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

December 2023
www.surrey-constabulary.com

Editor Robert Bartlett MA (Cantab) CF
938at938@gmail.com

Surrey Constabulary History 108

Police History Society Award

"The Police History Society Award was established to recognise significant contributions in the field of police history. The award is made as a formal recognition of activities undertaken which are in keeping with the aims of the Society."

Award Winners

2023 Robert Bartlett

As well as being one of the three founders of the PHS, Bob's service on the Committee consisted of the following posts, Treasurer 1985-87, Journal Editor (and contributor) 1985-92 Committee member 1992-94. He gave a presentation on "The concept of minimum force" at our 1987 Conference and has since written half a dozen articles for the Journal. He set up and

runs the Surrey Constabulary history website. (Summary of speech by chairman at presentation).

2022 Martin Stallion

Martin was one of the original founders of the PHS in 1985. He was the membership secretary from 1986 to 1990, the secretary 1990 to 1996 and from 2013 to 2019, and the newsletter editor from 2004 to 2007. He has completed countless bibliographies relating to policing as well as the monograph on chief officers until 2012, published by the Society. He continues to support and advise on police heritage.

2021 Clive Emsley (posthumously)

Prof Emsley was our academic adviser since the inception of the Society in 1985 until his passing in 2020. His contribution to the advancement and study of policing history is quite possibly unparalleled, and the committee's decision to award him with this was unanimous.

2020 David Taylor (posthumously)

David had a long and distinguished career in policing – serving in the Military Police and then rising through the ranks to Superintendent in Essex. David had been a member of the Society since themid-1980s and had served on the committee for 5 years. He is remembered with respect and high regard, as a lovely and gentle man, who held a real passion for Police History.

Note from Editor: As your editor I keep a fairly low profile in the monthly journal although I do threaten to publish my memoirs if the material dries up! However, I have pleasure in reporting that on Saturday 18 November at the AGM and conference of the Police History Society at the Federation HQ, I was honoured for the contribution I have made to police history. Yes, I am flattered and proud but recognise that this is not a solo effort but all of you who over the years have contributed to the archives and supported me in gathering so much material. Your support has been brilliant particularly when Surrey Police and I fell out over the archives. Your continuing support and efforts has ensured that the Surrey Constabulary is firmly placed within the history of policing and the life of the county of Surrey. On receiving the award, I spoke briefly: *"I am honoured and privileged to receive this award which is a reassurance to me that the history I have unravelled has meant something to others! It has not just been me but the coming together of probably hundreds of people over the years determined to ensure what we undertook on behalf of our public is not forgotten.*

What has become a truism for me over very many years, is that our predecessors were more capable than portrayed on film and by the written word. They have been much maligned. I good marker is to recognise what these men achieved when serving during the world wars!

This conviction has driven me to recover the lost memory of so many good men and women, and to lodge those memories in perpetuity in established archives. They must not be forgotten; but most ***Have No Memorial****. It is our challenge as former members of the Surrey Constabulary to ensure that the ordinary men and women who served in the British Police shall never be forgotten."*

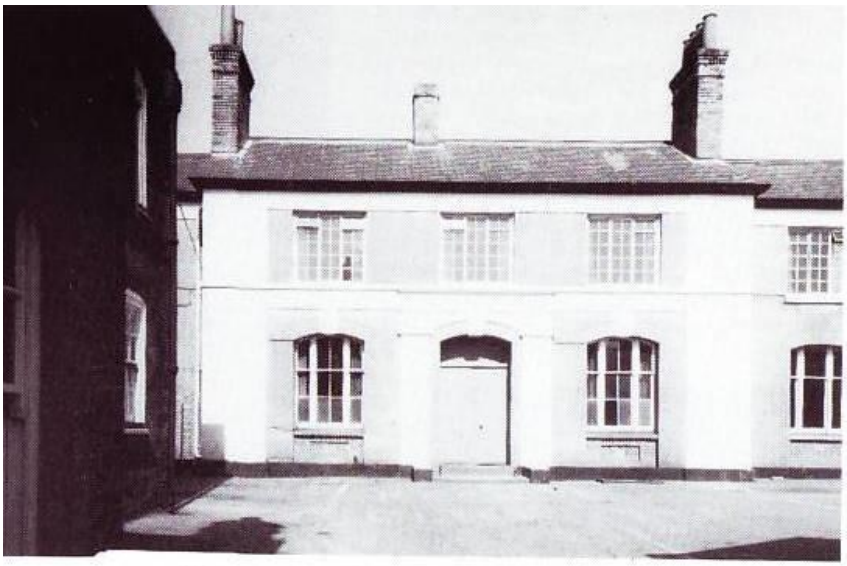
Contents

Guildford Police Station and Section House 1965

Colin Campbell

I went to No 6 District Police Training Centre, Sandgate in December 1964 and after 13 weeks of initial training was posted to Guildford police station which was in Woodbridge Road.

Accommodation was provided in the Guildford section house which, although part of the police station building, had its entrance from the back yard of the police station off Leapale Road. The section house was on three floors; the ground floor housed the kitchen and dining room, and the police social club. On the first floor were individual bedrooms, bathroom and lounge, and on the second floor a large room divided by wooden panels to make a number of individual bed spaces. These were known as the horseboxes. As a recruit I was allocated one of the horseboxes and was there for a number of months until it was my turn to be allocated an individual room on the first floor.



The Old Woodbridge Road Police Station

The section house was quite noisy as it was adjacent to Leapale Road which was a busy one-way street. We were also above a pub called the Carpenters Arms so getting a good night of sleep on a Friday or Saturday before an early shift was not always easy.

The section house is to the right of the Carpenter's Arms

The section house cook was Mrs Hart, affectionately known as 'Auntie', and she cooked breakfasts and lunches from Monday to Friday, and then food was left in the fridge for residents to self-cater at other times. Having been in the section house for about a year, two properties on the opposite side of Leapale Road were purchased and were altered to separately house male and female officers. These were a great improvement and well liked. Eventually the female section house moved to Nightingale Road and therefore more accommodation became available for male officers. Section house life was good, sociable and enjoyable. Sometimes after a late shift a number of us would go for a meal in the local Indian restaurant in North Street, or perhaps a trip to Brighton just for a change. However, these excursions would only happen near to pay day as money was tight. Other residents in the section house included Colin Benham, Brian Rogers, David Lines, Pete Older, Dave Bristow, Kevin Marwick, Pete Thompson, Roger Martin and Phil Morgan, Bob Bartlett.

During probation there would be a training day at headquarters once a month, and usually the night before we would get out heads together in the section house to complete our DPA's (discussion on prepared agendas) ready for taking to training. The training sergeants were Jack Packham and Richard Smith.

Guildford was a busy town and a good place to start a career. The basic shifts were either nights (10pm to 6am), lates (2pm to 10pm), or earlies (6am to 2pm) and we had to report for duty 15 minutes prior to the shift for the section briefing which was carried out in the parade room where the duty sergeant would stand behind a desk and the constables in front of it. The sergeant gave out the instructions for the shift; the instructions would include names of currently 'wanted' locals, any specific areas needing attention, information of any incidents in the previous shift, summonses for serving, warrants for execution, and any other duties to be performed during the shift. Good attention had to be paid because there were occasions when the noise levels were high, usually caused by a drunk in the adjacent cell! Meal breaks were for 45 minutes and the times were allocated by the sergeant. At the briefing parade

‘appointments’ had to be produced (handcuffs, truncheon) and pocketbooks were signed by the sergeant.

Parading before duty at the charge desk

There were ten beat areas and usually eight were covered by the town constables, the other two were in outlying areas (one of which was Wood Street) and had their own resident constables. Number 1 beat was Guildford High Street and the only time a probationer constable had the privilege of patrolling that area was to cover the meal break of a senior and more experienced constable. The outlying beats such as Merrow and Burpham, Park Barn, Onslow village, were cycle beats and a small cycle allowance was paid for using your cycle. The sergeants in my early days were either Wilf Sivill, George Cooper or Eric Washington. They were always addressed as ‘sergeant’. During my first two weeks as a probationer I was tutored by Jack Richards, an experienced PC and gentleman. The first week was nights and I recall checking the security of a pub off Quarry Street, then taking a moment to sit on a chair on their patio and promptly falling asleep. Jack told me having a nap was alright, but I must know when to wake up – point taken! I don’t think I did it again.

The late Jack Richards in deep retirement

Sometimes on a Friday or Saturday we would work a shift from 6pm to 2am to cover the busy pub turn out times. There were two or three pubs in Guildford which regularly had fights on Friday and Saturday nights and often the cells became full on these occasions. There were also

the regular alcoholics/tramps/roadies in Guildford and in cold weather not unknown for one to break a shop window just in order to get arrested and a bed for the night.

Guildford was also a town where soldiers from Aldershot would come to drink, but very often found themselves in the cells for assault or being drunk and disorderly. The MP's from Aldershot would collect them and no doubt they were charged back at camp.

In 1965 there were no personal radios and patrolling officers on foot or cycle had to make points – that was to be at a different allocated telephone box once an hour and remain there for 15 minutes to receive a telephone call to get instructions, or to be met by the duty sergeant or inspector. If you upset the sergeant at a briefing, you could find your points being very far apart!

The station office was open to the public 24 hours a day and was manned on the three-shift system by permanent station officers, two of which were ex Guildford Borough men – 'Digger' Field and Ernie Kleisure. These people knew all there was to know about Guildford, its people and its surrounds and were very helpful on local knowledge. The superintendent was Sellwood, chief inspector Friedersdorf and sergeant Bert Field in the divisional office. Bert Field could be seen every morning, as regular as clockwork, walking to work from his home in Merrow.

Superintendent Eric Sellwood RAF officer pilot Second World War

After a year of walking the beat, I was crewed on the 'Tilly' vehicle (call sign J35) with John Coles, another experienced officer. I was fortunate to get this posting as I had received a five-day driving course towards the end of service as a cadet so was already authorised to drive. Working on the car was always busy and a good learning ground. I recall one morning soon after I had started on the car with John, we saw a youth driving a Riley motor car along the A3 at Ladymead, towards London. He didn't look right so we decided to stop him. The procedure was to pull alongside the vehicle then the observer would signal the driver to stop. We did this on London Road at Burpham, John signalled the driver to stop and as he slowed to a walking pace, I pulled in front to complete the stop. When the Riley was almost stationary the driver leapt out of the vehicle leaving it in gear and it ran into the back of us. John got out of our car and chased the youth across the road whilst I ensured the Riley's engine had stalled. I then

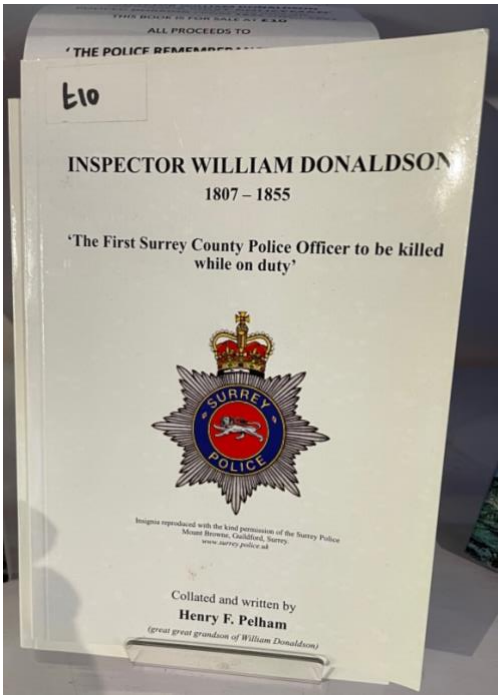
turned our car round and stopped outside the Burpham filling station where I saw the youth. As John and I went towards him he picked up an iron bar from the garage forecourt and started wielding it at us. Fortunately, an off-duty traffic warden walked out of the garage premises at that moment, and seeing what was happening he went up behind the youth and grabbed him; then between us we restrained, handcuffed, and took him to the police station. It transpired that earlier that day he had been released from borstal in Hampshire and stole the Riley to get back to London. The following day, after the hearing at Guildford Magistrates court I was handcuffed to the youth taking him down the stairs to the cells when he tried to leap down the bottom four or five steps taking me with him. There were other officers in the vicinity, so he was soon restrained. A few lessons learned on those two days.

After another few months I applied for a vacancy as reserve divisional motorcyclist; I did an authorisation test with Bomber Brown – this lasted about three quarters of an hour, riding a Triumph 500cc Speed Twin around the town area and out on the open road to Ripley and Send. I passed this and subsequently got the posting. The full-time motorcyclists were Fred Smith, Ken Tizzard and Robin Young and as the reserve I did the duties when one of them was not available, covering annual leave and other of their commitments. Being a divisional motorcyclist was a big learning curve. Most of the sudden deaths, serving summonses, domestics, road traffic accidents, delivering death messages, enquiries on behalf of other forces and so on, fell to the motorcyclist.

After almost two years of enjoyable service at Guildford I moved on to Farnham traffic centre.

1978 a Traffic sergeant

Inspector William Donaldson



Henry Pelham: Mullins (café West Street, Dorking) offered to sell the books at no charge and has so far been one of my best outlets. Dorking Museum refused to sell or put on display as it wasn't one of their publications. Bookshops, like the Haslemere bookshop and Museum want 40% of the book price, the national bookshops and Amazon - just forget it. These payments cut the amount I can give the Police Roll of Honour Trust, (now the Police Remembrance Trust). I find it difficult that Dorking show such little interest though I gave the museum, a copy of my original manuscript which is to be kept with their copy of the occurrence book 'translations'.

Just of interest Jean (Mrs Pelham) and I have been invited to the Police Remembrance Trust Christmas event at the American Embassy on the 7th December where we will present a cheque of £1500 to Rev. Canon David Wilbraham MBE, the former National Police Chaplain, generated from the book. This will bring the current total donated so far to £2000, not bad for a short run book, only 300 copies were printed. We hope to get the total above £2000 before they with an entry in the NARPO Magazine, who after several attempts they have now agreed to feature it.

Jaguar police cars in Surrey – accompanied the issue of Filofax. A very modern and up market Force!

