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

February 2024
www.surrey-constabulary.com

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Surrey Constabulary History 110

November 1995 Traffic - Mark Clark, Keith Thompson, Carl Crathern, Graham Glazier, Graham Dickinson, Peter Arnold

Contents

This interactive map is part of an ongoing volunteer-led project to derive information from a number of sources to map World War Two bomb incidents across Surrey. Click on the icons to learn more about each incident. Click on the legend to display/turn off each bomb type.

PC238 Alan Ellis
Appointment 1627
Surrey Constabulary 1912
Army First World War 1918

From Mike Ellis January 2024: My grandfather, Alan Ellis, was in the Surrey Constabulary as was his brother Cyrus. Both were called up during First World War and arrived in France in the last couple of days of the war, so they soon returned. I have a clock and illuminated address presented by the residents of Charlwood where Alan served for 7 years.

At the end of WWII at Beacon Hill. There is a story that he was dispatched to investigate some bombs that had been jettisoned and returned with an unexploded one on the back of his bike; this appeared in a local history book, but I have been unable to find it.

The badge (helmet plate below) was I assume his. The other photograph shows him at his house, his own not a police house.

Ellis Alan PC238 age 22 in April 1912. Joined Surrey Constabulary 12 August 1912 Appointment Number 1627. Army 27 April 1918 – re-joined Surrey Constabulary 22 June 1919. Charlwood village PC.

Alan Ellis

Born April 1890 Elstead, died 7 September 1963 Royal Marsden Hospital, London

Additional research by Jean and Henry Pelham

Father: Job Ellis – 1848-1937
Mother: (Lucy) Ann Ellis nee Hedger – 1847-1928

1891 – Census – Farnham Road, Elstead, Surrey
Father – Job Ellis – Ag Lab – b) 1848
Mother – Ann Ellis – b) 1848
Son: Walter Ellis – b)1871 Groom – Domestic Service
Son: Ross Ellis – b) 1875 Gardener - Domestic Servant
Son: Sydney Ellis – b)1878
Daughter: Annie Ellis – b) 1881 – Scholar
Daughter: Julia Ellis – b) 1882 – Scholar
Son: Herbert Ellis – b) 1885 – Scholar
Son: Frank Ellis – b) 1888
Son: Allan Ellis – b) 1891

1901 – Census - Springfield Farm, Elstead, Surrey
Father: Job Ellis – Farmer
Mother: Ann Ellis
Son: Sydney Ellis – Farmers Son
Daughter: Julia Ellis
Son: Herbert Ellis – Farmers Son
Son: Frank Ellis – Scholar
Son: Allen Ellis – Scholar
Son: Cyrus Ellis – Scholar

