7,443	2,014	11,316	846	1,224	4,809	27,652
Station No. 5.	12,712	843	9,968	184	534	3,902	28,143
Total....	70,237	13,875	52,862	3,198	4,374	23,611	168,157
Administration Hours							26,838
Total.....							194,995
Total Number Reprimands							19,963
Total Property Damage to Motor Vehicles							\$284,539.00
Total Fines Collected							\$65,103.10
Total Miles of Travel by Motor Vehicle							1,384,480
Total Miles of Travel by Motorcycle							59,410
Convictions for Dangerous Moving Violations							2,781
Percentage of Convictions for Traffic Arrests							93.5%
Enforcement Index							5.1