Surrey Constabulary History
'An in depth history of policing in Surrey'

June 2023
www.surrey-constabulary.com

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Surrey Constabulary History 102

Surrey Constabulary Choir

Mike Blencow, Fred Creigh, John Gladwell, Dave Morris, Ray Elliott, ? Joey Hoey, ?? Paul Gerry Lewer, Paul Holt, Martin Guiver, Terry Bawden. Conductor Harry Porter

Contents

PC Henry Freeland

Surrey Constabulary 1887-1920
Died aged 33, 25 July 1920
Served 5th Grenadier Guards First World War

Additional research Jean and Henry Pelham and Robert Simonson

Henry was a member of the Surrey Constabulary before the First World War when he served in the Guards. He was called up in 1916 but his enlistment was deferred until 1918 when more and more men were sought for the army. He re-joined the police in May 1919 but died in July 1920 just over a year later. His death was caused by problems with his lungs but there are no indications that he served overseas and was therefore not subjected to gassing. He was attached to the RSDC part of the army but based in the UK for local defence. (RSDC meaning First World War not known but in the modern army is a Signals Detachment). Was his organisation tasked with internal defence given the potential for civil unrest post war? Is that why police officers were finally called to the colours to serve at home? On leaving the army Henry signed that he had no disabilities due to his military service.

Freeland Henry PC137 born 1887 and was 26 in June 1912. Joined Surrey Constabulary 16 December 1912 Defaulter's Book entry 1647. Grenadier Guards No 32257. Enlisted October 1916 called up 22 April 1918 aged 31 years 9 months for the duration of the war. Opted for the Royal Garrison Artillery with no previous armed forces service. Posted to the 5 Grenadier Guards! They liked 5-foot 10-inch former police officers in the Guards. His mother Mary was shown as next of kin living at 37, North Road, Hersham. Henry was deemed by the Army to have been called for service 2 October 1916 but not called up until 22 April 2018 with the military demobilising him 22 May 1919 – 313 days service. This was not unusual for police officers who had their call to the colours registered but they were not summoned until the manning crisis of 1918. On Reserve 22 May 1919.

On researching any links between Henry's early death and military service his records show he was an in-patient at Holborn Military Hospital, Mitcham - admitted 21 November 1918 and diagnosed with Scabies and discharged 30 November 1918 - no of days in hospital 10. [1]

When at Caterham 10 February 1919 to 15 February 1919 treated probably again for Scabies treatment recorded as baths, sulphur and an unintelligible word. He was cured and discharged to duty.

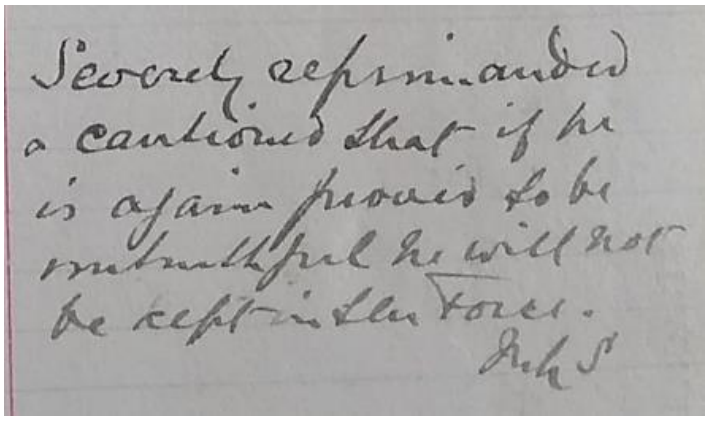
On the 8 May 1919, Henry ceased to be attached to RSDC and was based at based Caterham, Guards Depot[2] 18 February 1919 he re-joined Surrey Constabulary May 4, 1919, York Town. 1918 living in

[1] https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/regiments-and-corps/the-royal-defence-corps-of-1916-1918/

[2] The RDC (Not RSDC) had been created *"To carry out duties connected with the local defence of the United Kingdom, including those hitherto performed by the Supernumerary Territorial Force Companies, as well as those allotted to the Observer Companies now in process of formation."*

Camberley. Class Z Reserve May 1919. Died 25 July 1920. The army in an attempt to reduce false claims had soldiers sign as they were discharged signed that he had no disabilities due to his military service. (Record of Service papers)

Disciplined 1 April 1920 he was soon to die. He had been threatened with dismissal if he was again untruthful. Henry had missed a conference point and wrote an untruth in his journal.


Severely reprimanded
& cautioned that if he
is again proved to be
untruthful he will not
be kept in the Force.
H.S.

Seven years' service in the Surrey Constabulary was approved.

1920 31 July Surrey Advertiser: Death of PC Freeland- Funeral at Hersham: We regret to record the death of PC Henry Freeland, second son of the late JW Freeland and of Mrs Freeland, of North Road, Hersham, which took place at Trimmer's Cottage Hospital, Farnham on Sunday from pneumonia. Although the deceased had been ailing for some time, he had continued duty up to the weekend before last when he went on special duty at Sandown Park races and was taken ill on Monday week. He was 33 years of age and joined the Surrey County Constabulary in 1912. H was stationed in turn at Woking, Godalming, Yorktown and Heath End near Farnham and was very popular with his comrades. The greater part of the deceased's service was at Camberley. He joined the Army during the war and proceeded to France with the Grenadier Guards. On demobilisation he continued police duty at Camberley, being transferred May last to Heath End.

The funeral took place at Hersham on Thursday afternoon in the presence of a large gathering. The chief mourners were his mother, brother and sisters and his fiancée. The Surrey Constabulary was represented by Superintendent Galloway and Inspector Tamplin (Hersham), Sergeant Harris Hersham, Sergeant Pink Camberley, and 22 constables from Hersham, Farnham and Camberley districts. Sergeant Hewitt represented the Special Constabulary. Police walked in front of the coffin from North Road and the remains were carried by Constables, Hamblin, Abdey, Page, Bicknell, Smith, Currie, Long and Norris.

DEATH OF P.C. FREELAND.

FUNERAL AT HERSHAM.

We regret to record the death of P.C. Henry Freeland, second son of the late Mr. J. W. Freeland and of Mrs. Freeland, of North-road, Hersham, which took place at Trimmer's Cottage Hospital, Farnham, on Sunday from pneumonia. Although deceased had been ailing for some time, he had continued duty up to the week-end before last, when he went on special duty at Sandown Park races, and was taken ill on Monday week. He was 33 years of age, and joined the Surrey County Constabulary in 1912. He was stationed in turn at Woking, Godalming, Yorktown, and Heath End, near Farnham, and was very popular with his comrades. The greater part of deceased's service was at Camberley. He joined the Army during the war, and proceeded to France with the Grenadier Guards. On demobilisation he resumed police duty at Camberley, being transferred in May last to Heath End.

The funeral took place at Hersham on Thursday afternoon in the presence of a large gathering. The chief mourners were the deceased's mother, Mr. J. W. Freeland (brother), the Misses R., C., and A. Freeland (sisters), and Miss A. M. Pearce, of Yorktown (deceased's fiancee). The Surrey Constabulary was represented by Supt. Galloway and Inspector Tamplin (Hersham), Sergt. Harris (Esher), Sergt. Pink (Camberley), and 22 constables from Hersham, Farnham, and Camberley districts. Sergt. Hewitt, of the Special Constabulary, attended on behalf of that arm of the force at Camberley. The police walked in front of the coffin from North-road, and the remains were carried by Constables Hamblin, Abdey, Page, Bicknell, Smith, Curtis, Long, and Norris. The Vicar (Rev. E. P. Pellow) officiated, and at the graveside delivered a touching address, remarking that deceased was well known and respected in Hersham, and it was evident from that large assemblage that deceased had won the respect of those among whom he lived and worked.

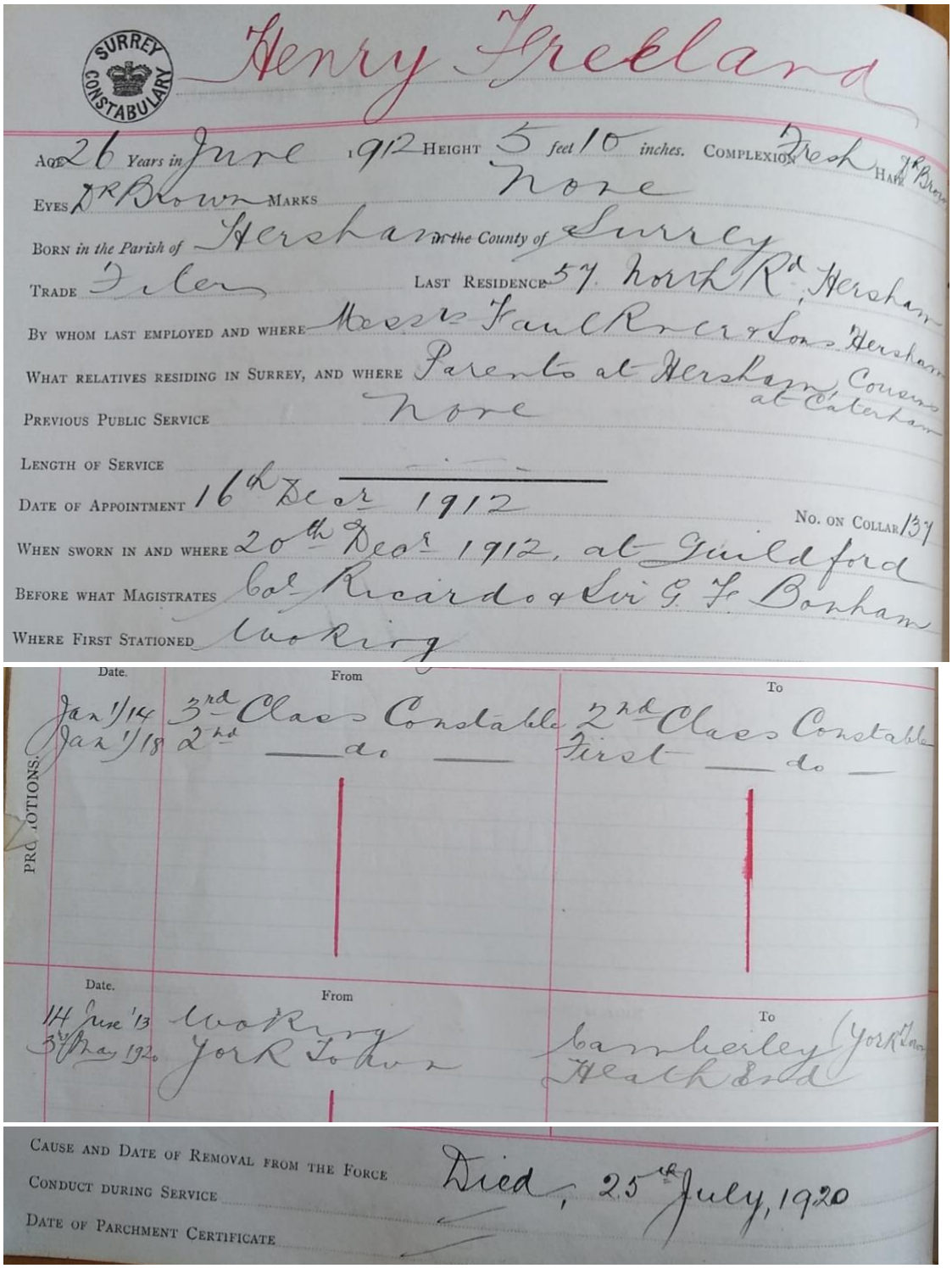
A large number of beautiful floral tributes were placed on the grave, including wreaths from the officers and men of the Hersham and Farnham Divisions, Camberley sub-division of Police, Camberley Working Men's Club, Camberley Special Constables, and the Hersham Comrades.

