Sergeant 1st Class Greville Reginald Pinkerton Police number 5078 – aka Reg Pinkerton.

Reg saw service during WW2 with No 1 Fighter Wing (Spitfires), in northern Australia and after being discharged decided to follow his father and joined the New South Wales Police Force.

He initially joined as a mounted trooper in 1946 and after completing his basic training at the Police depot in Redfern, was posted to Redfern Police station for one day and then posted to the Police depot stables for the next nine months.

Posted to Mullumbimby early 1947, where he made his first arrest, a poor old drunk. After the initial arrest, this old drunk became a regular arrest especially on cold and wet nights. In appreciation of the Police accommodation, the drunk use to attend the station the day after his release with a present of bananas for the shift.

1948 - Posted from Mullumbimby to Nowendoc

Accommodation at the Nowendoc Police station was a bit different to that today, tank water, kero lamps, dunny down the back (long drop). Roads in and out of the area were blocked after minor rain and/or snow and the only reliable transport was a horse.

Soon after arriving in Nowendoc, he was involved in the arrest of some cattle rustlers at Wild Cattle Creek. Although the Magistrate stated that whilst it is well known that it is difficult to catch the offenders that come into this kind of business and taking into consideration the facts given to him and the previous good characters of defendants, he would sentence them to three months' hard labour, sentences suspended on condition that defendants be of good behaviour for two years and received a fine of £20 to cover cost.

Whilst serving at Nowendoc both he and his wife Marg were actively involved in the local community and the bushman’s carnival. Reg was one of the members responsible for the introduction of flat racing into the program.

In 1950, Reg was involved in tracking a group of rustlers from the Walcha district on the North coast, back over the high country towards Nowendoc. Stock stolen includes hundreds of head of valuable beef cattle, mostly Devons. A detective sergeant (not trained to operate within the bush or on horseback), three constables (including Reg), two black trackers and a pack horse, tracked the rustlers that had been taking cattle from fenced and un-fenced properties along their route and driven the heard over mountains through the scrub. After three weeks trekking through the Australian bush at high attitudes in snow, rain and crossing flooded rivers, an arrest was made in the hills north of Nowendoc.

Three weeks in the Australian High country, in winter, on horseback, tracking rustlers, no mod cons, now that’s the life.

Posted to Albion Park (south west of Wollongong) in 1954 as the senior Constable in charge of the station, taking over from SGT ‘Teddy’ Thatcher. With this posting he changed horses for motor bike (the station had a 650cc Triumph Tiger and an Indian with side car).

Upon arrival at Albion Park, Reg and his family took up residents at Marshall Mount some five miles northwest of the town, in a small house without electricity, where kero lamps and an ice chest were the order of the day, a bit different to Police married quarters today.

In 1956, he moved his family into the police residence in Albion Park (the house had running water, electricity and the phone number was 44). Two years later, the Albion Park station received their first Police car, a 1958 FE Holden sedan.

Whilst at Albion Park, Reg was involved in the ‘Great 18 Door Limousine Theft’ where two children, about 7 and 9 stole a night cart from Illawarra and drove it to Oak Flats before being stopped. Neither child could reach the pedals to drive the vehicle, so one operated the pedals whilst the other one steered.

Reg was one of the first people in Albion Park to acquire a new invention called a television.

Broken Hill

Reg and his family arrived in Broken Hill in June 1960, after travelling via West Wyalong, Ivanhoe and Wilcannia in an FB Holden. Five in the car, plus a dog and towing a trailer. 60% of the roads past West Wyalong were dirt and an overnight stay in the Wilcannia Hotel, did not send a clear message of what was in store.

His first residence in the hill was at 337 Thomas Lane. On promotion to Sergeant 2nd class, he moved into the Police residence on the corner of Wolfram Street and Garnet Street and finally he moved into the Police residence on the corner of Wolfram and Sulphide Street when promoted to Sergeant 1st class.

One event Reg recalls is when an unidentified member placed a dead snake in the desk drawer of Detective Constable Ron Walsh. When Ron opened the drawer, the head of the snake moved. The drawer was slammed shut whilst Ron exited the area with great speed. The investigation carried out by Ron over the next few months, failed to identify the induvial/s that planted the snake.

Whilst serving in Broken Hill, Reg carried out a number of relief manning duties within the district.

Reg served in the NSW Police force for a total of 32 years, until he was medically discharged in 1979.

**Promotions:**

Probationary Constable: Mar 1946

Constable: Mar 1947

Constable 1st Class: Mar 1953

Senior Constable: Jul 1958

Sergeant: Jun 1960

Sergeant 2nd Class: Oct 1967

Sergeant 1st Class: Dec 1972

**Police is in the blood**:

Reg’s father had a distinguished career in the NSW Police Force serving 34 years at a number of Police stations within the Sydney area, his brother Max served with the NSW Highway Patrol for 20 years, his son Peter served with the Royal Australian Air Force Police for 30 years and two of his grandsons are current serving members of the NSW Police Force, Jozef (Police prosecution) and Adam (Fingerprints).