

POLICE ORDER No. 27

Dispersal of
mob by
Armed force.

The Inspector-General again calls attention to Police Manual Rule 621 (e) (i) and (v) a experience has shown that there are officers who do not realise the imperative necessity for keeping mobs at a safe distance and for the officer-in-charge staying with the main body of his men.

2. Admittedly it is difficult to prevent scattered bands of hooligans from approaching a police-station or other place but considerations of humanity must not obscure the urgent need for keeping the Police party intact, unharmed and under the personal control of the officer responsible. This is of paramount importance.

3. Police Manual Rule 621 (k) (i) lays down that firing is to be at once effective and that there must be no firing of blanks or firing over the heads of rioters. The Inspector-General reminds all officers that to this rule there must be absolutely no exception.

4. A perusal of Police Manual Rules 621 and 524 will make it clear that buckshot must not ordinarily be used in the day time as it is ineffective on crowds who have to be kept 50 to 100 yards away. To obviate mistakes there must be close instance on the order that only ball ammunition will be carried in front pouches whilst buckshot needed for sentries at night will be kept separate in pouches at the back of the belt.

5. The Inspector-General will give every support to officers who adhere strictly to these rules and instructions which can, with advantage be shown to any magistrate deputed to accompany police parties.

(Previous Police Order Reference No. 1 of 1943)