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

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www.surrey-constabulary.com

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Surrey Constabulary History 105

Training 1977 John Walters, Tony Peach, Derek Cadey, Alan McArthur, Ian McFadyen, Nick Carter, Fred Smith.
Front row left to right: Rose Murray, Eric Adams, Dave Stone, Peggy Sandford, (now 97 years of age) Bob Ball, Bryan Alden

Contents

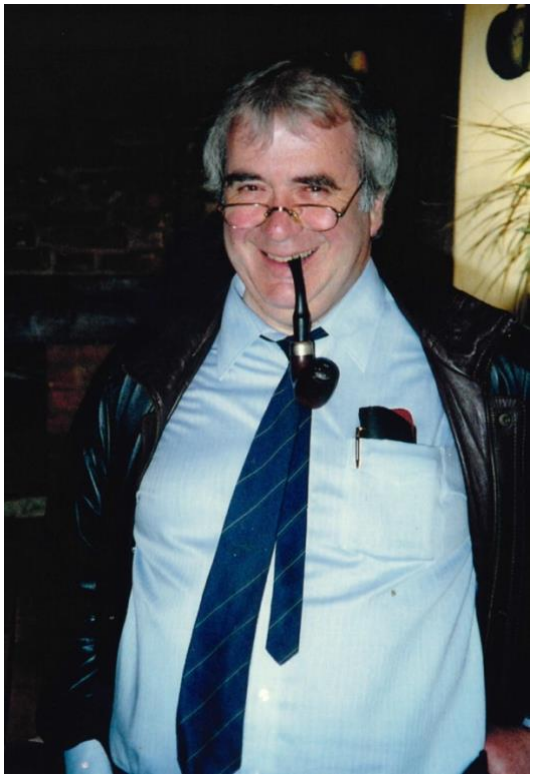
PC 114 possibly Williams, Surrey Constabulary

Jerry Coombes Police Photographer
Died in 2023

Timber Wood, Ivor Morgan, Jerry and Chief Constable Brian Hayes

Members of Photographic Department: left to right: Jerry Coombes, Sergeant Charle. Dobinson, PC Bramley Hall, Ken Williams and PC Terry Keller.

Jerry with Chief Constable Ian Blair now Lord Blair



That retirement look!

Robert Arthur James Rackham
PC34 Surrey Constabulary
RAF and Control Commission

From PC Rackham’s daughter August 2023.

My brother has my father's logbook from the RAF. I'll ask him to let me know details of his service. He trained in South Africa and flew transport planes in India and also flew Mountbatten on occasions. Served in the control commission from 15 July 1946 from Surrey Constabulary HQ and was stationed in Hamburg.

Born 23rd October 1914. Appointment register number 2096. 24th July 1934. Guildford. Sworn in 24th July 1934. Collar number 34. 28th July 1941 seconded to RAF. Resigned 23rd August 1947.

First stationed at Godalming 8th September 1934. Woking 17.11.34. Chertsey 9.11.35. Horley 3.1.36. Dorking 10.4.37. Ockley 28.8.37. HQ 27.9.37. RAF 28.7.41. HQ 5.2.46. Control Commission Germany 15.7.46. Reigate 28.7.47. Resigned 23.8.47.

Added to the list of Surrey Constabulary officers who served during the war in the armed forces:

PC 34 Robert Arthur James Rackham. Date of birth 23rd October 1914. Appointment number 2096. 24th July 1934. Guildford. Sworn in 24th July 1934. 8th July 1941 seconded to RAF 15th July 1946 HQ to Control Commission for Germany. Resigned 23rd August 1947. First stationed at Godalming 8th September 1934.

Police stations and police housing in the Surrey Constabulary

Editor Robert Bartlett

Kingswood Police House, Brighton Road turn of the century

It is not wrong to say that policing has undergone a revolution during the last twenty years or so. There are many causes. Very many, mostly undisputed! Huge consequences where one failure compounds another leading to loss of confidence both inside the police and by the public. One these many contributory factors has been the withdrawal of a police presence particularly from small towns and the countryside where police only venture to respond to a call for help – well some calls for help! Though very conscious of the fact that each generation must plough their own furrows based on all the constraints that face them, withdrawal from community contact is now acknowledged as a mistake. The problem and irreversible nature of it, has been exacerbated by the closure and sale of police houses, section offices and all the police stations that once served the towns and villages across the county. Police officers from being known within the community for who they were and what they did, have morphed into anonymous wearers of bulky uniforms adorned with a range of "bells and whistles". Never again a recognised helmet and shiny buttons a symbol of the presence of the holder of a traditional and respected office.

On formation the new rural police believed in officers living and working within the community and to achieve an even coverage of every parish, housing was provided. You lived where you worked. If you were moved, then the Surrey Constabulary were able to provide a house on the new beat. Borough officers bought their own homes and lived within their boroughs for the whole of their service. Young married officers often had to seek their own accommodation but were paid a rent allowance to cover part of the cost. Living in your own house for a county officer was not an option before the late 1960s and 1970s. Even then there were constraints. It was 9 years' service before Chief Constable Matthews would allow a police officer to buy a house. Then not any house in any location. It had to be within the county and an area dictated by the chief constable. It was not unknown to insist that a house be purchased in Guildford or on Northern, some of the most expensive houses in the county. Officers able to afford Farnham Division but not Weybridge were in fact denied the opportunity to purchase and significant numbers moved away to other forces with more liberal housing policies. If there were operational reasons for this, they are lost in time. There was a mileage constraint on travel to work for the owner occupier, but that distance is now uncertain but may have been 12 miles.

Buying a new house in hard times, or at any time, was difficult and not helped when unsympathetic chief officers posted officers unnecessarily a long way off, passing other police stations to get there. Was this some form of informal control of the individual? Surrey pay was mostly basic with no paid overtime until the 1970s, but officers knew the adjoining Metropolitan Police received a London allowance, under-manning allowance and seemingly uncontrolled paid overtime including compulsory working and payment for three rest days every four weeks paid at time and a half. Transferees pay went up by at least 40% overnight! The Metropolitan Police also encouraged purchase of a house provided it was within what today would be approximately the M25. The Met would but not always, try to post you within realistic travelling distance of your home. They had to police expensive parts of London and areas most officers would not take their families. The Metropolitan Police became more liberal in their housing policy authorising an officer to buy his own house in any location provided it was less than 25 miles from Charing Cross. The tape measure was often wrongly read! There remained the provision of free housing and flats across London.

What was the reasoning for the police to provide accommodation for its officers? Early in the development of policing, provision was made by statute for station houses to be built, which was usually also the residence of the local head of the police, maybe a superintendent, inspector, sergeant and frequently a number of constables. The 1835 Municipal Corporations Act created for the larger towns a corporation (or council) made up of a mayor, alderman and burgesses. Part of the corporation was a Watch Committees which were required to provide station houses. Every quarter the committee sent to the Home Secretary a return showing the number of men employed, the nature of their arms and accoutrements, together with an account of all salaries, clothing and standing regulations for the forces.[1]

[1] A History of Police in England WL Melville-Lee 1901 reprint Kessinger Rare Reprints 2012 page 275

1841 Guildford Borough Police: A 25 shilling a week superintending constable was appointed and soon the annual cost for "watching the borough" was £220. Charles Hollington was appointed Head Constable (came from the Metropolitan Police) or superintendent of the Borough at a wage of 25 shillings a week plus a house. Accommodation was taken on a temporary basis with the house of Jeffrey's, Sergeant at Mace, to be used as a police station in 1, Tunsgate behind the corn market. This building has long since been demolished.

In 1841 a police station was built in Godalming and the two regular policemen (chief officer Biddlecombe and a constable named Lindsey) lived on the premises. The station house was in Moss Lane and contained three cells capable of handling nine prisoners.

The Times December 3, 1850, reported that fifty Magistrates from the Surrey Quarter Sessions were present with Mr T. Puckle in the chair ------ agreed that the rural part of the county was to have three divisions, Chertsey, Dorking and Godalming and the chief constable to reside at Dorking- the most central point. It was proposed that the various lock-up premises be repaired and that station houses etc., be erected, the estimated cost of which would not exceed £3000, which could be raised upon the security of the police rate and paid with interest in twenty-year instalments. (The chief constable was to be based and live in Guildford)

Details of proposed expenditure on the new force were set down but housing costs were not included. Where were the 70 constables and 15 senior officers to live? Nothing on this so far traced. Estimated costs included: "The chief constable's salary £300 pa plus £110 for horse and travelling expenses etc.; chief superintendent £170, five superintendents £450; eight inspectors £486.12s; seventy constables £3463.4s; allowances for clothing etc., £1227.11s £6284.7s annual total to be levelled on the divisions as a rate of three pennies in the pound."[2] No mention of property costs!

The next step was to consider how the rural part of the county might be apportioned into divisions each containing no less than twenty-six thousand inhabitants as required by statute in the most convenient manner with reference to population, wealth, geographical position and the general efficiency of the police force. To determine this point and to obtain correct views of the numbers and expense of the force required as well as its distribution and the best method of employment, the committee examined persons both in the upper and lower classes of those engaged in the duties of the police in other counties as well as Surrey and have also been in communication with the Metropolitan Police Commissioners. They have likewise caused tables to be drawn up exhibiting the extent, population, value and assessment of the county rate of the several parishes.

The committee concluded that in the rural portion of the county, which contains 96 parishes, various lock-up houses be repaired and that the station houses etc., be erected the estimate cost of which would not exceed £3000. The money could be raised upon the security of the police rate and repaid with interest in twenty yearly instalments.

[2] 1850 3 December: Morning Chronicle

By statute the new force could not exceed one individual for every thousand inhabitants, according to the last census.[3]

1851**:** The first Surrey Constabulary headquarters was in the old Guildford Borough Police Station at Corn Market House. This was until 1854 when the new headquarters was completed in Woodbridge Road.[4] County police stations were established in Bagshot, Chertsey, Dorking and Farnham and new stations were built at Egham, Godstone, Guildford, Haslemere, Hersham, Leatherhead, and Reigate. The original station at Chertsey was sold because of its poor condition and a new one built. Superintendents were stationed at Reigate, Dorking, Godalming, Farnham and Headquarters.[5] Most if not all these new building included family accommodation for the superintendent and one or two others together with single men's quarters i.e., section houses.

Was police pay adequate for the job and to allow for the payment of rent? This should be judged against the wages of a farm labourer who in 1861 averaged just 16 shillings a week.[6] In the mid 1860s constabulary sergeants were expected to pay about 2 shillings and 3 pence rent out of 23 shillings pay, whilst men in the boroughs where accommodation was not normally provided, as mentioned above, were not moved and rented or bought their own houses.[7]

In the counties officers covering rural beats (most of them) were provided with a cottage where they had to stay when off duty unable to leave without permission; no days off; split shifts encompassing usually five hours every night giving endless problems to wives trying to keep the children quiet; 10-12 days leave a year but no money to go away; social isolation; life in the garden to provide food to supplement the pay; frequent house moves so the officer did not become too familiar with his locals.