DEATH OF P.-C. FREELAND.

Many residents will learn with regret of the death of Police-Constable Freeland, which took place at the Farnham Hospital on Sunday evening. He served with the Surrey Constabulary for eight years, the majority of which he did at Camberley. He served with the Foot Guards in France, and after demobilization resumed duties at Camberley, where he was stationed until a few weeks ago, when he was transferred to Heath End. He had been ailing for some time, though not seriously, until last week, when he contracted double pneumonia and pleurisy. The funeral took place at Hersham yesterday (Thursday) every mark of respect being shown.

Aldershot News 30 July 1920

From Surrey History Centre 9152/1/2/1/4 SAC with assistance Robert Simonson



SURREY CONSTABULARY

Henry Freeland

AGE 26 Years in June 1912 HEIGHT 5 feet 10 inches. COMPLEXION Fresh HAIR Dk Brown

EYES Dk Brown MARKS None

BORN in the Parish of Hersham in the County of Surrey

TRADE Tailor LAST RESIDENCE 57 North Rd Hersham

BY WHOM LAST EMPLOYED AND WHERE Messrs Faulkner & Sons Hersham

WHAT RELATIVES RESIDING IN SURREY, AND WHERE Parents at Hersham, Cousins at Caterham

PREVIOUS PUBLIC SERVICE None

LENGTH OF SERVICE

DATE OF APPOINTMENT 16th Decr 1912 NO. ON COLLAR 137

WHEN SWORN IN AND WHERE 20th Decr 1912, at Guildford

BEFORE WHAT MAGISTRATES Col Ricardo & Sir G F Bonham

WHERE FIRST STATIONED Woking

PROMOTIONS.

Date.	From	To
Jan 1/14	3rd Class Constable	2nd Class Constable
Jan 1/18	2nd ——do——	First ——do——

Date.	From	To
14 June '13	Woking	Barnsley (York)
31st May 1920	York Town	Heathend

CAUSE AND DATE OF REMOVAL FROM THE FORCE Died, 25th July, 1920

CONDUCT DURING SERVICE

DATE OF PARCHMENT CERTIFICATE

No. of Appointment, 1647

REMARKS.

Date.	
1918	Joined the army for the duration
apl 1919	of the war
May 14th	Reported this Force

Date.	Nature of Offence.	Punishment.
1914 Sept	Missing his duty through oversleeping	Admonished RHS
Oct	Missing his duty through oversleeping	Admonished & Cautioned RHS
1920 April 1st	Missing his last conference Journal & telling a lie in his journal	Severely reprimanded & cautioned that if he is again proved to be untruthful he will not be kept in the Force. RHS

Severely reprimanded & cautioned that if he is again proved to be untruthful he will not be kept in the Force. RHS

COMPLETED 4 YEARS, APPROVED SERVICE.

AMOUNT OF PAY ON RETIREMENT £ AVERAGE FOR LAST THREE YEARS £

PENSION @ £ OR GRATUITY £ GRANTED.

Police Sergeant 152 Frederick (Fred) BOOKER

Surrey Constabulary Dog Handler and Instructor

Glynn Booker notified his father's comrades that Fred had died.

"It is with a heavy heart, that I have to tell you of the passing of my father.

Ex-police sergeant Frederick George Booker no 152. He passed peacefully in his sleep, after a long battle with cancer, on the 4th of April 2023.

My Father spent 30 years in the Surrey Police, after his initial training and time on the beat, he moved to the police dog section. Here he underwent training as a dog handler, with his first dog Oro and successfully passed out from the course. After many years on the dog section, he was promoted to sergeant on the dog section and took over responsibility for half of the county.

He loved his time in the police and often commented that they were the best days of his life. After retirement he took a job in the stores, up in Mount Browne police headquarters, this he did for just over a year and only leaving, when answering the call for security officers in the Falkland Islands. His youngest son Glynn had been there during the war and had been a standing joke between them, that he had made it safe for him (Fred) to go there! My father joined the Falkland Island Police, as a special constable and was one of only a handful ever to do so. Serving for 15 months until his contract finished. He spent all his spare time on bird and nature watch, which was his greatest pastime.

On return to the UK, he retired to Devon with his wife Nancy and later they both moved to Lincolnshire, until Nancy passed away in 2004. My Father then downsized and moved to Market Rasen, where he lived happily until he passed away.

He was a wonderful father and a great human being; he will be sadly missed by all that knew him.

Officers who recently received the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal: left to right, Detective Constable Sidney Smith, P.C. Dennis Smith, P.C. Leonard Henderson, P.C. Bernard (Stanley) Band, Sergeant Fred Booker, Chief Inspector Eric Hughes.

1974

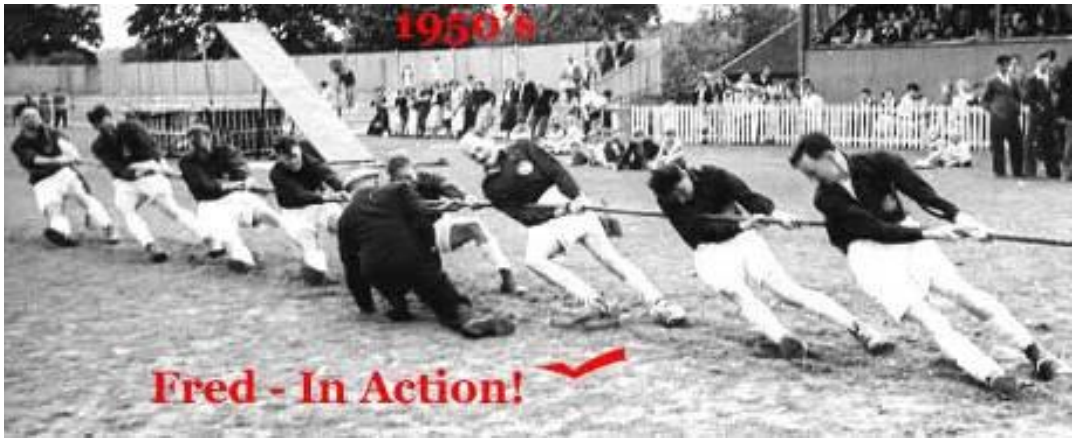
CAMBERLEY BROWNIES MEET SANTA

The 7th Camberley Brownie Pack have just enjoyed their very first 'pack' holiday which was spent at the Littleton Youth House, near Guildford.

During their week they visited the HQ kennels where they were met by police dog, Santa. Under the guidance of his handler Sgt. Fred Booker, Santa went through his paces. Brownie Mechelle Dalloway was celebrating her 10th birthday on that day, and as a treat hid various objects — which Santa soon found.

In our picture, Mechelle holds Santa, accompanied by her pack friends, and Fred Booker.

1975



AWARD

Sgt. Fred Booker, a dog handler with the force for 22 years was awarded a framed certificate by the High Sheriff of Surrey recently, following a commendation by Judge Abdela at the Old Bailey.

Sgt. Booker was highly commended for his part in an arrest of an armed criminal at Dorking last year.

Sgt. Fred Booker is seen here with his wife.

Sheepskin and Leather coats — made for use at dog demonstrations given during the year at large shows. Sergeant Fred Booker is seen here with two 'models'.

Fred, Roger Martin, John Worgan- all committed dog handlers!

With Bob Bartlett at Den Blackman's funeral

Fred in retirement

Policing Surrey in the late 1950s

Fred Booker wrote this for Surrey Constabulary History several years ago.

From October 1954 I was stationed at Godalming and worked the town area as a police constable. I lived in a police house just outside the town and I was recognised by local people as a police officer when I was off duty. I performed on cycle beats and town patrols on foot. We did not parade for duty at the police station; we started patrol from telephone kiosks or went directly to a point of duty. There was always a patrol sergeant on duty but not necessarily an inspector who could be called from his home.

As Godalming was a divisional headquarters, there were several civilian staff, a typist and clerk to back up the DO sergeant and PC, and a typist for the CID DI and D.S.Two cadets were on station plus a civilian cleaner/handyman and a police constable working as a divisional mechanic/ van driver. The CID had a Morris Minor car; there was a brown van on station and the patrol inspector had a car. We had two motor cyclists (no radio).

Town duty during 9 am to 5 pm was taken up almost entirely by traffic duties, with two PCs working with traffic sleeves in the High Street from the Post Office in the west to the car park in the east, mainly because of unloading goods vehicles parked outside shops that could quickly stop all traffic. Unauthorised perking by cars did not assist and needed to be dealt with by process or warnings by a superintendent's letter. From 2 pm one PC could be left to cover town duty at the discretion of the patrol sergeant. At night the town PC working the usual 10 pm to 6 am shift, was responsible for the security of all shop premises, front and back where possible, before midnight Further checks were made during the night and suspicious car's numbers recorded and persons stopped, checked. The way daily duties were carried out had not changed since I joined the Force in 1952. The same systems were being worked in all towns, Godalming was my third, and on the cycle beats. As a probationer I well remember turning up for duty as town PC at the busy A.25/A.23. Redhill town crossroads at 2.pm one day. The traffic lights were out, and I was thrown a pair of sleeves by the PC I was relieving with a "Good luck" as he grabbed his bike and made for home. It was lonely out there in the middle of turning buses and the many cyclists of those days.

Police constables on cycle beats during daylight hours were fully employed on their shifts, visiting recorded unoccupied houses, dealing with recent crimes or sudden deaths, delivering death messages, as Disease of Animals Inspector (after two years' service) checking stockholders registers, visiting fairs and markets etc. making investigations for other forces, carrying out alien checks and enquiries for divisional office, dealing with RTA, taking statements; directing traffic at busy country road junctions on summer Sundays, escorting prisoners to prison from local courts in the Brown Van, making conference points at arranged buildings or TK and assisting people with all manner of problems such as being locked out of their homes or cars.

At night you would be expected to record passing vehicles after 10pm, or earlier if required in house breaking areas, report vehicles parked without lights and trace drivers at the time where possible, check

security of business properties when passing in outlying areas, record where traffic and main street lights are out (for local authority's information) and log where speed limit signs are being obstructed from view by shrubs and trees thus affecting Process; assist patrol sergeant with public house visits, dances etc, and you may be given observation duties at static points for lead thieves, housebreakers or persons stealing from clotheslines (snow-dropping)

All overtime was repaid by time off in lieu although attending a race day on a rest day was paid.