Jaguar 1987, Ted Stevens photo

Godstone Traffic's new Jaguar Police Special, 1988 at Merstham M23 northbound on the runoff section. Photos Lindsay Constable. Registered 1987

George Dobson Godstone Traffic

On Loan Surrey Police Jaguar 2010

https://www.autocar.co.uk/car-news/new-cars/jaguar-xf-police-car-launched

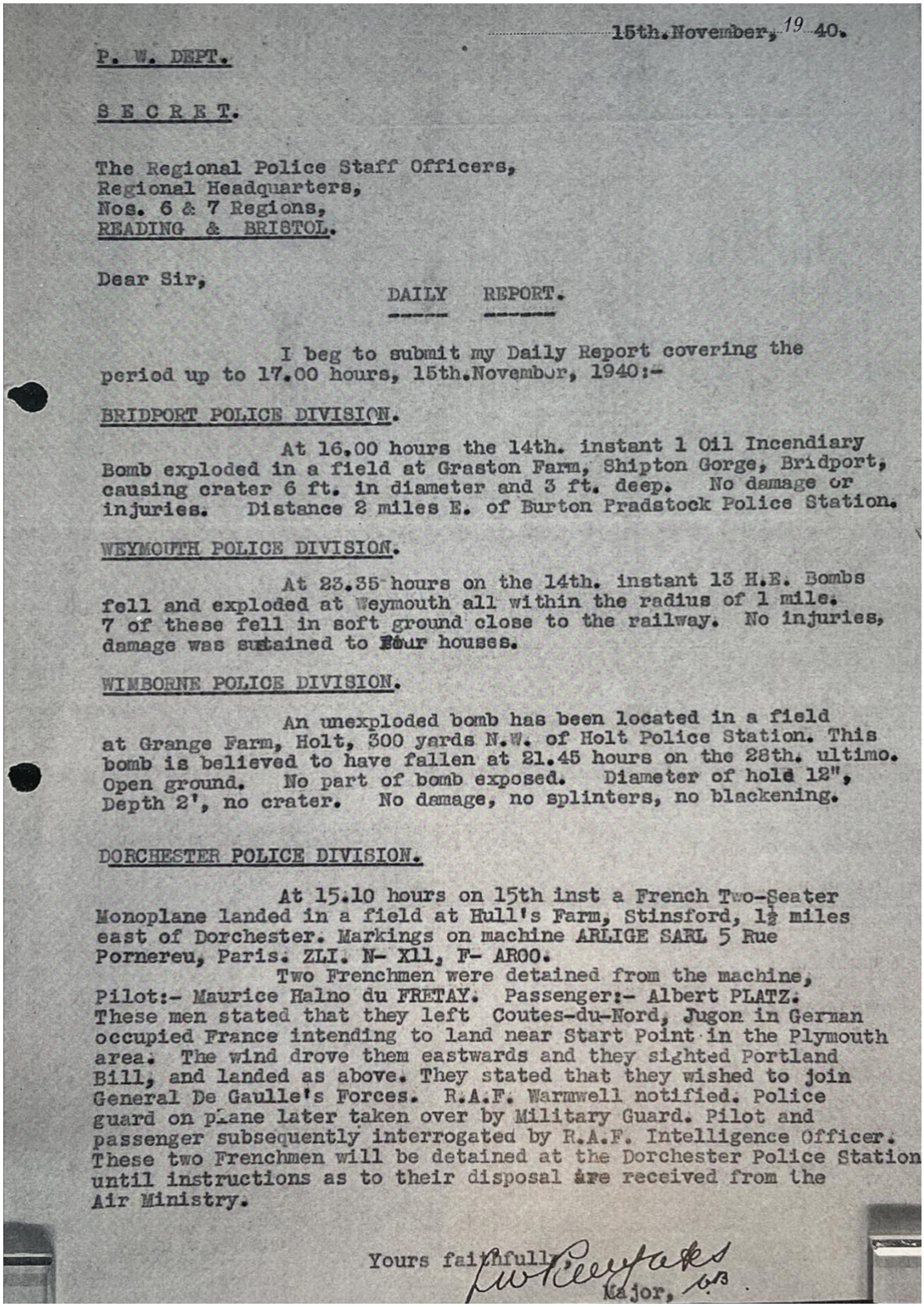
Surrey Police 2010

Regional Police Reports 15 November 1940

In about 1973 for reasons I no longer recall, I was in the cellars at Mount Browne close to photographic. In the cellar were a number of storerooms one contained a great deal of Surrey Constabulary history including correspondence during the general Strike 1926 and war time daily reports to government. There were files of what were known as pinks. In those simpler times when typing and a copy was required the typist inserted a blue copy carbon paper sheet. The copy to be kept on file was on a thin pink piece of paper hence pinks!

Each day probably the security department at HQ under Superintendent Tom Roberts, made a return to the regional seat of government establishing a number of facts on enemy activity, morale of the public, matters of interest etc. So, tucked away in the basement was a day by day, blow by blow account of the Second World War across the Surrey Constabulary area. Being a "pink" and therefore a copy it is possible that the originals survive somewhere. It is said that the storeroom was emptied on the instructions of a new deputy chief constable and much of the history of the force was lost.

However, it appears the pinks or copies survive at the Surrey History Centre Woking. The following is the daily report from Dorset though written by a Major.



15th.November, 19 40.

P. W. DEPT.

S E C R E T.

The Regional Police Staff Officers,
Regional Headquarters,
Nos. 6 & 7 Regions,
READING & BRISTOL.

Dear Sir,

DAILY REPORT.

I beg to submit my Daily Report covering the period up to 17.00 hours, 15th.Novembur, 1940:-

BRIDPORT POLICE DIVISION.

At 16.00 hours the 14th. instant 1 Oil Incendiary Bomb exploded in a field at Graston Farm, Shipton Gorge, Bridport, causing crater 6 ft. in diameter and 3 ft. deep. No damage or injuries. Distance 2 miles E. of Burton Pradstock Police Station.

WEYMOUTH POLICE DIVISION.

At 23.35 hours on the 14th. instant 13 H.E. Bombs fell and exploded at Weymouth all within the radius of 1 mile. 7 of these fell in soft ground close to the railway. No injuries, damage was sustained to four houses.

WIMBORNE POLICE DIVISION.

An unexploded bomb has been located in a field at Grange Farm, Holt, 300 yards N.W. of Holt Police Station. This bomb is believed to have fallen at 21.45 hours on the 28th. ultimo. Open ground. No part of bomb exposed. Diameter of hole 12", Depth 2', no crater. No damage, no splinters, no blackening.

DORCHESTER POLICE DIVISION.

At 15.10 hours on 15th inst a French Two-Seater Monoplane landed in a field at Hull's Farm, Stinsford, 1½ miles east of Dorchester. Markings on machine ARLIGE SARL 5 Rue Pornereu, Paris. ZLI. N- XII, F- AROO.

Two Frenchmen were detained from the machine, Pilot:- Maurice Halno du FRETAY. Passenger:- Albert PLATZ. These men stated that they left Coutes-du-Nord, Jugon in German occupied France intending to land near Start Point in the Plymouth area. The wind drove them eastwards and they sighted Portland Bill, and landed as above. They stated that they wished to join General De Gaulle's Forces. R.A.F. Warmwell notified. Police guard on plane later taken over by Military Guard. Pilot and passenger subsequently interrogated by R.A.F. Intelligence Officer. These two Frenchmen will be detained at the Dorchester Police Station until instructions as to their disposal are received from the Air Ministry.

Yours faithfully,
Major, O/C.

Deposited at Woking and available for research are the following documents which appear to contain the Surrey versions of the above. Is there anyone in "striking distance" of Goldsworth Road that can spend a couple of winter days in the warmth of the archive going through the superintendents' reports and chief constable's summaries during the war (CC98/8/ Situation

reports 1939-1944) to pull out items of interest such as the relationship of the civil power and population with the miltary, particularly the Canadian army based across the county?

CC98/8/	WORLD WAR II	1938-1959
CC98/8/1	Telegrams etc re evacuation, 1939-1940, and circulars re war preparations, 1938	1938-1940
CC98/8/2	Memoranda for Emergency Department, Godalming: many are copies or summaries of Home Office circulars	Apr 1941 -Nov 1944
CC98/8/3	Police War Instructions, including notes of wartime organisation of headquarters, 1939; DORA Proclamation of State of Imminent National Emergency; receipts for confidential documents.	1939
CC98/8/4	Files re control of fireworks, 1940, and return of impounded fireworks, 1945, including list of stockists; control of high frequency apparatus, 1940, including list of users; enemy aliens, etc., 1939-1941; protected places, including poster: Protected Place Bye-Laws, 1939	1939-1945
CC98/8/5	Home Office circulars, including Defence Regulations	1939
CC98/8/6	Defence Medal recommendations (includes members of Special Constabulary)	1944
CC98/8/7	Posters calling out Army Reserve	1938
CC98/8/8	Civilian Drilling: Home Office circular	1940
CC98/8/9	Duties of the Police in the Event of Invasion; Invasion precautions; Plans for Civilian Action in Invasion	1942
CC98/8/10	Nodal Points (South-East Regional CD Office), 1941, with plan of Limpsfield village; Consolidated Instructions to Invasion Committees in England and Wales, 1942	1941-1942
CC98/8/11	Situation reports: all divisions Reports of enemy activity sent to HQ from each division. After the war entries relate mainly to discovery of unexploded bombs etc.	1944-1959

CC98/8/	Day Books: Oxted division The first of these bears a note: 'From the 27th September 1940 all messages relating to (1) Air Raids (2) Air Raid Damage (3) Aircraft (4) Air Raid Messages will be entered in this Day Book and not in the general Day Book, AF King, Superintendent'. Later books are marked 'Air Raid Damage Messages', 'Air Raid Damage Messages and Messages for the Attention of 'E' Department' or simply 'E'. The day books give time and date, message received by, message disposal. (Note E Department was the wartime security department under Detective Superintendent Tom Roberts)	1940-1946
CC98/8/12	Day book, Oxted division	27 Sep 1940 -27 Oct 1940
CC98/8/13	Day book, Oxted division	28 Oct 1940 -4 Dec 1940
CC98/8/14	Day book, Oxted division	4 Dec 1940 -21 Apr 1941
CC98/8/15	Day book, Oxted division	21 Apr 1941 - 18 Jan 1943
CC98/8/16	Day book, Oxted division	18 Jan 1943 -24 Feb 1944
CC98/8/17	Day book, Oxted division	25 Feb 1944 -27 Jul 1944
CC98/8/	Day book, Oxted division	27 Jul 1944 -19 Mar 1946

CC98/8/ Situation reports 1939-1944

On 27 Sep 1939 a memorandum was sent from the Southern Regional Commissioner referring to the existing assembling of twice-daily situation reports on ARP and recommending the collection of information as to (a) the conduct of the public during air raids; (b) reactions to war conditions generally; (c) the effects of enemy propaganda, particularly of broadcasts in English; (d) attitude towards censorship and publicity generally; (e) reaction towards subversive and pacifist propaganda; (f) industrial conditions, particularly signs of unrest; (g) general situation as regards public morale and attitude to the war. 'The information would form a valuable index to the state of mind of various classes of the population and of the general civilian morale of the region and its assembly would give a means by which responsible officers could suggest any steps which in their opinion would alleviate any widespread dissatisfaction on the part of the public or assist in maintaining generally the spirit of the nation'. A Home Office circular, 13 Oct 1939, was issued on the same subject.

The first file contains these and other correspondence to Nov, and the reports from superintendents, with Chief Constable's summaries, thereafter a standard form was adopted for the superintendents' reports by Feb 1940. The files also contain Home Office summaries of the information forwarded by Chief Constables.
Under the heading of situation reports were also stored, not always separately, Southern Regional Police Staff Officer's reports; and Southern Region Civil Defence Commissioner's reports.

CC98/8/19	Superintendents' reports and Chief Constable's summaries, Nov 1939-Jun 1940, and including circulars and correspondence, Sep 1939-Nov 1939	Sep 1939 -Jun 1940
CC98/8/20	Superintendents' reports and Chief Constable's summaries. Including small file, Jul 1941, of superintendents' reports on social effects of influx of Canadian troops	Jan 1941 -Jul 1941
CC98/8/21	Superintendents' reports and Chief Constable's summaries. Including Peace Pledge Union leaflet 'The Blockade of Europe' and Home Security Operations Bulletins.	Jul 1941 -Mar 1942
CC98/8/22	Superintendents' reports and Chief Constable's summaries	Apr 1942 -Jun 1943
CC98/8/23	Superintendents' reports and Chief Constable's summaries. Including Regional Commissioner's reports	Jun 1943 -Jun 1944
CC98/8/24	Regional Police Staff Officer's reports	Sep 1940 -Feb 1943
CC98/8/25	Regional Civil Defence Commissioner's Reports (4 folders)	Sep 1940 -Jul 1944

It never has Been Easy!

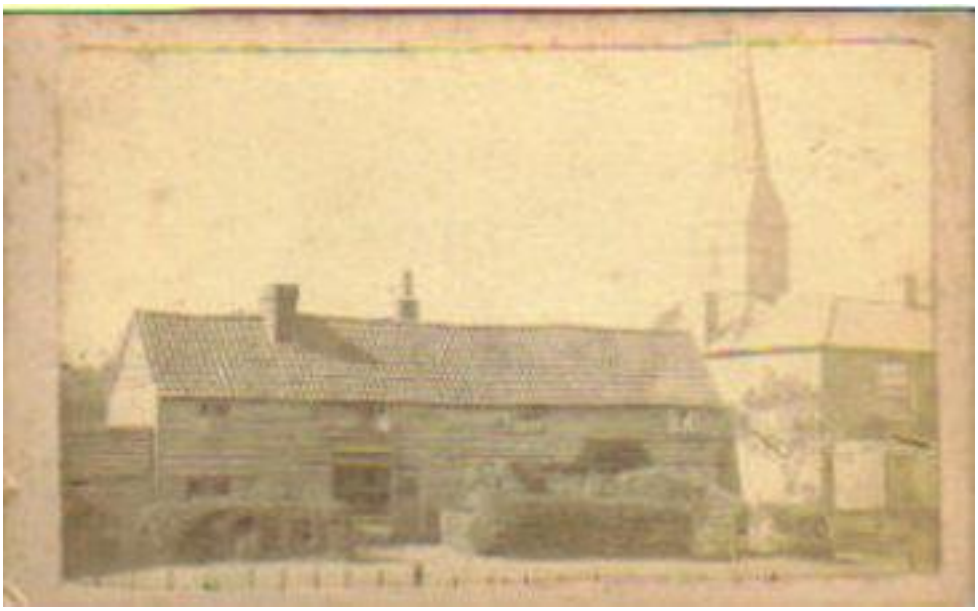
Robert Bartlett assisted by Henry Pelham

The Esher Murders 1854

One of if not the worst murder cases in the history of the Surrey Constabulary occurred on 10 June 1854 in a small house in Esher. The lead investigator was local Superintendent Biddlecombe an experienced detective and thief take, number 1 in the appointment book. He

was to deal with a number of child murders. The impact on all those involved must have been very significant. The horror is unimaginable.

Six Children Murdered: In 1854, George Brough announced to his wife Mary Ann that he was leaving her because he suspected she had been cheating on him. He also said he intended to take their children away from her, setting into motion a series of terrible events.



The Brough's Cottage in Esher

1854 June – reported in newspapers worldwide. On 10th June Henry Woolgar spotted a bloody pillow hanging from the window of a cottage in Esher. After ringing the doorbell, her found a ladder and climbed up to look through the window. He saw a woman gasping with her throat cut, her hands and face covered in blood and her hair hanging about her face. She was making a whistling noise apparently from the wound and blood was spurting from her throat. He then went through the rooms of the house and saw something more horrifying, finding body after body. The woman Mary Ann Brough had killed six of her children, each being slaughtered with their father's razor. Her husband, George had said he was leaving her as he suspected she had been cheating on him and also that he intended to take the children.

Mary Ann slit the children's throats and tried to take her own life but she survived and was charged with six counts of murder. She confessed killing the children before attempting suicide.

At the trial it was stated Collett was the first Constable to whom Mary Ann Brough made a statement as he was in attendance before the coroner. Peter Thomas Collet was examined and said – The prisoner was partly under my charge from the 10th to 29th June. I searched the house and found a bunch of keys and an empty razor case. On Sunday morning 11th the prisoner said the clock would not want winding-up until 10 o'clock as she had wound it up at 10 o'clock the night before. On 13th she said she wished her daughter Mary had come and told me to take a box from under the bed, it contained plate and jewellery. On top of the box was a piece of paper, and on seeing it the prisoner said, "I though not of doing it until Friday night." The paper

reading, “All for my daughter Mary (her eldest child who was not killed). Her father is only seeking to get money from them as never injured him or done him any harm, so help me God. Signed Mary Ann Brough. On the same day the prisoner stated this would not have happened but for her daughter and Fred Foster and a letter they had copied three or four years ago. The prisoner also stated Brough wanted to be parted from her.

PC Collett wrote down what Mrs Brough said to him and produced the paper at court. She said if the doctor had come it would not have happened, she wished she had taken his advice and it would have been better for her. During the night she repeatedly asked for her children, called out “Billy” and asked who was crying. This was 11th June and everything was quiet.