Officers have always had to seek permission to marry, to live where he was told, move house when ordered and his wife not allowed to work outside the home. The policeman's wife worked as an unpaid auxiliary in the countryside when husband was out on patrol, met the callers at her door, acted as searchers of prisoners, watched over female prisoners, acted as cooks for prisoner's meals and cleaners of police offices and cells.

1856 October 21: Surrey Michaelmas Session: The Surrey Constabulary: The amount of bills ordered for payment on account of police expenses for the last quarter was £202 19s 2d. Payment was also ordered of £75 on account of the lock-up house at Leatherhead and the tender of Mr George Walker was accepted for the erection of the lock up, for £561 10s which was £31 10s below the sum authorised by the court; payment of £3 was ordered to the Rev Mr Essen for the site of the lock-up at Haslemere.

[3] 1850 3 December: Morning Chronicle
[4] Durrant page 4
[5] Durrant page 7
[6] "Policing Victorian Community" Carolyn Steadman page 108.
[7] "Policing Victorian Community" Carolyn Steadman page 108.

The Police Committee had paid great attention to the rent of the different police stations in the county, which they considered too high and they recommended that in future the rent should be reduced to the uniform rate of £6 per annum with the exception of the police station at Guildford. Confirmed. The chief constable was authorised to take necessary steps for providing a good supply of water at the Farnham station at a sum not exceeding £35. [8]

A booklet was published and issued to every constable, to be carried in a leather pouch whilst on duty. This was the 1862 Conditions of Service which offered guidance and instructions on all aspects of policing a beat. The conditions include: he shall serve and reside wherever he is directed ----- if living in a police station or lock-up house, not keep any description of animals ---. [9] Post 1899 the new chief constable Sant published an updated version of the Surrey County Constabulary Conditions of Service. Little changed over these long years and on page 3 the same wording as 1862 "He shall serve and reside wherever he is directed."

There is also acknowledgement that police were living at the police stations. Page 11: "Whenever a constable resides in a police station, he must not leave it without the permission of the officer in charge; and when allowed to do so must always report his return." [10]

There is nothing on police housing, rent, removals etc. in either version of the Conditions of Service.

1863: Incorporation in 1863 of Reigate as a Borough was followed by the creation of the Borough's own force in 1864. There was to be a superintendent at £90 p.a. plus quarters, a sergeant at 21 shillings a week and eight constables at 18 shillings a week. The first Head Constable was George Gifford, but he lasted only nine days and was succeeded by George Rogers who held the post for many years. The station house was at 3, Carlton Terrace, Redhill, alongside the Market Hall, but as there were no lock-up facilities prisoners had to be catered for elsewhere until a house in West Street, Reigate was rented at £25 p.a. and the cellar was converted to two cells. There may have been some lock up facilities in the Market Place[11] **12**

In January 1884 rent allowance was paid by the Surrey Constabulary for the first time. Men had to pay rent before this when frequently the chief constable who acted as landlord had rent deducted from the men's pay. [13]

Problems developed with officers paying rent with prices varying across the county leading to unfairness and some suffering financial loss due to a house move. 1884 January 5: Surrey Quarter Sessions Newington: The Constabulary Committee in their report[14] "have considered the best method of carrying out an equalisation of the rents paid by the members of the force

[8] 1856 October 21: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette
[9] Instructions for the Guidance of the Surrey Constabulary 1862
[10] Instructions for the Guidance of the Surrey Constabulary 1862 Page 11
[11] Bernard Brown 1987 "The Reigate Police" believed not published – six pages.

[13] Surrey Constabulary General Orders Book 1 1851-
[14] 1884 January 5 The Surrey Mirror and General County Advertiser

for cottages and lodgings. It appears clear from a statement from the chief constable that in consequence of the rents varying materially in different parts of the county, the removal of experienced and efficient officers to districts where their services are most required, occasions serious hardship and loss to them from the much higher rates they have to pay."

"Under all the circumstances we recommend the Court to approve the equalisation of the rents payable by members of the Force throughout the Constabulary District and that on the approval of the chief constable of the house and rent, an allowance be made to each constable sufficient to cover the excess of rent above three shillings a week, such allowance be charged to the police rate.[15]"

1891 January 10: Surrey Quarter Sessions: Standing Joint Committee: Report from meeting 20 January**:** Salaries and bills: chief constable £187.10s; pay for force contingencies and rent £2487.3s 9d; repairs to stations Godalming, Chertsey, Guildford and Farnham £24 4s 7d. Police pay, contingencies and rent for January, February, March £4000; salary of chief constable £187 10s. [16]

1892: The building that was to become the North Street, Guildford Borough police station was built in 1892/1893.[17] The police station in Tunsgate was left and the police moved to the new police station in 1893. The population of Guildford was now 14,000. [18] As badly as the new accommodation was needed there were protests against the amount to be spent. Some of the protests referred to the new building as "Peeler Mansion" and a spoof Lord Bury de Cash – after Superintendent Bury.[19]

Tenders have been sought for the new police station at Camberley and accepted the lowest that of Henry Kingerlee of Oxford for £2047. The arrangement for the purchase of the land at Godalming for a police station has not yet been completed. The County Surveyor has reported that contractors have now completed the painting and papering at the new stations at Farnham and Caterham, which could not be done last year when the buildings were taken over by the county [20] [21]

1899 Other police matters: The Standing Joint Committee reported that in addition to the payments already sanctioned down to August 31, 1899, they would require to draw upon the county fund from November 30th, 1899 for further payments estimated at:

> Pay for the force, contingencies and rents for September, October, and November 1899 HQ division £1050, Chertsey £950, Dorking £840, Farnham £600, Godalming £540, Godstone £850, Hersham £420. Total £5250

[15] 1884 January 5 The Surrey Mirror and General County Advertiser
[16] 1891 January 10: The Surrey Mirror and General County Advertiser
[17] Guildford City Outlook April 1929
[18] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[19] Guildford City Outlook April 1928
[20] 1891 January 10: The Surrey Mirror and General County Advertiser
[21] 1891 January 10: The Sussex Express, Surrey Standard Weald of Kent Mail, Hants and County Advertiser

Clothing of the force £250. Repairs of stations £400. County Hall expenses £200. Miscellaneous £200. Total £6,800

In addition to which there were £1200 in respect of the proposed alterations to Hersham police station. [22]

The Desborough Committee review into police conditions of service which had been exacerbated by wartime limitations, reported in 1919 proposing that in addition to uniform and increased scales of pay, it recommended the provision of rent-free accommodation or the payment of a rent allowance in lieu. [23]

1922. The Home Secretary told the Joint Central Committee that a pay cut for provincial forces, as recommended by the Geddes Committee on Public Expenditure, could only be by savings in other areas. It was agreed that there should be a cut in rent allowances and the abolition of tax refunds on them; a 'levy' of 2.5% of pay; reductions in plain clothes and subsistence allowance; overtime was to start after nine hours duty instead of eight. The 'levy' was considered a temporary measure. [24]

1925 Pension contributions are doubled: Following disagreement at the Police Council, a Committee under Lord Lee recommended that the deductions from pay and rent allowances should be ended, but that pension contributions should be doubled to 5%. [25]

1936 February 12 The Times [26]: Housing of Surrey Police: £50,000 scheme begun: Work has begun on new buildings including police stations and housing accommodation, for the Surrey County Constabulary. The scheme is estimated to cost £50,000.

A report was recently presented to the county council by the Standing Joint Committee, after outlining improvements to certain stations, stated it was desirable from a police point of view that sub-stations should be situated at Addlestone, Albury, Ash, Ashtead, Bagshot, Byfleet, Chertsey, Chobham, Cobham, Cranleigh, Esher, Frimley, Godstone, Haslemere, Hindhead, Holmwood, Hookwood, Horsley, Kingswood, Knaphill, Lingfield, Milford, Old Woking, Peasmarsh, Ripley and Walton on Thames. Sites large enough for the erection of three houses would be acquired now, although in some instances it would be possible to defer the erection of the third house. The most urgent cases were Esher, Egham, Horley and Walton on Thames, and the committee were of the opinion that the necessary land for the police stations and sub-stations should be acquired as early as possible.

[22] 1899 July 1: Sussex Express, Surrey Standard Weald of Kent Mail, Hants and County Advertiser
[23] A History of Police in England and Wales TA Critchley Constable 1967 Page 192
[24] http://www.polfed.org/aboutus/69DD9AB47F534348AD5D1415843163AA.asp I19 Jan 2010
[25] http://www.polfed.org/aboutus/69DD9AB47F534348AD5D1415843163AA.asp 19 Jan 2010
[26] 1936 February 12 The Times

There were at present, the committee added, 117 single men on the strength of the force and of these 44 had over three years' service and were therefore entitled to apply for permission to marry. Fifty-nine of the single men were stationed sufficiently near to headquarters or to an inspector's station to be conveniently accommodated in barracks, and it might be desirable to build three blocks in different parts of the constabulary area to accommodate from 10-12 single men.

The chief constable regarded the requirements outlined as the minimum necessary for the efficient administration and comfort of members of the force and the convenience of the public, and the Home Secretary had concurred with the proposals provided the expenditure was met by way of a loan.

1939 8 August: General Order No 898 Chief Constable's Office: Applications for Marriage: The following conditions will in future govern my approval of marriages of members of the Force:[27]

1. It is a condition of service of all members of the Force that no man may be married without the approval of the Chief Constable.
2. No constable will be granted permission to marry during his probationary period.
3. Men who have completed their probationary service but are under 26 years of age and have less than four years approved service may apply to be allowed to marry, but approval will not be given until such time as suitable existing married accommodation becomes available for their occupation. Whenever such accommodation becomes available marriage applications will be approved as nearly as possible in the same sequence as the applicants would become eligible to marry under Condition 4 of this Order.
4. Subject to the limitation of Condition 2, applications from men who have 4 years' service or are 26 years of age and above will be granted as received if all other circumstances are satisfactory and suitable accommodation is available or can be rented for them.

Major Nicholson, Chief Constable of Surrey[28]

1949 Oaksey Report another emergency review of policing as conditions of employment and service fell far behind the general population. Recommendations included housing and other improvements on conditions of service Page 150. [29] [30] Hansard:

[27] And therefore, the allocation of a police house
[28] From Surrey Police Federation files
[29] A History of Police in England and Wales TA Critchley Constable 1967 Page 250
[30] https://api.parliament.uk/historic-hansard/commons/1949/feb/03/pay-and-conditions-report

Pay and Conditions (Report): HC Debate 3 February 1949 vol 460 cc1828-311828 40. Mr. Driberg asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will now state when he expects to receive the report of the Oaksey Committee on police pay and conditions; and if, in view of the considerable time that has passed since this Committee was set up to investigate matters then considered urgent, and of the continuing need for police recruitment, he will consider awarding an interim increase of pay

Vice-Admiral Taylor*:* Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the lack of adequate housing accommodation is a very important matter in this connection?