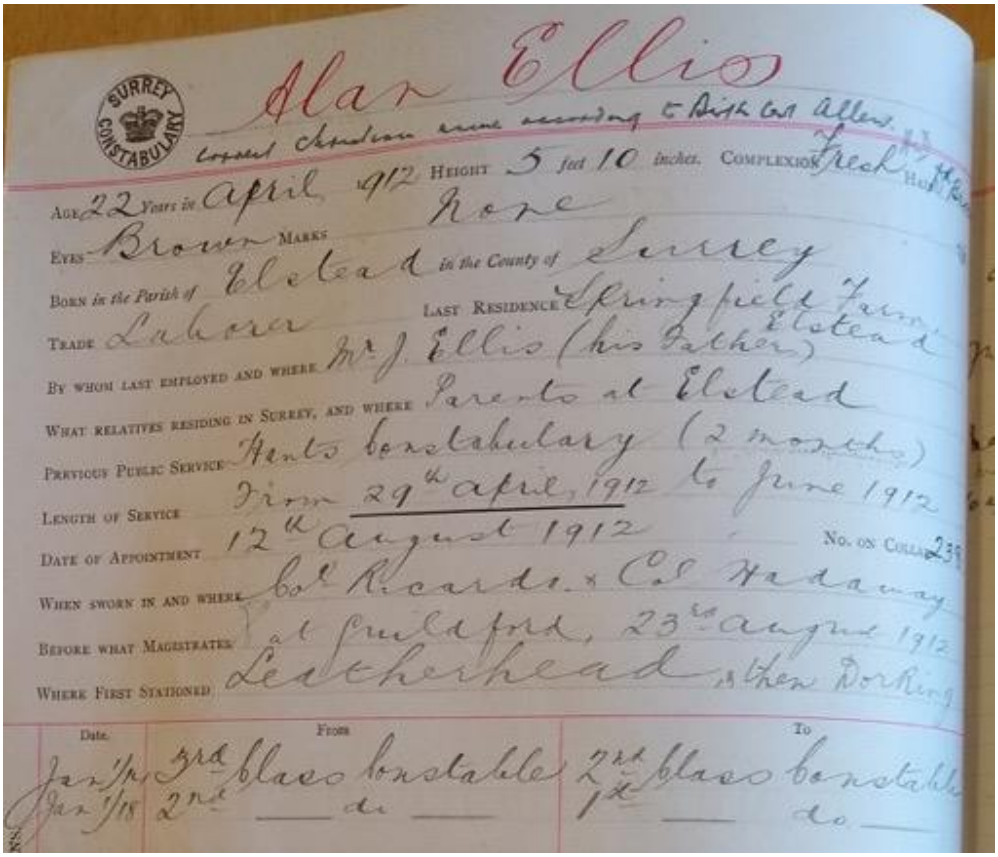
1911 – Census – Springfield Farm, Elstead, Surrey
Father: Job Ellis – Farmer
Mother: Lucy Anne Ellis
Son: Frank Ellis – Gardener - Domestic Servant
Son: Alan Ellis – Postman
Son; Cyrus Ellis – Farmers son working on the farm.

Married:
1916 Dorothy Olive Edwards

1921 – Census – 2 Dolbyside, Charlwood, Surrey

Alan Ellis – age 31 – Police Constable
Dorothy Olive Ellis – age 30 – Household duties
Douglas Francis Ellis – age 2 and Roy Alan Ellis – age 2 – Twin Sons

The following service record is taken from the Surrey Constabulary Appointment Register entry 1627 Surrey History Centre with thanks to Robert Simonson**.**


SURREY CONSTABULARY

Alan Ellis

Age 22 Years in April 1912 Height 5 feet 10 inches. Complexion Freck

Eyes Brown Marks None

Born in the Parish of Elstead in the County of Surrey

Trade Labourer Last Residence Springfield Farm Elstead

By whom last employed and where Mr J. Ellis (his father) Elstead

What relatives residing in Surrey, and where Parents at Elstead

Previous Public Service Kents Constabulary (2 months) From 29th April 1912 to June 1912

