

British Graduate Chicago Cop

BY GWEN MORGAN
(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

HARTLEY WINTNEY, England, June 24—With the Scotland Yard band playing, England's lord chief justice on hand, and blue uniformed men marching in review across a tree-shadowed meadow, Capt. Patrick Needham of Chicago today became the first American to be graduated from Britain's police college.

Needham, newly promoted to director of planning in the Chicago police department, was one of 24 to complete the senior staff course of the college, a mellow red brick 17th century mansion set in 250 acres of rolling countryside 40 miles south of London.

"He's been a wonderful ambassador," said the college administrator, Supt. Fred Tilling. To his colleagues Needham has become "our Pat."

Uniform Stands Out

Needham's Chicago uniform with its golden star stood out among the dark navy blue of the 250 police men and women marching thru the green meadow in the ceremonial parade.

The lord chief justice, Lord Parker, for the day trading his gray wig and scarlet robes for a bowler hat and a dark business suit, inspected the police lines and then spoke to the graduates.

"The task of police," Parker said, "is constantly increasing and must be accomplished in an age when it is fashionable to attack anyone in authority. But we should not allow this to worry us too much, providing we do our best with absolute honesty and fairness."

Accused Are Favored

Parker said in Britain police and judges have to operate at a time of increased crime within a legal framework "hopelessly outdated" and geared to days when many offenses could bring the death penalty. Today the death penalty has almost disappeared in Britain. In addition, legal aid favors accused persons.

Parker said Britain must reform its jury system. In the United States, he said, courts take much trouble selecting a jury. "Here we take none at



Capt. Patrick V. Needham.

all. Sometimes I wonder there is ever a conviction."

Needham, looking 10 pounds thinner than on his arrival, said the six months at the police college has been "a great experience." The studies, he said, had "kept me hopping from morning to night, with classroom work six to eight

hours daily six days a week."

"It's been give and take thru out," he said. "I've learned a great deal about Britain's very successful and sound police system, and made a lot of friends for the rest of my life."

The exchange spread onto the sports fields. Needham introduced softball and learned to play cricket "after a fashion." He won second prize in a cricket throwing event but credited his earlier experience at baseball for this success.

Needham's family came with him, taking over a house in a village called Fleet three miles from the college.

The three boys, 8, 7, and 5, "settled in well" at the local school. On the way home, the Needhams will have one or two days in Shannon, Ireland, where he will meet County Mayo relatives, both paternal Needhams and maternal O'Malleys.