To become a dog handler in the force you needed to have completed five years' service and be crime minded. I was walking and training a force police dog throughout 1957 in addition to normal patrol duties. I became a fully operational dog handler from 23 December 1957 working from Godalming and was responsible for the Godalming Division. I was not a qualified driver at that time and as there were no area cars on the division it became necessary for the duty patrol sergeant at Godalming to use the inspector's car to transport me and my dog to scenes of crime at night and pick me up from home if I was off duty at the time. I passed the driving test and qualified to drive police vehicles on 24 February 1958 and when area wireless cars appeared on the division about April 1958 (J.46) Godalming; and (J.47) Haslemere, I often crewed J.46 on late shifts, 6 pm to 2.am, with the patrol sergeant and the dog. I was allowed 1 hour each day for feeding, grooming and exercising the dog so performed an operational seven hours of duty instead of eight.

Although covering the division for dog requirements I still operated on normal duties when the dog was not required to work, like traffic duties some mornings when needed or early turn station duty and normal enquiries etc. I worked split shifts on some days when a four-hour dog training period was imposed i.e., 10 am – 1 pm town, 2 pm – 6 pm, training; 6 am – 9 am Station Duty, 2 pm – 6 pm training; 9 am – 1 pm training, 10 pm – 2 am Area car. Observation duties in plain clothes with the dog for lead thieves, housebreakers and snow-dropping[3] had become commonplace for me on foot at night and on 24 April 1959 with seven years' service I was given a black Ford 'Popular' van for transport (dog van). It was not fitted with a force radio but was garaged four hundred yards from my police house making me quite independent for transport although I still worked as crew on J46 from time to time at night to ensure radio contact with the control room.

On 24 July 1960 my van was replaced by a Commer van fitted with two dog compartments and an up-to-date force radio. (J7) My operational duties changed, because HQ now had control of my movements. I could be directed off division to where I was needed and of course we reached incidents quicker giving criminals less time to leave the area.

From 3 October 1960 to 10April 1961 I was attached to Godalming CID under DI Cornish and DS Aggar on something similar to a learner course plus dog work and on completion I was asked if I would like to transfer to CID but I decided to stay with dogs.

Overtime could never be repaid by time off in lieu on the Dog Section because we were doing so much overtime on call outs after normal duties had been completed. We later agreed a Dog Handlers

[3] Snowdropping was stealing ladies underwear of the washing line – origins lost in antiquity!

Allowance, similar to the CID allowance, to cover our problem and it worked. It was later scrapped when they decided to pay overtime.

Dog Section

1959 Stan Wood: Bob Ling years 1959 – 1966: On Harry Darbyshire's retirement in 1959, Bob Ling was promoted to Sergeant in charge of the Dog Section. Among the handlers at the time were Bill Redwood, Fred Booker, George Wraight, Len Truss, Geoff Bloomfield, Peter Morley, Bob Twentyman and Jock Duff. There was also Alan Osment, who sometime in the early 60's was promoted to sergeant, for normal section duties at Buckland but kept his police dog. Elementary and advanced courses continued to be the only courses on offer and Bob Ling and his assistant George Wraight ran these. The Dog Section in 1962 had the following handlers:

P. S. Bob Ling(Section and Training)
P. S. Alan Osment (Buckland Section Sergeant and dog handler)
P. C George Wraight (HQ and Assistant Trainer)
P. C. Bill Redwood Farnham
P. C. Fred Booker Godalming
P. C. Peter Morley Guildford
P. Cs Chris Proctor and Geoff Bloomfield Woking
P. Cs Roy Cartwright and Jock Duff Weybridge
P.C. Len Truss Reigate
P. C. Ken Curnow Dorking

About 1963, Bill Redwood was promoted to operational dog sergeant and in 1964 Fred Booker was also promoted. Bill was Western and Fred, Eastern. I think it was at this time that we stopped being under the charge of CID and became Divisional Handlers. A new dog centre was opened at West Horsley with four acquired houses, two handlers, Peter Morley and Stan Wood became answerable to Guilford and Godalming and Chris Proctor and Jock Duff to Woking and Weybridge. Fred Booker had a Section running out of Buckland and Sidlow. Unfortunately, this system did not last very long and in 1965 the handlers were put on Division some with dog vans and some paired up in divisional vehicles. Bill Redwood returned to divisional sergeant duties at Guildford where he remained until 1970 when he returned to the dog section and joined the training school. A new dog sergeant transferred from Northumberland, Tom Yeouart. He resigned in 1976. 1963 saw the introduction of refresher courses for general-purpose police dogs and dogs from all over the country returned each year to their training school for a two-week course. Being in the right place, young, fit and active, a keen novice, Stan Wood was enlisted onto the training staff to assist with kennel duties and to run criminal and hide for up to eight dogs every day. In 1965 Bob Ling undertook a secondment for one year to the British Guiana. George Wraight took over training as acting sergeant. This continued up to August 1966 when George transferred to Thames Valley. This was a huge loss to the section as George Wraight was a top-class instructor. In the meantime, Bob Ling had returned to the UK but did not return to Surrey as he had resigned and went into private dog breeding and training. This was another great loss as now two instructors who had trained under Harry Darbyshire had left the Force. With just four years training albeit under the guidance of two brilliant trainers I had the good fortune to be promoted to sergeant in

charge of dog training with Sergeant Tom Yeouart in charge of operational dogs (Western) whilst Fred Booker remained with the Eastern dogs.

Fred Booker's Memories of the Surrey Constabulary Dog Section[4]

I joined the force in 1952, at the age of twenty-four and after the necessary wait of 5 years on the beat I was welcomed at the kennels by Police Sergeant Darbyshire as an applicant for the position of dog handler. It was February 4th, 1957, and quite cold as I remember. Many friends had advised me not to do it. "Go for C.I.D", they said. Traffic was out, as I tended to be travelsick at times, especially in the back of a brown van with prisoners on the way to prison.

Why did I want to be a dog handler? Because I saw Len Truss appear on a dark night with his dog at the scene of an abandoned car. Where we could do nothing about the driver Len's dog picked up his track and sometime a little later produced the absconder. I was hooked.

I had been posted to the kennels for assessment and stayed about two months, usually close to George Wraight who carried out the kennel duties of exercising dogs, hosing out runs, cleaning dog vans, chopping up dog meat and organising feeds. As a sideline he had a working dog, 'Vagus', and attended calls when needed. When a Dog Course was running, he assisted Darby with their training, often working as a padded criminal for man work or laying tracks for the course dogs to follow. I was quickly engaged helping George at his kennel tasks including re-building stonewalls! Or sweeping up leaves, above all I learnt to keep my eyes and ears open because I was told very little. Questions asked received the reply "I don't know pal "Ask Darby".

At lunchtime I enjoyed a wander round the outside of the kennels. From the top of the steep slope down to the sports ground I had a wide field of view. To the southeast was the river Wey Meadows where I could see the old steam trains waiting for the semaphore signals to change and let them proceed into Guildford railway station from the Tonbridge line or from the Cranleigh line, further south. I could hear the little 'toot' they gave if the driver thought they had forgotten him at the signal box. On the slope below me I noticed a tethered Billy goat. I thought, funny, nobody is going to get milk out of him for puppies.

Back in the kennel area were chickens and an ugly Muscovy duck wandering freely about. Darby had his pigeon loft erected just outside the small, fenced, training compound. It roosted about twelve or so black and white pigeons that were flying free. I soon realised that the various birds were there to acclimatise the training dogs to everyday life in the countryside, which handlers may not get in towns and cities. The goat was not for chasing either. The kennel area was well hidden from outside view and sheltered from the sun and prevailing winds by elm trees that stretched the full width of the property westwards. How terrible it looked in 1970 when Dutch elm disease beetles struck and most of the trees were felled, opening us up to full view all round. We did a lot of the sawing up. It made a change from

[4] Fred Booker for Old and Bold 2009

sweeping leaves and digging out banks for a while. The last part of my first day was most amusing. I was told, "Round up the birds and put them into the chicken shed, because of the foxes". It sounded simple. They were congregating at the time so I tried shooing them along towards the open door but they trotted past. I tried again, same result. George had disappeared. Then Darby came on the scene with a stick.

He whacked the side of the shed with it and said, "I give you five minutes, no more", and all the birds trouped inside. It made my day; he could even train chicken.

We lost a white cockerel and a hen to the fox while I was there. They both refused to go into their shed one night and roosted in some young trees fifteen feet above it. There were a lot of white feathers about next morning when I arrived.

In the following weeks I met and watched handlers and their dogs from all over this country as they trained on the scheduled Advanced Courses of four weeks duration. I realised that since their Elementary Course of four weeks they had, like us Surrey handlers, about five months at their home force to improve the dog's standard before returning here. Their comrades who were already trained would have helped them. Sgt Darbyshire in the meantime was starting off or finishing the training of many more teams.

I was accepted as a potential dog handler and given my dog, 'Oro'. We started an Elementary Course in April 1957. On the completion of it I returned to Godalming for beat duties with dog training periods until our Advanced Course scheduled for 25th November 1957. I carried out town traffic duties on mornings and walked my socks off up and down those Godalming hills visiting unoccupied houses on afternoons or evenings with the dog. We were given some Burglary observation duties at night thrown in for good measure on Holloway Hill; the superintendent's house was entered while he was asleep. 'Oro' and I met a few hedgehogs I remember, scuffling through the dead leaves in a small park not far away from likely action.

The accommodation at Mount Browne for handlers attending the courses in those early days was at the top of the house in what might have been the maid's rooms as we used the back stairs to reach them, and it was the quick way to the kitchen for breakfast. The kitchen staff and Miss Nash, the housekeeper, looked after us extremely well. All appreciated them.

I started the Advanced Course as planned; there were seven of us, two from Surrey, two from Salford City, one from Portsmouth and two from Notts County. The one from Notts County, Raymond Wood, later became the chief inspector of that dog section. P.C. Band was the other Surrey handler; he was stationed at Dorking with his dog 'Arno'. We all passed out on the 20th December 1957 and returned to our stations.

Work that was carried out in the kennel area by course members during the day varied considerably. Grooming the dogs and cleaning the kennel area and runs was a must immediately after breakfast every day. The leaf sweeping, wall building and sand or earth moving served two purposes for Darby, a) to get

the handlers fit, (some were not), and, b) to give the dogs a break between lessons especially on Elementary Courses. The sandstone my course shifted improved car parking and gave room to erect the garage later. The Advanced, and later, Initial Courses were different, there was so much varied training to be done at Headquarters and outside on training grounds that there should not have been time for such an occupation. The Refresher Courses were the ones that might have needed split shifts if it was agreed between the course members that they would train after dark on building searches etc. If they were keen, they would work through. I had by then met up with the rest of Surrey's Handlers. We numbered twelve.

They are from the East; Bob Twentyman, (Oxted), Len Truss, (Reigate), Alan Osment, (Buckland), Stan Band, (Dorking), Bill Redwood, (Guildford), Sergeant Darbyshire and George Wraight (HQ), Fred Booker, (Godalming), Robert Ling & Geoff. Bloomfield, (Woking), Arthur Atkinson and Gus Hearnden, (Weybridge). This was during 1957. Most handlers used their own cars for transporting their dogs and worked in civvies. All our houses had phones and we were 'ON CALL' out of scheduled hours. Our training periods were on a two-week cycle. First week was two half days on division. Second week was 1 half day on division and Thursday all day at HQ kennels. Half days were mainly for tracking and search training. Man-work was carried out on Thursdays at HQ under the watchful eye of Sergeant Darbyshire only. It became a day to look forward too. Over a cup of tea on arrival Darby went through what had taken place recently and handlers discussed incidents they had attended, how their dogs had worked and any problems they met up with. It was a big learning curve for me. Training that day would be adjusted to repair any fault that showed itself and then cover general training in obedience as Darby thought fit. In the afternoon it was man work on the sports field or tracking at Hankley Common.

