Records of the Town of Brookhaven Police Department (Suffolk County, NY)  
[Chief Edward N. Bridge Collection]

February 11, 2015

Described and arranged by: Ellen Belcher, Special Collections Librarian,

Acquired by: Purchase from Mrs. Hudson’s Fine Books and Papers by the John Jay Library,  
February 2015

Size: 12 folders in 1 box (1/2 linear foot)

Dates of Collection: 1937 – 1959

Access: Collection is available without restrictions by appointment in the Special Collections Room,  
please email libspcoll@jjay.cuny.edu or call 212-237-8238.

Preferred citation: Records of the Town of Brookhaven Police Department  
Special Collections, Lloyd Sealy Library  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

Description:  
The Records of the Brookhaven Police Department cover the entire chronology of this department.  
Chief Edward E. Bridge organized and oversaw the agency for the entire time of its existence from  
1937 to 1959.

The collection mainly documents the daily activities of the Brookhaven Police Department,  
including incoming and outgoing correspondence, internal memoranda on procedures, events and,  
external communications with town, county, state and out of state agencies. The collection includes  
letters and responses to issues such as break-ins, burglaries, traffic issues, permits, personnel issues,  
auto theft, lost and found persons and property, requests for police surveillance of summer homes  
in winter months and commendations and thanks for police services.  

The bulk of the correspondence, memoranda and notices are to and from Chief Bridge, but precinct  
commanders, captains and other officials appear as correspondents and recipients. These documents  
show the development and internal workings of a small suburban police force in mid-century Long  
Island. There are also files relating to civil defense activities, including documents relating to civil  
defense activities, including documents relating to civil  
alert drills, air raid sirens and civil defense shelters. While a newspaper article documents that Chief
Bridge led one of the first police raids and arrest of individuals engaged in homosexual activities in Cherry Grove, Fire Island in 1953, no documentation of this operation was found in the collection.

Edward N. Bridge, according to his obituary, was born in Brooklyn, NY, and began the Brookhaven Town Police in 1937, serving as police chief until 1959. The force, at its largest had a force of 110 officers when it was joined along with adjacent town police departments under the jurisdiction of a new Suffolk County Police Department in January 1960. Thereafter he served for one more year as inspector in the Suffolk County Police before his retirement. Chief Bridge died at home at the age of 72 in March, 1965.

Series Description:
1. Nine folders contain documents relating to the Brookhaven Police Department 1937-1959, Chronologically Arranged. One folder contains two pistol license applications by local residents.
2. Two folders contain documents relating to the Town of Bookhaven Civil Defense – 1951 - 1959
3. One folder contains copies of articles and a typescript about Police Chief Edward Bridge and the Brookhaven Police Dept.

References:


Separation note:
The following titles were removed from this collection and cataloged as rare books

(1939, Patchogue) Police Association of Suffolk County, Inc. Constitution and By-Laws.


Police Association of Suffolk County, Inc. Suffolk County Law Enforcement Agencies and County Roster
(issued annually, collection contained 1955-56, 1958-1959)
Folder listing

Brookhaven Police Department documents
1. 1937-1939
2. 1940-1944
3. 1945-1949
4. 1950-1951
5. 1952-1953
6. 1954-1955
7. 1956-1957
8. 1958-1959
9. Pistol License Applications

Town of Brookhaven Civilian Defense
10. 1951-1959 memoranda
11. 1951-1959 reports

Information on Chief Bridge and the Brookhaven Police Department
12. 4 copies of articles in Suffolk County News,
   “BRVN Police: How they got their blue stripe,” By V. Field (undated typescript)