



Chief James R. Houlihan



James R. Houlihan grew up in Ridgewood during the late 1800's. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Cavalry and was a veteran of the Spanish American War. He was discharged from the Cavalry in 1904 at Fort Riley, Kansas. In 1907 he joined his father James E. Houlihan as a policeman in the Village of Ridgewood.

On September 1, 1918, the Glen Rock Police Department was formed with the appointment of James R. Houlihan as Chief of Police. Chief Houlihan was the borough's first fulltime Police Officer. He patrolled Glen Rock on a bicycle and used trained police dogs to locate missing persons and deter crime.

Chief Houlihan was a highly decorated officer, well respected among Bergen County's early law enforcement community. In 1916 he was awarded the PBA's gold honor medal for his actions following a shooting in Ridgewood. Then Patrolman Houlihan responded to the Louis Weinberg store on Ridgewood Avenue after receiving a tip from a nearby business owner about a burglary. During the ensuing gun battle he was wounded by three bullets fired from one of the burglars. But the burglars got quite a bit more than they bargained for. One was left with a bullet through his face, another with a broken hand and all three with a prison sentence, according to a *Ridgewood Herald* article from the period. His police dog "Cont" remained by Houlihan's side until back-up officers came to his aid and took charge of the three men he apprehended.

During his tenure the Glen Rock Police Department grew to seven full-time members who patrolled the borough by car, motorcycle and on foot. Chief Houlihan oversaw the installation "call boxes" which were located at various points throughout the town. This allowed officers on patrol to communicate with police headquarters.

Chief Houlihan and his wife Edith made their home in Glen Rock where they raised their four daughters. He served the Glen Rock Police Department with honor and distinction until his retirement on May 16th, 1944.



GLEN ROCK POLICE DEPARTMENT