Length of Service

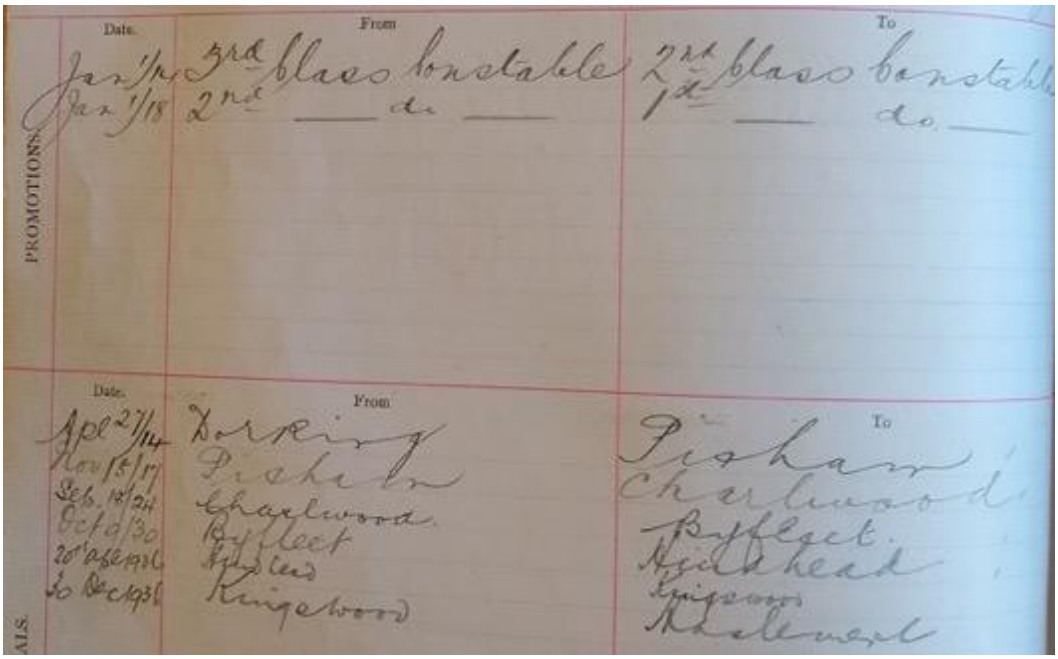
Date of Appointment 12th August 1912 No. on Collar 239

When sworn in and where Col Ricardo & Col Hadaway

Before what Magistrates at Guildford, 23rd August 1912

Where First Stationed Leatherhead (then Dorking)

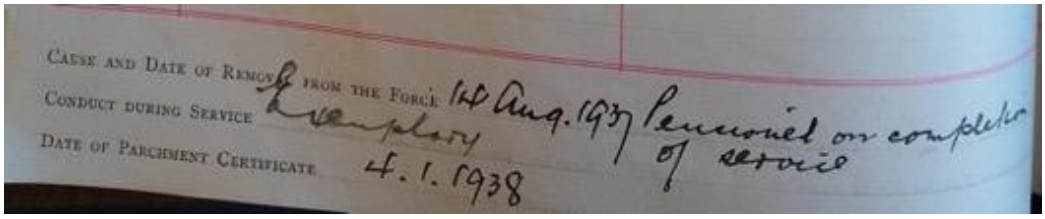
Date.	From	To
Jan 1/15	3rd Class Constable	2nd Class Constable
Jan 1/18	2nd ___ do ___	1st ___ do ___

