

## William H. DeVault, Chief of Police 1949-1951

William “Bill” DeVault was appointed Chief of Police after the resignation of Chief Bostick, in Jan. 1949. DeVault had been a patrol officer working at Bartow Police Department for an unknown number of years.

In Dec. 1949, Chief DeVault and Officer Roscoe Thornhill were acquitted of violating the civil rights of James “Papa” Williams.

Bomb Rips Restaurant



Police Chief W. H. (Bill) DeVault (left) and Polk County Sheriff's Deputy Neil Keen survey the rubble of the rear portion of John's Restaurant, which was demolished by an early-morning blast today.  
—Times Photo by Emmett Mattes.

On Dec. 13, 1950, Chief DeVault investigated a dynamite blast that ripped away the rear of City Commissioner John Pittas' business,

John's Restaurant. The blast occurred about 4:00 AM.

DeVault was Chief until 1951 when Roscoe Thornhill, also a Bartow patrol officer was appointed to take his place.

Chief DeVault passed away in 1981.