Mr. Scollan: It has been suggested that the policeman receives £4 10s. net, is it not a fact that they also receive a rent allowance, a food allowance and a clothing allowance, and are there not many workers today who receive only £4 10s. without any of those allowances?

1954 Police Council for GB set up after a recommendation from Oaksey – better police houses as an incentive for recruiting.[31]

Surrey Constabulary Standing Orders, in this case 1960, Chief Constable Herman Rutherford – as amended contain detailed instructions to occupiers. There is no mention of owner occupiers.

Part 1 Chapter 11. An occupier must ensure that the property owned, rented or leased by the police authority is kept in a clean and, condition and all defects or damage reported. Police gardens including hedges are to be kept in good order.

The superintendent will direct an officer not below the rank of inspector to make an inspection of any house or quarters seven days before a removal. Any adverse comment will be brought to the notice of the occupant and when necessary, a further inspection will be made before the removal takes place. The incoming tenant will be visited, if possible, by the same officer within seven days of his arrival.

Rent allowance was payable with a flat rate allowance to single persons at half the maximum limit. A compensatory grant was an allowance paid annually equal to the amount of income tax which the member has paid on his rent allowance and/or compensatory grant during the previous income tax year. (Serving officers living in their own homes looked forward with anticipation to the very large pay cheque in the spring!) The maximum limit rent allowance depended on rank from £242 a year for superintendents to £4 2s 6d a week for constables.

The sale of police houses began under Margaret Thatcher with more being sold during the early days of the 21st century along with small town police stations and section offices built in the 1930s. The police as a service is not as it was! A contributing factor being that police stations and police houses were no longer a visual statement of order and security. Officers who with

[31] A History of Police in England and Wales TA Critchley Constable 1967 Page251

their families were once well known over the generations, and today still spoken of, have since morphed into distant stations and uniformed with bolt-on gismos and gadgets, for all of which no doubt an excellent case can be made. Budget driven, along with societal change, leading to separation of officers from the communities they police. Nameless and only present during a crisis or emergency. Unknown and unknowing and disappearing.

Yet again the police were treated inadequately over many years when their conditions of service and pay deteriorated to the point that yet again the only way forward the government could propose was their usual fall-back position, another judge led enquiry.

"The police cannot properly be compared to any other single group of workers," said the Right Honourable Lord Edmund-Davies PC, in his 1978 report to the Government.

The Committee of Inquiry on the Police recommended a major revaluation of police pay – between 30 per cent to 45 per cent – while concluding that the police cannot be compared with any other group of public sector workers for the purpose of calculating pay because "the unique nature of the police service and the work they do makes this impossible."

The Government remained noncommittal and a month later, more than 50,000 police officers decided to initiate industrial action. The Government declared it would implement 50 per cent of the Committee's recommendations, while the opposition made a manifesto commitment to implement the full recommendations. The opposition under Margaret Thatcher came to power in the election of 1979 and honoured its commitment.[32]

The Report had given thought to police housing. Paragraph 9.28: "The payment of housing emoluments at various levels dates from a period when police officers were equated with manual and in particular, agricultural workers. It also reflects a period when very strict controls were exercised as to where and in what standard of accommodation police officers lived. Some of these controls continue to exist but not all: policies vary."

"It is rare in England and Wales for police officers to be required to live very close to their place of duty: a number of forces have extended the area within which an officer may live quite considerably in the light of improved transport arrangements. There remain, however, quite substantial controls over the use to which officers' private accommodation can be put and where they live."

Para: 9.29 "It seems to us that the modern police service should not treat its officers as though they were agricultural workers in need of tied accommodation. Similarly, it seems to us that many of the controls over where a police officer should live and what use his premises might be put to, are much better addressed through a system which allows sensible judgements to be exercised by the individual concerned. The chief officer would then intervene only where it is clear that a sensible judgement has not been exercised (guidance can be provided as appropriate)."

[32] https://www.polfed.org/news/latest-news/2022/why-do-police-need-lord-edmund-davies-now-more-than-before/

Para: 9.30 “We accordingly recommend that restrictions on where an officer may live and related matters such as taking in lodgers should cease.”

This was not the end of police housing especially in the more costly parts of the country. Those that could, bought their own houses. Those from expensive parts of the country would often take a police house rent free and buy a “retirement home” in the area they were from.

The 1980 Housing Act came into effect on 3 October 1980, and it gave council house tenants the legal “Right to Buy” their homes at a discounted price. The Right to Buy policy was a vital aspect of the Conservative Manifesto for the 1979 general election and a critical Thatcherite policy. This policy was extended to surplus police housing and many if not most were bought by the police occupants or other officers.

As many officers took advantage of purchasing their own houses, the number of empty police houses grew during the late 70s. Peter Wickens: “The Police house I moved into in 1979 in Busbridge Lane, Godalming had been empty for 20 months and was just one of many not being used. People were writing to the chief constable offering to buy these houses which were becoming an embarrassment.”

Peter Wickens: In the early 1980s it was decided to sell several houses and a list of 200 was drawn up. They were a mixture of occupied and unoccupied houses, mainly single or semi-detached and spread around the entire county. This was to be a 5-year programme between 1982 and 1987. In order not to over burden the staff at County Hall who had to deal with sale of the properties, it was agreed that the houses would be sold in batches of 10 per quarter or 200 in 5 years. The chief constable would identify the houses and order of sale. The valuation of the house would be fixed by County Hall which was non-negotiable - take it or leave it - but generally speaking they were fair with their price. This price was then discounted by 25%. If you occupied a house in the scheme, you were the only person who could bid for it and the minimum would secure it for you. If it were an unoccupied house you would have to submit a sealed bid and on a fixed date, the highest bidder would win the opportunity to purchase. If any purchaser sold a house under this scheme within 5 years of purchase, he/she had to pay 25% of the sale to Surrey County Council.

Not all the police houses offered in this scheme were bought by police officers and were therefore sold on the open market via estate agents. Many went for a price higher than the pre-discount County Hall valuation so for many officers the houses were a bargain. By the end of the 5-year plan, other houses continued to be sold but more on an ad hoc basis.” [33]

Under the Police Regulations 1987 and 1995 officers engaged continuously from before 1 September 1994 have a right to accommodation as a clause in their contract of employment.[34]

[33] Peter Wickens email to editor 16 August 2023

[34] https://www.gov.uk/hmrc-internal-manuals/vat-government-and-public-bodies/vatgpb5240

Between 1920 and 1994 police regulations stated that serving police officers would be entitled to free accommodation or a housing allowance.[30] Yet almost all police housing support has been withdrawn since 1994. [35] Supported housing was a substantial part of many police officers' compensation. Younger, single officers were given rooms in "section houses." Older, married ones were given free or subsidised housing. Those without either were given housing allowances. Almost all such accommodation has now been sold and housing allowances withdrawn for post-1994 recruits. Very little housing support, either physical or financial, is now offered. Only a few section houses and flats remain available to police officers, not enough to accommodate even one per cent of the approximately 31,000 police officers currently serving in the Met.[32] From 1 September 1994, new officers have not been entitled to either a housing allowance or free accommodation. Existing housing allowances were frozen but continued to be paid to officers employed pre-1994. However, providing little housing support was quickly recognised to cause problems.[36]

In the early 2000's the Home Office recognised that: "some officers in the Metropolitan Police and in forces in the south-east have experienced difficulties in finding affordable housing".[33.] In 2003, then Home Office Minister in the then Labour Government the Rt. Hon. John Denham said: "While police salaries are determined nationally, house prices are not and I am aware that it is easier to buy houses in some parts of the country than others"[34] and he awarded funds to help three South-East England police forces to "discourage them [police officers] from seeking transfers to forces where costs of living are lower."[35]

From living within and as part of the populations in which they served; known with grudging respect earned through the generations, to anonymity with lack of understanding on both sides of police and the public. Modern living and policing have changed forever the close ties of respect, tinged with a modicum of apprehension of a local police officer. Whatever policing style develops because of the current crisis, it will not include that relationship of localism that once existed.

[35] Commuter Cops | Policy Exchange.org.uk
[36] Commuter Cops | Policy Exchange.org.uk

PC Herbert Cawtheray

PC Reigate Borough Police 1905-1909
Warder at Portland Prison 1909-1914
Northumberland Fusiliers 1914
Killed in Action September 1914

Additional work by Jean and Henry Pelham, Jenny Tuffs, Barrie Friend and Robert Simonson.

A request came in from the family of Herbert and it was soon discovered he was killed in the First World War, in the first few weeks, and that he had joined the army not from Reigate Borough Police but the prison service. As a former police officer he was not placed on the war memorial but he joins PC Lawrence as a former colleague killed in the Great War.

Herbert Cawtheray married Mabel Risbridger – age 26 in 1908

Census 1911
Herbert Cawthery – age 26 – occupation Civil Guard, Prison Service
Mabel Cawtheray – age 25
Herbert James Cawthery – age 2
Reginald Cawtheray – age 9 months

Army – Northumberland Fusiliers – Regiment No 8811 – killed in action 1914-1915

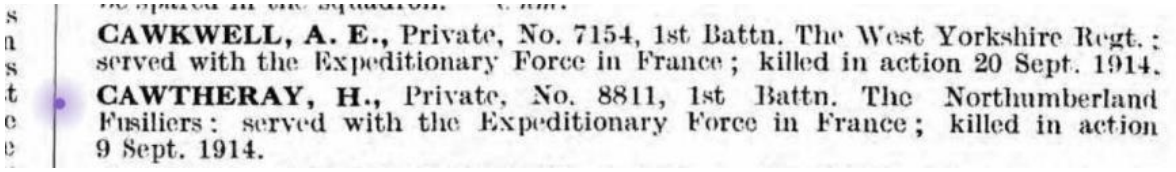
On war memorials Chesil Beach Viewpoint, Fortuneswell, Portland, Dorset [37]and Reigate.[38]

Herbert Cawtheray 1884 – 9 September 1914

[37] http://www.lostancestors.eu/memwar/P/Portland.htm War Memorial
[38] https://www.surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk/collections/getrecord/SHMEM_W_M_2371

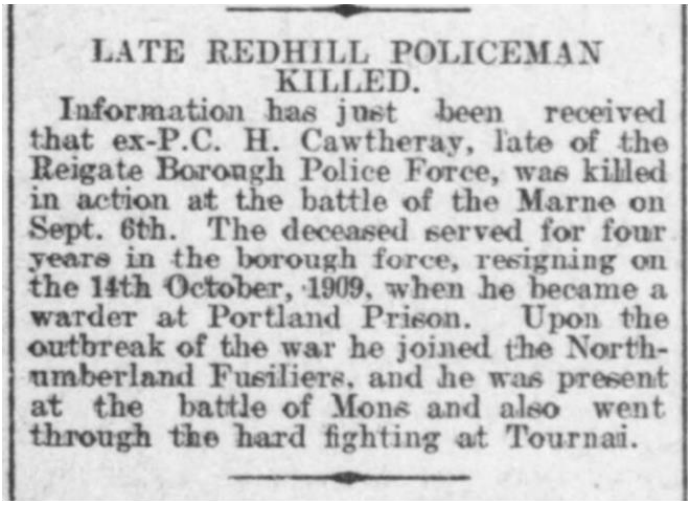
Place of Birth: New Wortley, Yorkshire **Nationality:** British **Country of Death:** France
Father: Blackburn Cawtheray **Mother:** Lucy Ann Cawtheray nee Normington
Siblings: Ivy Cawtheray, Albert Cawtheray **Date of Marriage**1908
Spouse: Mabel Cawtheray nee Risbridger
Date of Death: 9 September 1914 **Age:** 30 **CWGC Age:** 27
Service Type: Army **Regiment/Unit:** Northumberland Fusiliers 1st Battalion
Rank: Private **Service Number:** 8811

Service record or other biographical information: Son of Blackburn Cawtheray, of Leeds, York; husband of Mabel Cawtheray, of 21, Copse Rd., Mead Vale, Red Hill, Surrey. Late P.C. Reigate Borough Police Force, Warder Portland Prison. Served in the South African Campaign. (This war ended May 1902 so he would have been very young if this is so.)