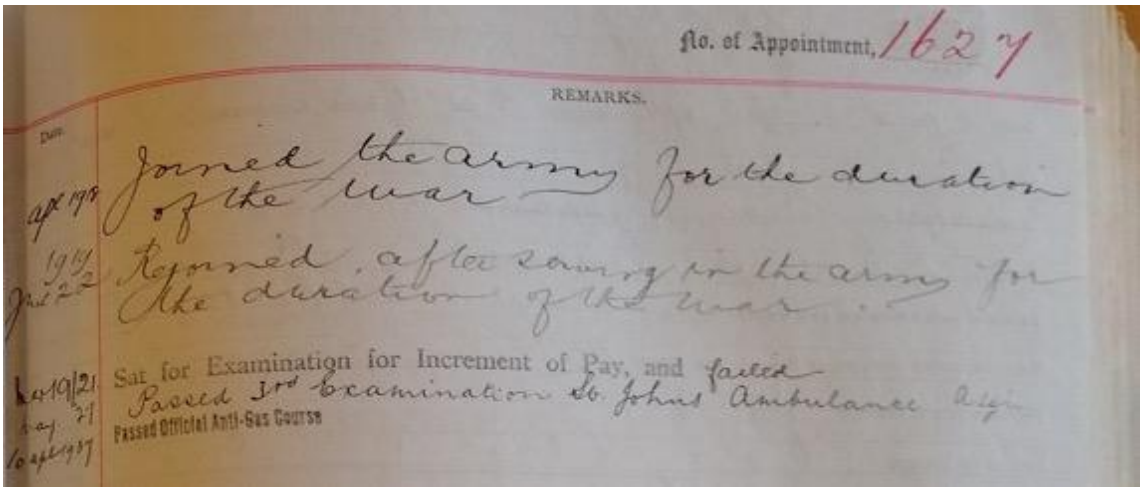

PROMOTIONS

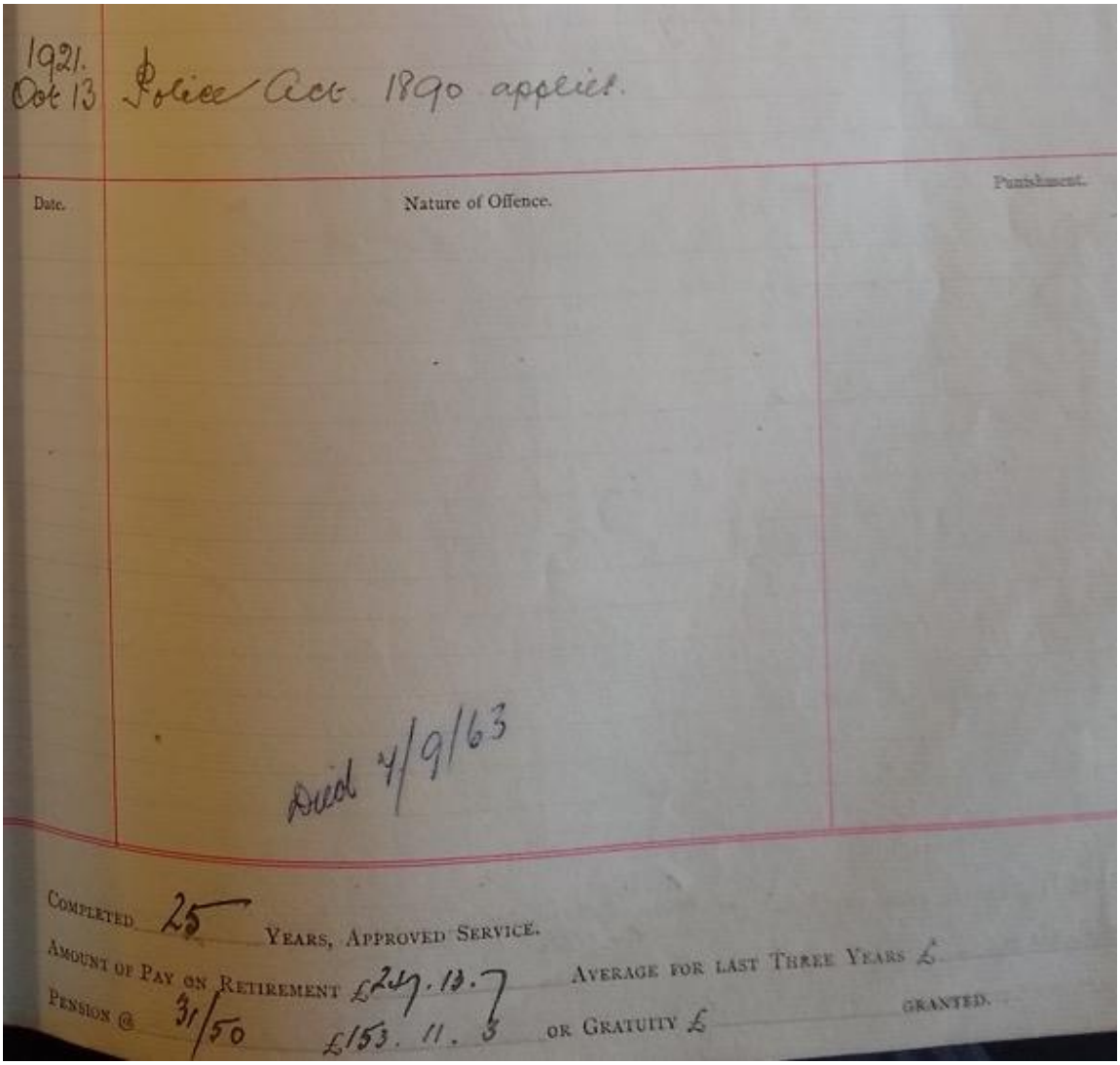
Date.	From	To
Jan 1/15	3rd Class Constable	2nd Class Constable
Jan 1/18	2nd ___ do ___	1st ___ do ___