The following confession was made by the murderess, to Mr. Biddlecombe, chief superintendent of the Surrey Constabulary: "On Friday last, I was bad all day; I wanted to see Mr. Izod and waited all day. I wanted him to give me some medicine. In the evening I walked about, and afterwards put the children to bed, and wanted to go to sleep in a chair. About nine o'clock, Georgy (meaning Georgiana) kept calling me to bed. I came up to bed, and they kept calling me to bring them some barley water, and they kept calling me till nearly 12 o'clock. I had one candle lit on the chair. I went and got another, but could not see, there was something like a cloud, and I thought I would go down and get a knife and cut my throat but could not see. I groped about in master's room for a razor. I could not find one; at last I found his keys, and then found his razor. I went up to Georgy and cut her first; I did not look at her. I then came to Carry and cut her. Then to Harry, he said, 'don't mother.' I said, 'I must' and did cut him. Then I went to Bill. He was fast asleep. I turned him over. He never awoke, and I served him the same. I nearly tumbled into his room. The two children here, Harriet and George were awake. They made no resistance at all. I then lay down myself." The miserable woman signed this statement. J. Harkness, Printer, 121, Church Street, Preston.[1]

1854 June 13: Inquest before a coroner and jury at The Chequers Tavern, West End into the deaths of the **six Brough children.** Mr. **Biddlecombe,** chief superintendent of the Surrey Constabulary said following information from Inspector Martell he went to the house of Mrs Brough. On entering the back door and going into a room he found under the table a pair of woman’s boots and bloody stockings. He went to the door and found that the bolt on the inside was all over blood as if handled with a bloody hand. He went upstairs and found a boy aged seven years on the bed with his face covered with blood. He was dead and his throat was cut. The wound was extensive and incised. There were lying at the foot of the bed Harriet and George both dead each with incised wounds to the throat. He passed to another room and found three more dead children with extensive wounds to the throat. In a third bedroom he saw Mrs Brough in bed and attended by a medical man. He could not speak with her but a few days later Mrs Brough called him back and he took her statement.[2]

[1] Source: Curiosities of Street Literature, London, Reeves and Turner, 196, Strand, 1871.
[2] 1854 13 June: The Times

Mary Ann survived and was charged with six counts of murder. She confessed, telling investigators that she had used a razor on each child, one at a time. One child had protested and another had struggled, but she killed them all before attempting suicide. Mary Ann Brough was found not guilty by reason of insanity[3]

Medico-Legal Representations: The Esher Murders (1854) Forbes Benignus Winslow, one of Victorian England's most prominent psychologists, was an important figure in the debates surrounding medical jurisprudence. In 1854, he gave evidence in Mary Brough's trial, claiming that at the time she committed her crimes she was acting under the impress of insanity. Before Brough, a former wet-nurse to the Prince of Wales, had bled to death from her own injuries she was rescued by a stranger who had noticed blood through her bedroom window. She promptly received medical attention for her wounds and almost as promptly received legal attention for the murders.

The Esher Tragedy Six Children Murdered by their Mother.

You feeling Christians give attention,
Young and old of each degree,
A tale of sorrow I will mention,
Join and sympathise with me;
It's of a sad and dreadful murder,
I shall quickly let you hear,
Which was committed by a mother,
On her six young children dear.

The perpetrator of this murder,
Mary Ann Brough it is her name,
And formerly as you may see,
She nursed the blooming Prince of Wales.
But now her days of happiness,
Are vanished like the evening's sun,
Good people all, both great and small,
Reflect upon the deed she's done.

One night she could not rest in slumber,
So her own confession says,
Her little children, six in number,
Thus she took their lives away.
'Twas with a sharp and fatal razor,
She committed this foul deed,
And one by one she cut their throats,

[3] The Encyclopaedia of Mass Murder

Which causes each kind heart to bleed.

The first and eldest whom she murdered,
Sad and dreadful to behold,
Was a sweet and blooming girl.
Something more than ten years old,
And in her wrath and indignation,
Thus she slew them one by one.
Causing death and desolation,
What on earth could urge it on?

One little pretty boy amongst them,
Of the name of Henry,
He cried aloud with eyes of pity,
'Mother, dear, don't murder me,'
She heeded not his prattling tongue,
But like a demon fierce and wild,
'My dear,' she said, 'it must be done,'
And thus she slew her other child.

From bed to bed, and to each chamber,
This wretched woman did go,
While all around her own dear children,
Streams of crimson blood did flow,
The dreadful sight was most surprising,
To behold these children dear,
How their cruel hearted mother,
Cut their throats from ear to ear.

Oh! What must be the woman's motive,
Did she think she'd done amiss,
Or did she think of death and judgement
To perpetrate a deed like this?
But now the wretch she is committed,
To a prison's gloomy cell,
Where midnight's dreams to her will whisper
And her deeds of blood will tell.

Within the prison's massive walls,
What anguish will torment her breast.
When phantoms of her six dear children,
Will disturb her of her rest.
Such a sad and dreadful murder,

On record there is no worse,
Committed by a cruel mother,
Once the Prince of Wales' Nurse.[4]

1854 17 June: Brough Murder A crime unusually horrible was perpetrated at Esher on Saturday—a mother murdered her six children, and then attempted suicide. The statements made before the Coroner's Jury, which sat on Monday, do not contain all the facts in connexion with the case, as reported in the morning journals. George Brough, formerly in the service of Prince Leopold and now keeper of the ponds and park at Claremont, lived at West End with his wife and six children. They had been married many years; but latterly Mr. Brough suspected that his wife made assignations in London, and at last, by means of detection, which he adopted, traced her to a public house with a male companion. Under the feelings, which this discovery induced, he resolved to separate from his faithless wife, and left his home. Last Saturday morning, Henry Woolgar, a labourer in Claremont Gardens was passing Mr. Brough 's cottage, and saw a pillow stained with blood hanging out of the window. Thomas Beasley came up, and they rang the bell violently; no one answered it, but they thought someone moved, and presently a woman waved a towel. Seeing this, Woolgar got a ladder and mounted to the window, and saw Mgrs. Brough coming up the staircase with "her hair hanging down and her body all over blood." "As she reached the top," continued the witness, "- she turned towards the window, and I saw a wound in her throat, and she made a whistling noise." Woolgar slipped down the ladder and went for a surgeon, while a neighbour entered the house by the window. He saw Mrs. Brough in one room with her throat cut, and a little baby lying in bed with its throat cut.

Going from room to roam, he found the other five children murdered in the same way. Mr. Bedaer, the parish constable, and Mr. Biddlecombe, the Superintendent of Police, gave similar evidence. They entered by the front door, which Mrs. Brough had crawled downstairs to open. The wretched woman, after her wound had been dressed, voluntarily gave to Mr. Biddlecombe a frightful account of the deeds she had done. "On Friday last I was bad all day; I wanted to see Mr. Izod and waited all day. I wanted him to give me some medicine. In the evening I walked about, and afterwards put the children to bed, and wanted to go to sleep in a chair. About nine o'clock Georgy kept calling to me to come to bed. I came up to bed and they kept calling me to bring them some barley water and kept calling till near twelve o'clock. I had one candle lit on the chair. I went and got another but could not see there was something like a cloud, and I thought I would go down and get a knife and cut my own throat but could not see. I groped about in master's room for a razor. I could not find one.

At last, I found his keys, and then found his razor. I went to Georgy and cut her first I did not look at her. I then came to Carry and cut her. Then to Henry he said, “Don't, mother,” I said, 'I must,' and did cut him. Then I went to Bill: he was fast asleep I turned him over; he never woke I served him the same. I nearly tumbled into this room. The two children here, Harriet and George, were awake: they made no resistance at all; Harriet struggled very much and gurgled.

[4] http://www.londonancestor.com/street/str-199.htm

I then laid down and did myself. I can't tell what occurred for some time after that, as I found myself weak and lying on the floor. That nasty great and black cloud was gone then. I was thirsty and got the water bottle and drank. I fell in a sitting position; got up, and saw the children, and it all came to me again. I wanted to call but could not speak. I went to the window and put something out to call attention. I went to bed and remained there till the bell rang. They made such a noise. I crawled on my hands and knees but could not make them hear. It was Henry Woolgar. I went down to unbolt the door. There was only one bolt fastened, and that I undid. That is all I know. They can tell the rest. It was not quite daylight when I put the signal out. It is possible I might have said something more to the other officer. If I have, he can tell you."

The Jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against the mother.

The eldest daughter of the family, Mary, aged nineteen, was at service as a lady's maid she joined her father to take a last look of the murdered children, before their burial. It was a terrible scene. Brough refuses to see his wife but Mary has visited her mother in gaol. The man who was the cause of the tragedy—a married man—has been forced to sell his business and leave the village such is the pitch of indignation against him. His wife is confined to her bed dangerously ill [Mrs. Brough was the first nurse to the Prince of Wales but she was discharged for disobeying the orders of the medical men. The trinkets she received in the Royal Family she has willed to her daughter.][5]

Following her trial at Guildford Assizes Mrs Brough was found not guilty of murder on the ground of insanity.

The death of Mrs Brough in 1861

1861 March 23: Inquest on Mary Brough Esher mother who killed her six children: The coroner for the City of London and Southwark held an inquest at the Bethlehem hospital on the body of Mary Ann Brough, nurse to the Prince of Wales who was acquitted on the grounds of insanity on the charge of murdering her six children at Esher in June 1854 and sent to Bethlehem in August 1854. On admission she was in good health but her behaviour indicated that she had some organic disease in the brain and that had been so for some time. On the 4th December 1854 following an attack of apoplexy followed by paralysis chiefly affecting the mouth and tongue. On 27 September 1859 she had another attack, which affected the legs, and she almost lost the use of them, and her mind became much weaker after this third attack. On the 30 January 1861 she had another slight paralytic attack and very soon after she became so weak that she was unable to sit up and a waterbed was provided for her. She remained in this condition until the 17th inst., when she lost all consciousness and died on the morning off the 18th.

[5] 17 June 1854 The Spectator

At the time of her trial there was not a great deal of evidence to prove insanity yet there was no doubt that even then the brain was diseased and she committed the act while under the influence of insanity. Especially so as it was proved some years before the trial, she was attacked with paralysis of one half of the hemisphere of the brain by which the brain itself would too some extent be affected. She had lucid interval that allowed her to enter into conversation but as her mind was very depressed it was not thought she had any consciousness of the enormity of her crime. She was aware of the reason why she had been sent to the hospital but in consequence of her weak and depressed state, if she had said she was the greatest sinner that ever lived, from the state of her mind it was doubted if any confidence could be placed as to her consciousness of what she said. After some further evidence the jury returned a verdict of "Natural death." Mrs Brough was about 50 years of age. [6]

1854 Murder Frensham: Dying Declaration

1854 June 10: Murder Frensham: Dying Declaration: A meeting was held at the White Horse public house near Frensham Pond on Saturday (week) by the members of a club to make arrangements for the annual club dinner. Several of the members attended the meeting; amongst them were George Fullock, John Burrows and Henry Winter. After the meeting broke up the before-named persons proceeded in company with some others, home; but they had not proceeded very far before Fullock and Winter got into an altercation, which was succeeded by Fullock striking Winter and both of them commenced to fight. Winter is a man rather in years and not very well able to stand fighting with Fullock who was only 23 years of age. This being the case Burrows interceded for Winter and prevented Fullock from knocking him about, when Fullock took his knife out of his pocket and with great force made a desperate lunge at Burrows and struck him in the stomach causing a wound of about two and a half inches in length and so great that the man's intestines protruded. Burrows lingered until Wednesday when he died after great suffering. PC Francis Joy Surrey Constabulary stationed at Farnham went to the deceased and removed him to his sister's house. He went in search of Fullock and found him in a cow stall where he was searched and a knife found. The officer told Fullock he was charged with stabbing John Barrow, but he made no reply. Charles Everett, Surrey Constabulary Farnham, having received information from the surgeon that the deceased was in a dying state he went to the deceased's house with NT Fuller esq., magistrate for Surrey. Mr Fuller told the deceased he was about to take his examination as he was in a dying state. Deceased said, "The doctor told me so." Mr Fuller said, "Now be very particular as you are in a dying state." A statement was made and written down by the superintendent. An inquest was held on Thursday and after a lengthened enquiry the jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against George Fullock and Superintendent Everett was bound over to prosecute the case at Winchester assizes as the deceased had been moved out of Surrey into Hants where he died. The spot where the poor man was stabbed was just on the borders of the two counties.[7] [8]

[6] 1861 March 23 Surrey Comet

[7] The Morning Chronicle (London, England), Monday, June 12, 1854 + Staffordshire Sentinel June 10 1854

[8] West Kent Guardian – date unknown

1854 July 19 Wiltshire County Mirror; Indicted for murder: George Fullick 23 a labourer was indicted for the wilful murder of John Burrow at the village of Headley near Alton on 27th May last. Mr. Poulden prosecuted. The prisoner had no counsel, but Mr. Coleridge defended him at the Judge's request. A labourer named Jobson deposed that he was at the White Horse public house on the evening of the day stated. There was a club meeting there. The prisoner, the deceased and two others named Winter and Hammond were present. They left the house at half past twelve o'clock. Winter, the prisoner, the deceased and witness came out together. When they got a short distance the prisoner knocked off Winter's hat. Winter said "Don't do that again" when the prisoner knocked him down and fell upon him. Prisoner rose upon his knees and repeated his blows upon Winter while on the ground. The deceased then interfered and pulled to the prisoner off Winter. Prisoner then told the deceased to hit him saying, "hit me then" and the deceased immediately knocked him down. Prisoner got up and came in at the deceased with a rush and deceased directly said, "I am a done man; he has been and stabbed me." Deceased fell down. Witness said to the prisoner, "You've killed the man" when the prisoner replied" I don't care a damn, if I'm hung for it."

Similar evidence was given by James Hammond and Henry Winter.

Francis Joy a police constable deposed that Hammond and Jobson came to him and took him to Cricketing Common where he found the deceased, wounded. He removed him with assistance to his siter's house. The next morning, he took the prisoner into custody and charged him with having stabbed the deceased – he made no reply. In his pocket he found a knife with blood on it.

Mr. Jenkins a surgeon of Farnham said he attended the deceased on the 28 May. He found him in a faint and collapsed state with the greater portion of his entrails protruding. There were three wounds 2 ½ inches in length and considerable depth. The intestines were wounded and their contents escaping. He sewed up the intestines and after considerable difficulty returned the intestines to the abdomen and sewed up the three external wounds. He died on Wednesday from the effects of the wounds.

Superintendent Everett of the Surrey Constabulary attended the wounded man each day after the occurrence. Mr. Fuller a magistrate went with the witness on one occasion and told the decease he had come to take his evidence, for he was a dying man and he requested him to be very particular. When told he was a dying man the deceased shook his head and said the doctor had told him so. (This statement was not read in court, agreeably to the instructions of the judge.)

The jury found the prisoner guilty of manslaughter and was sentenced to be transported for twenty years.[9]

[9] Hampshire Chronicle 15 July 1854

(The stabbing was in Alton but the deceased came from and died probably in Farnham. PC Joy and Superintendent Everett were Surrey Constabulary.)

