



THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF N.S.W.

PAPER NO:- 8

PREPARED & DELIVERED BY:- K. Newman

DATE:- Monday, 23rd November, 1992.

---

POLICE COMMISSIONER BRO. WILLIAM JOHN MACKAY

William John MACKAY was born in Glasgow, Scotland on the 28th November, 1885, the son of Murdock MACKAY, A Police Officer<sup>1</sup> in GLASGOW ( since 1874) His father was a harsh diciplinarian.

This was the same year Khartoum was captured and British Imperialism was at its height with Queen Victoria in her 48th year of reign.

Mackay was raised in poor circumstances being low wages and low living conditions and a low standard of education. As a small child, Mackay was sickly contracting diphtheria as well a string of other ailments. To recuperate he was sent by stage coach to his aunties home in the township of TOUNGE in the County of Sutherland. On arrivał there he was clad in a tattered shirt stuffed with cotton wool and brown paper and was not wearing shoes. His aunty bathed him and dressed him in an old course shirt and a kilt and sent him out to play. Mackay's feet were so sre that he could not walk across the road.

Mackay spent some three years in Tonge before he was sent back to Glasgow. Mackay did not like school life and he was often truant. Mackay and a school friend ran away to sea on an Onion Boat travelling back and forwards to Europe for a period of about three months. He returned to Liverpool England poor and penniless. He went to an Uncle, a Policeman in Liverpool for assistance, After being scrubbed, his hair cut and lice being removed from his head, he was fed and dressed and put on a train back to Glasgow. He was met by his father, taken home and was subjected to a sound thrashing and sent back to school. Because of his reluctance to learn and his past truancy he was forced to spent many extra hours at school under close tutoring and strict supervision.