Date.	From	To
Apl 27/14	Dorking	Pirbright
Nov 18/17	Pirbright	Charlwood
Sep 14/24	Charlwood	Byfleet
Oct 1/30	Byfleet	Hyde Head
20 Aug 1936	Hyde Head	Chiddingfold
30 Dec 1938	Kingswood	Retired

A.I.S.


Cause and Date of Removal from the Force 14th Aug. 1937 Pensioned on completion of service
Conduct during Service Exemplary
Date of Parchment Certificate 4.1.1938


No. of Appointment, 1627
REMARKS.
Date.
Apr 1914 Joined the army for the duration of the war
1919 Jan 20 Rejoined after serving in the army for the duration of the war.
Sat for Examination for Increment of Pay, and failed
Mar 19/21 Passed 3rd examination St Johns Ambulance Assn
Passed Official Anti-Gas Course


1921. Oct 13 Police Act 1890 applied.
Date. Nature of Offence. Punishment.
Died 4/9/63
Completed 25 Years, Approved Service.
Amount of Pay on Retirement £247.13.7 Average for last Three Years £
Pension @ 31/50 £153.11.3 or Gratuity £ granted.


P.c. Ellis, who has been at Dorking five years, has been transferred to Charlwood. P.c. Cannings, of Charlwood, comes to Dorking.

West Sussex Gazette 08 November 1917
Surrey Advertiser 10 November 1917

1914-1918 - WW1 – SERVICE RECORD
Alan Ellis – Age 28 – Called up 1918.
Service No: 32261
Regiment No: Grenadier Guards
Occupation: Police Constable (No 35)
Living: Dolby Terrace, Charlwood, Surrey
Next of Kin: Mrs Dorothy Ellis nee Edwards, 2 Dolby Villas, Charlwood
Children: Roy Alan and Douglas Francis Ellis – Twin Boys.

Demobilization: 31st March 1920

Name	Regiment	Joined HM Forces	Remarks
Rose		27 April 1918	Headquarters Guildford
Edwards		27 April 1918	Virginia Water
Smeed		27 April 1918	Camberley
Wilkinson		27 April 1918	Godalming
Freeland		27 April 1918	York Town
Turner		27 April 1918	Woking
Fielding		27 April 1918	Egham Hythe
Norgate		27 April 1918	Englefield Green
Lewis		27 April 1918	Fetcham
Bishop		27 April 1918	Hogs Back
Hainsworth		27 April 1918	Haslemere
C Ellis		27 April 1918	Tatsfield
White John Henry	Royal Engineer	27 April 1918	Woking Retired as a Superintendent
Minter		27 April 1918	Woking
A Ellis		27 April 1918	Charlwood

1918 27 April: It is an indication that in April of the year when the war would finally end, manpower was still short and the police still called up as when Surrey Constabulary officers from across the county joined the Army.

The eight men were the last eligible single police officers serving in the Surrey Constabulary. There was one however, a discharged soldier and two over military age. Police Constables Bord, A. Ellis, Rose, HQ at Guildford; Edwards, Virginia Water; Smeed, Camberley; Wilkinson, Godalming; Freeland, York Town; Turner, Woking; Fielding, Egham Hythe; Norgate, Englefield Green; Lewis, Fetcham; Bishop, Hogs Back; Hainsworth, Haslemere; C Ellis, Tatsfield; White, Minter, Woking; A. Ellis Charlwood; called to the Colours in April 1918. None appear on the force war memorial so it can be assumed they all survived. [1]

It may have been five months from the end of the war but in April there was no indication that the war would end that year or any certainty that the Allies would win, even though the vast amount of manpower and resources were beginning to be deployed by the United States.