CAWKWELL, A. E., Private, No. 7154, 1st Battn. The West Yorkshire Regt.; served with the Expeditionary Force in France; killed in action 20 Sept. 1914.

CAWTHERAY, H., Private, No. 8811, 1st Battn. The Northumberland Fusiliers: served with the Expeditionary Force in France; killed in action 9 Sept. 1914.



LATE REDHILL POLICEMAN KILLED.

Information has just been received that ex-P.C. H. Cawtheray, late of the Reigate Borough Police Force, was killed in action at the battle of the Marne on Sept. 6th. The deceased served for four years in the borough force, resigning on the 14th October, 1909, when he became a warder at Portland Prison. Upon the outbreak of the war he joined the Northumberland Fusiliers, and he was present at the battle of Mons and also went through the hard fighting at Tournai.

Surrey Mirror 23 October 1914

8811 Private Herbert Cawtheray Age 27 **Date of death** 9 September 1914
Regiment 1st Battalion. Northumberland Fusiliers

Other information Son of Blackburn Cawtheray, of Leeds, York; husband of Mabel Cawtheray, of 21, Copse Rd., Mead Vale, Red Hill, Surrey. Late P.C. Reigate Borough Police Force, Warder Portland Prison. Served in the South African Campaign.

Cemetery or Memorial La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre Memorial

Byfleet Murder January 1888

On 27 Jul 2023 Mark from San Diego, California wrote:

You may recall my name. I contacted you several years ago regarding my research into the Byfleet Murder of George Chuter on Jan. 12, 1888. My research is now turning into a book.

I wonder whether the archives of the Surrey Constabulary might hold any mentions of the murder of George Chuter (or the unexplained death of George's wife Lucy in Feb. 1887). I would be most interested in any documents referring to the Chuters (who lived at 65 Chertsey Road.).

Incidentally, it is true that the Chuter's son, James Chuter, later became a PC in the Surrey Constabulary? If so, do you have a photo of James? (**Note** He did not serve in Surrey – Robert Simonson checked all the relevant registers. Local research by Jennie Tuffs found this not to be the case though there was a James Chuter serving about this time in the Metropolitan Police it was no him! Research by Dr Peter Kennison.)

Do you have a photo of Superintendent Deputy Chief Constable Charles Barker? And do you have biographies of Barker and Chertsey Superintendent Bungard? (Note there are no known photos of Barker but there is a group photo of Bungard.)

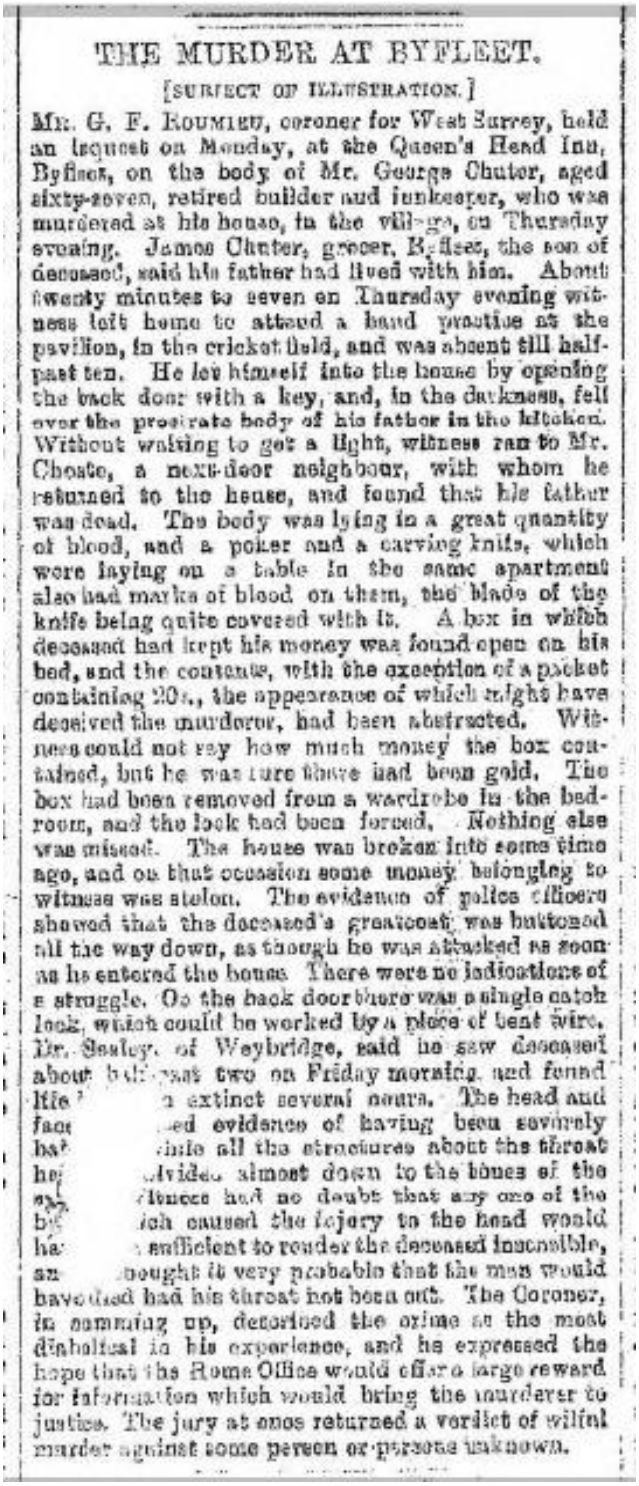
I would be most grateful for any assistance that you might be able to provide related to this unsolved case.

Mark
Los Altos, California

A great deal of research went into this enquiry with help from Jean and Henry Pelham, Jenny Tuffs, Robert Simonson Surrey History Centre, Dr Peter Kennison former Metropolitan Police officer and son of Frank a Surrey Constabulary officer. There is more to be done and we wait for Mark's book to learn about this thought-provoking case.

1888 January 18: Murder Byfleet: Between half past seven and half past eight the other night a murder which has caused a great sensation was committed in Byfleet a small village some three miles from Chertsey. It seems that an old man named Chuter aged 67, lived with his son in a small house in Byfleet, the son keeping a portion of the grocer's shop. The son went out in the evening and when he returned, he found his dead father lying inside the back door with his head battered in and the whole apartment giving the appearance of a slaughterhouse. The throat had been cut from ear to ear. Near the body lay a poker that had been taken from an adjoining room and not far away was a carving knife, which had last been seen in the kitchen drawer from where the murder had apparently taken it. Upon the alarm being given a search of the house was made and it was discovered that money had been taken from a wardrobe the

exact amount is unknown. There was an entry into the house 12 months ago when £20 was taken. Chuter was a man of considerable means and had a good deal of cottage property in the district. Superintendent Bungard of the Surrey Constabulary but so far has not made an arrest. 39



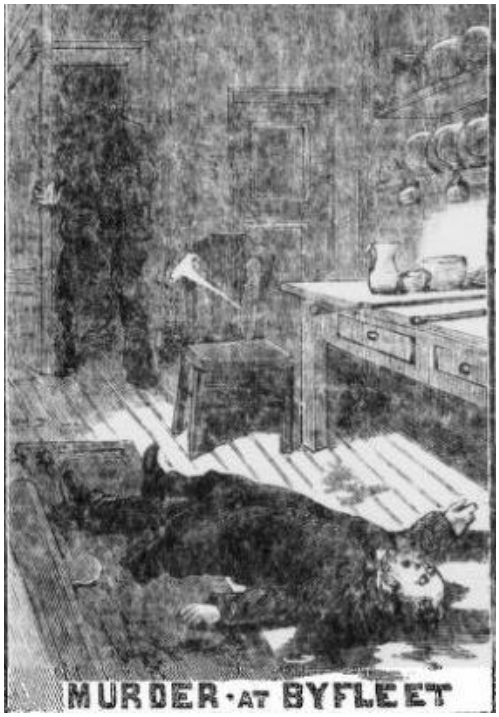
THE MURDER AT BYFLEET.

[SUBJECT OF ILLUSTRATION.]

Mr. G. F. Roumieu, coroner for West Surrey, held an inquest on Monday, at the Queen's Head Inn, Byfleet, on the body of Mr. George Chuter, aged sixty-seven, retired builder and innkeeper, who was murdered at his house, in the village, on Thursday evening. James Chuter, grocer, Byfleet, the son of deceased, said his father had lived with him. About twenty minutes to seven on Thursday evening witness left home to attend a band practice at the pavilion, in the cricket field, and was absent till half-past ten. He let himself into the house by opening the back door with a key, and, in the darkness, fell over the prostrate body of his father in the kitchen. Without waiting to get a light, witness ran to Mr. Choate, a next-door neighbour, with whom he returned to the house, and found that his father was dead. The body was lying in a great quantity of blood, and a poker and a carving knife, which were laying on a table in the same apartment also had marks of blood on them, the blade of the knife being quite covered with it. A box in which deceased had kept his money was found open on his bed, and the contents, with the exception of a packet containing 20s., the appearance of which might have deceived the murderer, had been abstracted. Witness could not say how much money the box contained, but he was sure there had been gold. The box had been removed from a wardrobe in the bedroom, and the lock had been forced. Nothing else was missed. The house was broken into some time ago, and on that occasion some money belonging to witness was stolen. The evidence of police officers showed that the deceased's greatcoat was buttoned all the way down, as though he was attacked as soon as he entered the house. There were no indications of a struggle. On the back door there was a single catch lock, which could be worked by a piece of bent wire. Dr. Sealey, of Weybridge, said he saw deceased about half-past two on Friday morning, and found life [illegible] extinct several hours. The head and face [illegible]ed evidence of having been severely ba[illegible]nite all the structures about the throat he[illegible] divided almost down to the bones of the n[illegible] witness had no doubt that any one of the bl[illegible]ich caused the injury to the head would ha[illegible] sufficient to render the deceased insensible, an[illegible]hough it very probable that the man would have died had his throat not been cut. The Coroner, in summing up, described the crime as the most diabolical in his experience, and he expressed the hope that the Home Office would offer a large reward for information which would bring the murderer to justice. The jury at once returned a verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown.