Once fully trained and working we found ourselves entered into Civilian Working Dog Trials that took place at various locations all over the country. One such three-day event usually took place at Easter and the final day was held on Mount Browne sports field at the invitation of the Chief Constable. Those of us not taking part in the trials were generally roped in to assist as tracklayers on the first two days or as criminals for the man work on the last day. As a competitor new to trials, it was not easy. Track and search tests were O.K. but working the obedience and agility exercises we found the smaller breeds that were taking part often distracted our dogs. Practice makes perfect they say and when entered on other occasions we enjoyed the tests and began to take prizes. We gained the confidence that we needed, and it was good for public relations.

As I moved into the New Year of 1958 1 began attending incidents, sometimes with P.C. Wraight and others with Sergeant Darbyshire if I was near the kennels. I had a problem; it was that I was a learner driver and at night had to be picked up in the Inspectors car with my dog and conveyed to crime scenes. On 31st January 1958 information was received that a burglary was going to take place at Ewhurst. Darby was called at 2030 hours, and he replied, "Call your own handler you've got one ". As a result, I was phoned, picked up to be dropped off at the scene and taken inside the back door of a large house. Once inside I joined a lively crew Inspector Norman Lock, Detective Sergeant Cliff Aggar and D.C. Jackman. They quickly told me the facts and we settled down to await developments. We were spread out from a central room in total darkness with Mr. Lock on my left near the back door. At about 2250 hours things happened. The doorbell rang and the knocker was banged

several times then torches were shone into the windows, and someone walked round the place then silence. Suddenly someone forced the back door and entered, and then according to Mr. Lock, "They turned and ran for it". He shouted out and we ran to the door and gave chase. I passed him down the garden path and in front of the dog I saw one man spread-eagled in a large bush.

I grabbed him and returned him to the house with Detective Sergeant Aggar. Then with harness on the dog we tracked on for the others. After about one quarter of a mile ending in a dog chase, I arrested a man in brambles. Not bad for a new boy.

On 24th February 1958, Traffic Department put me on a three-week learner-driving course with two Advanced Driving Course members who were being refreshed to fill the car up. At the completion of the course, I was tested and passed for my licence by Sergeant Ginger Thatcher who added afterwards, "and drive a lot slower in future ". I never did get a refresher course in all my service. Was I that good?

At 1740 on the 4th of July 1958 while at HQ with Sergeant Darbyshire we were called to the scene of an overturned stolen car at Albury. Darby's dog, “Shaun” was used, without success and at 1900 hrs we were at the top of High Street, Guildford, passing the Odeon Cinema when I noticed a man about to cross the road. He answered the description, (clothing); of the man who abandoned the overturned car we had just left. Darby couldn't believe what I was telling him. He said, "Follow him; I'll turn the van round ". The man went into The Firs car park looking at cars. Darby drove in and we spoke to him. He admitted he was the driver. He was arrested and taken to Godalming Police Station. The man had walked to Guildford and been in the Cinema ever since. It made Darby's day and in Guildford town too.

About this time our Force had some very active patrol car crews. I remember three members who worked the A 31 to Farnham and the A3 to Hindhead. They were PC's Atfield, Cooper and Kennison. They gave me some memorable jobs from abandoned scooters, cars and the like which boosted my night training. I remember one night when in hot pursuit from one of their cars, through someone's garden, an upstairs window opened and a voice shouted, " Who's that?” to which I replied, breathlessly, "Police". I heard "OK "and the window shut. Five minutes later I had a prisoner in a nearby sand pit. Happy nights!

It was during this busy dog training years that I was also training hard at Tug -o-war. I was competing for Godalming Division in the Force Championship and then as the force winners, for Surrey at the Police A.A. Championships. Fitting training in with other members of the team caused a few problems with duties as well as dog training but Darby did not quibble as long as I was improving my dog's standard. I found out that Darby was a sprint man in Metropolitan Police athletics where he met Joseph Simpson who was a Met hurdler at the time and held a record for years. With Maurice Jackman, (Jacko), and an expert tug-o-war coach from Bramley, we trained at the Iron Foundry in Catteshall Road, Godalming, on pulleys and heavy weights while we sheltered under a Nissan hut from bad weather. I was a tug-o-war man for several years before entering police service, competing for an engineering works team, all over the southeast of England and winning an A.E.U cup, plus two winner’s medals at Surrey AAA championships in successive years at one hundred stones.

In October 1958 Bob Ling was promoted.

On 15th March 1959, at 1400 Police Sergeant Darbyshire was presented with the B.E.M. at The Drill Hall, Reigate, followed by a photograph on the lawn at Reigate Police Station. He was in full uniform with his family, The chief constable, the assistant chief constable, divisional superintendents and members of the dog section with their dogs and many other dignitaries were present including members of civilian dog societies. His retirement farewell party was held at HQ on 22nd May 1959.

On 20th April 1959 I was given a black Ford 'Popular' van, TPC 565, for dog transport. I took off; I could be anywhere in no time as long as it was under 50 mph.

The next surprise was being attached to a Police Mobile Column at Warren Camp, Crowborough, in West Sussex for a week. P.C. Morley was also on the Column but on a different week in November 1960. We did not take our dogs, so they had a holiday.

Following Darby's departure Sergeant Ling took charge of all training, and he became our first member to take his place on the Training Sub Committee of the Home Office Standing Advisory Committee on Police Dogs when it was formed. He sat with similar chief training officers from other police forces that had training schools and methods used began to standardise and improve. One of the many subjects that came up during his time on the committee was hard surface tracking. The Met representative had said that their dogs could do it but others had replied that it was only occasionally possible. Sgt. Ling's suggestion was, "show us". They did and the dog failed to convince the spectators. I was told that the track was laid on a street scene and the dog seemed to be following wind born scent that was bouncing

between buildings. His nose was not down.

Soon afterwards, one training day, we had a go. We needed a wide area of concrete or tarmac, away from grass: the tracklayer was to scuff with his feet a little and the dog was set to work almost immediately. Once the dog realised that there was something to follow, and it led to a prize we began to succeed. The handler who perfected it in Surrey was Sergeant Yeourt and his dog worked slowly and methodically. The distance that he could follow the trail, with the concentration necessary, before his nose lost the scent was the only problem, about fifty yards. Weather conditions could change everything, and we concentrated on short distances up to thirty minutes old at that time. In this way we began to improve are training and methods.

In 1961, The Chief Constable, Mr. Rutherford, with the City of London Police film unit decided to make a police dog training film centred on our Surrey Training School and The Metropolitan Training School at Keston.

It all started well until it was realised that it would be too long and well over budget, so changes were made to the story line and basically it became a publicity film called 'Police Dog'. Filming took place in the summer of 1962 and the completed film was first shown in London in 1963. It was a great success and was shown on screens in most village halls throughout the land by visiting dog handlers with their dogs.

From 17th December 1962 we were seriously bothered by a silver thief, 'The Silver Man' to us; he operated off golf courses mainly in the north of our force area at night. Nearly all our dogs were used to curtail his access to Surrey's large residences by static observation duties or mobile patrols under winter conditions. Systems changed but did not cease until 30th August 1963, when a breaker was disturbed at about daybreak. I attended with Sergeant Redwood and we were requested to patrol in the Leatherhead area and roads bordering the Ashtead and Epsom commons. At 7 am we were on the Met border approaching Epsom town when a man on foot, came off Epsom Common on to the road in front of us. He answered the description of the man we had been looking for all this time so being in civvies we stopped and offered him a lift. He accepted and we all arrived at Leatherhead Police Station. It was the 'Silver Man' but not the person C.I.D. were expecting. He took them to where he had left the nights takings and our rather monotonous duties changed.

The following year, on 27th September 1964, I was promoted sergeant and moved to Buckland near Dorking. I was responsible for the Eastern area dog section. My first dog 'Oro' was now ailing, and I commenced training a new dog 'Ace'. He was working on 8th May 1965 and 'Oro' was retired.

In 1965 our dog section hit a bad patch in the western area and people were dealt with but a well-liked Sergeant of ours was moved sideways to Guildford. It was some time before we could get him back, at our request, but come back he did, and we were the better for it.

8th February 1966; with hard surface tracking on the Police Dog Trials schedule we obtained permission to use the perimeter runway of Dunsfold Airfield as a training ground for our working dogs provided it

was not going to be used that day by aircraft, 'Harrier'. It was a great help to us because of its width and distance. Our training improved and we were reaching up to half an hour in age of track. Dogs were working better at scenes of crime.

In August 1966, George Wraight transferred to Thames Valley Police and P.C. Stan Wood was promoted to Sergeant for Dog Training.

In mid-April 1967 a flight of 'Sioux' Army Helicopters were based on the sports field at Mount Browne with their backup teams to see what use a helicopter could be to our Force. The aircraft had a Perspex bubble type cabin to seat three people and on 25th April 1967 when I was asked by a Pilot if I would like a trip, I had a mad moment and said, "yes please" and went up with my dog on a flight along the south side of the Hog's Back. I wanted to see how much use they would be searching open countryside and woodland for persons. I came back convinced that they would save a large number of dogs working for a morning with a flight lasting 45 minutes. `Ace' enjoyed the trip. He just sat still all the time and watched the world go by, as I knew he would. Two days later we were called to Chobham where a prisoner had escaped from police. P.C. Benstead was on track across rough country when the man was arrested half a mile in front of us using a helicopter that we could hear.

The dog I was handling at that time, 'Ace', reminded me of Geoff Bloomfield and his dog, 'Unra' as both dogs were born hunters on wind born scent. It was not easy to train them to follow old tracks; they liked it fresh and something doing. I was told that when working 'Unra' free on incidents in Woking area at night the first thing you heard was a scream, then 'Unra' would bark, saying I am here master. The bark should have come first of course, but a triviality; heat of the moment.

I ran into the problem one night when working 'Ace' on a tracking line at a scene of crime along a wooded road. He entered the wood for about thirty yards then speeded up pulling me in all directions. I thought he had located a person who was on the run, wrong. We ended up in the next field with lost interest. Fox I thought, Fred was not pleased. When out late a few days later and things were quiet I laid myself a woodland track on Reigate Hill. I knew every inch and it was a fox paradise. I drove back some time later and put my trusty friend on line as if it was an incident and away we went for some distance, suddenly he swung off my track and away we went like the wind, five paces and I stopped him dead; I gave him a good shaking and telling off then put him back on track. He finished the track and I praised him for it, but had I won?

On the 20th September 1967 I was called out at daybreak to the home of Lady Beaverbrook, a housebreaking. 'Ace' picked up a track from the point of entry and away we went across mixed country; after about 3/4 mile I could see a fox crossing the next field in front of me from left to right. Did I need that? No but 'Ace' could not see what I saw because of a hedgerow, and I plotted the fox's track in my head as he went out of sight. As my dog crossed the fox's trail I saw him hesitate, checking, then move on. I told him "Good boy" and he pulled forward. By one mile we had reached a main road and recovered two wine bottles thrown down an embankment and at two and a half miles we had two prisoners. I had another good dog, didn't I?