Shooting at police Superintendent George Newland 1869

1869 June 1: 1869 August 7 report of Assizes: Farnham: Joseph Deadman (Dudman) aged 22 was indicted at Croydon Assizes for **shooting at police Superintendent George Newland** (Burland) with intent to murder him. On the morning of the 1 June the Superintendent and two constables Hazel and Harrington went to the house of the father of the accused to arrest Joseph for extraordinary conduct the previous day. On entering the room immediately, the defendant discharged one shot from a six round pistol wounding the superintendent in the arm not inflicting serious injury. The prisoner then aimed the revolver at a constable at the very time of firing the superintendent hit the defendant with a stick, which diverted the weapons so that the bullet struck the wall. The officers then closed with the prisoner and after a violent struggle succeeded in securing him and searching him finding on him a single barrel pistol, some bullets and gunpowder. Before the magistrate the defendant said, "I did it when they all rushed in I was frightened and fired the pistol and I am sorry for it." Evidence was given of extraordinary behaviour over a number of weeks, which was accepted by the jury who found him not guilty, on the grounds of insanity. He was sentenced to be detained during her Majesty's pleasure.[10] [11]

Manslaughter of Wife Redhill

Domestic violence has always been a significant issue for many married women. 1869 August 5: Summer Assizes: Redhill: Manslaughter of Wife: Frederick Simmons 47, a mason, was charged with the manslaughter of his wife Sophia Simmons. This was a very shocking case. The prisoner and his wife had been married several years and occupied a small cottage at Redhill. Simmons and his wife slept in the front upstairs and a 19-year-old daughter slept in the back room. At a late hour on the 9 April the prisoner went home the worst for liquor. There was a scuffle with his wife, and he pushed her violently from the bedroom and she fell down the stairs. She was removed to the infirmary and remained unconscious until twelve o'clock the same day when she expired. When the prisoner was taken into custody he had recovered from his drunkenness. The defence endeavoured to prove that the prisoner had pushed his wife out of the bedroom, and she had fallen down the stairs accidentally. The jury found him guilty, as they did not believe he intended to push his wife down to stairs to which the judge responded that had he intended to that the charge would have been murder. Sentenced to penal servitude for five years. [12] [13]

[10] Daily News 5 August 1869
[11] 1869 August 7 The Surrey Advertiser and County Times
[12] 1869 August 5 Morning Post
[13] 1869 August 7 The Surrey Advertiser and County Times

Affray with Poachers in the Queen's Preserves

1869 December 4: Attempted murder/serious Affray with Poachers in the Queen's Preserves: An affray with poachers in the Queen's Preserves at **Virginia Water** when a keeper and watcher heard guns fired and went in pursuit. One poacher was chased and beaten to the ground by the keeper when he heard the watcher shout, he was being murdered. The keeper ran to the assistance of the watcher letting the poacher he had struck go. As he approached, the keeper saw three men attacking the watcher and one deliberately levelled a gun at him and heard another call out "Shoot the --- at the same time the gun was discharged. The contents of the gun went through his hair and hat, he having moved his head at the last moment. The poachers then set upon the keeper and watcher, Higgs and Foy, with their guns beating them insensible. On recovering they managed to get home but have been unable to give a full account of the affair. Inspector Grey, Surrey Constabulary, Inspector Mansel and Police Sergeant Warwick of the Berks Constabulary and Mr Davis, Superintendent of Windsor Borough Police have since been making enquiries. A search of the scene gathered some evidence and soon three men were taken before the court at Chertsey and remanded. The other man has not yet been discovered but it is supposed the keeper somewhat seriously injured him. [14]

Poaching affray at Egham Surrey Comet 26 March 1870:Thomas Edward Jackson 39, John James Heigate 21, both labourers were indicted for entering a certain park at Egham the property of our Lady the Queen armed with a gun for the purpose of taking and destroying game by night and then and there unlawfully assaulting and beating James Foy and William Higgs. Also charge with shooting at Foy with intent to murder him.

About 5 o'clock on the morning of the 29th November James Foy one of her Majesty's keepers was in a road between Virginia Water and Belvidere Wood. With him was a man named Higgs

[14] 1869 December 4: Manchester Weekly Times

who assisted him as watcher. They heard a gun discharged several times in the wood. Foy and Higgs dashed into the wood. Foy in the lead heard and saw three or more men who, the moment they caught sight of him ran away. Thinking he might induce the men to surrender by a display of superior force he called out " Look out Benstead! Look Out Wood!" the names of two other keepers that were not present. The men stopped and Foy noticed one of the men had a beard very like the prisoner Jackson, and the other was strongly marked with smallpox as the prisoner James Heigate, and the third had no beard but a smooth face like Henry Heigate. A scuffle broke out and Heigate said to one of the others "Shoot him." The man then rushed at him with a gun and got him down. The gun was broken in the struggle. Foy stuck to his men and fought as well as he could to prevent them injuring him and to apprehend them. He then heard one of the prisoners say to the others "Shoot him" and immediately a gun was fired close behind his head; he felt the smoke and saw the flash go by his head and he actually felt the charge go through his hair and whiskers.

After a tedious examination the prosecution informed the judge that the identification evidence was unsatisfactory, and he could not ask the jury to convict them. The jury were instructed to acquit the prisoners.

Attempted Murder and Suicide.

Threw a bag of some explosive substance on the fire.

1869 23 December; Ewell Metropolitan Police District: Attempted Murder and Suicide. Considerable excitement was created in the village of Ewell, near Epsom, on Wednesday morning about half-past 3, by a loud explosion, at first supposed to proceed from the powder mills close to the village. It appeared, however, that about the time mentioned a person named Spooner was preparing to come up to London with a load of flour, and his wife was getting breakfast for him. She went out of the house to get some coals and saw a man waiting outside. She returned to the house screaming, and her husband closed in a struggle with the man who had followed her. In the struggle the stranger threw a bag of some explosive substance on the fire, and the house was blown pretty well to pieces, the wall dividing one house from the other being blown down. A man employed as a porter at the South-Western station at Ewell, who had recently come to the station, had some of his ribs broken and sustained other serious injuries. The husband was seriously hurt and is not expected to recover. The author of the mischief afterwards committed suicide by stabbing himself. He died at half-past 10 yesterday. The motive of the outrage is stated to have been jealousy, and the suicide, we understand, confessed before his death that he had obtained the powder by breaking into the powder mills at Ewell-marsh. Globe.[15]

The Attempted Murder and Suicide at Ewell: We reported on Thursday an extraordinary tragedy, which occurred on Wednesday morning at Ewell, Surrey. A man named Thomas

[15] The Times, 24 Dec 1869 http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/Outrage.html

Huggett had been living with a woman named Lizzie Richardson for some months, and she left him, going to live with her sister, the wife of a carman named Spooner, in West-street. There was also lodging in the house a South-Western Railway Company's porter, named Smith, another man, and Spooner's two children. Huggett came down to Ewell by the last train on Tuesday night, and his strange appearance was noticed by the stationmaster, who order him out of the premises. He went, as subsequently confessed, and stole a bag of powder from Messrs. Sharp's mills, where he had worked as a carman some time ago. He hid himself in an outhouse, and when the woman Richardson came down in the morning at 3 o'clock to get Spooner's breakfast, Huggett got into the house. She screamed, and Spooner ran downstairs, stopping Huggett from following the woman. During a struggle between Spooner and Huggett the latter broke away and threw the bag of powder into the fire. A fearful explosion was the result, the partition wall of the next house being blown down. Huggett was blown through it, and Spooner so seriously injured that for a time his life was despaired of. Huggett died at half-past 10 on Wednesday morning; Smith, who was in the house, was removed to Guy's Hospital, and Spooner to the Hop Pole, where he now lies in a dangerous state.

The dead man, whose name is Thomas Huggett, had lived with the woman for about six months, but why or when they parted has not transpired. He had been employed some time since in bringing kegs down from London to the powder-mills of Mr John Carr Sharp, and thus was well acquainted with the premises from whence he stole the powder with which he blew up the house. His body is much blackened, and when Dr. Barnes was called to him a few minutes after the explosion he found him lying in the adjacent house, having been blown through the partition wall, and for some time he could not be roused to consciousness. Upon the examination made in his dying condition it was seen that he had a wound in his left side, and since his death it appears to be between the fifth and sixth ribs, penetrating to the heart. There is also a scratch on the throat, as if an attempt had been made to cut it. There was a knife found by Huggett's side, and the blade corresponded to the wound, which had penetrated to the heart; but how the wound was inflicted is a present a mystery. The man Spooner has made no statement as to the knife being in Huggett's hand at the time of the struggle. It is clear that Huggett could not have stabbed himself after the explosion, though, if he had the knife in his hand, the stab might have been done by accident when the deceased was driven by the shock through the partition. His clothes were saturated with blood. Huggett had strewn the floor of the cottage with gunpowder, so that of his diabolical intention there can be no doubt. Dr Barnes entertains strong hopes of Spooner's recovery, although reports have been rife in the village that he could not live many hours. Rumour also assigns the cause to jealousy of the man Smith, who lies at Guy's Hospital, but there does not seem to be any foundation for it so far as can be ascertained. The woman Richardson is, of course, reticent. Mr W. Carter has appointed Monday for holding the inquest. - Globe. [16]

The Outrage at Ewell: Yesterday morning, at 10 o'clock, Mr. W. Carter; coroner For East Surrey, opened the inquiry respecting the death of the man Huggett, who, has

[16] The Times, 25 Dec 1869 http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/Outrage.html

already been stated, was killed by self-inflicting injuries and the explosion at Ewell. The inquest was held at the Hop Pole Tavern, opposite the house where the explosion occurred**.**

The jury have viewed the body of the deceased.

The coroner said if they found that he had killed himself while of sound mind, and while in the act of committing a felony, they would return a verdict of felo de se.[17] The inquiry would chiefly turn upon that point.

Mrs. Elizabeth Richardson, the wife of James Richardson, a carman, said she lived as housekeeper in West-street, Ewell, with Mrs Spooner, who had been ill since July of the present year. On Wednesday morning last witness got up about 20 minutes to 4 o'clock and lighted the fire. Mr. And Mrs. Spooner were then in bed. The other occupants of the house were William Smith, George Mason, and Mr Spooner's two children. Going outside the house to a shed for the purpose of getting fuel witness saw a man sitting on the coals with a bag between his knees. She recognised him as Thomas Huggett, a sack and bag maker, who worked at Mr. Lee's factory at Rotherhithe. She had known him 12 years, and while she was looking at him, he passed his hand to his chest three times. As he had threatened to take his life on several occasions, she became alarmed, and at once ran into the house screaming. At the top of the staircase, she saw Mr. Spooner, and she then ran into her bedroom. In about two minutes afterwards she heard the explosion and was so much alarmed that she did not leave her room until everyone in the house had gone away. When she got downstairs, she saw Huggett, whose face was blackened by the explosion. Huggett had threatened to kill her because she refused to live with him, which she had previously done, as man and wife for some months. She left him because her husband persuaded her to do so, and she went back to her home. Huggett last saw her in August. He did not speak to her, but he tore the clothes off her back. He said he would kill her by cutting her throat or shooting her. If it should be shown that he blew up the house with gunpowder, she would believe that he did so for the purpose of killing her. She found some grains of powder after the explosion. She never went through any form of marriage with Huggett. The reason why she left her husband was because he was unkind to her, and Huggett persuaded her to leave him.

James Hill, a shoemaker, said that on the morning in question he heard a noise of scuffling between men on the floor of the house where the explosion occurred in West-street. The witness lived next door. He ran out of his house, and then found that part of the wall of the next house had been blown down. He saw the deceased lying on the floor, and spoke to him, but the deceased did not reply. The brick and wood partition between the witness's house and Mr. Spooner's was blown down. The witness was so much alarmed that he could not recollect much.

[17] Suicide

Edwin Grantham, carpenter, living in West-street, said he heard the explosion while he was in the house adjoining Spooner's. He went into Hill's house, and on the floor in the parlour he saw the deceased. Near the left side of the man was an open clasp-knife. On the left side of the breast, near his heart, was a wound, from which a large quantity of blood flowed. There was a slight cut across his throat. He was carried to the Hop Pole and was there asked where he obtained the powder from. He replied, "I stole it. I had about 1lb. Of it in my pocket." Upon being asked why he did it, he replied "Jealousy; I want to see her now." His request was not granted. He was then asked what he had in the little bottle that was found upon him, and he replied, "Rum." The pocket-knife was stained with blood.

A witness, whose name did not transpire, stated to the coroner and jury that Huggett had the knife open when he entered the house. In his other hand he carried the bag of powder. It was evidently his intention to have cut the woman's throat, and he was going upstairs for that purpose when he met Mr Spooner and had a scuffle with him. While the scuffle was going on Huggett threw the powder on to the fire.

Police-constable Gardener produced the clasp-knife, which had stains of blood upon it.

Mrs. Richardson recalled; said she recognised the knife as one Huggett had.

Dr George Barns said he was called to see the deceased on Wednesday last and found him lying in Hill's house. He was in a feeble condition. There was a wound near his heart an inch in depth. Witness could penetrate the wound with his fingers. There was also a wound across his throat about 2 and a half inches long. Witness believed that the death of the deceased, which occurred in a few hours after witness saw him, resulted from the combined effects of shock, resulting from the explosion, and the self-inflicted stab near the heart. Witness could not say whether the deceased stabbed himself before or after the explosion. Mr. Spooner said he saw the deceased throw the bag of powder on the fire.

Joseph Huggett, brother of the deceased, said Thomas Huggett was 31 years of age. He had never shown any signs of insanity.

Mr. Thomas O'Brien, stationmaster at the Ewell station of the London and South Western Railway, said that on Tuesday night, when the 10.40 p.m. train from Waterloo came in, the deceased, a full-faced, dark complexioned man, alighted from it. He had a villainous expression of countenance and looked so terrible that witness ordered him off the station. He did not appear excited, but he had such a look that if witness had seen him in a railway carriage alone, he would have gone to another compartment. When witness heard of the explosion on the following day he said, "That man I saw last night did it." He then went and saw the body of the deceased and recognized it.

Mrs. Huggett, mother of deceased, said that her son had often complained of his head. He said, "The worry of my work and thinking of that woman is too much for my brain." He then put his

hands to his forehead. On Tuesday he wished his landlady goodbye, and he appeared to be in a state of insanity then.

The inquest was then adjourned for additional evidence as to how the deceased became possessed of the gunpowder, and as to his mental condition at the time of the tragic occurrence.

It is stated that Mr. Spooner, who received such severe injuries, is rapidly sinking.

Messrs. Sharpe and Co. inform us that Huggett was not in their employ, but they believed he was some years ago in the service of a person who did cartage for them, and that thus he became acquainted with their premises. [18]

The Outrage at Ewell: The adjourned inquest on the body of Thomas Huggett, 31, who committed suicide after blowing a house up with gunpowder, at Ewell, on the 22nd inst., with the intention of destroying some of the inmates, was held yesterday at the Hop Pole Tavern, Ewell, by Mr. Carter, coroner for East Surrey.

Dr Barnes was first called. He said he had made a postmortem examination of the body of deceased and found the pericardium[19] had been entered by a sharp instrument, which had also cut completely through the substance of the heart to the depth of from two to 2 and a half inches. The wound was quite sufficient to cause death, and, looking at the nature of it, he should think it was inflicted after the explosion. The wound was the exact counterpart of the blade of the knife, which was found near the deceased.

Sarah Huggett, mother of deceased, residing in Jacob-street, Landport, said she last saw her son on the 6th of September. He came from London and was with witness and her daughter several hours. He did not complain of ill-health but made use of words reported at the last inquiry, to the effect that the worry of his work and thinking of Lizzie Richardson was more than he could bear. The deceased has sent Richardson to witness's house some four years since, and in reply to inquiries she said she was married to her son. On asking, however, to see the marriage lines, Richardson said she could not then produce them "as they were in Tom's box." He son was of sober habits, and subsequent to the visit of Richardson witness found out that they were not married.