Illustrated Police News 28 January 1888

1 Lancaster Gazette January 18, 1888



Illustrated Police News 28 January 1888

Inquest at the Queen's Head Inn, Byfleet. (Should read deputy chief constable not deputy superintendent)

THE MURDER AT BYFLEET.

MR. G. F. ROUMIEN, coroner for West Surrey, held an inquest on Monday, at the Queen's Head Inn, Byfleet, on the body of Mr. George Chuter, aged sixty-seven, retired builder and innkeeper, who was murdered at his house, in the village, a few days ago. Deputy Chief Superintendent Barker and Superintendent Bungard, of the County Constabulary, watched the proceedings. James Chuter, grocer, Byfleet, the son of deceased, said his father had lived with him. About twenty minutes to seven on Thursday evening witness left home to attend a band practice at the pavilion, in the cricket-field, and was absent till half-past ten. He let himself into the house by opening the back door with a key, and in the darkness fell over the prostrate body of his father in the kitchen. Without waiting to get a light, witness ran to Mr. Choate, a next-door neighbour, with whom he returned to the house, and found that his father was dead. The body was lying in a great quantity of blood, and a poker and carving knife, which were on a table in the same apartment, also had marks of blood on them, the blade of the knife being quite covered with it. A box in which deceased had kept his money was found open on his bed, and the contents, with the exception of a packet containing 20s., the appearance of which might have deceived the murderer, had been abstracted. Witness could not say how much money the box had contained, but he was sure there had been gold. The box had been removed from a wardrobe in the bedroom, and the lock had

been forced. Nothing else was missed. The house was broken into some time ago, and on that occasion some money belonging to witness was stolen. Simon Choate, boot maker, said he went to Purford on the evening in question, and did not return till about the same time as deceased's son. He, however, had been told by his wife that nothing unusual was heard in the next house during the evening. Charlotte Slaymaker, of the King's Head public-house, a few doors from deceased's residence, said the man came there about a quarter past seven, and had a glass of beer, only remaining five or six minutes. He wished her "Good night" when he left. About a quarter of an hour later she sent a messenger to the son's shop, but it was an early closing night and the place was shut. The messenger, however, said there was a light in the living-room. While deceased was at the King's Head he stood in front of the bar alone. There were several persons in the tap-room, but no strangers. The evidence of police officers showed that the deceased's greatcoat was buttoned all the way down, as though he was attacked as soon as he entered the house. There were no indications of a struggle. On the back door there was a single catch lock, which could be worked by a piece of bent wire. Dr. Scaley, of Weybridge, said he saw deceased about half-past two on Friday morning, and found life had been extinct several hours. The head and face presented evidence of having been severely battered, while all the structures about the throat had been divided almost down to the bones of the spine. Witness had no doubt that any one of the blows which caused the injury to the head would have been sufficient to render the deceased insensible, and he thought it very probable that the man would have died had his throat not been cut. The Coroner, in summing up, described the crime as the most diabolical in his experience, and he expressed the hope that the Home Office would offer a large reward for information which would bring the murderer to justice. The jury at once returned a verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown.

West Surrey Times 17 March 1888

BYFLEET.

THE BYFLEET MURDER.

£100 REWARD TO BE OFFERED.

A very large and influential public meeting was held at the National School on Thursday, to consider whether it would be advisable to offer a reward for information that would lead to the capture and conviction of the perpetrator of the horrible murder of George Chuter, on January 12th last. The subject has naturally evoked a great deal of interest amongst all classes of the community. Amongst those present were the Rev. G. E. Money (rector), Rev. J. F. Marshall, Messrs. C. E. Smith (Silvermere), J. W. Bashford, W. C. Haines, G. B. Holroyde, J. R. Holroyde, W. Holroyde, F. Morris, S. Choat, J. Chuter, L. Dinsley, T. Freeland, W. Bone, W. Morris, R. Flint, E. Woodger, W. F. Cole, F. Woodham, F. Loveland, G. Howard, W. Carpenter, R. Parker, J. Budding, J. Siryer, W. Glaizer, Brogden, A. Bissett, and Bileboy (Cobham), and a large number of others. Several ladies, including Mrs. Money, were also present. —The police authorities were well represented by Inspector Barker, Sergt. G. Boon, and P.C. F. Waters.

At the opening of the meeting, the RECTOR, who presided, read letters which he had received from the Hon. Admiral Egerton, who was unable to be present, and from Captain Hastings, Chief of the Surrey county Constabulary. Captain Hastings considered the offering of a reward would be of no use, and was certain the employment of detectives would be of no avail, as everything that could possibly be done to find out the perpetrator of the crime had been done by the County police. A letter was also received from a poor bluejacket, who wrote from India expressing his sympathy, and a wish to give a little, should it be wanted, towards a reward. The feeling in the parish, the Chairman added, was one of dissatisfaction that nothing had come of the efforts of the local police, and while giving them credit for doing the utmost in their power, he thought it was questioned by many whether more success might not have been secured had the services of trained detectives been early employed.

After some discussion, it was decided that a reward ought to be offered for the arrest and conviction of the murderer.—Mr. J. W. BASHFORD proposed, and Mr. G. B. HOLROYDE seconded, that a committee of five be elected to collect subscriptions, and to deal with the same in whatever way they may deem advisable and best for obtaining information which will lead to the conviction of the perpetrators of this horrible crime.—This was carried unanimously.

The committee will consist of the Hon. Admiral Egerton, J.P., Mr. J. R. Holroyde, Mr. G. B. Holroyde, Mr. J. W. Bashford, and Rev. G. E. Money.

A lengthy and warm discussion as to the advisability of putting a working man on the committee ensued. Mr. J. W. Bashford wished to resign in favour of any working man, but on the motion of Mr. W. COLE, seconded by Mr. W. MORRIS, it was carried that Mr. Bashford's resignation be not accepted, and that the committee of five gentlemen above named be fully appointed.—This was carried with acclamation.

It was then proposed by Mr. J. W. BASHFORD, and seconded by Mr. G. B. HOLROYDE, that a reward of £100 be offered, but that the committee collect as much more as they can, so as to meet whatever other expense may be incurred, such as that in connection with the employment of detectives, advertising and legal expenses, if deemed advisable.—Carried unanimously.

The RECTOR then announced that the following gentlemen had already subscribed or promised subscriptions of the following amount: Hon. Admiral Egerton, £10; C. E. Smith, £10; G. B. Holroyde, £10; J. W. Bashford, £10; W. C. Haines, £10; Mr. Cobbit, £10; Rev. G. E. Money, £10; J. Chuter, £5; J. R. Holroyde, £5; Rev. F. Marshall, £2; Messrs. J. Smith, F. Morris, T. Freeland, Watts, Lucas, Dinsley and others, £1; and a number of the working men of the parish sums amounting from 2s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. Somewhat over £100 was promised, and the subscription-list will remain open for a month.

The meeting, which had been attended with such satisfactory results, then terminated.

West Surrey Times 17 March 1888

THE

HORRIBLE TRAGEDY AT BYFLEET.

THE CORONER'S INQUIRY.

VERDICT OF WILFUL MURDER.

FULL REPORT.

Mr. G. F. Roumieu, Coroner, held an inquiry at the Queen's Head, Byfleet, on Monday, into the circumstances surrounding the death of the unfortunate old gentleman—Mr. George Chuter—on Thursday in last week. Amongst those present were the Deputy Chief-Constable for Surrey (Mr. Barker), Supt. Bungard, Inspector Baker, and Sergt. Boon. The jury, of whom Mr. C. H. Pritchard was chosen foreman, was composed as follows: Messrs. G. Hazelwood, G. Howard, R. Parker, J. Budden, W. Cole, J. Syvier, C. Mug gleton, H. Watts, E. Woodger, H. Champion, J. Johnson and J. Grover.

The first witness called was

James Chuter, carrying on business as a grocer at Byfleet, who identified the body as that of George Chuter, of Byfleet, his father, aged 67, a retired builder and carpenter. Witness saw his father alive last on Thursday evening, about twenty minutes to seven. He was then in the kitchen, but he followed a friend of witness's out to the door, although witness did not notice him. Witness was going to the pavilion in the cricket field for band practice, and was not aware that his father was going anywhere. Deceased knew that witness would be back about half-past ten. He stayed at the pavilion until about half-past nine, and then came to the Queen's Head with Wattingham and others on his way home. Witness stayed in the house until ten o'clock, and then walked home with Wattingham. At the gate of his father's house they stayed about five minutes talking. Mr. Choat and his son passed by during the time they stood there, and they said 'Good-night' to them. Witness then said 'Good-night' to Wattingham and went in at the back door. He went in with a latch-key, as was his custom. When he got inside, witness could not see anything, as it was dark. That was about half-past ten. Witness had taken about two steps into the back kitchen when he fell over something, and before he got up off his knees he put his hand back to feel what he had fallen over. Then he could feel his father's legs. Witness got over him again as quickly as he could and went round to Mr. Choat's door and knocked at it, and said, 'Will you bring a light and come with me? There's something the matter with father; he's lying on the floor.' Mr. Choat brought a light, and then they saw a great quantity of blood. Mr. Choat said, 'Why, your father has broken a blood-vessel,' and witness said, 'Where's all this blood come from?' Mr. Choat replied, 'I suppose it has come out of his mouth.' Witness said, 'Wait a moment and I'll call Harry'—meaning his (witness's) cousin opposite. When witness got there

he found Mrs. Choat calling and Harry just opening the window to answer her. He said, 'I'll be down in a moment.' Witness then ran back to Mr. Choat——before Harry came—and they stood by the door looking. Harry came in a minute or two afterwards, and then they again spoke, remarking that deceased had broken a blood-vessel. Harry stepped over deceased's legs and went further into the room, and said, 'What's this knife here?' [The knife, covered in blood, was produced.] At the same time he lifted it up. The knife was on the table. Witness said, 'That's our knife. He then took up a poker, and said, 'Look here—here's a poker.' Witness said, 'That's our poker, also.' [The poker was also produced. It is about three feet in length, with a heavy end.] There were some blood and hair on the poker, and as for the knife, it was as red as though it had been painted. The knife was usually kept in a drawer in a table with other cutlery in the kitchen—not in the room where his father was found. The poker was never used, but was cleaned every week and placed in the corner with the tongs by the fireplace. Witness took hold of his father's hand and felt it was very cold. When Harry came, Mr. Choat and he and