From 28th January 1968 until 9th February 1968, we were back on observation duties on the northern golf courses again; this time in greater numbers and static in very hard frosts but it was more worrying making our way homeward in the mornings. With a van heater warming us up sleeping at the wheel became a serious problem especially for those of us who had to travel some distance.

In April 1968 the new Chief Constable, Mr. Peter Matthews arrived, and Colonel Herman Rutherford retired. He had been with us since 1956 when he replaced Sir Joseph Simpson who moved on to become Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

18th April 1968, when out on Hankley common following a training track, my dog deviated from the trail to indicate an object; it was an Army explosive charge that had not exploded. It makes a change. The army bomb disposal squad made a visit.

1968 saw me with the occasional pocket radio when I was working in a town area; it was company for once, you get used to being on your own working for fifteen years as a policeman. The early radios were not as good as we would have liked, and reception was poor in some areas.

At 0100 on 27th June 1968 P.C. Tyrrell and I were called to an abandoned, stolen car just northwest of Dorking town. At the scene I was given a local radio, which consisted of two separate parts, one in each pocket, (one to talk too, the other to listen too.) 'Ace' got away on track in steady rain on a long track, which seemed to be in an anticlockwise circle. About two miles from the start, when speeding down a chalky hillside I lost the listening part of the radio out of my pocket unknown to me.

In the next half mile, I reached the Reigate to Dorking railway line where I found two men tight against the close-wired fence. I spoke on the radio, said who I was and where I was to be found with prisoners. I got no reply, so I thought I was in an area of bad reception. Realising my problem one man was away up over the strand fence and across the lines. I got the dog through and then through the second fence, free to chase. The man refused to stop. Left with the second man I found out that I had lost part of the radio and that the missing man had been the driver. The next messages that I sent took care of this and in no time a radio car crew and P.C. Tyrrell joined me. We continued to track with John's dog and 300 yards away in woodland we found `Ace' lying with the man's jacket, we continued but lost the track in Westcott village.

On retracing my steps with 'Ace' he found the missing radio part. It was talking to 'Glow-worms' on Ranmore Common. I think things were stacked against me that night.

On 15th April 1965 I qualified as an Instructor for Police Dog Training on the first Home Office Course. On 23rd May 1966 I replaced Sergeant Redwood on the H.O.S.A.C.O.P.D. Training Sub Committee.

On 16th September 1968 I took over dog training courses at Headquarters kennels under rather difficult circumstances as the rivers Mole and Wey were in flood. It affected many parts of the county and included to a large extent Guildford lower town. To reach HQ I had to travel anticlockwise round Guildford via the by-pass and return home the same way once or twice. The first course was a Refresher and the next was the last Advanced Course we ran in Surrey on the old, Darby system. I followed it with the first Initial Course of thirteen weeks training which we had not attempted before but I reached a good working standard with all the dogs being trained. The best help was the new BMC dog van, which could carry six dogs and their handlers (BPD 651 H). It got us out on the tracking and search areas. We were no longer tied to HQ, and it eased the pressure on our very good friend the local farmer who had allowed us to use his fields for so many years. Our training areas were now extensive.

Towards the end of my training period the Dutch Elm Disease Beetle hit us. We could hear it working in the tree trunks and see the wood dust round the bases of the trees. It gave us a job to do helping to saw the trunks up when the trees had been felled in the kennels area. 1970 I believe. My period as an instructor ended on 1st May 1970. I returned to eastern area supervision.

On 11th July 1970 death claimed my second dog, 'Ace'. I found him very ill in the morning after working a late shift. We saw the vet, but he did not survive the day. I found a new rookie and came on stream week ending 12th December 1970. He was 'Santa', another German shepherd.

On 19th August 1971 we started training some dogs to locate cannabis resin as the drug was being used everywhere and our drug squad needed help to find it. `Santa's general-purpose training was well up to standard, so I started training him to find drugs. The resin we were using was small in size and as I did not want him to swallow any, I used a brass container with air holes to protect it. All worked well and he could find it almost anywhere. However, on Hankley Common once again, tracking, 'Santa' stopped on track and indicated some old brass bullet cases that had been there some time. Brass has its own smell and he associated it with cannabis. I stopped using the brass container and switched to a small plastic bag, which worked perfectly. From November 1971 the Dog Section were used by the drug squad to help when executing warrants searching mainly in the gardens and areas around the properties.

Inside houses I found the dogs were really too large although we still succeeded in finding the drug but being German Shepherds they were not exactly welcomed by the occupants with children. On one occasion I was asked to search a room, which I found to contain loose and boxed bird's eggs. They were everywhere. 'Santa' and I carried out the task and found no drug. That showed people just how gentle our dogs could be.

On 2nd September 1971 as a result of a person finding part of a human arm on Leatherhead golf course, we turned out all available handlers to search the course and surrounding area for any signs of a human frame or where the part may have come from. It was thought that a fox might have carried it. The dogs had no trouble finding golf balls, as the D.I. was a player. They could even locate those that had been covered up for years with moss growing on them, they didn't need hand scent. We found no trace of a

body on the golf course side of the passing road so in the late afternoon we switched over the road to the edge of Ashtead common in woodland where at 1700 'Santa' backed away from a hole in the ground that was marked round the edge with fox claw marks. It was the source we were looking for.

In 1972 we received an invitation to operate our cannabis search dogs in the Cargo Sheds at Gatwick Airport from Customs and Excise. If we were successful, they were thinking of employing some dogs themselves. We carried out quite several searches between March and December of that year and also tried the luggage moving belt and carousel on slack occasions all without success although the dogs in any situation always located a planted container with resin inside.

On 7th June 1976 and 6th November 1977, we used housing at Godalming police station which we set up as living accommodation with all the old furniture and fittings in cupboards etc. and ran Drug Training Courses of two weeks duration which were very successful for general purpose police dogs. It included dogs from other forces.

On 4th April 1978 at 1650 we were called on to search a chalk quarry at East caves, Chapel Lane, Westhumble, where two boy's bicycles had been left since 1300 hrs. On arrival we met the youth who reported them. He suggested that the boys might be underground, as he could find no trace of them on the surface.

He indicated a vertical tube shaft leading to underground caverns. It was not a place for dogs, so I entered with the youth who said he had been down in the past. With search lamps we found the boys with their lamps gone out. The surface was broken up with signs of recent chalk fall and it was dangerous. This is not unusual in Surrey as we have the Hearthstone mines at Merstham and Godstone that cause similar problems with young boys.

Here my clock runs out of battery, as I have no further records to refer too. On 22nd June 1979 'Santa' was put to sleep due to age and I trained 'Juno' to General-Purpose standard. Following that, when we ran an Explosive Course a little later, we put him on it and I used him on several occasions when we needed to search buildings before Royal visits and similar instances. 'Juno' was re-handled, (by PC Geoff Craggs), on my retirement in April 1982 and his work records travelled with him of course.

One last reminder of the past: - 18th September 1972 in the morning we received a call to search a rough area of common land bordering the motorway at Avenue Road, Lightwater where the previous day two schoolgirls had been attacked. I was using 12 dogs and handlers working in line through long, coarse grass and we had just reached the middle of the area when we all realised there were snakes, (adders), all round us. To go back was tricky because the ones we had passed were on the move so without panic we continued forward, only more careful with the dogs as they had no protection, but we had Wellingtons. We completed our task but without a result other than that no dogs were injured. I have never seen so many Adders in one place before, all different shades and colour, they counted in tens not ones or twos. I wonder who remembers that search.

Finally, I must mention some of the best tracklayers anyone could wish for any time of the day or night, all weathers no problem. They jumped ditches, walked streams, crossed barbed wire, hid in reed beds, old buildings, and up trees, then walked in circles and doubled back on their tracks. When new handlers could follow them, they were as good

as trained. Who were they? They were approved schoolboys out on a runner, often in twos. One knocked on my door at Buckland one morning. I was out on duty. My wife answered the door, and she faced a young lad, who said, "I want to give myself up". She had three sons and me to look after. He got a cooked breakfast before he was collected and returned to the school.

I had a very exciting time in the Surrey Constabulary, and I would not have missed it for the entire world, especially the twenty years spent in the company of those hardy men working police dogs on the front line. Our senior officers did encourage us from the top with their red or green inks (Well done – green ink Chief Constable red ink Deputy Chief Constable) and it was appreciated in those early years.

Reigate Borough Police

Robert Bartlett

1943 Report on the "State of Crime and the Police Establishment of the Borough of Reigate Division of the Surrey Joint Police" signed by the Chief Constable William Beacher. [5] There was no enemy incidents recorded although there were many alerts.

Crimes in the Surrey Joint Police Area 1 January to 31 December 1943[6]

Division	Crimes alleged	Crimes deleted	Crimes detected	Not cleared up	Non-Indictable prosecutions
Dorking	620	122	245	40.81	577
Farnham	1258	318	344	47.38	531
Godalming	984	210	338	44.31	656
Guildford	839	164	256	49.9	748
Leatherhead	613	118	224	44.21	272
Oxted	517	107	194	41.78	388
Reigate	517	78	239	38.68	296
Weybridge	1352	321	409	46.01	1034
Woking	1182	325	291	47.88	397
Total	**7882**	**1763**	**2540**	**45.41**	**4899**

Comparative strength Surrey Joint Police and recorded crime 1943 [7]

Division	Arrests	Strength	Crimes per man
Dorking	108	98	6.33
Farnham	160	119	10.57
Godalming	185	118	8.34

[5] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police
[6] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police
[7] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police

Division	Arrests	Strength	Crimes per man
Guildford Borough	257	91	9.22
Leatherhead	150	109	5.62
Oxted	92	104	4.97
Reigate Borough	161	67	7.72
Weybridge	238	145	9.32
Woking	158	118	10.02

Total crimes for the Surrey Joint Police

Not included are deleted crimes (probably refers to modern term "No crime"[8]

	1938	**1939**	**1940**	**1941**	**1942**	**1943**
Committed	2918	2831	3257	4046	3878	6119
% Detected	50.06	48	47.95	49.13	45.69	45.23

1943 Superintendent Beacher's contribution to Chief Constable Surrey Joint Police annual report. [9]

Population Reigate Borough 34,547 in the last census but estimated civilians only now 41,928.

An average of 44.2 **Special Constables** turned out on 87 air raid warnings. The Special Constabulary Mobile Section was reduced by the War from 24 to 9 cars but there was a car on duty every evening from 7pm at both Reigate and Redhill. The motorcyclists were reduced to four but every evening there was always one on duty. **Establishment** Special Constabulary Reigate Borough Police 147 who performed 120,431.5 hours duty.

The ten **Action Stations** are run by the Special Constabulary. In the centre there is a **Control Room** with a Reigate police controller and Special Constables are entirely responsible for manning. There are no words that adequately describe the quiet and efficient manner in which the Special Constabulary have fitted into the police machine.

Road Traffic Accidents RBP area: Fatal 5, serious injusry 105. Total road accidents 2666 as against 274 in 1942.

