



Mental Health: Lennox Castle

Reporting the riot

Howard Mitchell:

This is the report from the Kirkintilloch Herald of January the eighteenth, 1956. Trouble at Lennox Castle. Hoses turned on patients. A riot broke out at Lennox mental hospital on Saturday afternoon and a number of patients barricaded themselves in the pavilion. Firemen were forced to turn their hoses on patients who pelted warders with a hail of missiles. Police who rushed from Kilsyth and Stirling found four inches of water on the floor. Eight young men made their way to the clothing store, wrecked windows and furniture and tried to set fire to the building. Firemen attempting to tackle the blaze were again stoned by the patients. Thousands of pounds worth of damage was caused.

The riot is one of the narratives that I've recorded from most of the nurses that have worked in Lennox Castle Hospital. It's good to have a piece of corroboration from the local paper here and national newspapers it was reported in. And certainly the local paper, the Kirkintilloch Herald has been very useful in researching the history of the institution.