

Winter 1965

Police Science Book Reviews

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Recommended Citation

Police Science Book Reviews, 56 J. Crim. L. Criminology & Police Sci. 553 (1965)

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it takes seven or eight years to complete a baccalaureate program on a part time basis and classes are geared to the work schedule of officers enrolled.

The curriculum emphasizes the liberal arts as well as police work. Advanced work includes the social studies geared to the needs of the police. In

addition to associate and baccalaureate degrees now offered it is proposed that a master's degree curriculum will be developed and that eventually advanced studies associated with the University's Ph.D. program in the social sciences may be developed. (OH)

POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by
Rolland L. Soule*

EXPLOSIVES AND BOMB DISPOSAL GUIDE. By Robert R. Lenz. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois. 1956 Pp. 303. \$9.25

Mr. Lenz is to be congratulated for producing a book that should be in the library of every Police and Fire Department. The author has accumulated a large amount of material concerning bombs and explosives from many sources. Some of this information has been obtained from various police and fire agencies, explosive companies and explosive ordnance disposal personnel. This vicarious experience and research has supplemented the author's military EOD experience. Master Sgt. R. Lenz is well known to Military EOD men because of his years as an instructor at the U. S. Naval School in Indian Head, Maryland.

Military Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams throughout the world are often called upon by local police and fire agencies to dispose of commercial explosives and homemade explosives and bombs. Sgt. Lenz developed a course to instruct these military teams and has as a result of that course of instruction written a book on the subject.

The preface states that many believed that this book should not have been written because it may fall into the hands of a potential bomber. Mr. Lenz does not say that members of the New York City Police Bomb Squad, which is the most experienced police bomb squad in the world with the possible exception of the squad in Havana, Cuba, has not published a book for that reason. Not only may disposal methods be disclosed to the wrong people but the book could also be classified as a "do it yourself bomb makers manual". Another disadvantage is that a policeman or fireman after reading this Guide may possibly attempt to handle explosives or bombs without sufficient additional

training. However, this volume is appropriately named as an *Explosives and Bomb Disposal Guide*. It is not meant to be a complete course of instruction for the uninitiated.

Surely there is, as the author says, a definite "need to know" among the personnel of police and fire agencies. Too often does a police department have an explosive incident and afterwards think of training. A list of technical references on pp. 282-284 will provide a basis for additional explosives study. Repeated warning is given that before explosives are handled a course of instruction should be given to personnel by a competent teacher. By contacting the closest Army EOD unit any official police or fire agency in the United States can receive free training and assistance in explosives disposal. The author's picture on p. 237 conveys to the reader the sensitivity and power of explosives in no uncertain terms.

This work is rather complete and touches on all phases of police bomb disposal. A list describing many commercial, homemade and military explosives is given. Since the author's experience has been mostly with military ordnance he displays his best knowledge in that chapter. The collection of evidence in cases of live unexploded items and bombings is mentioned only briefly. There are many interesting illustrations throughout this Guide, particularly of homemade bombs. Sources of explosive supplies are listed. Bomb disposal tools, and equipment are named but are not sufficiently explained. Mr. Lenz relates a method which he devised of opening suspected bomb packages or containers remotely with a shotgun.

As a result of reading this book the police officer will be aware of the fact that before he attempts to handle an explosive or a bomb problem he should in addition to having read the book, have

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had thorough training in this field, otherwise he should know where to obtain expert assistance.

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THE POLICE OF THE 20TH CENTURY. By V. A. Leonard. The Foundation Press, Inc., Brooklyn, N. Y., 1964. Pp 200. 29 Illustrations. \$5.00.

Utilizing experiences and information gained during his long career in the field of law enforcement, V. A. Leonard has written "expressly for young people" a portrayal of the American police field and the career opportunities that lie ahead in this important branch of the public service. The text is designed to serve as a reference work for students and vocational counselors interested in study or employment in policing.

The ten chapters deal with a wide-ranging panorama of police topics from the organization and administration of a modern police department to the tragic problem of traffic deaths. When the author reports on records systems, communications, and scientific crime detection, he generally presents a clearer picture than he does in his treatment of crime causation and early criminologists such as Cesare Lombrosa. A chapter on "Methods of Entry Into Police Service" provides basic information on the available answers open to would-be police officers. However, a longer and more detailed treatment of this area would seem to have been desirable in a book designed for young people.

Leonard's admiration for August Vollmer for

whom the author worked as a police officer for eight years, is evidenced in a final section called, "Dean of Chiefs of American Police." Throughout the book the author includes a number of photographs and references to himself and uses many examples and illustrations based on his acquaintance with West Coast policing.

Several useful appendices include a list of institutions offering academic degrees in police science and administration, entrance requirements for a Berkeley patrolman, a multi-page Berkeley employment application form, a very selective bibliography, and a useful index.

The police field has a need for such works as this which can inform young people and others regarding law enforcement. The author has put together a short, profusely illustrated volume written in a colorful style that should engage the interest of young people. The occasional deviations from factual treatment of the profession including unsupported criticisms and comments on individuals, practices, and organizations do not negate the book's basic value.

While not a text that would be of benefit to a modern police administrator or even a serious college student pursuing a program in police science, this book should serve a useful purpose as a vocational guide and general interest work for high school students.

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