witness went all over the house to see if there was anyone about. In his father's bedroom they found his cashbox on the bed with the lid opened and the money taken. The lid had evidently been forced open. All the money was extracted with the exception of 20s. Witness had no knowledge as to how much his father had in the box. His father was in the habit of keeping the greater part of his money in the box. The sum of 20s. was roughly done up in a piece of newspaper, and was put in a very small compartment in the side, and might have been mistaken for a small reel of cotton. That, in witness's opinion, accounted for the money not being taken. Witness noticed no indications that the furniture had been removed in any way. The cashbox had been taken from the wardrobe, the door of which was wide open and the key in the lock. A person would have to open the door of the wardrobe to see the cashbox. His father always kept it there. He was not positive as to whether

anyone about. In his father's bedroom they found his cashbox on the bed with the lid opened and the money taken. The lid had evidently been forced open. All the money was extracted with the exception of 20s. Witness had no knowledge as to how much his father had in the box. His father was in the habit of keeping the greater part of his money in the box. The sum of 20s. was roughly done up in a piece of newspaper, and was put in a very small compartment in the side, and might have been mistaken for a small reel of cotton. That, in witness's opinion, accounted for the money not being taken. Witness noticed no indications that the furniture had been removed in any way. The cashbox had been taken from the wardrobe, the door of which was wide open and the key in the lock. A person would have to open the door of the wardrobe to see the cashbox. His father always kept it there. He was not positive as to whether he left the key in the wardrobe; but witness should think that it was most probable that he did so. Nothing else was disturbed in his father's bedroom. They went from that room into the passage at the top of the stairs, and witness saw some books lying on the floor. They were large books—the *Girl's Own Paper* —that had been bound. The box had been turned over and the books thrown out. It contained nothing valuable. They then proceeded to witness's room, and found one drawer open—the top right-hand drawer of the chest that witness used. It only contained collars and ties, and nothing was taken therefrom. Witness had left that drawer closed. Witness's cashbox stood on the top of those drawers, and his watch was lying on the looking-glass, which was also on the top of the drawers. Two rings on a ring-stand were also there. Nothing was missing in witness's room. There was no appearance of the carpet having been disturbed. They came downstairs then, and Harry said, 'I'll run for a policeman.' Mr. Choat and witness then closed the door again and came out, and witness went in and sat with him until the police came. Witness had no idea as to what money his father had. Witness's father did

not lose some money some time ago, but witness did, from the front-room downstairs. Witness was of opinion that the thief on that occasion must have got into the house through the back-kitchen window. The former robbery was committed when they were in bed. The windows were closed on the night of his father's death, and had not been opened. The front-door had been fastened. The only other way to get into the house was by means of a latchkey applied to the back-door. Witness waited in Mr. Choat's house until the police came, when he went out to let them in. Witness noticed that one chair had been knocked over at the foot of the staircase, but beyond that there was nothing out of place. The chair might have been knocked down by some one coming downstairs. There was no sign of a struggle in that or any other room. Witness's father was not infirm, but was fairly active for a man of sixty-seven years of age.

Mr. Pritchard: Do you think, if he lost any money, that it might probably be in notes or cheques?—Witness: No; I think not. My father always gave cheques or notes to me. Mr. Holroyd always paid him in cheques, but he always handed those over to me.

The Coroner: There were no cheques, you think, in your father's cashbox?—Witness: I should think it was not at all probable that there were any cheques or paper money.

The Coroner: If there had been any cheques or notes stolen, the probability is that they are at the back of the fire by now.

The Foreman: The cashbox was in reality only a lady's workbox, wasn't it?

Witness: It was. It was not a properly constructed cashbox.

The Coroner: That accounts for the other money not having been stolen.

By a Juryman: The dog went out with witness. About the last remark his father made was, 'Your dog evidently knows that it's practice-night, for he wants to be let loose.' Witness always took his dog with him when he went out. The dog was usually chained

up behind the kitchen-door at night time.

The Coroner: Had the dog been in the house at the time, he would probably have aroused some one.

Simon Choat, a shoemaker, living next door to the deceased, deposed that he saw deceased alive last in the daytime on Thursday. He was called in on that evening by James Chuter about 10.30 to see his father. When he got into the house he found him lying on the floor in the back kitchen. The last witness asked him what he should do, and witness said, 'We had better fetch the police.'—Witness then corroborated the statements of the last witness, adding that he had been to Pyrford, and returned about the same time as James Chuter. His wife was at home with the children, but she said she did not hear anything. In one room they could hear the clock strike; but on this occasion his wife heard nothing.

Mrs. Charlotte Slaymaker, wife of William Slaymaker, landlord of the King's Head, said she knew the deceased, whom she saw alive last at about a quarter to seven on Thursday evening. That was the time he left the house. Deceased had been in witness's house about five or six minutes. He had one glass of ale, and when he went out he wished witness 'Good-night.' He did not say anything else. That was the last word he spoke to witness. He did not say 'I shall not see you any more.' The statement that he should not see her any more, as given in a local paper—the *Advertiser*—was not correct. Witness noticed that he wore his brown overcoat, which was buttoned up. He did not say anything else, and witness sent a little girl to Mr. Chuter's shop about a quarter of an hour after he left witness's house to pay for a little thing that she had sent for early in the evening. When she came back she said, 'The shop is shut up, and there's a light in the room where they live.' Witness then remembered that it was Thursday night, and that it would be usual for the shop to be closed.

By the Foreman: By the living room witness meant the 'middle room.'

The Coroner: When Mr. Chuter came into your house was there anyone there?—Witness: In the tap-room, but not at the bar.

The Coroner: Was not Mr. Chuter drinking with somebody?

Witness: No, sir; he came in early in the evening, and drank with somebody between 5 and 6 o'clock in the evening. I am sure there were no strangers present; only our neighbours.

THE BYFLEET MURDER.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3.]

NO CLUE OBTAINABLE.

The police do not seem to have obtained any clue to the authors of the shocking outrage on Mr. Chuter, and the mystery appears to be as far from cleared up as ever. The village is still in an unusual state of excitement, and the scene of the murder is visited each day by a number of persons bent on satisfying their curiosity as to the appearance of the house and the vicinity where the tragedy was enacted.

Various theories have been advanced in regard to the tragedy. That to which credence was generally given in the first instance was that the murder was committed by a stranger to the neighbourhood, probably a tramp, but this supposition is no longer entertained in any great degree. The opinion now obtains that the murderer was known to the deceased, and was recognised by him. When the terrible discovery was made there was no evidence of a struggle having taken place, and the probability is that the deceased's throat was cut after he was rendered unconscious, in order that evidence of the attack with the poker and the robbery might not be forthcoming.

THE FUNERAL OF THE MURDERED MAN.

The mortal remains of the murdered man were committed to their last resting-place in Byfleet churchyard on Thursday afternoon, amid every manifestation of the deepest regret on the part of the villagers. The funeral cortége was timed to start from the residence of the deceased's son—Mr. James Chuter—at 2.30 p.m., but long before that hour a large number of inhabitants, nearly all of whom were attired in deep mourning, assembled at the house in order to follow in the wake of the coffin. The places of business were closed, and the appearance of the village would have led a stranger to suppose that death was in every house, so quiet did everything appear. The coffin, upon which was the simple inscription recording deceased's death and age, was borne first, and immediately following came the chief mourners, including

deceased's two sons, Mr. James Chuter and Mr. Frederick Chuter. A long line of inhabitants of Byfleet and others were in the rear, these including the jury who sat at the inquest. Amongst those present we also noticed Mr. Baron Holroyd, Mr. Rice Holroyd, etc.

The funeral service was that appointed by the Church of England, and was very impressively performed. Great respect was evinced by those around the grave. Much sympathy was expressed for the relatives, who were evidently deeply affected. The Rev. G. S. Money was the officiating clergyman, and he was assisted by the Rev. Frederick Marshall, curate. Several wreaths were laid upon the coffin. At the termination of the mournful ceremony the crowd dispersed.

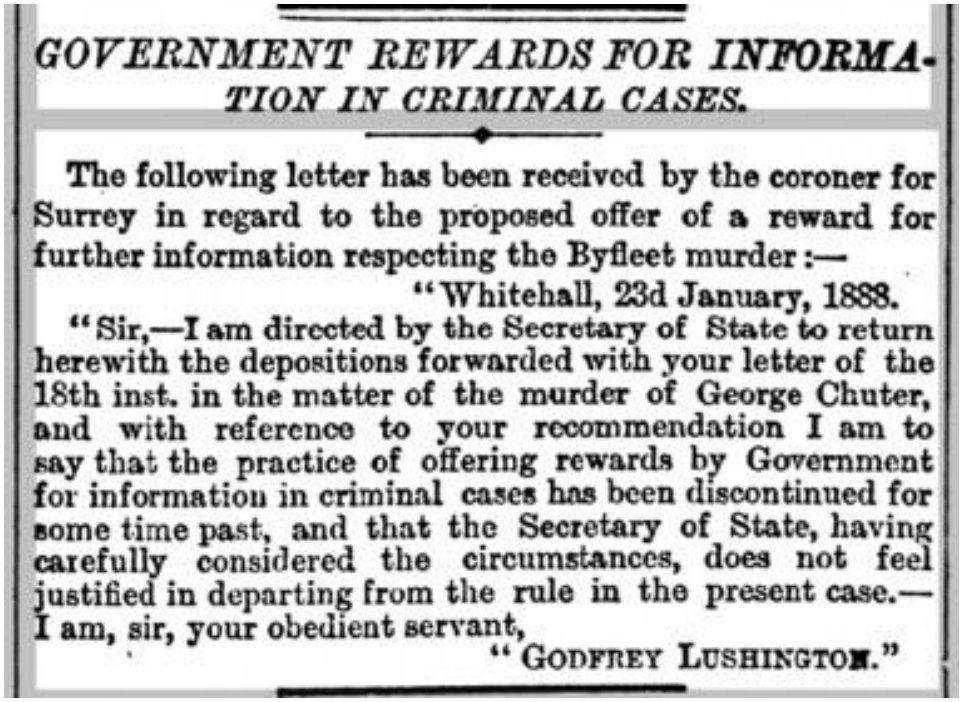
'YOU WON'T SEE ME AGAIN.'

On leaving the public-house where he was last seen the deceased has been said to have remarked to the landlady, 'You won't see me any more,' or 'again.' At the inquest, however, Mrs. Slaymaker denied that the deceased made use of any such expression. In the hearing of Deputy-Chief-Constable Barker, however, she said the deceased's words were, 'I shan't see you any more to-night.' To this phrase no unusual interest attaches, beyond the fact that they were the last known utterances of the deceased; but of course the other phrase, 'You won't see me again,' might be construed into presumptive evidence of an intention to commit suicide, although the fearful injuries to the old man's head altogether preclude the possibility of self-destruction, and Dr. Sealy believes the injuries to be of such a nature as could not have been self-inflicted.