Twenty Reigate Borough Police officers are serving in the armed forces**.**

There are two War Reserve Constables, one retired Reigate Borough and the other retired from the East Sussex Constabulary.

Vehicle Fleet**:** Imperial motor-cycle JPG910; Triumph motor-cycle HPG474; Utility car JPF729; MG saloon CTH437; MG car JPB578; police ambulence.

1943 December: The **Chief Constable Surrey Constabulary, Major Nicholson CBE MC** has received the old borough forces (Reigate Borough Police and Guildford Borough Police) into his administration in a most admirable and sympathetic manner ---- the change did not bring about a cleavage between the Borough and its police force and the old association has continued to remain.[10]

[8] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police
[9] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police
[10] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police

1944 February 25: Surrey Mirror: Reigate Grammar School Cadet Corps opposed the Redhill Police in a **shooting match** with the Cadet Corps scoring 967, Cadet K Stuart obtaining a possible 100 and the Redhill Police scoring 929.

1944 June 16: The **first flying bomb** to fall in the Borough was on June 16th at Sanders Estate at Buckland[11] at approximately 10 am, this was the first real day of the battle. **[12]**

1944 June 19: Redhill: Flying bomb crashed into Earlsbrook Road and St Johns Road, Earlswood. Scores of people were buried in the debris with eleven people being killed.[13]

Extract Surrey Mirror: Many people were buried in their shattered homes and rescue parties from the Civil Defence worked heroically. The police did particular good work and were on long hours at a stretch. On the following Saturday buildings damaged by a second flying bomb – three people slightly wounded and other had miraculous escapes. **[14]**

1944 June 29: The summer of 1944 brought a new terror to the skies over Southeast England in the shape of the now infamous **'Doodle-Bugs' or V1 flying bombs**. John Neil in his book 'The History of Merstham School' records an incident when one of these 'doodle-bugs' fell close to the school: "On 29th June 1944 just as morning assembly was coming to an end, a flying bomb hit the Corporation Yard in Albury Road, just a hundred yards from the school. Damage from the blast was extensive, but miraculously there were no serious casualties among the 200 children and the staff."

1944 June Redhill: A **rocket landed** in Earlsbrook Road and St Johns Road **killing eleven** people and wounding seventeen, blasting forty houses. Many of the victims were buried under their shattered homes and rescue parties and the Civil Defence workers generally worked heroically to get the victims out and to render first aid to the injured. The police did particularly good work and were on long hours at a stretch. Mobile canteens catered to their needs as they toiled through the day. Several hundred of these bombs fell on East Surrey with the greatest concentration in Caterham area. **[15]**

1944: The Royal Philanthropic School at Redhill was severely damaged by a flying bomb

1944 July 7: At least two further flying bombs fell on Merstham that year. One fell in the woods on Church Hill causing extensive damage

1944 July Merstham was declared in an "evacuation area" due to the increasing risk of attacks and many families made preparations to leave.

[11] Not sure Buckland has ever been within the Brough
[12] Flying Bombs (Doodlebugs) 1944 'The History of Merstham School'
[13] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[14] Rev WAR Ball vicar of St Johns http://www.stjohnsredhill.org.uk/pdfs/wardiary1940.pdf
[15] http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/history-from-police-archives/RB1/Pt2/pt2TL193945.html

1944 July 21: Several pilotless bombs dropping in Reigate and killing three people. Another having hit a balloon cable dropped in the grounds of Earlswood Asylum causing a great deal of damage but no casualties. [16]

1944 21 July

PC Jack Skingley Reigate Borough Police
Flight Lieutenant DFC, RAFVR, Pathfinder
Died aged 29, 21 July 1944

Jack Skingley was reported missing from night operations with the RAF during an attack on Courtrai. On the 23 May 1945 the Air Ministry stated that Flight Lieutenant Skingley lost his life on the 21 July 1944.

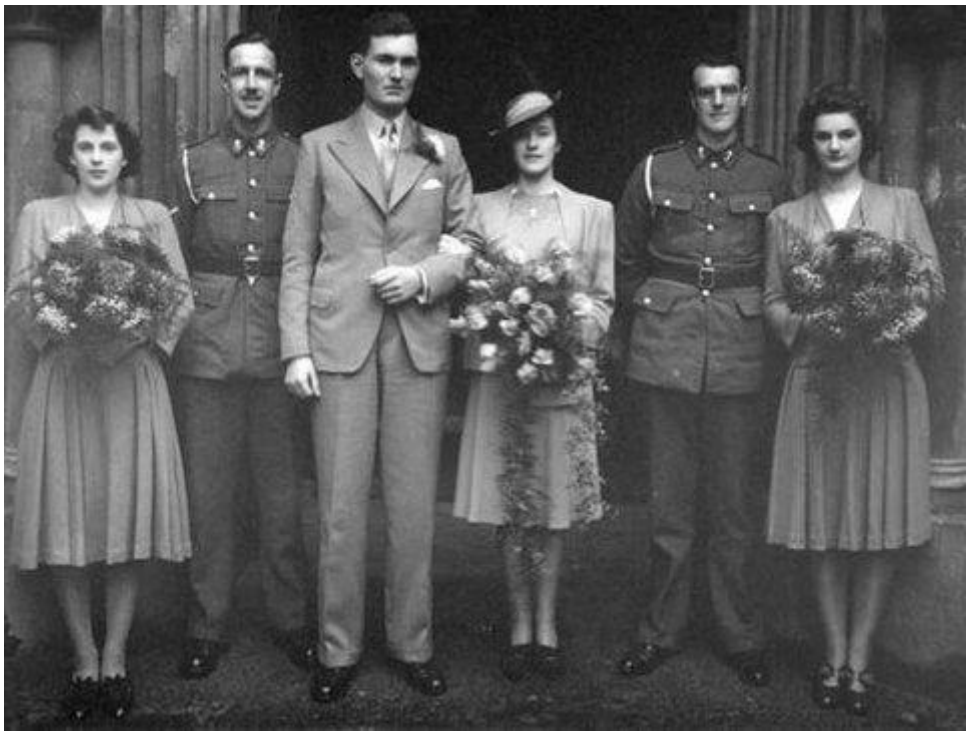
PC Skingley joined the Reigate Borough Police on the 27 April 1936 aged 19 having been born on the 7 July 1916 in Watford. He had previous military service with the 1st Battalion the Royal Sussex Regiment in which he served for 2 years and 14 days. PC Skingley's job before joining the police was a furniture remover living at 8 Clifton Road, Watford. His mother was Winifred Maude, and his father was deceased. The officer was described as 5 feet 11 inches tall with a fresh complexion, brown hair and grey eyes.

Service:

18 November 1936 passed First Aid exam
5 December 1936 Discreditable conduct fined £1 on each of 3 charges and £2 on another charge.
27 April 1937 Second Grade
4 April 1938 Appointment confirmed as from 27 April 1938
27 April 1938 3rd Grade
27 April 1939 4th Grade
10 July 1939 Disobedience to Orders fined £2 by the CC
27 April 1940 5th Grade
27 April 1941 6th Grade
11 August 1941 Joined the RAF
27 April 1942 7th Grade
1 February 1943 transferred to the Surrey Joint Police Force
27 April 1943 8th Grade

PC Skingley's father was a police officer as was his grandfather, and on his wife's side was a policeman who was present at the Sidney Street siege in 1900. He lived in the borough with his wife and where their son Ross was born.

[16] Rev WAR Ball vicar of St Johns http://www.stjohnsredhill.org.uk/pdfs/wardiary1940.pdf



The wedding of Marjorie Henderson to Jack Skingley 18th November 1940

Jack under training at the Metropolitan Police Training School Peel House

PC Jack Skingley Reigate Borough and in the RAF

From Ross Skingley in April 2004: "My father was a Bomb aimer in No 97 Squadron Pathfinders and flew in Lancasters. He joined the RAF in 1942 (records show 1941) and trained in Canada. Between August 1943 and July 1944, he flew on 40 missions over Germany, France and Belgium, many of these over Berlin. I have no DFC citation as this was posthumously awarded.
He and his crew went missing on a short raid from Coningsby to Coutraui in Belgium on the night of 20 July 44 out of the 14 Lancasters to go out his was the only one that did not return. His pilot was P/O Edwards.

PC Skingley served with the Pathfinders who were volunteers for this particularly dangerous role. He was killed in a night operation in Lancasters with the RAF and is remembered on the Runnymede Memorial. No 97 Squadron were based Bourne Airfield Cambridgeshire and were on the Berlin Raids 1943-1944.

1944 July 26: Redhill: Flying bomb landed near a school with 100 children in assembly with one injured staff member. However, three men in the highway's depot close by were killed.[17]

1944 August Flying bomb fell on 'Innisfree' in Rockshaw Road killing all the occupants.

1944: Flying Bombs **(Doodlebugs):** The first flying bomb to fall in the Borough was on June 16th at Sanders Estate at Buckland at approximately 10am, this was the first real day of the battle. Earlswood Road, Redhill, exact location unknown but there was a lot of damage and many casualties. Reigate Hill, on the east side opposite The Rock a house was demolished during mid-afternoon. The Clears, Sheep Walk - the sheds of the Hearthstone Quarry were destroyed, there were no casualties this

[17] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated

happened during the early hours of the morning. Corner of St Albans Road and Brokes Road a house took a direct hit during the early hours of the morning.

1944 22 November

PC Geoffrey Alexander Farquhar, Reigate Borough Police
Corps of Military Police Died aged 27, 22 November 1944

Killed in a motoring accident in West Bromwich whilst serving as a member of the Special Investigation Branch of the Military Police

PC Farquhar a single man joined the Reigate Borough on the 5 June 1939 and was posted to the Redhill Division. Having been born on the 6 May 1917 in West Norwood he was the son of Henry and Mary Farquhar. When he joined the police, he was living at 62, Broxholme Road, West Norwood and was employed as a clerk at the London School of Motoring, Hampstead.
The records show previous public service as "Surrey Constabulary 1 month and in the Metropolitan Police". (Was in the Borough and so automatically became a member of the Surrey Constabulary or Surrey Joint Police as it was diplomatically called until the complete amalgamation with the Boroughs.)

Service:

26 March 1940 Passed ambulance exam
3 June 1940 second Grade
29 January 1941 congratulated by the Chief Constable and the Chairman of the Reigate bench for his action in the case of Police v Byers, drunkenness and assault on Police.
1 September 1941 Appointment confirmed as from 5 June 1941
27 October 1941 Discipline for falsehood and prevarication fined £2
5 June 1942 4th Grade
14 September 1942 Neglect of duty fined 10/- by the CC
1 February 1943 Transferred to surrey Joint Police Force
3 June 1943 called up for service in the Army
5 June 1943 5th Grade

1944 Total crime in Reigate Borough 579 with detection 49.9%[18]

Wartime Air Disaster on Reigate Hill[19]

1945 March 19: A number of aircraft of the US 384th Bomber Group stationed at Grafton-Underwood in Northamptonshire were returning from a bombing raid on Plauen, near the Czech border. For protection against enemy fighters the aircraft normally flew in formation but because of dense cloud the formation split up and Flying Fortress 43-39035 SO-F was making its own way home. Over the Weald cloud was solid at 800 feet and broken at 300 feet. Flying too low, the aircraft crashed into Reigate Hill at 1740 hrs.