Elizabeth Ann Starling, widow, residing in Rotherhithe, said deceased lodged in her house up to the 21st inst., since which time she had not seen him. Witness had noticed that for the last three months he had been very dull and desponding, sometimes sitting for an hour before his meals and not touching them unless roused. On asking what was the matter, he said it was all about a woman whom he called "Lizzie," and then he would become much excited. He said also that he had kept her in money and in clothes for nearly 12 years, and, to use his own words, "Now, she has rounded on me." He used to walk about the house in such an excited manner

[18] The Times, 28 Dec 1869 http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/Outrage.html

[19] The pericardium is a fibrous sac that encloses the heart and great vessels.

when talking about the young woman that witness was frequently afraid, he would do her and her children some harm. The witness did not think he was sane. She never heard him make any threats towards Richardson.

John James Moord, cashier at Messrs. Levy's warehouses, Rotherhithe, said deceased had been in their employ nearly five years. So far as his work was concerned, they had never any occasion to be dissatisfied with him.

John Lodder, gatekeeper at Messrs. Levy's warehouse, said he saw the deceased daily. He was a very quiet, well-conducted man, but for the last three months he had not been as cheerful as usual. He spoke to witness about a woman whom he called "Mrs. Sugar" (meaning Lizzie Richardson) and said he had spent all his money on her and would "never do any good now." Witness advised him to think no more of her and try and lead a different life. He sometime said he would, but at other times he became sullen and would not speak. On Tuesday week when deceased went away he noticed a great change in him. He danced about the hydraulic pressroom and twitched his face about, in a manner witness never saw before, and occasionally he dashed a hook which he held in his hand though the sacks, saying, "I should like to serve her like that." Witness did not speak to him, but he surmised what he meant. As he was such an inoffensive man, witness did not think he would do himself any harm. The knife produced he believed belonged to the deceased, as he saw it when deceased purchased it about eight or nine weeks since. Deceased had been drinking for some time past, and no doubt he would have drunk more had he had the money. On Tuesday night he jumped about making faces while going home with witness, and witness had little doubt that his mind became affected in respect to the woman Richardson, whom he said he had lived with. He had also heard him say he would never die till he had killed her.

The coroner, after hearing this evidence, put it to the jury whether there was any doubt in their minds as to the wound being inflicted by the deceased's own hands.

The Foreman, acting as the spokesman of the jury, said they were quite satisfied that deceased had taken his own life after the explosion.

The evidence of a man in the employ of Messrs. Sharpe, powder manufacturers at Ewell, was then taken. He stated that the quantity stolen was about 25lb., and the deceased must have broken into the outside house of the mills to get it. No one worked at the mills at night and no watch was kept, but all the doors were securely locked. The outside house referred to, where the powder was stolen, adjoined a public way.

The coroner then summed up, and the jury returned a verdict that the deceased stabbed himself while in a state of insanity and died from the injuries.

The jurymen handed the amount of their fees to Mrs. Huggett.

Mr. Spooner, who, it will be remembered, received very severe injuries at the time of the explosion, remains in the same condition, and it is stated that he cannot recover. [20]

The **Outrage at Ewell:** To the Editor of The Times: Sir, We shall feel much obliged if you will allow us to correct the statement made at the inquest, as reported in The Times of yesterday. It is therein stated that no person worked at our mills at night, and that no watch was kept, the fact being that a staff of men are at work all night. The powder was stolen from within a few yards of one of the watch-houses; but the deceased Huggett, being well acquainted with the premises, managed to escape without being detected.

We are, Sir, yours obediently,
SHARP AND CO.
Gunpowder office, 26, Lombard Street, E.C., Jan. 1. [21]

Attempted murder of a PC at Woking

1870 January: Attempted murder of a PC at Woking: At an early hour on Thursday morning one of the men of the Surrey Constabulary on the outskirts of the town in Woking discovered that the Red House Inn situated on the heath had been broken into. Whilst investigating the crime the officer heard cries of murder from a bridge crossing the Basingstoke Canal about 800 yards away. The constable ran to the spot and directed by load groans to the towing-path of the canal where just under the archway to the bridge he found a brother constable covered with blood and almost insensible. The officer was recovered to the Inn where a medical man was called. On recovering consciousness, the officer told of two men he met coming over the bridge whom he challenged. They ran off down the bank and under the bridge chased by the constable. He turned his lantern on the men and was knocked down and beaten about the head by heavy bludgeons. Nothing has been found of the men. [22] [23]

Attempted suicide of a Surrey Constabulary member Hibberd

1870 August 6: Surrey Sessions Newington Causeway: Attempted suicide of a Surrey Constabulary member: William Hibberd who had been about five months in the service of the Surrey Constabulary pleaded guilty of swallowing half an ounce of laudanum with intent to kill and murder himself. He was reported for neglect of duty, and said he had a good deal to drink and committed the offence whilst under the influence. To be detained for 14 days in the common gaol. [24]

[20] The Times, 31 Dec 1869 http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/Outrage.html
[21] The Times, 03 Jan 1870 http://www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk/Outrage.html
[22] Liverpool Mercury 29 January 1870
[23] Western Daily Mail January 29, 1870 1870 February 1 The Star
[24] 1870 August 6: South London Chronicle

Attempted murder Harriett Hurley Walton on Thames

1870 August 13: Surrey Assizes: Attempted murder: Oatlands Park Walton on Thames: James Smallpiece 44, shoemaker was indicted for feloniously cutting and wounding Harriett Hurley with intent, wilfully, to kill and murder her, and on a second count to disable and on a third, with intent to do grievous bodily harm. The prisoner lodged with Hurley, and he attacked her in the kitchen dragging her into her room, seizing her by the throat and knocking her down. He knelt on her with his knee and tried to choke her. He then took a carving knife from a drawer, and she tried to prevent him, and Hurley's hands were cut. Her little boy and girl were screaming by her side and the neighbours came in and found the prisoner lying on the woman on the floor.

PC Charles Driver, Surrey Constabulary who was sent to the house, on the way he met the prisoner his face, hands and body were covered in blood. He was charged and cautioned, and the prisoner said, "I had reasons to do this." He added, "Some people may think I am insane, but I am not." The surgeon was called, and he found Hurley had a deep wound in her throat, several incised wounds on the cheek, on the left shoulder and breast and several across the shoulders. Defence evidence showed that the prisoner suffered from delirium tremens, and this was taken into account when sentencing the prisoner to nine month's imprisonment with hard labour.[25]

Attempted Murder and attempted Suicide – Carrington, Churt

1871 August 26: Attempted Murder and attempted Suicide Farnham: At Churt lived a man and his wife with a great disparity in their social position. The wife had a military lover for about five years. The lover Rodway following the severance of the association took lodgings at the Devils Jumps Inn and wrote two letters. Rodway went to his lover's house knowing the husband was not there and there was an argument with his former mistress. The mistress Mrs Carrington left the room, and, in the hall, she was stabbed several timed by Rodway with a clasp knife. She ran from the house to go to the Inn but being pursued by her attacker she took refuge in a house. After receiving medical treatment, she was taken home and is in a parlous state. Rodway then stabbed himself several time but was well enough to be taken into custody by PC 22 Finch and taken to Farnham police station where he was handed to Superintendent Newland.

In 1872 at Kingston Assizes, Rodway was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment. [26]

[25] 1870 August 13: The Surrey Advertiser and County Gazette
[26] The Lancaster Gazette, and General Advertiser for Lancashire, Westmorland, Yorkshire, &c. (Lancaster, England), Saturday, August 26, 1871; page 3

Murderous assault at Guildford – Ellen Bailey

1871 September 12: Murderous assault at Guildford: George Walker an engine cleaner in the employ of South Western Railway Company was brought up on remand before the mayor and bench full of magistrates at Guildford yesterday charged with the murderous assault on Ellen Bailey at Guildford railway station on the night of 20 August last. The prosecutrix who was now sufficiently recovered to attend and give evidence but who was evidently still suffering from the severe injuries inflicted upon her, stated in substance what had been previously taken from her lips as a dying deposition. She called at the station to enquire of trains to Weybridge and was told there was no train until the next morning. Subsequently the accused accosted her and offered her a trip to Weybridge on his engine. She accepted the offer and accompanied the prisoner to his engine. While on the engine he attempted to take indecent liberties with her, which she successfully resisted and jumped off the engine. The prisoner then turned the hose of the engine on her completely drenching her with water and subsequently threw a stone or ginger beer bottle at her which striking her on the head rendered her insensible. On coming to her senses, she managed to crawl out of the station yard just outside of which she was found by police at an early hour in the morning deluged with blood and utterly unconscious. Medical evidence stated it was a miracle she did not die. The prisoner called two witnesses that the girl was intoxicated at 11pm. Bailed to the next Borough Quarter Sessions. [1]

1871 October 21 West Surrey Times: The murderous assault at the railway station: The Grand Jury after a long investigation occupying nearly three hours returned a true bill against George Walker an engine cleaner for an aggravated assault on Ellen Bailey. The foreman of the jury then presented "All's well" and the Recorder after thanking the grand jury for their services to the borough dismissed them.

The prisoner George Walker was then placed in the dock and the Clerk of the Peace read over the indictment against the prisoner, which contained four counts, grievous bodily harm, attempt to grievously ravish her with beating and ill-treating her and also with common assault. The prisoner pleaded Not Guilty. Mr. George White appeared to prosecute and Mr. Geach for the prisoner, The Common Jury, of which Mr. William Wheeler of Stoke Fields was chosen foreman were then sworn. Mr. George White in a calm and temperate speech opened the case detailing the facts which he should prove in evidence.

The first witness was the prosecutrix Ellen Bailey who deposed: I reside at Chelsea and am now in the Chelsea Union. I am a widow. The reason I am in the Union is that since this affair happened, I have been ill. On Sunday 20 August last I was in Guildford. I got into the town towards evening. I had been haymaking at Harrow-on-the-Hill.

In response to the Recorder: I slept the night before at a public house called the Star. I don't know the name of the place. It was about 15 miles from Guildford.

Examined by Mr. White: I had a female with me. Her name was Emma Jackson. I met her in May at Harrow. She harvested with me. I left her outside the town of Guildford on the roadside about a mile from the town. I expected she would join me and I walked up and down the town waiting for her. I did not meet with her. I then went to the railway station and met two railway porters inside the station. This was after I had been to seek lodgings in the town. I could not find any lodgings. I asked the porters when the next train went to Weybridge. They told me there was no train until after 7 o'clock the next morning. I then left the station and went to the railway Tavern. There I saw two gentlemen. I called for half a pint of beer. The gentlemen were strangers to me. The landlord declined to serve me with the beer saying he thought I had had sufficient. The recorder asked how much beer had you that day? Three half-pints my Lord. I had the beer in Guildford. Beer never hurts me (laughter).After being refused the beer I went outside. I there saw the prisoner, Walker. He came up to me and touched me on the shoulder. He said "You want to go to Weybridge. I will take you on my engine." There were two or three other engine drivers or cleaners with him. The prisoner went into the tavern and brought out a pint of beer. I drank about a wine glass full of it. I then went away with the prisoner to his engine. I went over the bridge, uphill. The engine was on the lines. To get to the engine we went through a gate. A porter was standing there. He was a sandy whiskered man. He had a light in his hand. I don't know the distance the line was from the gate. The Recorder asked, "Has the accident impaired your memory?" It has. The prisoner assisted me on the engine. I remained some time on it. The prisoner behaved very roughly to me. I begged him to let me go. He behaved indecently to me. I saw another man near the engine. Walker asked him to bring some beer and he did so. The prisoner asked me to drink, but I declined. The prisoner jumped off the engine. I saw him stoop and, in an instant, I was deluged with water. I jumped off the engine and endeavoured to cross the line. The prisoner came behind me and pulled me down backwards. He then tried to have connection with me, as wet as I was. I was stronger than he and resisted him. He severely bruised me in his attempts, especially about the thighs. I managed to get up and tried to get out of the station. I saw the prisoner and two other men standing near the engine. Just then I saw the prisoner's right-hand move, and a stone or ginger beer bottle struck me on the left temple. The blow knocked me down senseless. On coming to myself I found that I was covered in blood. I got up and managed to go to a porter who was at the station. I showed him the state I was in. I was covered in blood and soaked to the skin in water. I recollect nothing further until I found myself in the Union infirmary. There were two men in slops with the prisoner when he threw the stone or bottle. Where the prisoner threw me down was on a gravel soil. I recollect it was very hard.

Cross examined by Mr. Geach. I am 36 years of age and have been a widow four years. I was married 17 years last September. I have one child my husband was a bricklayer. I have been queer in my mind. I am sane now. It is two years since I was in Devizes. I decline to answer any further questions on that point.

The Recorder: It is quite evident she is in her right senses now (laughter).

The last time I was in an asylum was at Devizes. Dr Murray Linsey is the medical officer at Hanwelll. It is true that on the 4 May 1871 I left Hanwell on a month's trial and my trial

terminated on the 1st June and I was then discharged. I cannot tell the cause of my lunacy. I never heard that my lunacy was caused by intemperance. My name is Ellen Sarah Bailey. My friends always call me Sarah instead of Ellen. I left Harrow in May. I have not been there since. I followed haymaking and harvest work. For haymaking I got 1s 6d per day. I worked there for farmer Breakes. I then went to Poplar to my sister's. From this time to my reaching Guildford I had not been (?????? Newspaper torn. Included I was told by --- next town to Guildford was Weybridge -----with Emma Jackson for about a week.) I don't know the names of any of the towns I passed through before coming to Guildford. I was quite sober when I went to the railway station. When I went to the Railway Tavern, I was at first refused the half pint of beer I called for. I obtained it afterwards. I don't remember being at any other house that night. I never fell down outside the tavern nor was I worse for liquor. I can't say if the engine was under a shed or on the open line. I remember there was a little hand lamp on the engine. It was a very dark night. I might have been on the engine a quarter of an hour. I saw no steam blowing off, I saw no wall near where I jumped down. I was between ten and eleven o'clock when I got to the station with the prisoner. My dress and underclothes were torn nearly to pieces.

Mr. Geach proceeded with his cross examination. The witness answered most of the questions but said at last addressing Mr. Geach, "I don't wish to insult you, but you ae the most absurd man I ever met with." (Great Laughter)

George Cox deposed: I am a porter at the Guildford railway Station. On Sunday night 28th August I was on duty at the station, at about quarter past ten o'clock I saw the prosecutrix at the station. She made an enquiry of me as to the next time the train went to Weybridge. There was no train that night and I told her so. She stayed until a few minutes before eleven o'clock. I saw her after this in front of the Railway Tavern, this was nearly eleven o'clock. There were two or three men standing there. I did not see the prisoner. I saw the prosecutrix again shortly after twelve o'clock. She was at the back of the engine shed lying on some straw. She asked me if I was the policeman. I replied "No" and asked her what she was doing there. She replied, "I don't know." I then asked her if she was the person who wanted to go to Weybridge. She said she was. I noticed that her clothes were very wet. I did not notice her face. Just afterwards I saw the prisoner Walker come out of the shed and speak to the prosecutrix. I did not hear what he said. At about ten minutes past twelve o'clock I saw the prosecutrix sitting at the end of the engine shed. She came towards the platform to me. I showed her outside of the station gates and shut them after her. The platform was lighted with two gas lamps, but the gas was down to save pressure. When I was showing her from the station, I saw blood on the side of her face. I did not observe that her dress was torn. I did not see her afterwards. He heard no cries.

Cross examined by Mr. Geach: I was the night porter. I was not true that when the prosecutrix enquired for the Weybridge train she left the station directly. She stopped nearly three quarters of an hour. She seemed to me to be tipsy. When she left, she went towards the railway Tavern. I went off duty at seven o'clock the next morning. The platform is about thirty yards from the engine shed. I heard no cries of distress throughout the night. Where the prosecutrix was lying was on a bank raised about three feet from the ground. On getting up she fell down the bank,

or rather pitched on her head on a rough road. There was no water there. She pitched from the bank when on her knees and when in the act of getting up.