THE POLICE ON THE TRACK.

The police are working most zealously to trace the perpetrators of the fell crime, and although at present no one has been arrested, we believe there are grounds for suspicion. Beyond this we cannot venture to say. The police naturally exhibit considerable reticence; but it is at any rate to be sincerely hoped that the crime will ere long be brought home to those who committed it.

West Surrey Times 21 January 1888



GOVERNMENT REWARDS FOR INFORMATION IN CRIMINAL CASES.

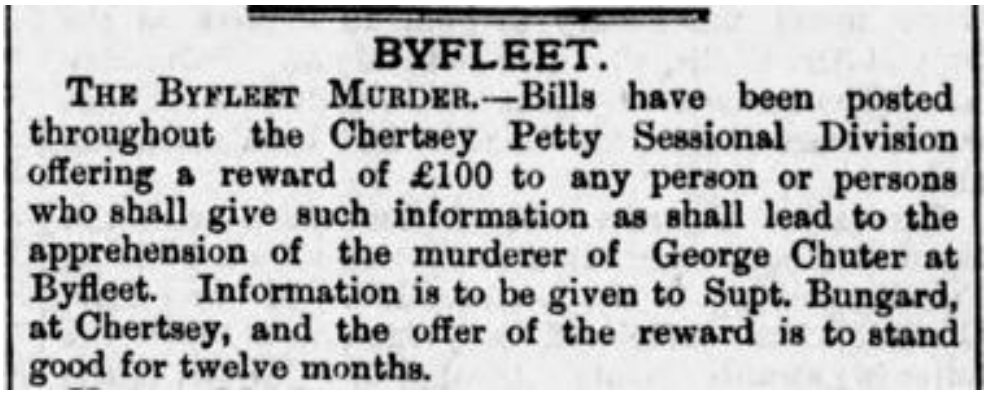
The following letter has been received by the coroner for Surrey in regard to the proposed offer of a reward for further information respecting the Byfleet murder :—

"Whitehall, 23d January, 1888.

"Sir,—I am directed by the Secretary of State to return herewith the depositions forwarded with your letter of the 18th inst. in the matter of the murder of George Chuter, and with reference to your recommendation I am to say that the practice of offering rewards by Government for information in criminal cases has been discontinued for some time past, and that the Secretary of State, having carefully considered the circumstances, does not feel justified in departing from the rule in the present case.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

"GODFREY LUSHINGTON."

Morning Post 26 January 1888



BYFLEET.

THE BYFLEET MURDER.—Bills have been posted throughout the Chertsey Petty Sessional Division offering a reward of £100 to any person or persons who shall give such information as shall lead to the apprehension of the murderer of George Chuter at Byfleet. Information is to be given to Supt. Bungard, at Chertsey, and the offer of the reward is to stand good for twelve months.

West Surrey Times 31 March 1888

Jenny Tuffs

Until the early part of 19th century Byfleet had just two public houses, The Anchor or Blue Anchor and The Plough, then in 1841 a beer house seems to have been established on the Woking Road on or near the site of The Queen's Head. The occupier was John Chuter (55) who described himself as a carpenter, living at the property with his wife Sarah (58) and sons George (20) and John (15).

George Chuter was born 5th July 1820 and baptized 30th July 1820 at St Mary's Church West Byfleet, his parents were John, a carpenter and Sarah Chuter.

3rd November 1844 George Chuter married Lucy Dollery at Shepperton Parish Church; he is a carpenter of Byfleet.

By 1851 George appears to have succeeded his father with his trade listed as carpenter and victualler at the 'Leather Bottle' where he lives with his wife, four children, father John and a niece. A directory of 1851 lists George at the Queen's Head with no mention of Leather Bottle so maybe they were one and the same.

In 1861 George is listed at The Queen's Head, married with seven children, a carpenter employing two men and by 1871 he was employing nine men and one boy describing himself as a builder and contractor and now living in Chertsey Road Byfleet with his wife , three of his children and Annie Carpenter a 10 month old niece (she seems to have actually been his granddaughter).The Queen's Head now being run by Richard Minett who married Ellen Chuter ,one of George's daughters in 1867.

By 1881 George had retired from the building trade and at the time of the census was living at 26 Royal Avenue Chelsea but he seems to have kept his cottage in Byfleet according to Leonard Stevens in his book – 'Byfleet- A Village in England'. He was living with his wife, two of his children and a boarder.

On 12 January 1888 George Chuter, one time landlord of the Queen's Head, was brutally murdered in his cottage in Chertsey Road, but sadly nobody was ever caught for the murder. He was buried at Byfleet on 19th January 1888 and his probate was on 3rd February 1888. The will of George Chuter late of Byfleet in the County of Surrey, carpenter who died 12th January 1888 at Byfleet was proved at the Principal Registry by Charles Pritchard, innkeeper and Esau Woodger, plumber and painter both of Byfleet, the executors. Personal estate £48 17s. Partly taken from Arthur Althorp's 1888 Almanac

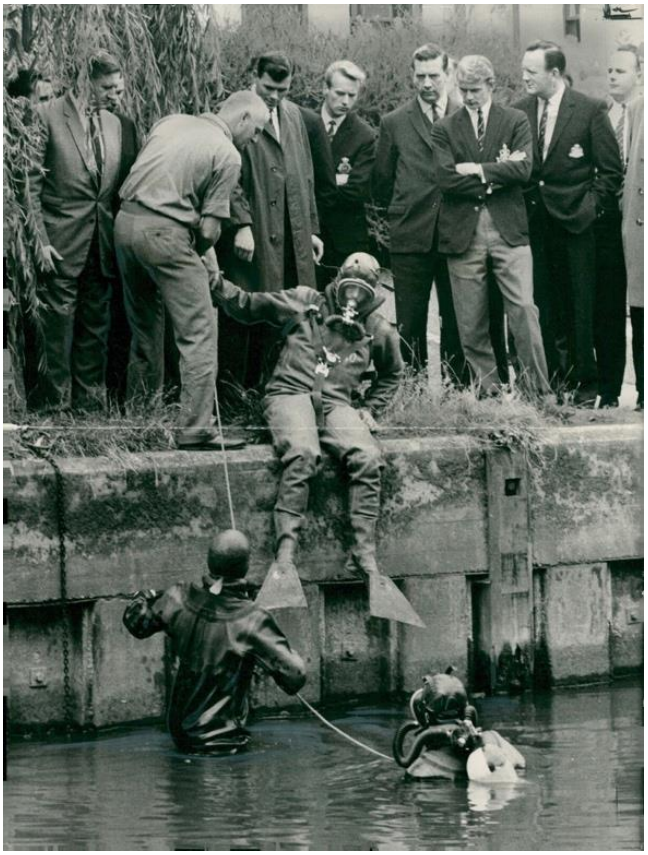
Robert Simonson: Among Surrey Police records deposited in the Surrey History Centre in 2019 we have a file relating to Bungard, described as:

File of papers relating to Superintendent Alfred Henry Bungard. Includes photographs of Chertsey Division with Alfred Bungard sat in the centre. Also copy will of Alfred Bungard, a biography of his life and copy photographs of a chair presented to Bungard on his retirement in 1890. Includes transcript of entry for Alfred Bungard from the appointment book.

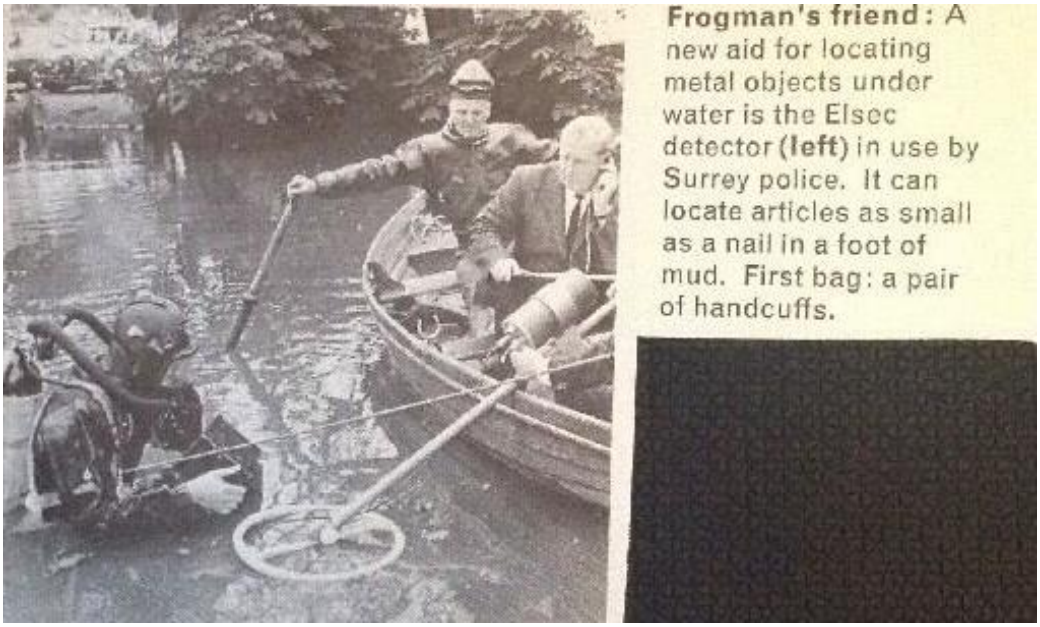
There is no PC Chuter in the Surrey Constabulary appointments register.

Underwater Search Unit 1970s

1971 North Camp Ash photos Sergeant Bartlett, Ash Section



Harold Webb – demonstration for visiting police officers



Frogman's friend: A new aid for locating metal objects under water is the Elsec detector **(left)** in use by Surrey police. It can locate articles as small as a nail in a foot of mud. First bag: a pair of handcuffs.