Surrey Police Squad May 1918 – are some of the men who joined in April 1918 in this photograph?

1921 May 13: Missing man found in river at Brockham: PC Ellis [2] The body of Alfred Fisher of Old School Lane, Brockham was found in the River Mole near Court Lodge Farm. Employed as a gardener, he went missing and his description circulated by the police. The body in the river was discovered by a lad named Huggett who worked for Mr Maiklem at Court Lodge Farm. PC Ellis was informed and the body was removed to the Dukes Head Inn to await the inquest.

[1] Surrey Advertiser 27 April 1918
[2] Surry Mirror 13 May 1921

CHARLWOOD.

POLICE CHANGE.—After being stationed seven years in the village, P.C. Allan Ellis has this week been transferred to Byfleet. His duties are being taken over by P.C. Tuppin, of Byfleet.

Surrey Mirror 19 September 1924

C. J. Coleman.

POLICE PRESENTATION. — Police-Constable Alan Ellis, who has recently removed to Byfleet, after being stationed in Charlwood village for seven years, was on Wednesday of last week presented by the residents with a handsome mahogany timepiece, and a purse of gold, as a mark of appreciation and esteem. The presentation was made at the Parish Room by the Rector. The clock was suitably inscribed, and was accompanied by an illuminated address in the following terms: "Presented to P.C. Alan Ellis on his transfer to Byfleet, as a token of esteem and respect; and in recognition of his courteous and faithful discharge of duties while stationed at Charlwood." P.C. Ellis warmly thanked the donors for their kind expressions and valued gifts.

Surrey Mirror 21 November 1924

POLICE TRANSFER.—P.C. Ellis, who for five years has been stationed at Dorking, was this week transferred to Chaldon, in the Oxted Division, to succeed P.C. Girton, who has retired. P.C. Ellis has served over 20 years in the Surrey Constabulary and is a very popular member of the force.

Surrey Mirror 11 January 1935

The beginning and end of a career

Presentation 12 November 1924 from Charlwood village.
In possession Mike Ellis January 2024

Gift of a clock and a testimonial listing subscribers to a cheque

1939 Register – Ugroydon, Sandheath, Beacon Hill, Haslemere
Alan Ellis – age 49 – Police Constable – Retired
Dorothy Olive Ellis – age 49 – Unpaid duties
Douglas Ellis – age 20 – Solicitors Clerk
Roy A Ellis – age 20 – Electrical Apprentice (Wireman)
Donald C Ellis – age 17 – Builders Clerk

PC Cyrus Ellis

Appointment 1618

Collar Number 209

Surrey Constabulary and Army First World War

Brother PC 208 Alan Ellis

Family History Mrs Jean Pelham

Ellis Cyrus PC209 born 1892.

1901 census – living at home with parents, address Springfield Farm, Elstead, Godalming, Surrey. Occupation Farm Hand.
1911 census – living at home with parents, address Springfield Farm, Elstead, Godalming, Surrey. Occupation Farm Hand.