The Recorder asked if he noticed whether she was hurt? No I did not. Did you help her up? No, she got up herself. The prisoner Walker when I saw him appeared to be very quiet. He would be there in the discharge of his duties. If the prosecutrix had returned to the station by way of the platform I would have seen her. There was no porter with sandy whiskers on duty that night.

There are some pits in the shed. There are about three feet deep and contain water. The place is dangerous for stranger to be about. Re-examined by Mr. White: There were two porters on duty besides me up to ten minutes to eleven o'clock. There might have been a man at the Farnham Road gate. One of the porters might have gone home that way. The names of the porters are Gibbs and Lovelace. I cannot say how many men were employed in the shed that night. I saw three or four men including Walker engaged about the engine hose. Before the prosecutrix fell I saw she was saturated with water.

By the recorder: The prosecutrix told me that a man in the shed had drenched her with water. I can't say if the hose of water was turned on would make a noise.

Edward Jelly deposed: I am employed as an engine cleaner at the Guildford station. I recollect the night of the 20th August. At about eleven o'clock I saw the prisoner and prosecutrix outside the Railway Tavern. Before this I saw her inside the tavern. Walker, myself, Burgess and Knight were there. The prosecutrix did not speak to us. She called for a glass of beer. The landlord said that she had sufficient and refused to draw it. I afterwards saw her with Walker outside the tavern. They went over the railway bridge together. That road leads to the engine shed. I lost sight of them and I got over the palings and went to the engine shed. This is a nearer way. There were some hose pipes near Walker's engine, which he could turn on as high as the engine. I saw the prosecutrix on Walker's engine. Some man was on the engine with her, but I cannot say who it was. There was no gas that night. I supposed it was Walker. I was in the engine shed all night. I heard no rush of water. I afterwards saw the prosecutrix come by my engine. She looked wet. I had not seen Walker pass. The woman seemed to walk very well. There was an engine blowing off steam, but we could hear one another speak. It kept blowing for a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes. On cross examination by Mr. Geach: I don't know that the Farnham Road is the resort of gay women. I am not a native of Guildford. I know that it was Walker's engine on which the prosecutrix was.

PC Castleman deposed: I was on duty on the night of the 20th August last, in the Farnham Road. At about three minutes past eleven o'clock I saw the prosecutrix in the road. She was in front of the Railway Tavern, sitting on the windowsill. Two young men were standing in front of her. I spoke to them and told them to drink up their beer and leave. I cannot say whether the prisoner was one of them. They all three went away over the railway bridge. One man was walking by the side of the woman the other was a few yards behind. I was on duty after that up to quarter to one o'clock. I passed and repassed the bridge several times but saw nothing of the woman or men nor heard anything. If there had been screaming I should have heard it.

George Burgess gave evidence mostly supporting that already given. he saw the woman on Walker's footplate and told her to be off or he would have her locked up. I left the Railway Tavern with Walker about fifteen minutes behind the lady and we both saw her on the platform when she asked the train time for Weybridge. After I saw her on the footplate, I saw her on some straw at the back of the engine shed. Walker was standing about six yards from her. Under cross examination he added that the women when in the tavern appeared tipsy. I was at work until seven o'clock the next morning. If there had been any cries or screams in the shed, I would have heard them. I never heard any steam blowing off. Walker's fire had been out for three hours. When I saw the woman on the straw she was singing "Maggie May" and "Bryan of the Moor." (Laughter) Walker appeared to be listening.

PC Watts deposed: On Monday morning he 21st August I was on duty in the Farnham Road at about quarter to two o'clock. I saw the prosecutrix lying on the doorstep of The Castle beerhouse. She was lying on her right side. Her head was on the doorstep. She was making a moaning noise and saying, "Oh the brutes". This she repeated several times.

She appeared to be in a stupor. I lifted her up and took her to the police station. Her clothes were very wet, being completely saturated. Her face was wet and covered on the left side with blood. I noticed a starred wound on her temple. I later went to the railway station where I saw Walker and asked him if he had seen a woman at or about the engine shed during the night or had anything to do with a woman. He replied, "No I have not." In a minute or two afterwards he was speaking to the witness Burgess, the prisoner came to where I was standing and Burgess said to him, "I saw a woman on your engine." The prisoner replied, "Well I did see a woman about here and was talking to her at the end of the shed, but I never saw he on my engine."

Mr. Richard Egan deposed: I am house surgeon to the Union. On the morning 21 August at about eleven o'clock I saw the prosecutrix at the infirmary. She was brought by the police. Mentally she was in a confused state and delirious. She was cold, very much exhausted and her clothing was saturated with water. I had her undressed and placed in a warm bed. On examination I found that she had a series of three wounds on her temple, constituting a kind of starred wound. The wound might have been caused by a blow from some blunt instrument. By the Recorder: It might have been caused by something thrown. I should not think that a fall except from a great height would cause the wound. The doctor continued: The hair was matted together partly from blood and partly from the wetting. I examined the wound. I found there was a fracture of the skull extending through the bone from half to three-quarters of an inch. The detached portion was forced down on the membrane of the brain. ```I considered the women to be in very great danger. I afterwards examined her body as she complained of tenderness and soreness. I found bruises- extensive ones – on both arms, both above and below the elbows; a bruise under the left breast of an extensive character; there was also a bruise on the outside of the left thigh; on the inside of both thighs near the private parts, were very extensive bruises. I should say that she had been subjected to very considerable violence. The bruises on the arms could not have resulted from a fall. The bruises on the outside of the thighs might have been caused by a fall. Those on the inside could not have been produced by a fall unless a person fell astraddle as it were, violently. The wound on the temple could only be

produced by a fall from a considerable height. A fall of three or four feet could not have produced such a fracture.

Cross examined by Mr. Geach: To produce such a fracture a fall must have a considerable momentum. It is possible a person falling headlong against a doorstep might fracture the skull. I can fix the age of the bruises on the prosecutrix. They are about three or four days old. The bruises on the arms were circular.

David Vousden deposed: I keep the Railway Arms, Guildford. On the night 20 August he refused to serve the prosecutrix who then turned on customers and blamed them for encouraging him not to serve her. More evidence was given and he was cross -examined but nothing of note added to the evidence.

John Baker deposed that he was the stableman and potman at the Railway Arms where he saw the prosecutrix who was very drunk. He saw a policeman come up and speak to her. She then walked down to Mr. Loe's lime-kilns and fell down after a few steps. She got up and fell down a second time. Under cross examination Baker admitted to drinking significant quantities with a gallon of beer making him drunk. He had drunk two quarts todays. (Four pints)

Mr. Green in summing up said that the prosecutrix evidence was unreliable and totally uncorroborated. She was labouring under hallucinations due to the lunacy from which she had suffered. The injuries she had sustained he submitted might have been caused by falls while in a state of drunken excitement.

Mr. White argued that the prosecutrix had been corroborated and the evidence fixed the prisoner as the poor woman's assailant.

The Recorder in summing up, pointed out it was competent for the jury to convict on all or any of the counts on the indictment. The women's statements were consistent throughout and all the fellow workmen of the prisoner were evidently unwilling witnesses, yet in the main they corroborated the evidence of the prosecutrix. The learned Recorder then adverted to the medical evidence and pointed out the bruises inside the thighs must have been the result of great violence offered to the prosecutrix. As to the identity the evidence of the poor woman was decisive.

Mr. Geach: Pardon me, your Honour; the prisoner was brought to her bedside alone and identified. He was not picked out from a number. The Recorder then recalled the prosecutrix and she said that she told Mr. Eagan the medical man, before the prisoner was brought to her bedside that she could identify him by a port wine mark on his face. Mr. Eagan said that he remembered the statement being made to him very distinctly.

The Recorder continuing his summing up said that jury could not fail he thought, from the evidence to convict the prisoner on one or other of the counts. If however, they had any doubts they were bound to give the prisoner the benefit of those doubts. The jury after a short

consultation were unable to agree and they were placed in the sworn charge of the usher and locked up. In about twenty minutes they returned to the court.

The Clerk of the Peace: Gentlemen how say you; is the prisoner George Walker Guilty or Not Guilty? The foreman, Not Guilty. And is that the verdict of you all on all the counts of the indictment? Yes.

The scene that ensued beggars description and for disgracefulness has perhaps never been exceeded in a court of justice. The loudest cheering and hurrahs were given; men waved their hats, women their handkerchiefs, and the cheers were taken up again and again. The Recorder: I never saw a more disgraceful manifestation of feeling in my life. A man in the immense crowd which filled the court here called for three cheers for the jury. These were given with wild enthusiasm and the prisoner when he left the dock appeared to be born out of court in a kind of triumphal manner.

1871 October 21: West Surrey Times Letter to the Editor (edited): The next case was that of the prisoner charged with the murderous assault upon the women Ellen Bailey at the railway station. The case, judging from the immense number of persons who crowded the court from the floor to the ceiling was regarded as a sensational one, and consequently the usual popular honours were accorded to it. The grand jury occupied nearly three hours in finding a true bill and it was evident form the unconscionable consumption of time that they tried the case right through. This elaborate painstakingness was however quite gratuitous as the evidence of the prosecutrix herself should have been quite sufficient to have enabled the jury to have returned a true bill. After the true bill was found came the formality of swearing the common jury and the prisoner was put on his trial. It is not for me to comment on the evidence adduced, suffice it to say that both the recorder and the jury during the protracted period the case occupied gave the utmost attention to it. Mr. White conducted the case with moderation and ability. Mr. Geach defended the prisoner with persistent zeal, skill and tact which were deserving of all praise. I cannot say I agree with the verdict of the jury, but for this verdict the prosecutrix has herself much to blame. In her cross-examination her demeanour was off a character to impress the jury anything but favourably. Admitting that the character of the woman was beyond investigation, yet there cannot be the slightest doubt that she was the victim of a brutal outrage. The jury by their verdict said that the prisoner was not guilty of this outrage and hence he gets his discharge. The verdict, it was easy to see was not that of the Recorder, nor, I venture to say would it have been that of a body of men composed of the Class from which the grand jury is chosen. To the legal skill and forcible advocacy of Mr. Geach, the prisoner owes his acquittal, and I join with the Recorder that his escape may be a lesson to him. The cheering which marked the delivery of the verdict was out of place in a court of justice, and it be well if such manifestations as these are for the reputation of the borough discarded from our local courts of justice.

Suspected murder at Chertsey- child William Best

1873 May 26: Mr Hull the coroner for West Surrey resumed an adjourned inquest at the Sun Inn, Chertsey touching the death of a boy about seven, found in a ditch with his hands and feet tied, on the night of Thursday week. Dr Eady of Chertsey said he was called to see the body after it had been taken out of the water. He found a few bruises about the neck and both hands and feet were tied. The police stated that they had failed to find out how the child got into the ditch and an open verdict was recorded.[27]

Lloyds Weekly Sunday June 8, 1873: The supposed murder at Chertsey: On Wednesday at the Chertsey petty sessions Avis Jane Best aged 24 a good-looking woman, residing at Charlotte-street, Portman Square. London was charged with the wilful murder of William Best aged seven whose body was found on the 26th May. Superintendent Bungard of Chertsey said "On the 29th ult., the prisoner was brought to the police station. I visited her in the cells as usual when she said she wished to make a statement. I said whatever she said must be taken down in writing as it might be used as evidence against her. She replied that it was what she wished done. She consequently made the statement as follows: "On Monday the 19th ult., I left Waterloo station at 6.10pm for Weybridge station. I mistook my road and went beyond St George's Hills. When I returned to Weybridge station it was getting dark. I met a young woman and asked her road to Addlestone. She told me I had better ride, as it was too far to walk. I did not ride but walked through Addlestone to Chertsey. I went past Pound Hill to Willow-walk to the top of Colonel's –lane. I told the child to take his clothes off. He did so. I then folded a piece of oil cloth the wrong way outwards, like a shawl, put it over his shoulders, and tied it loosely and tied it with a piece if white tape to stop it falling off. I then pointed to the water with my finger. The child walked down the bank and one foot went in the water and he fell face downwards in the water. I put my hands out to try and reach hold of him but could not as he went too far beyond the trees. He kicked three or four times. I cannot say which. He was then quiet. I did not see him sink. He appeared to me to lay on his face ion the top of the water. I did not strike him or hurt him in any way before he went into the water. He had a scar on the left cheek close to the ear. I told him before we left London what he was to do. My reason for doing so was because no one would take care of him, he was so dirty in his habits. I gave him plenty of food. I was told by my sister-in-law and other persons that I gave him too much. I did not go to my mother's on the 19th ult. and have not seen my mother in Chertsey for three years. Signed: Avis Best" The prisoner was committed for trial [28]

Murder Ash by Henry Ayres of Isabella Croucher

1874 Murder Ash: Henry Ayres A travelling hawker was at Guildford Police Station charged with the **murder of Isabella Croucher** a woman who he had cohabited with for a number of years. Croucher had been hawking in Ash before returning to the caravan she shared with

[27] The Morning Post Friday May 30, 1873
[28] 1873 May 30: The Morning Post Friday

Ayres, when he ordered her to get some tea. There was an argument and a neighbour came and found Croucher insensible. The police were called and PC Kayes of the Surrey Constabulary attended before going to Aldershot to get a doctor returning to Ash Common where the woman was declared to be dead. PC Kayes arrested Ayres and took him to Guildford police station. When remanded Ayres said the woman fell over the shafts of the van and was killed.[29] [30] [31] [32]

1874 November 30 Winter Assizes: Kingston Winter Assizes: Henry Ayres 46-year-old labourer was indicted for the wilful murder of Arabella Crutcher of Ash in this county. The prisoner and the deceased were half-blooded gipsies travelling to fairs and from place to place in vans. On the 30 September there was an encampment of vans and tents at Ash Common. The deceased women had been absent from 8 in the morning till nearly five in the evening and the prisoner it was alleged, over quarrelling with her for being so long away struck her down with a long stick such as used by the gipsies for cocoanut and by which her death was caused. The jury convicted of manslaughter and was sentenced to five years penal servitude.[33]

Attempted murder of a Surrey farmer - Greenaway

1875 August 16: Attempted murder of a Surrey farmer: On Thursday night the 12 instant Mr Greenaway a farmer residing near **Haslemere** was driving home from market, he was alarmed when in a dark part of the road near his residence by the report of a pistol. He heard the **bullet whizz past his ear** followed almost immediately by a second shot which appeared to come from the hedge and the next moment his horse dropped dead in the shafts. Mr Greenaway jumped from the cart and ran in the darkness to his house where afraid again to venture out he waited until the morning when he communicated with the police. The cart and the dead horse were found on the roadway neither having been disturbed. Further investigation led to the discovery of foot tracks, which were traced to a cottage tenanted by two brothers named Bartholomew. On the cottage being searched a large horse pistol and some shots and wadding were found. Both men were taken into custody. It is said that a feeling of enmity has for some time past existed on the part of the Bartholomews against Mr Greenaway.[34] This case is almost certainly in Hampshire and dealt with by Alton court.

From Dr Clifford Williams Hants Police historian 31 October 2023: We had a William Cheyney served 1855-1882- quite likely the Supt mentioned. The case was in Headley (just inside Hampshire).I see the defendants were acquitted at a retrial.

