

# Roll of honour

In the second of a two-part series, *Police Review* continues its commemoration of women officers who have been killed while on duty. Anthony Rae reports

The Police Roll of Honour Trust has 38 women officers on their records. Of the 38, there have been 22 deaths in road accidents, three deaths by drowning, one by enemy action and one collapse during training. Eleven women officers have been unlawfully killed: six RUC officers by terrorist acts, and in mainland Britain two have been killed by vehicles and one each by stabbing, shooting and terrorist bomb explosion.

**Joanna M. Cochran**  
police constable  
Thames Valley Police  
Died - March 29 1984, aged 20

She was fatally injured while the observer in a patrol car. The car swerved to avoid an obstruction in the road and the vehicle overturned during an early morning vehicle pursuit in Oxford.

**Yvonne Joyce Fletcher**  
police constable  
Metropolitan  
Police  
Died - April 17  
1984, aged 25

While policing a political demonstration outside a foreign embassy in St James's Square, central London, she was shot in the back and fatally wounded when automatic weapons were fired at the crowd from inside the embassy building.



All pictures supplied by Anthony Rae

**Ivy Winifred Kelly**  
detective  
constable  
aged 29  
Royal Ulster  
Constabulary



**Rosemary Elizabeth McGookin**  
police constable  
aged 27  
Royal Ulster  
Constabulary

Both officers died  
February 28 1985

Both officers were killed, together with seven other officers, by the explosion of a mortar bomb when Newry RUC station came under heavy mortar attack by terrorists. The canteen was destroyed by a direct hit.



**Tracy Ellen Doak**  
police constable  
Royal Ulster  
Constabulary  
Died - May 20  
1985, aged 21

Killed together with three colleagues in a police patrol car by the explosion of a terrorist bomb placed in a trailer near the road where they were escorting a security vehicle at Killeen, Newry.



**Deborah Leat**  
police constable  
Avon and  
Somerset  
Constabulary  
Died - November  
27 1986,  
aged 20



Killed when her police patrol car went out of control on a bend and crashed into a tree while she was pursuing a vehicle which had failed to stop in the early hours at Speedwell.

**Jacqueline Ann Brown**  
police constable  
Hertfordshire  
Constabulary  
Died - June 7  
1989, aged 23



Died from serious injuries sustained in the early hours when she lost control of her patrol car, which crashed on a bend in wet weather, while she was carrying a prisoner and escort at Harpenden.

**Jo-Ann Jennings**  
police constable  
Essex Police  
Died - November  
12 1989,  
aged 23



Fatally injured when the police patrol car in which she was the observer left the road and collided with a tree near Brentwood, while responding to a disturbance during the early hours.

**Colleen Linda McMurray**  
constable  
Royal Ulster  
Constabulary  
Died - March 28  
1992, aged 34



While on mobile patrol late at night in Newry, County Down, she was caught in a terrorist attack, receiving injuries from a horizontally fired mortar bomb which struck her police vehicle. She died the following day.

**Gina Rutherford**  
police constable  
South Yorkshire  
Police  
Died - February 7  
1994, aged 25



She drowned when the patrol

car, in which she was the observer, skidded off an icy road in the early hours and plunged into the river at Wath-upon-Dearne, near Barnsley, trapping her inside.

**Gail Doreen Pirnie**

police constable  
Metropolitan Police  
Died – October 26 1994, aged 42

Collapsed and died from a heart attack, having just completed an exercise while undergoing a baton training course at the Peel Centre, Hendon.

**Sandra Jane Edwards**

police constable  
South Yorkshire  
Police  
Died – May 10  
1995, aged 28



Died from injuries received when her traffic patrol car left the road and hit a wall during a high-speed pursuit of a suspected stolen car at Cudworth, near Barnsley.

**Melanie Igoe**

police constable  
Strathclyde Police  
Died – May 30 1995, aged 28

Fatally injured in a road traffic accident while undergoing instruction on a traffic motorcycle training course. She lost control of her machine on a bend near Largs.

**Philippa Jane Parish**

police constable  
Hampshire  
Constabulary  
Died – March 13  
1996, aged 29



Killed while the observer in a police car responding to an alarm call in the early hours of the morning. The vehicle collided with a brick wall at Winchester.

**Vanessa Rosemary Carroll**

inspector  
West Midlands  
Police  
Died – April 28  
1996, aged 35



Killed in a road accident while on secondment with the British police contingent in Bosnia. She was forced to swerve to avoid an oncoming car and was thrown from her vehicle.

**Nina Alexandra Mackay**

police constable  
Metropolitan Police  
Died – October 24  
1997, aged 25



As a member of the Territorial Support Group, she forced entry to a flat at Stratford, in order to arrest a violent and deranged wanted man, whereupon she was stabbed in the chest and fatally wounded.

**Alison Armitage**

police constable  
Greater Manchester  
Police  
Died – March 5  
2001, aged 29



While keeping observation on a stolen car in Oldham, a suspect returned to the vehicle and, in attempting to stop him driving away, she went to the rear of the car. The car reversed and knocked her down before running over her, causing multiple injuries from which she later died.

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**Anthony Rae is a sergeant in Lancashire Constabulary and chairman of the Police Roll of Honour Trust**