1912 Age 20 in April joined Surrey Constabulary 23 May 1912 Defaulter's Book entry 1618.

1916 Married Florence Rose Edwards (1889-1978)

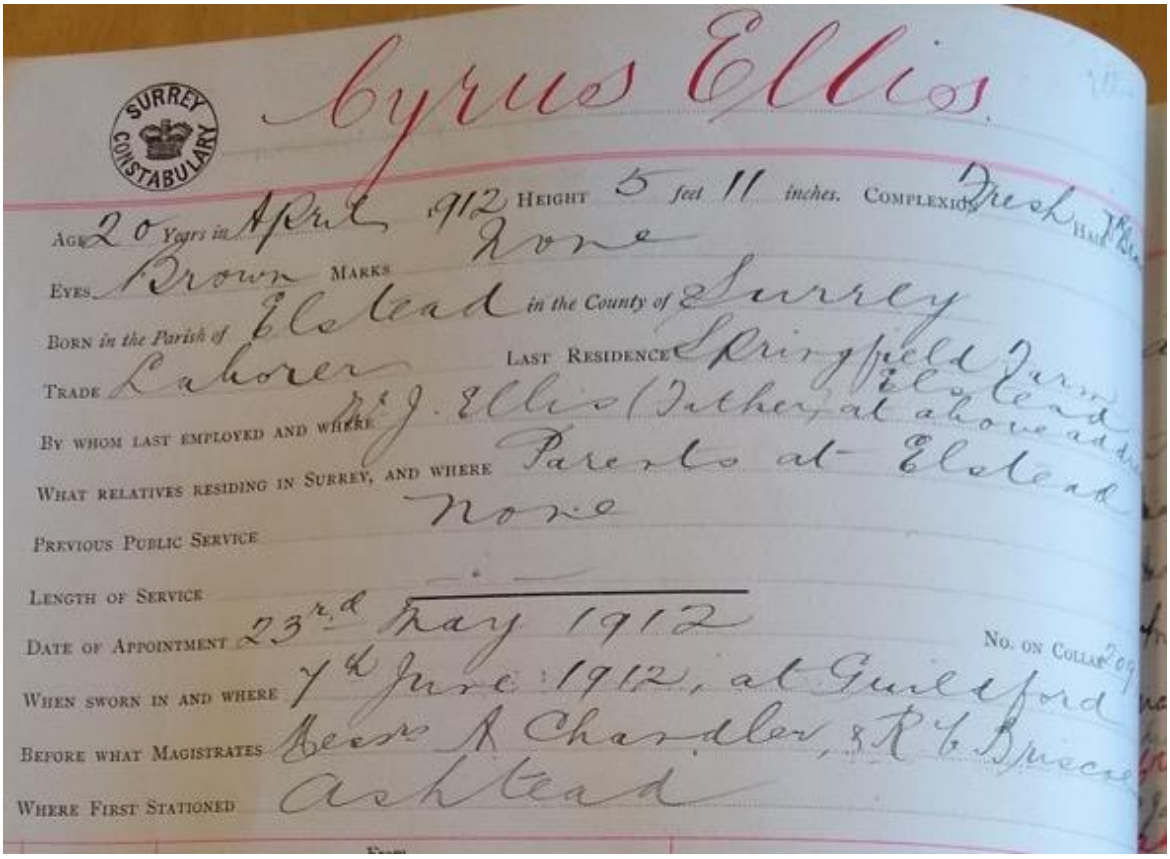
1918: Enlisted 2 October 1916 called up 22 April 1918 aged 26 years 4 months living in Charlwood. Married. Reg No 32259 in the Grenadier Guards, occupation shown as Police Constable. Joined Battalion 9 November 1918 in France.

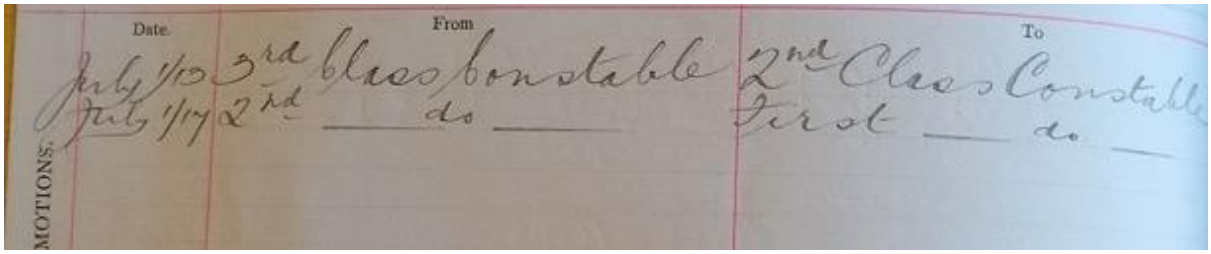
1919 Class Z reserve 16 May 1 re-joining Surrey Constabulary 9 February 1919. Discharged from Army March 1920.