[29] 1874 October 2: Sheffield and Rotherham Independent
[30] 1874 October 10: Royal Cornwall Gazette
[31] 1874 October 2: Sheffield and Rotherham Independent
[32] 1874 October 2 Edinburgh Evening News
[33] 1874 November 30 Evening Mail
[34] 1875 16 August Liverpool Mercury

Charge of murder in Surrey at Edenbridge of Budgen by Shee

1876 August 12: Charge of murder at Edenbridge: At the Tonbridge Police Court on Wednesday a tall, powerfully built Irishman aged 35 giving the name of John Shee of Bristol was charged with killing and murdering John Budgen a travelling hawker of Marsh Green the previous night. The prisoner and the deceased were drinking in the Wheat Sheaf at Marsh Green, leaving at 10 pm and walking along the road together. A man happened to be on the road at the same time and he saw the deceased strike the deceased under the fleshy part of the left leg with a bagging hook. He saw the deceased fall and the prisoner make off. He died before medical assistance could be obtained. Information was at once given to the police and Superintendent Dance soon got the wires to work and sent intelligence in every direction. Early in the morning the prisoner was found secreted in a field, taken to Edenbridge and handed to **Inspector Manning of the Surrey Constabulary**. **Instructing-Constable** [35] Millen conveyed the prisoner to Tonbridge. He was remanded.[36]

1876 November 20: John S, (35) **murder,** of John Budgen **Lingfield.** Central Criminal Court: **Thomas Beckett.** They stopped at the corner of Grayberry Lane. I saw them standing and talking together and could hear that they were talking but was not close enough to hear their conversation. I got about 3 rods from them[37]; I did not hear any quarrelling. I saw the prisoner take this bagging hook (*produced*) in his hand and strike John Budgen on the back of the left leg; they were standing facing each other. It was a very moonlight night, and I could see very clearly. I saw the bagging hook in the prisoner's hand before he raised it over his head; I cannot tell you in what position he was carrying it till he brought it over his head; I did not see it till it was over his head and I cannot say whether he stood with it on his arm or by his side. I was not looking at them all the while, but I had seen nothing done by the prisoner until I saw the bagging hook over his head; when he had struck the blow Budgen fell on his back at the end of the lane and called "Murder!" three times. He said "Oh, my life is taken away, murder!" and I never heard him speak afterwards.

The prisoner walked away a short distance and then he ran in the direction of Dorman's Land. He did not attempt to render any assistance, nor did he offer any explanation, so far as I heard he said nothing. I helped the deceased and called "John "two or three times, but he made no reply, and I believe he was dead. I knelt by his side to see whether I could hear him breathe, but I could not. I then saw and heard blood flowing from his leg. I called Phyllis Palmer she was in advance 6 or 7 rods up Grayberry Lane; she left them talking; she came back to me. I did not find the hay band by the deceased, nor did I see any more of the hook that night. Phyllis Palmer followed the prisoner along Dorman's Land Road about 150 yards, and she ultimately came back to the 'dead man this (*produced*) is the same description of hay band, but this is not the one.

[35] Not sure what this means
[36] 1876 August 12 Hastings and St Leonards Observer:
[37] A rod = 5.0292 metres

Richard Dance (Police Sergeant). I know the whole of this ground and have measured it. This plan (produced) represents accurately the spot where this took place, the Wheat Sheaf, and Grayberry Lane and the place where the man was found. This is the first time I have seen the plan, but I understand it.

George Manning: I am an inspector of the Surrey Constabulary. On 9th August about 5.30 am I received a communication, and about 12 o'clock I went to the Wheat Sheaf. I had heard of Budgen's death the night previous—the prisoner was there in the custody of a number of private individuals. I cautioned him and told him he would be charged with the wilful murder of John Budgen; he said "I know nothing whatever of the matter, and never saw the man;" he made use of some very bad language. I was with Millen at Edenbridge station when the hook was produced; the prisoner said "That is my hook" we were examining it' this is it. *Cross-examined:* I do not think I have made any mistake; I will not be positively sure that the prisoner's words were not "I know nothing of the man, I have not seen him, I know nothing whatever of him." I think I have the exact words in my pocketbook, and I made a memorandum afterwards. I did not say before the Magistrate "The prisoner said I know nothing of it policeman, I have not seen him, I know nothing whatever of him" there is a mistake in one word; it should be "I know nothing of the matter." He said, "I have not seen the man. I have not got my pocketbook here, but this is a copy I made. The prisoner was not drunk when I took him, but 1 should imagine he had been drinking very heavily. This is my signature to my deposition. I was examined on oath; it was read over to me after it was written, and I was asked to listen to see if it was accurate, I said yes, and signed it.

William Jenner: I am a labourer of Marsh. Green, near Edenbridge on 8th August, I was drinking in front of the Wheat Sheaf; I saw the deceased and the prisoner there. I heard a cry of "Murder," got some information, and went to the spot where the man was felled. I got a light to see if he was really dead, and then went in search of the prisoner. I was at the Wheat Sheaf at 9.15 and left at a few minutes before 10 o'clock. I found the prisoner on the borders of Surrey, just over the stream, lying down by the side of the path; I was attracted by a sound. He appeared to be asleep. I called to him but got no answer and called again, and he said, "What are you up to?" I went to him and took hold of him and told him he had caused the death of another man. He said, "I know nothing about it. I told him I was sorry for him, one of the men with us asked him for his hook; he said "Hook, I have no hook" Eddings was round on the other side of him and picked up the hook. I saw him pick it up. I told the prisoner he must go along with me; he said "All right, I will go "the hay band was not on the hook then. I took him to the Wheat Sheaf; he went very quietly while I had got hold of him. I was there when a man named Russell was there.

The Prisoner's Statement before the Magistrate: "The deceased wanted me to lay up for the night along with him; we went up the road Dorman's' Land way. The deceased asked me in Hindustani whether I could go through the seven cuts and points of the sword exercise. We had both been in the Army. I made the upper cut. Whether he fell on the hook or whether I cut him I don't know. We were very quiet; we had no words or nothing." Guilty of Manslaughter: one week's imprisonment

Police Constable John Veal charged with drunkenness.

1876 December 16: Aldershot Military Gazette: Farnham Police Court: A Police Constable charged with drunkenness. John Veal of the Surrey Constabulary was brought on remand with being drunk and unfit for duty on the night of Saturday 2nd- Mr Eve, solicitor, Aldershot, appeared for the defence. Evidence was given to the effect the defendant was drunk at the White Horse Inn at 7.15pm on the night in question. Superintendent Hibberd later saw him in the "Jolly Sailor" and called him out, he was then very drunk.

After evidence on behalf of the prosecutor, Mr Eve called evidence to show the defendant was not drunk and had been seen by several persons quite sober. Mr Eve in a long and able speech for the defence reviewed the evidence called by Superintendent Hibberd and strongly contended that the defendant had not been drunk. The magistrates, after consultation decided to fine the defendant 7s 6d but would not inflict costs. They also expressed their intention to use their influence with the chief constable to get Veal taken into the force again on account of his previous good conduct.

Agricultural disturbance Butter Hill, Dorking

1877 June 26: On Saturday evening a meeting in connection with the Agricultural Labourers' Union was held at Butter Hill to gain members. The delegates, two or three in number were accompanied by 4 or 5 fellows dressed in the garb of agricultural labourers were there as bodyguards. A crowd of one or two hundred gathered and the chairman gave a pitch, which was ridiculously absurd. Groans and hisses form the crowd brought the meeting to an end followed by the crowd escorting the delegates to the railways station amongst considerable disturbance and uproar. Having missed the train, the delegates had to retrace their steps so they could go towards Westcott under storm and ridicule.[38]

Burglary Sutton Place

1877 June 30: Attempted jewel Robbery Sutton Place, Guildford: At an early hour on Saturday morning a daring attempt was made to effect an extensive robbery of plate and jewellery at the historic mansion of Sutton Place near Guildford, the seat of Captain Harrison. It appears that shortly before two o'clock **PC Woodgate** of the Surrey Constabulary was passing through the grounds of the mansion when 20 yards away, his attention was attracted by the flickering of a bulls-eye lantern in one of the lower rooms. The constable crept noiselessly to the back of the house when he found that an entrance had been obtained by the removal of a pane of glass and the subsequent boring of the shutters. The constable entered by the window and with the aid of his lantern made his way to the hall. Here he found two men whose faces were hidden by crape masks. He endeavoured to seize one of the men, but the presentation and the unpleasant click of a revolver caused him to draw back. The two burglars then made off through the open

[38] 1877 June 26: The Sussex Express, Surrey Standard Weald of Kent Mail, Hants and County Advertiser

window and into the darkness. The constable sprang his rattle and succeeded in arousing the butler and the occupier of the house. A search was then made and when it was found that the plate chest had been entirely cleared out and the contents packed for removal. A jewel case, the contents of which are of great value, had been removed from an upper room. It was found intact lying beside the plate package. The unexpected entrance of the constable prevented what would have been a robbery of articles of the value of thousands of pounds.

Although the burglars were not seen the police have obtained a clue, two suspicious looking men having been seen near Woking station and they are believed to be hiding somewhere in the neighbourhood. An active search is being made under Deputy Chief Constable Barker. At an earlier period between Friday night and Saturday morning an attempt was made to break into a house at Send not far distant from Sutton, but here the burglar's designs were frustrated by the movement of an inmate, and they decamped, leaving a jemmy behind.[39] [40]

Burglaries in Surrey

1877 July 6: At a meeting of Surrey Magistrates held on Tuesday at the Sessions-house, Newington-causeway, reference was made to burglaries committed in the lower part of the county beyond Guildford. Captain Hastings the Chief Constable of Surrey in his report for the last quarter showed that 33 crimes were committed, and 32 persons apprehended. Of the persons apprehended 27 were committed for trial and five discharged. The number of persons charged with offences punishable summarily by Justices was 443 of whom 369 were summarily convicted and 74 discharged. Mr Godwin Austin suggested in consequences of the recent burglaries that the force of police should be increased. In answer to the Court the Chief Constable thought that a dozen additional constables would render the force more efficient. Mr Hardman was of opinion that the matter should be referred to the Committee to consider what means should be adopted to render the force efficient for the protection of the public. The latter suggestion was adopted.[41]

Burglary Betchworth

1878 Saturday March 9: A remarkable robber of jewels of great value was effected on Wednesday night from the house of Sir Benjamin Brodie in Surrey. The modus operandi of the thieves has not been described, but we may suppose that they went to work in the usual simple way. Jewel robbery in Surrey is not a complicated art. The thief has only to place a ladder against the wall when the family is at dinner or at evening prayers, walk in, pocket the object of his search, and walk composedly out again. So far there is nothing singular, we may presume, about the robbery of jewels from Broome Hall. Nor is there anything extraordinary in the fact that the robbery was "immediately discovered." It generally is immediately discovered. And yet this robbery is a very remarkable one. For not only did the inmates of the house immediately

[39] 1877 June 30: Cambridge Independent Press
[40] 1877 June 26: The Sussex Express, Surrey Standard Weald of Kent Mail, Hants and County Advertiser
[41] Evening Mail (London) 06 July 1877

become aware of the loss, but the alarm being given to the police, the robber was apprehended with the whole of the stolen property in his possession. The intelligent officers went to the nearest railways station and caught the bold burglar quietly taking his ticket for the metropolis. He was no doubt greatly surprised to find the order and regularity of his proceedings interrupted in this way, but it will be a lesson to him and his comrades in future not to presume too much upon the forbearance of an intelligent constabulary[42]

1878 Burglary Betchworth: A jewel robbery of great value was effected at Broome Hall, Betchworth the seat of Sir Benjamin Brodie. The robbery was almost immediately discovered, and information was given to all stations of the Surrey Constabulary in the district. Constables were at once despatched to watch the railway stations with the result that at the Leatherhead station a man who gave the name Wilson was apprehended. On his being searched the whole of the stolen jewellery was found upon him. There have been numerous jewel robberies in the district but hitherto the thieves have escaped detection. At the Surrey Sessions Thomas Morton 40, who said he was a bricklayer, was indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling house of Charles Dobson, Broom Park near Dorking and stealing a dressing case, a jewel case, a workbox and a large quantity of jewellery. He was also indicted for maliciously wounding **Caleb Tugwell** one of the Surrey Constabulary when he apprehended him. The prisoner pleaded guilty to both charges.

The robbery occurred by means of a ladder while Mr Dobson was at dinner with his family. A dressing case and two boxes with a quantity of jewellery were missed and Mr Dobson sent messages to Reigate and Dorking to give information. PC Tugwell went to the South Western line and heard a man had taken two tickets for Waterloo. He saw two men getting into a third-class carriage and on making towards them they escaped. He called out "Stop thief" and ran round in front of the engine and saw a person running towards the steps. When PC Tugwell got to the waiting room someone called out that a man was under a bench and he found the prisoner lying flat on the floor. Tugwell pulled him out and told him he would be charged with committing a robbery at Mr Dobson's house. The prisoner shifted about and as Tugwell went to grasp hold of him he received a violent blow to the side of the head. A desperate struggle ensued and the officer was severely wounded with a loaded cane or life preserver, which was produced, and he bled very freely.

Assistance was rendered and the prisoner handcuffed. When searched it was found that the prisoner had on him six gold rings, a pair of gold spectacles and other articles identified by Mr Dobson. The prisoner also had a jemmy on him, a putty knife, a wax taper and a gimlet. **Gray**, an inspector of the constabulary force on the following morning found some little children playing with a dressing case and two boxes which they had found in a meadow between Dorking and Mickleham. Before passing sentence Mr Hardman called up PC Tugwell and after a warm eulogism for his gallant conduct he would receive £5 the highest reward the court could make. The learned chairman likewise commended the railway porter Wright for his assistance and allowed him £3. Mr Dobson had in addition presented Tugwell with £5 and Wright £2 for

[42] The Examiner (London, England), Saturday, March 9, 1878

their praiseworthy conduct. The sentence was fourteen years penal servitude the longest period the court could give.[43]

Shooting at a constable in Godalming

1878 May 31: Surrey Assizes, James Harding 31 a labourer shooting at PC Frank Scatterfield with a revolver with intent to do him greviosu bodily harm. At half past one o'clock in the morning the officer and another constable were on duty in Godalming as they were passing a meadow seperated from the high road by a wall they heard a noise and the prisoner jumped over the wall without his hat. On being asked what he was up to said he was looking for his hat. The officer said he was gong to take him into custody at which point the prisoner produced a five chamber revolver from his pocket and discharged three of the barrels at the constable before he could be secured. There was a small charge in the barrel and the shot was stopped by the clothing ensuring the officer did not sustain any injury. The prisoner was taken to Guildford where he was seen by the deputy chief constable (Mr Barker) and told he would be charged he said " Yes, and I would shoot anyone who interefered with me." Harding found guilty and sentenced to hard labour for 12 months. [44]

1878 June 1: Shooting at Police: On Thursday a determined attempt to kill a constable of the Surrey County police at Godalming was made. The constable was pursuing a man named Harding when he turned and fired a revolver at him three times injuring him severely. Harding was apprehended. [45]

Murder: In a lime pit close to Farnham

1878 July 15: Murder: In a lime pit close to **Farnham** Obed Usher a pensioner of the Army Service Corps employed as a lime burner. He **murdered his daughter** aged twelve in a dispute over food and drink she had brought to him. He hit her with a ten-pound hammer on the head. He then went into Farnham and where he saw a police constable and admitted to the murder. The girl was found unconscious but died in the Union Workhouse.[46]

1878 July 27: Murder at Farnham Usher: The Shocking Murder at Farnham: At Guildford Assize on Thursday Obed Usher 41, a labourer was charged with murder of his daughter Ellen 12 years by smashing her head with a hammer. Thomas Barber a constable with the Surrey Constabulary stationed at Farnham said he was on duty in a street called the Borough about 11 o'clock in the morning of the 13th instant and met the prisoner. He came up to him and said "Here policeman, I've got a job for you. Lock me up I am a murderer." Witness asked whom he had murdered, and he replied "My own child. I knocked her down with a hammer and killed her. You will find her dead body up at Mr Duke and Fowler's lime kilns." He added, "You will find the body close to the furnace." Witness asked him if he knew what he was talking about

