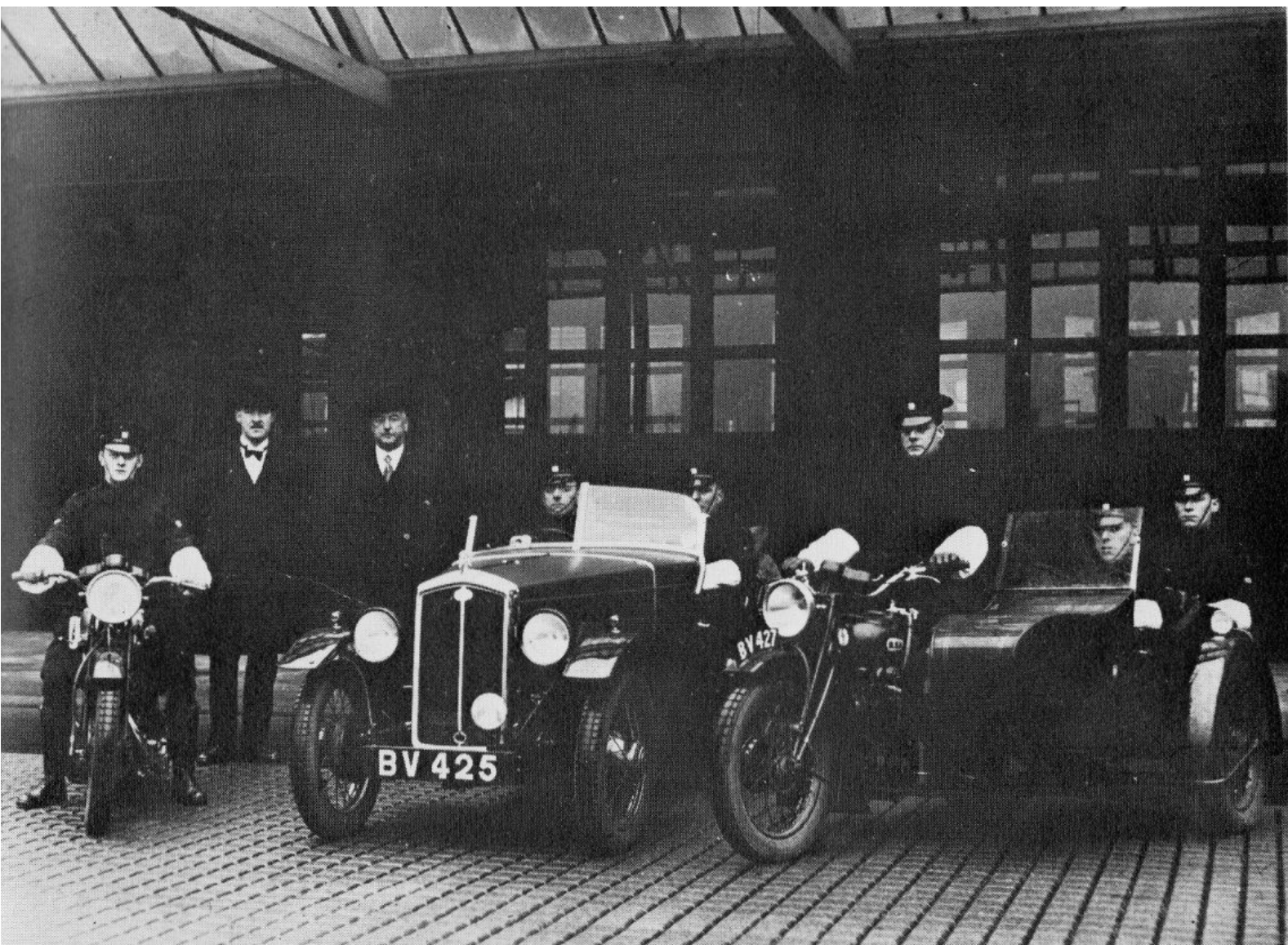


# BLACKBURN POLICE FORCE'S FIRST MOTORISED DIVISION c.1931

—COURTESY “BLACKBURN IN OLD PICTURE POSTCARDS” (1984)

WITH INFORMATION BY PETER SEAWORD



BV for Blackburn registrations were first used in 1930, BV 425 being issued in 1931 (either Jan or Feb) – the car is a 12hp Hornet which was introduced only in 1930 – initially it was a factory bodied saloon and so this car BV 425 was sent as a saloon to a coachbuilders to have it removed and a tourer body fitted – as the two BSA motorcycles appear to be sequentially numbered and as the combination is presumably new my guess is that all were supplied together by Swallow Sidecars of Blackpool who made both the sidecar AND the bodywork on the Wolseley (the V screen is very typical Swallow). Swallow became SS Cars and later Jaguar. The Wolseley was very similar to the first Morris Minor (apart from the engine) and appears to be factory built to the scuttle.

Police forces were responsible for their own purchases then and we know that some forces seemed to like Wolseleys – with Hornets and I believe some Specials (later) being used – certainly I am told New Fourteens were also used but it was not until the Series II cars that Wolseley actually produced cars specifically for the Police – with police specification, pricing and brochures – presumably sales efforts were directed at both the forces themselves and the Home Office – The Metropolitan Police in particular were won over for many years up to and including the late 60s with the 6/110. For some reason the 15/60 and 16/60 and later front wheel drives were not the cars of choice, with Triumph, Rover, Vauxhall and the start of purchases of foreign makes – something uncountenanced previously for Government agencies.

With regard to the Hornet tourer - I assume the occupants would have to remove their headgear and possibly even bow their heads with the hood raised and although both motorcycles appear to have additional instruments none of the machines have any additional signage or identification.

Peter Seaward