[18] SCC History Centre CC/98/22/8
[19] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/US.htm

The Crash: Why the crash occurred is not fully known, but an enquiry put the cause down to pilot error. This is possibly borne out by the presence in the 'plane of maps showing ground heights above sea level and no evidence of a serious malfunction, as well as other factors. One account of the incident said that the pilot tried unsuccessfully to get in at Gatwick and failing that at Redhill (despite it being grass), but no evidence of attempted local landings has come to light.

The Scene in 1945: First on the scene was Dorothy Edwards. She was in uniform for she worked at Southern Command and was on her way back to her accommodation on Reigate Hill. Seeing the aircraft plunge into the side of the hill above her she scrambled up the slope and found the pilot. All she could do was hold the hand of a dying man. A local poacher checking his traps also arrived. The Reigate fire brigade attended to douse the fires and soon after a detachment of the RAF Regiment arrived to seal off the area. Several other people saw or heard the 'plane go over. One of those was just arriving for duty at the ARP post under the Town Hall when it passed overhead. Others said that they saw the aircraft pass over Merstham High Street, but questions about how it then crashed on the southern slope of Reigate Hill may be answered by their sighting being of another aircraft from the dispersed formation. All of those who witnessed the scene after the crash speak of the utter devastation at the site with broken and burnt trees, broken ground, and the tangled and spread-out ruin of the once proud Flying Fortress.

1939-1945: The recorded incidents during World War II in the Borough of Reigate were[20]

Civilians Killed	50
Civilians Injured	161
Houses totally destroyed	115
Houses damaged	4189
Air Raid Alerts	893
High explosive bombs	496
Oil bombs	18
Incendiary bombs	5847
Flying bombs (Doodlebugs)	17
Parachute mines (Both Fell on Merstham)	2

For every incident a police response, for every response a report; for every fatal casualty, identification, a post-mortem then report to the coroner so it is clear that if all the other work associated with the war is included, these Borough men were extremely busy and probably frequently worked long difficult hours.

[20] Kevin Austen: http://www.merstham.co.uk/merstham/MersthamHistory.htm#Merstham at War ï¿½ World War II

Home Guard towards the end of the war led by a Borough sergeant[21]
8th Surrey (Reigate) Battalion
1944 Friday 29 December: Surrey Mirror [22]
The Borough's Home Guard. A Short History of the 8th Surrey Battalion.
The Days of the L.D.V

How many people lining the route of the 8th Surrey (Reigate) Battalion Home Guard's farewell march on Sunday, December 3rd, gave more than a passing thought to the significance of the event, or cast their minds back to Tuesday, May 14th, 1940, when, with the field-grey hordes of Germany spreading like an evil canker across Europe, the Secretary for War. Mr. Anthony Eden, came to a B.B.C. microphone with the appeal that brought old soldiers, well past the age of soldiering, back to arms, and set youth, not yet quite old enough for full-time soldiering, drilling, shooting and stalking?

The story starts at mid-day on that memorable Tuesday with a telegram over the signature of the Under Secretary of State. It went to every Chief Constable in the country. Mr. W. H. Beacher, sitting in his office in Reigate, read it: "Broadcast Will be made at 9.10 pm. to-day inviting male British subjects between the ages of 17 and 65 to register for Local Defence Volunteer Corps against enemy landings by parachute or otherwise. Registrations will be at any police station. Circular follows. In meantime, please ensure forthwith that all stations are prepared to receive registrations." There followed details of particulars to be taken. While the then Reigate Borough Police were making the necessary arrangements there came a second telegram notifying them of a broadcast appeal to be made for rifles and ammunition and asking the police to be ready also to record details of all weapons offered to the new Volunteer Force.

The broadcasts, which gave first news of the new Force to the public came in the bulletins at 6p.m. and 9p.m. It was during the latter that Mr. Eden outlined the enemy's methods of parachute attack and made his now famous appeal. In the Borough, as elsewhere in the country, the response was astounding. Almost before the broadcast was over the telephone lines to the police stations were busy and personal calls at the stations to register mounted rapidly. Mr. Beacher and his staff worked almost without pause to keep pace with the applications, 1,500 of which poured in in 48 hours.

[21] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/homeguard.htm Peter Pringle's photograph
[22] http://sussexhistoryforum.co.uk/index.php?topic=7355.0;wap2

Reigate Hill Patrol

Some of the Volunteers had their first taste of duty only three days after the broadcast, for it was on May 17th that the late Capt. E. H. Tuckwell came from Guildford Headquarters to the Chief Constable - at 4 p.m. - to make arrangements for night patrols to be on Reigate Hill. Capt. W. E. Hill, M.C., was contacted, and was acquainted on his arrival, shortly before 7 p.m., with what was required. A police car took him to the addresses of several of the Volunteers, and, armed with six "P.14" rifles, all that could be mustered at that stage, the little party set off in police cars for their patrol ground.

The twelve men who comprised this first patrol were Messrs. Chalcraft, Cook, Cuss, Dungate, Elliott, Hunt, Jarrett, Laker, Lott, Lovegrove, Pilbeam and Rumble, under the command of Capt. Hill, who, however, found the chosen site for the observation post, a spot near the water tower on Colley Hill, to be unsatisfactory, the view to the southward being impeded by Reigate Park. On the following night therefore, the same patrol moved to Reigate Park itself, and were under the command of Mr. Vigers, Capt. Hill having been summoned to Guildford to an urgent conference. Most of the men on these early patrols were unfamiliar with the "P.14" rifle, not having handled firearms since the last war, and so the commanders divided their small force into two, one keeping up the patrol of the area whilst the other received some instruction as to the handling of the unfamiliar weapons. These night watches were divided into three periods - 10 p.m. to 1 a.m., 1 a.m. to 4 a.m., and 4 a.m. to 7 am.

The Borough Company Formed

Meanwhile, at the conference to which Captain Hill had gone, and which was also attended by Alderman Lieut. Col. F. J. Spranger, Mr. W. H. Beacher, Capt. Mansfield (Redhill) and Capt. Charlesworth (Merstham), it had been decided that Reigate (including Redhill, Earlswood and Merstham) should be allotted one Company of the L D.V. The work of registration was continuing, and preliminary details of the scheme were being worked out, so that on May 20th at a meeting at the Town Hall, convened by the Chief Constable and presided over by Alderman Spranger, it was possible to get down to the work of organisation. At this meeting, at which Alderman Spranger intimated that he was unable to take command of the Reigate Company but at which he introduced Mr. R. J. V. Hake, of the White House, Reigate Heath, as Company Commander, it was decided that the Company should comprise a Reigate Town Platoon under Capt. W. E. Hill, a Redhill Platoon under Capt. E. T. Mansfield, and a Merstham Platoon under Capt. W. G. Charlesworth.

The Surrey Mirror of Friday 05 January 1945 contains a detailed story of the Borough Home Guard until the end of the war. [23]

1945 October 11: Police Forces, Surrey (Amalgamation) [24]

Mr. Touche asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will now revoke the wartime amalgamation of the Reigate Borough Police with the Surrey County Police.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Ede) The future of the Reigate borough police force cannot be considered in isolation from that of other forces amalgamated under the emergency powers. This general question has been receiving the consideration of the Government; and I hope shortly to be a position to put my proposals before Parliament.

[23] http://sussexhistoryforum.co.uk/index.php?PHPSESSID=egai41hdig47i70d4olivrrab5&topic=7355.5;wap2

[24] http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/commons/1945/oct/11/police-forces-surrey-amalgamation House of Commons *HC* Deb 11 October 1945 vol 414 cc377-8*377*

Mr. Tauche Would the right hon. Gentleman agree that the amalgamations made under Defence Orders are based on wartime considerations which have ceased to operate?
Mr. Ede The amalgamations made were under special powers granted during the war. The question of what is the suitable size for a police force is one that we shall submit to this House for their consideration in the new Bill.

Houndsditch Murders

These terrible events took place in London but involved PC Choat whose funeral took place in Byfleet.

1910 December 24: Houndsditch Murders: Three More Detentions: In connection with the Houndsditch Murders three men were detained last evening by police. No charge was made against either of the men detained on Thursday. The body of the man Gardstein found in the house in Grove Street has now been removed to the City mortuary and placed in a special chamber for the preservation of bodies by the use of formalin. **Funeral of Constable Choat:** The remains were **laid to rest in Byfleet Churchyard** yesterday afternoon of Constable Choat one of the officers shot in the Houndsditch tragedy. Detachments of the City, Metropolitan Police and Surrey police and firemen from the town and villages took part in the mournful procession, which included the police band playing the funeral march. The deceased was buried beside the grave of his mother who was interred only sixteen days before. There were one hundred and fifty wreaths including one from the Lord and Lady Mayoress.[25]

On the16th December 1910, mysterious sounds of hammering were heard coming from Mr Harris' empty jeweller's shop at 119 Houndsditch at the boundary of the City of London. When Max Weil, a fancy goods dealer who lived over his shop next door, returned home after ten that night, he discovered his wife and servant girl agitated by the noises coming from the other side of the wall. On further investigation, he confirmed that Mr Harris had gone home long ago, because the jeweller's steel gate was locked from the outside and peering through the window, he saw the electric light that always burned in the backroom, illuminating the iron safe rumoured to contain the Tsar's crown jewels. Everything was as usual – apart from the unexplained hammering.

Although it was a cold night, Weil walked over to Bishopsgate where he fetched Constable Walter Piper and when they listened together outside the shop, they heard what Piper later described as *"drilling, sawing and breaking away of brickwork."* He walked around to Exchange Buildings, the cul-de-sac at the rear, to investigate. When Constable Piper knocked at 11 Exchange Buildings – where gaslight glowed above the folding shutter – the door was opened at once and in a manner so furtive that the Constable chose to play innocent, asking, *"Is the missus in?"*

"She has gone out," replied the unknown man who answered the door, shaking his head for emphasis. Deeply suspicious now, Piper shrugged it off. *"Right, I will call back,"* he said, walking away and deducing that a heist was under way. Going to seek back-up, Piper saw a man lurking in the gloom at the

[25] 1910 December 24: The Scotsman

entrance to Exchange Buildings, but when the Constable approached, the figure sloped away silently. In Houndsditch, Piper met Constables Walter Choat and Ernest Woodhams, and they took positions outside the jeweller's shop and at the entrance to Exchange Buildings, while he went to seek assistance from Bishopsgate Police Station.

On his way to the Station, Piper encountered Sergeant Robert Bentley accompanied by two Constables in plain clothes, James Martin and Arthur Strongman. Piper introduced Sergeant Bentley to Max Weil who had sounded the alarm, and Weil took the Sergeant into his counting house to listen to the hammering through the wall. When the Sergeant emerged into Houndsditch again, he met two Sergeants, Bryant and Tucker, sent from Chief Inspector Hayes at Bishopsgate Police Station to convey the message that he had suspicions of some foreigners living in Exchange Buildings.

At once, Bentley went round and knocked again on the door of 11 Exchange Buildings where Constable Piper had called earlier. "Have you been working or knocking about inside?" he asked when the door opened but received no reply from the man at the door. "Don't you understand English?" Bentley continued, again without answer. "Do you have anyone that can? Fetch them down." he insisted, but the man simply let the door swing shut. Persevering, Bentley boldly pushed open the door and walked inside to discover an empty room with a fire burning in the grate, and a cup of tea, and bread and paste upon the table. As Sergeant Bryant stepped into the doorway behind him, both men realised they were being watched from the stairs, but they could not see the watcher's face, only his legs.