[43] The Bristol Mercury and Daily Post Friday March 22 1878
[44] Reynolds News 5 August 1869
[45] 1878 June 1: Birmingham Daily Post Saturday
[46] 1878 July 15: The Times

and if he was in his right senses. The prisoner replied, "If you do not believe me, look at this." He held up his right arm and pointed to some blood on his wrist. Witness asked him how this blood came there, and the prisoner answered, "When I struck my child with the hammer the blood spurted out onto my wrist." Witness asked him what he did with the hammer and the prisoner said he would find it at the limekiln close to the dead body. The prisoner was locked up and the witness went to the limekilns described by the prisoner and found the deceased lying as he had described over the furnace on her back quite straight and her head in a pool of blood. She was alive but could not speak. Witness lifted her head and saw a large wound on the right temple from which the blood was flowing freely. The child afterwards died. The plea of insanity was set up in defence but the jury having deliberated for about 20 minutes found the prisoner guilty of murder but strongly recommended him to mercy. Mr Justice Mellor sentenced the prisoner to death in the normal form. [47]

1878 July 26: Trial Farnham murder: For the defence Dr Blatherwick, deputy surgeon-general to the army, was called as a witness, and he proved that from 1872 to 1874, the prisoner was employed in the Hospital Corps, being formerly for many years in the army, and served one year in the Crimea and five years in the East Indies. His wife died in 1871 and this event appeared to have a great effect upon the prisoner. In 1872 he broke from the ranks at Portsmouth and threw himself on the rails in order to commit suicide and it was only with great difficulty his life was saved. At this time, he was he was reported as being in a wild and maniacal state. This passed off and he was then in a state of extreme mental depression and had various delusions one of which was that his dead wife and his children were near him and calling for food and he refused to take his own food requesting that it may be given to them. In 1874 he absented himself for duty for three days and was found in the churchyard by the grave of his wife, and he attempted suicide by cutting his throat the wound being a most severe one. [48]

1878 August 3 The Farnham Murder: It was shown that Usher was an old soldier and had served both in the Crimea and India, had since 1871 been subject to various hallucinations and had made two attempts on his own life. In 1874 having apparently recovered his senses he was discharged with a pension and since then has appeared to lead a quiet and respectable life working at a limekiln and exhibiting great affection for his motherless children. Mr Justice Mellor explained the legal meaning of insanity, that it could only be admitted in the case of a person who at the moment of committing the crime was incapable of judging whether the action was right or wrong, and perfectly indifferent to its consequences. The jury could not think that usher was in such a mental condition as this and the judge said of the recommendation for mercy that he would be happy if the Home Secretary acted upon this. [49]

1878 August 9: The Farnham Murder: A respite during Her Majesty's pleasure has been granted to Obed Usher who was convicted at the recent Surrey Assizes at Guildford before Mr

[47] The Bristol Mercury and Daily Post (Bristol, England), Saturday, July 27, 1878
[48] The Morning Post (London, England), Friday, July 26, 1878
[49] The Graphic (London, England), Saturday, August 3, 1878; Issue 453.

Justice Mellor, of the murder of his daughter a child eleven years of age, by smashing her skull with a heavy coal hammer.[50]

1878 August 3: Numerous newspapers: Shocking child murder at Farnham - The man, Obed Usher, who killed his little daughter, Ellen aged 12 years by striking her on the head with a hammer because she refused to fetch him more beer, has been sentenced to death. The case peculiarly painful in itself, is rendered doubly interesting on account of the defence set up, which was that of insanity. It was shown Usher who was an old soldier, and had served both in the Crimea and India, had since 1871 been subject to various hallucinations and had made two attempts upon his life. In 1874, having apparently recovered his senses, he was discharged with a pension and since then appears to have led a quiet respectable working at a lime kiln and exhibiting great affection for his motherless children. Immediately after committing the murder, he gave himself up to the police. The prisoner saying to Superintendent Hibberd "I done the deed and I'll suffer like a man, hang me at once. I asked her to get me some beer from the Duke of Cambridge Public House, but she would not. I flew into a passion and struck her with a large hammer head. I am very sorry for it. God rest her soul." Mr Justice Mellor explained the meaning of insanity – viz, that it could only be admitted in a case of a person who at the moment of committing a crime was incapable of judging whether the action was right or wrong, and perfectly indifferent as to its consequences. The jury could not think Usher was in such a mental condition as this, but they appended their verdict to 'guilty' with a recommendation to mercy, which was hoped would be acted on by the Home Secretary. Obed Usher was respited on the grounds of insanity and removed to Parkhurst Prison, where he was considered sane.

Robbery and attempted murder

1878 August 7: Robbery Guildford: John Baker and William Tyrell two powerful young men both privates in the 2nd Queens stationed at the Guildford barracks were charged with **robbery and attempted murder of James Bailey.** On the previous Wednesday evening just before 10 o'clock the complainant was walking along London Road towards his home in Guildford. In a dark and lonely spot two men approached the victim and demanded his watch and money. He said he had none and was struck a tremendous blow to the face between the eyes. He fell to the ground and was then dragged into a ditch. One of the men held a blade from a knife over him and threatened to cut his throat, followed by a threat to stab him. The victim pleaded for his life as they searched his pockets. He was then kicked by both men, which caused him great pain. After they left the victim crawled from the ditch and found the police. The victim could not identify the men, but police found two shoulder straps, which were proved to belong to the prisoners who were shown to be absent overnight from the barracks. Baker had said to the sergeant of the guard "We turned up a man last night on the road and took his purse." Both men were committed for trial.

[50] The Leeds Mercury (Leeds, England), Friday, August 9, 1878; Issue 12584

The prisoners were then charged with a **murderous assault on a constable** on the morning following the robbery. The men were seen passing through a village about three miles from Guildford when they were stopped by a constable and asked for their passes. They replied by knocking him down and brutally kicking him. The **constable was rendered insensible and badly injured.** They were committed for trial on this charge also.[51]

Chaldon: Servant Girl Shot by a Boy

1878 possibly, maybe August: murder: On Tuesday at the **Reigate Borough Petty Sessions**: Albert Evans aged 16 was charged with causing the death of Annie Saunders aged about 19 by **shooting her with a gun.** The deceased was a domestic servant in a farmhouse in Chaldon near Reigate. On Sunday PC Biddlecombe, Surrey Constabulary received information that she had been shot by the prisoner her lover. On going to the farmhouse, he found her dead body on the floor. There was a gunshot wound on the forehead. The constable afterwards apprehended the prisoner who said it was an accident. He was remanded. [52]

1878 August 16: Croydon Advertiser and East Surrey Reporter: **Chaldon: Servant Girl Shot by a Boy:** On Monday Evans a simple looking country lad aged 16 was taken before Reigate Magistrates Clerk's office charged with causing the death of Annie Saunders a girl aged 21 on the previous day at Chaldon. PC Alfred Biddlecombe stationed at Merstham deposed that at quarter past two on Sunday afternoon he was called to Tolesworth Farm, Chaldon where a girl had been shot. He attended and found the body of Annie Saunders lying on the floor of the kitchen where the gun was lying. The girl was quite dead. She appeared to have died from a gunshot wound to her forehead. Her brains were scattered about the room. The prisoner and the deceased had been at the house, she was trying on his hat. The prisoner saw the gun hanging up. He took it down and pulled the trigger when the gun went off hurting his arm. He saw the girl lying there and he ran home. Colonel Goulbourn the magistrate remarked that he could not understand how the shot had gone through the girl's forehead unless the gun had been presented at her. The constable said he could only repeat what the prisoner told him/ There was a very large wound. The prisoner said he was holding the gun in a slanting position and the deceased was looking at him. The gun went off. He saw no cap on the gun. Remanded in custody.

Burglary and Clever Capture at Shalford

1878 October 5 Surrey Advertiser: The event took place Monday about midnight at the residence of Mrs Tytler and the Misses Blagrave. Shortly before 1 o'clock a sound was heard in the house, but nothing was done and the following morning a broken window was found and several rooms had been ransacked. **PC Turner Edgeler** who is stationed at Shalford and who is both an intelligent and respected member of the force was on duty in the Guildford Road

[51] The Times Monday Aug 12 1878
[52] 1878 possibly, maybe August Chelmsford newspaper PC Biddlecombe Reigate

between two and three o'clock in the morning when he heard footsteps approaching and listening for a moment, found that the person stopped as though hesitating whether to proceed or to go back. Upon this the officer quietly slipped into Shalford Park and there patiently bided his time. He had not long to wait until the footsteps were again heard and Edgeler emerged from the park and confronted what proved to be a soldier belonging to the 2nd Queen's stationed at Stoughton Barracks. The soldier admitted he had no pass and was found in possession of ladies clothing and was taken into custody by PC Edgeler The property was identified later as having come from the burgled premises in Shalford. Much praise is due to PC Edgeler for the vigilance and discretion he displayed in effecting the prisoner's capture.

In connection with the above we may mention that between 12 and one o'clock on Tuesday morning some man went to the house where PC Edgeler lives and knocked at the front door when upon Mrs Edgeler asking what was wanted the fellow replied he wished to know the way to Guildford and was directed accordingly without the door being opened. It is probable that the prisoner or an accomplice was the man who aroused Mrs Edgeler the object being, to find whether the constable was at home or not, and if so, the instruction to follow the straight road was not strictly followed.

Burglary by a soldier

1878 October 9: At the county police court on Saturday a private of the 2nd Regiment of Foot stationed at the barracks, named James Bird, was charged with burglary at the house of Miss Charlotte Blagrove in the Shalford Road during the night of the 30th ult., and stolen a shawl, silk handkerchief, and other articles of clothing. From the evidence given in the case it was proved that the prisoner, who had been cleverly captured with the articles in his possession early the following morning, had entered the house by breaking open one of the spare bedroom windows and ransacked the drawers in the room. He was committed for trial at the ensuing Assizes.[53]

Assault On a Constable by Soldiers

1878 December 7 Surrey Advertiser: Martin Baker and Walter Tyrell privates in the 2nd Queens Regiment were indicted for committing an assault on PC George Boon of the Surrey Constabulary on the 7 August at Guildford. PC Boon stated that on the night of the 7 August he was on duty in the Epsom Road when he met the accused and asked to see their passes. Baker said he would not show his pass and he would rather kill witness than he should apprehend him. The soldiers were told they would not be allowed to proceed without showing passes when Baker struck the constable on the head with a stick. A struggle followed for about a quarter of an hour both men using sticks freely causing blood to flow from his left shin. Baker cut his head open with a blow which stunned the officer and the soldiers made off leaving their

[53] Hampshire Telegraph Wed Oct 9 1878

tunics and caps behind them which were handed to the superintendent at Guildford. The officer was off duty for four days because of his wounds.

PC Turner Edgeler saw PC Boon on the afternoon of the 7 August at Guildford Police Station when he appeared to have been severely beaten and was bleeding from wounds on the head, the hair being matted with blood. He went in search of the prisoners and found them at Stoughton Barracks where he charged them with assaulting PC Boon. Baker said, "he was a good man but a --- fool to try to take the two of us." In the superintendent's office both said, "We plead guilty to this charge but not to the other." (There was a further case before the Quarter Sessions, but details unknown Found not guilty of that charge). At court they complained of the length of time they had been in custody to be told it was their fault as when released on their own recognisances after their trial on a charge of highway robbery with violence they deserted and were afterwards apprehended in London.

Sentenced to three months imprisonment each, with hard labour.

Chertsey Division about 1880

Assaulting a Constable

1878 December 28 Surrey Advertiser: At the County Bench on Saturday Eli Steer was charged with assaulting PC Risbridger. The officer met the defendant at Stoke in company of a young woman who was drunk and disorderly. He took hold of the woman who had fallen into a ditch when the defendant pushed him down. The defendant denied being with the woman or striking the constable. But admitted he might have shoved against him for interfering. (laughter) Fined £1.

Body of a child found in a pond at Leatherhead

1879 May 31: Murder/manslaughter? Early on Friday morning a workman found the lifeless body of a male infant in Sturts Mill Pond. The body was wrapped in calico and a newspaper. Police are investigating but no one has been apprehended. An inquest was opened at the Rising Sun Inn when an open verdict "Found Dead" was returned.[54]

Royal Military Police 1958 Journal

Richard Callaghan BA (Hons) Curator Royal Military Police Museum: While looking back at an old RMP Journal, 1958 first quarter I came across the attached, which lists four former RMPs serving in the Surrey Constabulary. At some point, I hope to have the time to do a global search of the Journal for Surrey men for you.

old soldiers!

C. E. (Carl or "Nick") Carter of the "White Hart" Hotel, Quadring, near Spalding, Lincolnshire, writes to say he would be pleased to hear from any member of 109, 112, or 174 (Ports) Provost Companies, Western Command Headquarters or Camp 18.

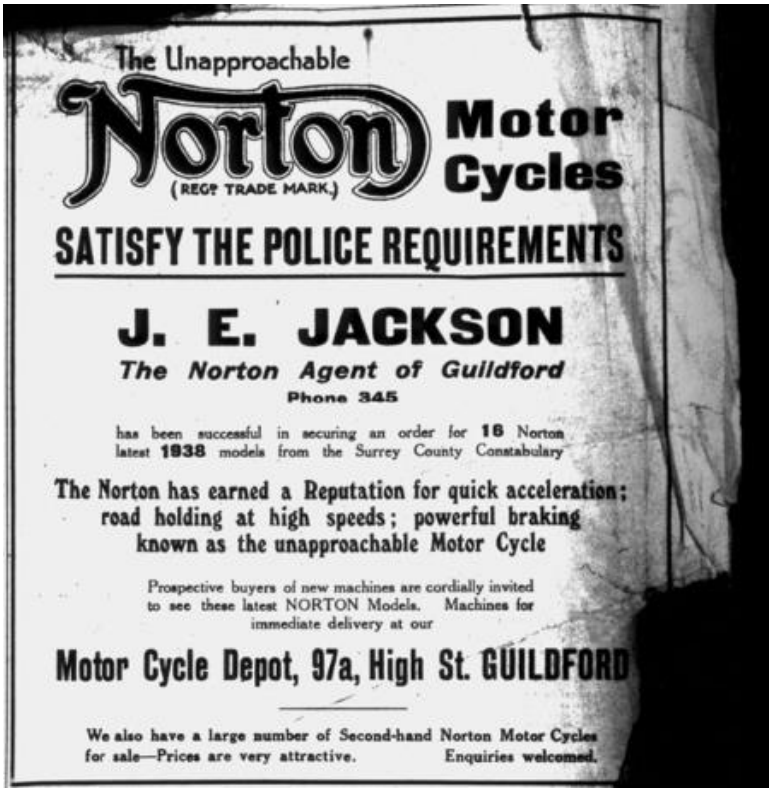
Ex-L./Cpl. Alan Whorton (*Journal* clerk until his release last year) writes that he is settling down well in the Surrey Police and hopes soon to get a police house. A wedding day photograph of him and his wife appears on the centre page. He says the following Old Comrades are serving in the Surrey Police: **P.C. Cooper** (ex-Mounted Section, M.E.L.F.), **P.C. Hewitt** (ex-B.A.O.R.), and **P.C. Keywood** (ex-Trieste).

Capt. S. G. Amer called in recently to see Lieut.-Colonel Wilkinson. It will be remembered that he served most of his time with us in the Middle East. He is now employed with the Volkswagen Motor Company of Great Britain as liaison officer and sales representative. He spends much of his time visiting Germany. His friends will be sorry to hear that his wife died last December.

Mr. E. Thompson, chairman of **Preston Branch** R.M.P.A., writes that at the branch annual

Alan Whorton 1977

[54] 1879 May 31: Croydon Advertiser



Surrey Advertiser 16 April 1938