1970

Car recovered by Surrey Constabulary Poole Harbour Dunsfold murder 1986

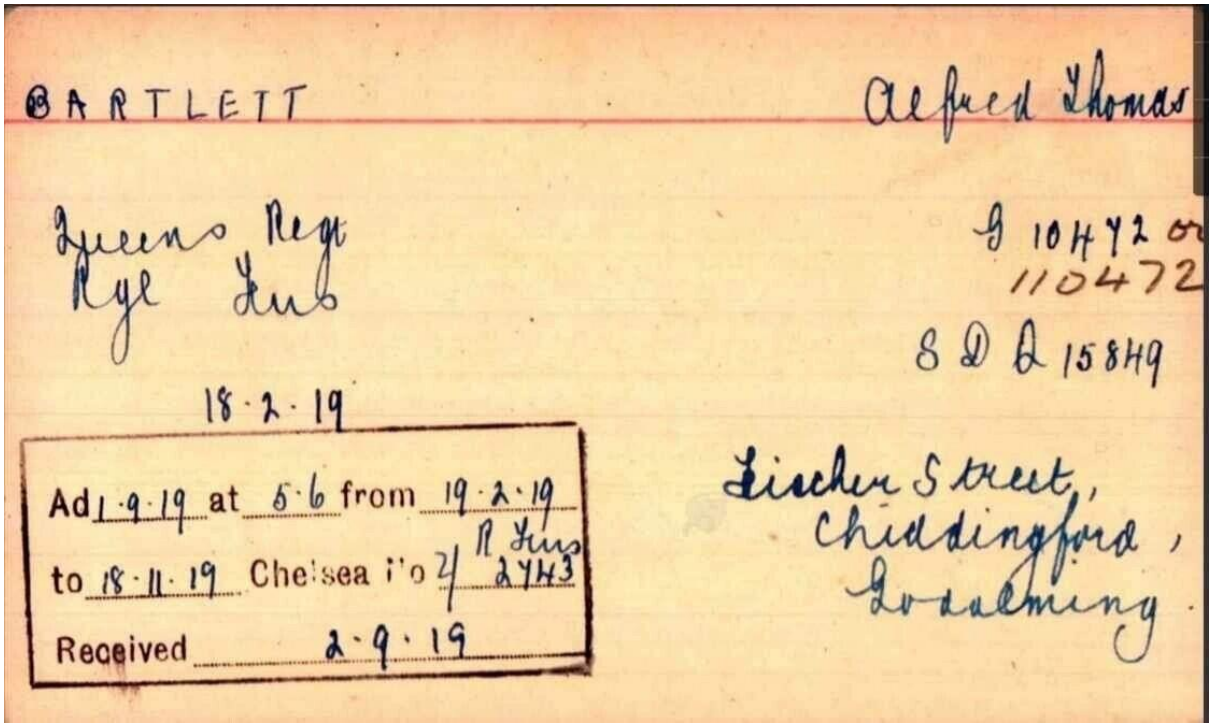
Poole Dorset docks. Underwater Search Unit George Dobson PC Barry Adams. The two people in civvies in front of the van are Surrey CID

What did you say? Elphin Safety?

1980s. Do they still do this?

Special Constable Alfred Bartlett[40] Chiddingfold Long Service Medal pre-1962

[40] No relation to the Editor


BARTLETT

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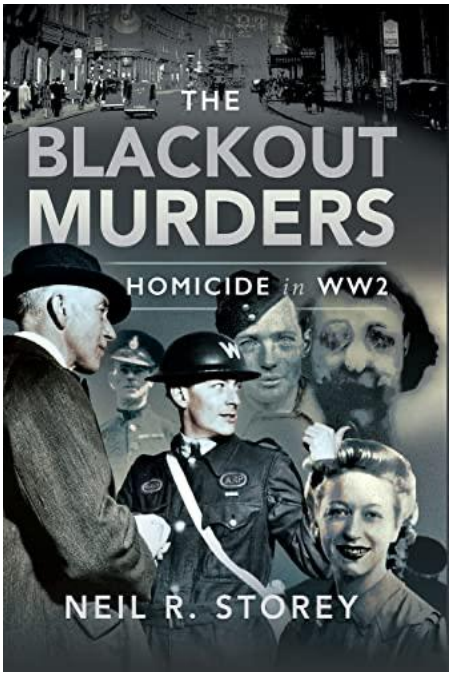
The Blackout Murders
Homicide in World War Two

Neil R Storey



Imprint: Pen & Sword True Crime
Pages: 224
Illustrations: 30 mono
ISBN: 9781399071024
Published: 16th January 2023

NEIL R STOREY is an award-winning historian and author who specialises in the impact of war on British society in the first half of the 20th Century. A graduate of the University of East Anglia, he lectures across the UK and has assembled a fine collection of original First and Second World War images to illustrate his works. Neil has published over forty books, has written for national magazines and journals and appears on television documentaries and factual programmes as a guest historian including Who Do You Think You Are? and The Buildings That Fought Hitler.

Neil's other books published by Pen and Sword Books Ltd include: The King's Men: The Sandringham Company and Norfolk Regiment Territorial Battalions 1914 – 1918, Beating the Nazi Invader and Britain's Coast at War.

Overview from the publisher

Nostalgic recollections of wartime Britain often forget that when the blackout was enforced at night in an attempt to foil Nazi bombers a crime wave, cloaked by the inky black darkness, ensued on many of our streets. There were petty crimes, robberies, sexual assaults and, as *The Blackout Murders* reveals, some horrific murders took place on our home front during the Second World War. Some of them still rank among the most shocking crimes in modern British history.

Some of the murders recounted within the pages of this book remain infamous, others are almost forgotten and some remain unsolved to this day. Several cases have new light shed on them from recently released archives and records uncovered by the author. Every case has been carefully selected for its reflection of wartime conditions and each one has a powerful, poignant and tragic story to tell.

Readers will gain insights into the darker narrative of our home front and learn about some of the men and women who strove to maintain law and order under the most challenging circumstances. Others innovated and developed ground-breaking forensic techniques to identify bodies, recognize if foul play had occurred and as a direct result brought murderers to justice who may otherwise have gone undetected and unpunished. Anyone reading *The Blackout Murders* will never look at Britain's Home Front during the Second World War in the same way again.

Review

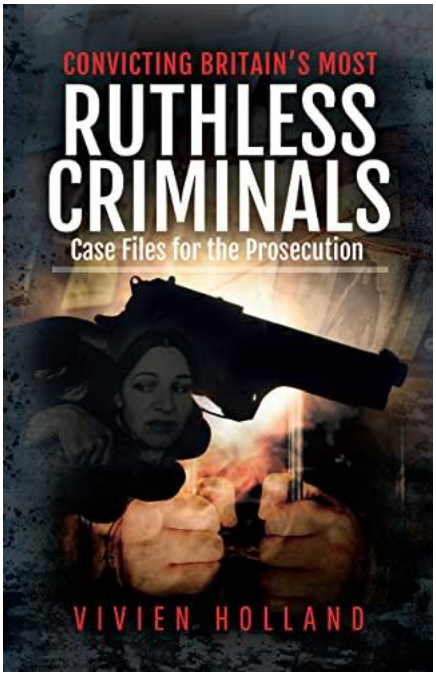
For those with an interest in the Home Front there is little to surprise you in this book which from its title obviously covers a range of murder cases from the wartime period. It does as it says it does! Some of the cases will not be known but the "infamous" are there, Dobkin, Cummins, Haigh and his acid, Christie the wartime Special, the blackout "Bonnie and Clyde, (Not as written, Staines was not in Surrey in 1944 but Middlesex and a part of the Metropolitan Police District.) The author makes the point that there was significant criminal activity during the war and many more murders could have been included.

There is possibly good reason but annoyingly no index is provided, a basic requirement for anyone who reads or researches any period of history. There is a lack of references for some of the cases though newspaper reports are clearly identified. This is not the author cutting corners but represents the difficulty of working without access to primary mostly documentary evidence outside London where there is reliance on mainly chance survivals. The rules required government departments to lodge their records with what is now the National Archives. The Metropolitan Police linked to the Home Office were treated as a part of government and therefore were a part of the structured retention of files. This means that murder and other files in all their detail are there for researchers. There can be luck for those researching provincial cases. A Metropolitan Police detective deployed to assist a county or borough may well submit reports and prosecution files to his London seniors and these are there tucked away in the Archives. Chance survival files are for researchers, supported by very detailed reporting of court cases in the newspapers. Reading about long ago criminal activity outside London material has to be treated with care as they lack the detail to be found in a detailed police report or prosecution file.

A select bibliography is published that includes several biographies of senior detectives in a genre that no longer exists. Collector's items.

The book is recommended for those who are keen to learn more about what has become known as "True Crime". There is a wide geographical coverage of murders within the UK. The photographs of which there are many, include graphic details of victims which ensure the reader understands the horrors of murder.

Convicting Britain's Most Ruthless Criminals
Case Files for the Prosecution



By Vivien Holland
Imprint: Pen & Sword True Crime
Illustrations: 30 mono
ISBN: 9781399092265
Published: 31st March 2023

Author: Vivien Holland has had a life-long fascination with crime. Looking at cases from the perspective of the prosecution, she has observed many criminal trials. Her interest in how different pieces of evidence are collected and pieced together to secure a safe conviction led to the idea for Convicting Britain's Most Ruthless Criminals, her first book.

Publisher's synopsis: Safely convicting criminals relies on finding the truth. But what is the truth and can we ever get the complete picture? Convicting Britain's Most Ruthless Criminals is a collection of serious crime cases in modern Britain. It gives a detailed insight into the amassing of evidence for the prosecution and how the truth can be uncovered, given that there is always a piece of evidence missing, whether it is a hidden fortune, an elusive murder weapon or even an undiscovered body.

Drawing on unique access to the case files and speeches of a leading crown prosecutor combined with expert witness information, these are fascinating stories of criminal acts, their

perpetrators, and how they were brought to justice by putting together a jigsaw of evidence, much of which has never been revealed before, which includes ballistics, pathology, mobile phone records and CCTV analysis. Enough to get as close to the real truth as possible, given that the picture of each jigsaw is never completely revealed.

There is the case of an appeal by woman who was convicted of killing her husband decades ago, a bungled robbery that ended up as murder, a staged gem heist only uncovered years later during a plea-bargaining exercise, a death in police custody, a serial killer who decided to confess, and a brothel keeper maintaining that he was simultaneously providing a community service whilst servicing the Greek national debt.

The cases are intertwined with stories and anecdotes including the juror who ended up being convicted, how the gangland drugs scene became big business and why there is so much dressing up in court.

Review

The following quote from the book encapsulates modern police work and the change from the methodical old "black and white" days! In addition to the wonders of DNA, "When an individual goes about their criminal task, they leave clues behind on various ways. Not just their fingerprints and other body matter, but also what their mobile phone was doing and if they were recorded on CCTV. But as well as leaving clues in a digital footprint or physical fingerprint, they also pick up clues from their surroundings."

This is a "grown up" so called True Crime book the first to be researched and written by this author. The cases she chooses clearly demonstrate there is little that is glamorous in violent and or organised crime, or across the range of serious criminality. What comes across clearly is the disagreeable nature of the criminals something known to all police officers. Criminals and their activities are unpleasant but there is great danger when publishing their undertakings of building these people up, giving them a status within their contemporaries they certainly do not deserve. The book has commentaries on reasonably modern cases where the criminals are still living. It must be said that the book reinforces that most villains have few if any redeeming features and are generally unpleasant! (Though someone always loves them!) True Crime genre deals mainly with the more distant past than the cases presented in this work which provides the opportunity to elaborate on modern investigative practices and techniques. The technological input into serious investigations is now considerable and the evidence gathered undeniable.

Unusually the author had access to a prosecutor's case files and "expert witness information" which makes this an interesting and informative book, well written, capturing the reader. Just over 130 pages long the book with a chapter covering court dress i.e., robes and wigs or the working wardrobe for the court professionals. This is uncommon territory to explore.