"Is anybody working in there?" repeated Bentley. "No," came the reply from the man on the stairs. "Anybody in the back?" asked Bentley. "No," came the reply again. "Can I have a look in the back?" enquired Bentley. "Yes," came the reply this time. "Show us the way," requested Bentley. "In there," said the man on the stairs, pointing toward the yard door, and Bentley took a step in that direction.

The door flew open and another man entered quickly with a pistol aimed at Bentley. Meanwhile, the man on the stairs shot Bentley with a bullet that passed through his helmet and flew out through the shutter. Then the man who had come through the yard door also shot Bentley, twice at point blank range through the shoulder and through the neck. As Bentley fell backwards to collapse dying in the doorway, Bryant, who stood behind him, escaped into the street, where he fell down and lost consciousness due to bullet wounds. Outside, Constable Woodhams, who all this time had been stationed at the entrance to Exchange Buildings, ran to assist on hearing the firing, and also fell to the ground unconscious when a bullet shattered his thigh bone.

Remembered: The three policemen killed (from left to right) Sergeant Robert Bentley, 36, Sergeant Charles Tucker, 46, and Pc Walter Charles Choat, 34[26]

Constable Strongman and Sergeant Tucker saw Woodhams fall, and they saw a hand holding a pistol appear from the door, and a pale young man with a moustache and dark curly hair emerge in a suit, firing continuously. Tucker was shot twice, in the hip and the heart. Then in the darkness, the gang ran towards the entrance of Exchange Buildings, firing indiscriminately as they made their escape. Taking refuge, James Martin, a plain clothes Constable, leapt inside the house opposite, placing a hand across the mouth of sixteen-year-old Bessie Jacobs, who lived there, terrified and vulnerable in her nightdress. "Don't scream. I'm a detective!" he assured her, "I'll protect your mother and I'll protect you."

Constable Walter Choat, a publican's son who came from a huge family of about 24 children, had been stationed at the end of the cul-de-sac, and saw a gunman running through the shadows.[27] Choat was a tall man of six feet four inches, had the courage to grab one of the fugitives by the wrist, attempting to seize his gun. Yet as a consequence, Choat was shot in the leg repeatedly, before the rest of the gang turned their weapons upon him too. But such was his tenacity of spirit – even after receiving five more bullets – that he only released his grip when the gang kicked or punched him in the face to free their comrade. And as he fell backwards, a bullet fired by one of the gang, yet intended for the Constable, hit the fugitive in the back. Two of his fellows dragged him away to vanish into the night, but he was already mortally wounded.

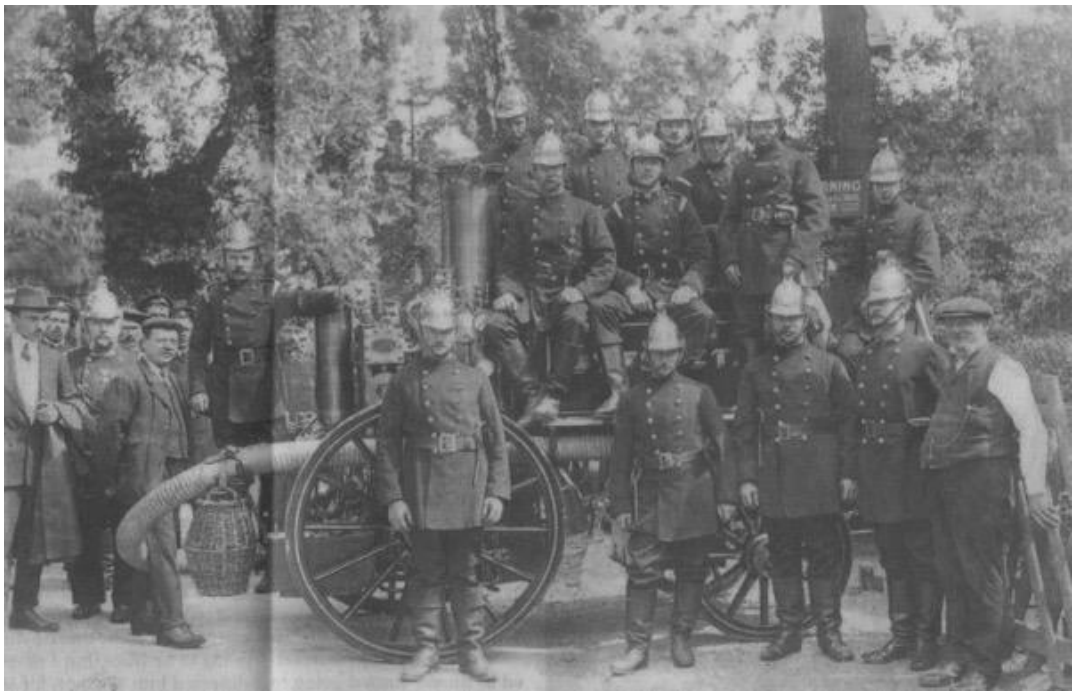
[26] http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1339367/Foreign-terrorists-bloodshed-East-London-street-100-years-ago-week-chilling-parallels-Britain-today.html
[27] http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/siege-of-sidney-street-how-the-dramatic-stand-off-changed-british-police-politics-and-the-media-2154651.html

The funeral of PC Choat City of London Police, December 23, 1910 Byfleet [28]

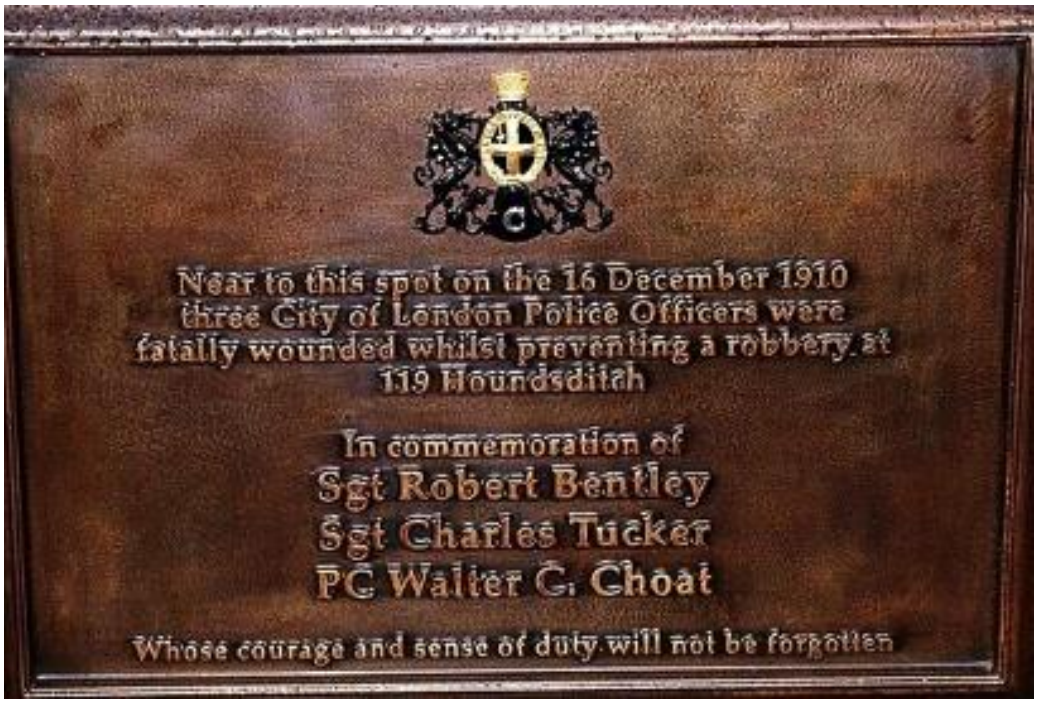
Once the firing stopped, the inhabitants of Exchange Buildings came out from their houses to discover carnage in the darkness. Some fell over the bodies of the dead and dying policemen. A passing motor car in Houndsditch was requisitioned to race Sergeant Tucker to the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel, but it was in vain, because he was already dead when examined at 11.50pm by Dr Rainey in the receiving room. Then Dr Rainey turned his attention to Constable Choat who arrived on a stretcher and remained conscious in spite of nine bullet wounds – although had no memory of the events of the night – and died subsequently at 5:20am. Sergeant Bentley was carried to St Bartholomew's Hospital where he died at 7:30am next morning. The heist was foiled but three officers were killed and two crippled for life on a single night, and it remains the worst incident for casualties ever suffered by the British police.

John Francis Moss: [29] The funeral of all three police officers killed in the Houndsditch Murders started at St Paul's Cathedral at 12 noon on Thursday, 22nd December 1910. Two-part funerals - starting in either Westminster Abbey or St Paul's Cathedral - were becoming common practice then - partly due to lack of space to bury people within the Abbey/Cathedral, and partly due to families wanting notables who had died to be celebrated nationally but buried locally - rather than in London. It is unlikely the three police officers would have been offered the opportunity to have been buried in St Paul's Cathedral (it was the Dean's prerogative) but it was a sufficiently national event for them to be offered a funeral there. I believe the two police sergeants were buried in Ilford, Essex. I won't trouble you with details of the liturgy (my interest, but probably not anyone else's) although there is considerable coverage of the outrage at the murders in both The Times and The Daily Telegraph digital archives.

[28] Surrey Advertiser Woking Past and Present 15 January 2016
[29] Email to Robert Bartlett 4 February 2020



1910 Byfleet Fire Brigade who attended PC Choat's funeral [30]

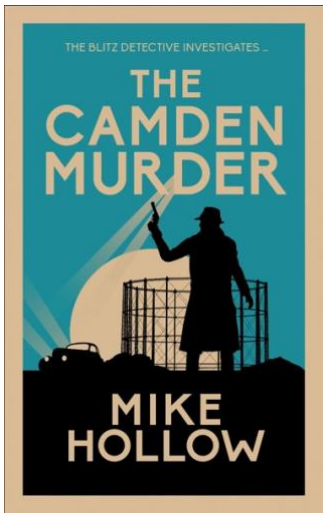


The plaque in Cutler Street commemorating the incident on December 16, 1910.[31]

[30] Surrey Advertiser Woking Past and Present 15 January 2016

[31] http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1339367/Foreign-terrorists-bloodshed-East-London-street-100-years-ago-week-chilling-parallels-Britain-today.html

Book Review



Dear Blitz Detective friends

This is just to let you know that the paperback edition of *The Camden Murder*, number 7 in the Blitz Detective series, is published today.

If you haven't already read it in hardback or ebook, or listened to the audio book version, here's a reminder of what it's about:

It's 1940, at the height of the Blitz, and police find a man dead in a blazing car in Camden Town, north London - he's Les Latham, a commercial traveller for a confectionery company. He liked to be known as Lucky Les, but it seems his luck has finally run out.

When DI John Jago discovers a mysterious photo and some suspicious-looking petrol ration books among the man's belongings, it sets him off on a murky trail of deceit, corruption and murder...

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