

New questions over officer's fascination with Hitler's reviled killers

Policeman faces fresh fury over 'praise for SS'

A SENIOR police officer is under scrutiny over praise for Hitler's evil SS troops.

Justice Minister Cathy Jamieson will this week be asked to study extracts from books by Chief Inspector Robin Lumsden of Fife Constabulary and investigate whether it is appropriate to allow him to continue in the force. Mr Lumsden faced criticism two years ago when he displayed the car registration number N5 DAR under-stand to stand for Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei, the full name of Hitler's Nazi party.

Despite being ordered to remove the plates, he was not disciplined and his books on Nazi memorabilia are still in print.

Among extracts handed to Mrs Jamieson by Nationalist MSP Michael Matheson is this one from Mr Lumsden's book *Himmler's Black Order: A History of the SS from 1923 to 1945*: 'The SS is one of the best-

By **Marcello Mega**

known, yet least understood, organisations in history.

'To most people, it was simply the brutal arm of the Nazi state, which had subjugation by terror as its sole purpose.

'Consequently, it will forever be equated with concentration camps, torture and extermination...

'Yet this dark side is only part of the SS story. I hope to clear up some misconceptions and show that the SS had many more facets than those generally known.

'Within Germany itself during the Third Reich, the SS held a unique position. It was feared, yet it was also genuinely respected and, in some cases, even revered.'

One war veteran who knows first hand of SS savagery is Brian Fahey, who was shot by an execution squad after being captured in France in 1940. Mr Fahey, from Skelmorlie, North Ayrshire, survived despite a serious chest wound.

Other unarmed colleagues died in the SS atrocity.

Last night, the 84-year-old said: 'Millions suffered at the hands of the SS and for this man to say these things is foolish. I find it hard to believe people these days can think and speak like that.'

Mr Matheson said: 'Mr Lumsden appears to have a fascination with a despicable organisation and you wonder if the perception might be that his views are anti-Semitic.'

'I don't think this matter can be ignored. Is it appropriate to have a senior police officer who presents himself as an apologist for the SS?'

The chief inspector was investigated by

'This cannot be ignored'

Strathclyde Police two years ago after concerns were aired about his number plate.

David Mellor, Fife's deputy chief constable, said Strathclyde officers had brought in two academic experts for an independent view of whether Mr Lumsden's books had showed 'inappropriate support, or enthusiasm, for Nazism.'

Asked what they had concluded, Mr Mellor said the reports had been commissioned privately and he could not divulge the details.

Mr Lumsden, who has a large collection of Nazi memorabilia estimated to be worth more than £250,000, said at his Fife home: 'I had a hard time two years ago and am not too keen to be sucked in again.'

'I can only say that two independent academics looked at my work and concluded that there was nothing contentious.'

War of words: Robin Lumsden, far right, collects Nazi memorabilia. Right, the hated SS



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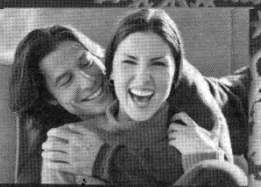
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Police officer in 'Nazi' number plates probe

● by Gary Fitzpatrick

A SENIOR West Fife police officer is facing an inquiry into his fascination with Nazi memorabilia.

Chief Inspector Robin Lumsden, who lives in Cairneyhill, said his number plate N5 DAP – similar to the initials of Hitler's political party, the NSDAP – was a private joke.

However, Councillor Andrew Keddie, chairman of the public protection and regulation committee, is unimpressed and has contacted Fife's new Chief Constable, Peter Wilson.

"There will be a full inquiry led by the deputy chief constable and we'll now await the outcome," said Mr Keddie. "The matter will be fully investigated. I was not aware of the nature of this officer's hobby."

Another councillor, Alex Maxwell, added, "If I was the new Chief Constable, I would be concerned to have a senior officer who appears to be attracted to Nazi ideas."

"I would have him in and also speak to his colleagues who have worked with him over the years. We need officers who are independent and fair-minded."

Mr Lumsden (42), who is based at Glenrothes, travels extensively adding to his collection of Nazi memorabilia and has written fourteen books with titles such as *The Waffen-SS*, *Edged Weapons of Hitler's Germany* and *The Black Corps – History and Regalia of the SS*.

However, colleagues are dismayed at the media's portrayal of the officer and say that he has never hidden his interest in the subject.

This is confirmed by a story in



■ Robin Lumsden, as he was pictured in the Press in 1987 with his Third Reich artefacts

Third Reich expert faces inquiry

the Press in April 1987 when he spoke about his interest in Third Reich artefacts and was pictured with his collection of Nazi uniforms.

Mr Lumsden said at the time, "Obviously, many people have had memories of the war. But that was almost 50 years ago and the Third Reich is beginning to gain more respect, if you like, than it had in the '50s and '60s. There is not the same stigma these days."

The story coincided with the launch of his book *A Collector's Guide to Third Reich Militaria* and told how Mr Lumsden had been fascinated by medals, headgear, flags and uniforms of the Nazi era since he was a schoolboy and was a founder member of the Edinburgh and East of Scotland Military Collectors Society.

A police spokesman said "Chief

Inspector Lumsden is a serving officer of some 25 years experience, widely recognised for his extensive knowledge of the subject matter.

"A history graduate from St Andrews University, he has published fourteen highly acclaimed books which are recognised through being translated into at least eight languages.

"Fife Constabulary, however, are proud of their work with others in the field of race relations and, as in the case of similar instances, an investigation will be carried out into this matter."

The Press approached Fife Constabulary offering Mr Lumsden the opportunity to put his side of the story but the offer was declined.

The full title of the Nazis was the Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei – NSDAP.

Police clear officer after probe into Nazi memorabilia

A SENIOR West Fife police officer has been cleared of any misconduct following an investigation into his fascination with Nazi memorabilia.

Officers from Strathclyde Police found that Chief Inspector Robin Lumsden, who lives in Cairneyhill, had not breached police regulations although he has been offered what a Fife police spokesman said was "appropriate advice".

The spokesman said, "Press articles relating to Chief Inspector Robin Lumsden have been fully investigated under the terms of the Police (Conduct) (Scotland) Regulations 1996 by officers from Strathclyde Police.

"Fife's deputy chief constable, Kenneth McInnes, has considered

their report which confirmed there were no issues of misconduct and as a result appropriate advice has been given to Chief Inspector Lumsden."

Mr Lumsden, a St Andrews University history graduate, had made no secret of his interest in the Third Reich, having written

14 books on the subject and talked to the Press about his hobby 1987.

But the chairman of Fife Council's public protection and regulation committee, Councillor Andrew Keddie, asked for an inquiry after a press article in May revealed the number plate of Mr Lumsden's car, N5 DAP, was similar to the full name of the Nazis, the "Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei" or NSDAP.

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ROBIN LUMSDEN PAUL HANNON