1939 Register, Vincents Drive, Dorking PC Surrey Constabulary 1st Police Reserve, No R38. Died

1961: 21st March 1961, General Hospital, Dorking, was living Vincent Drive, Dorking, Probate granted to Douglas Frazier Ellis, Farm Secretary.

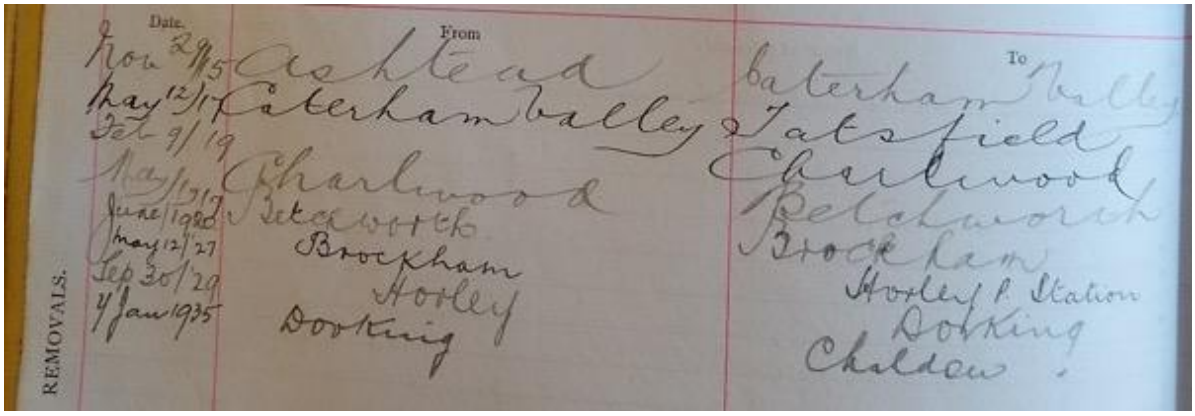
Surrey Constabulary Appointments Book Robert Simonson Surrey History Centre





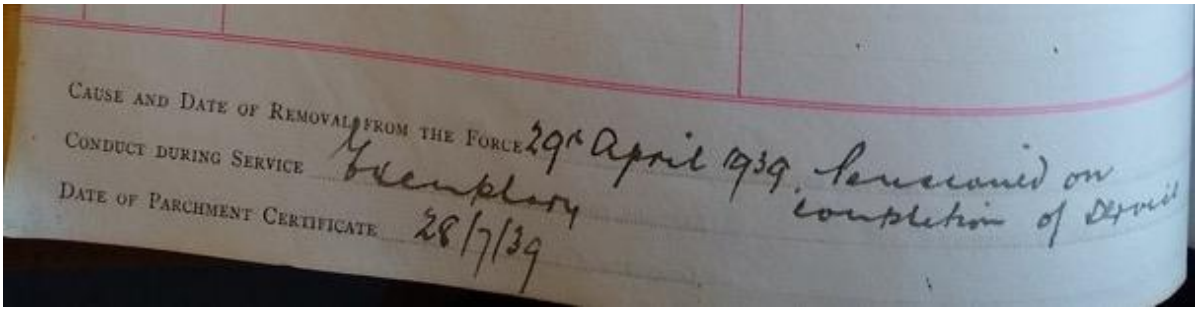
PROMOTIONS.

Date.	From	To
July 1/10	3rd class Constable	2nd Class Constable
July 1/17	2nd ___ do ___	First ___ do ___



REMOVALS.

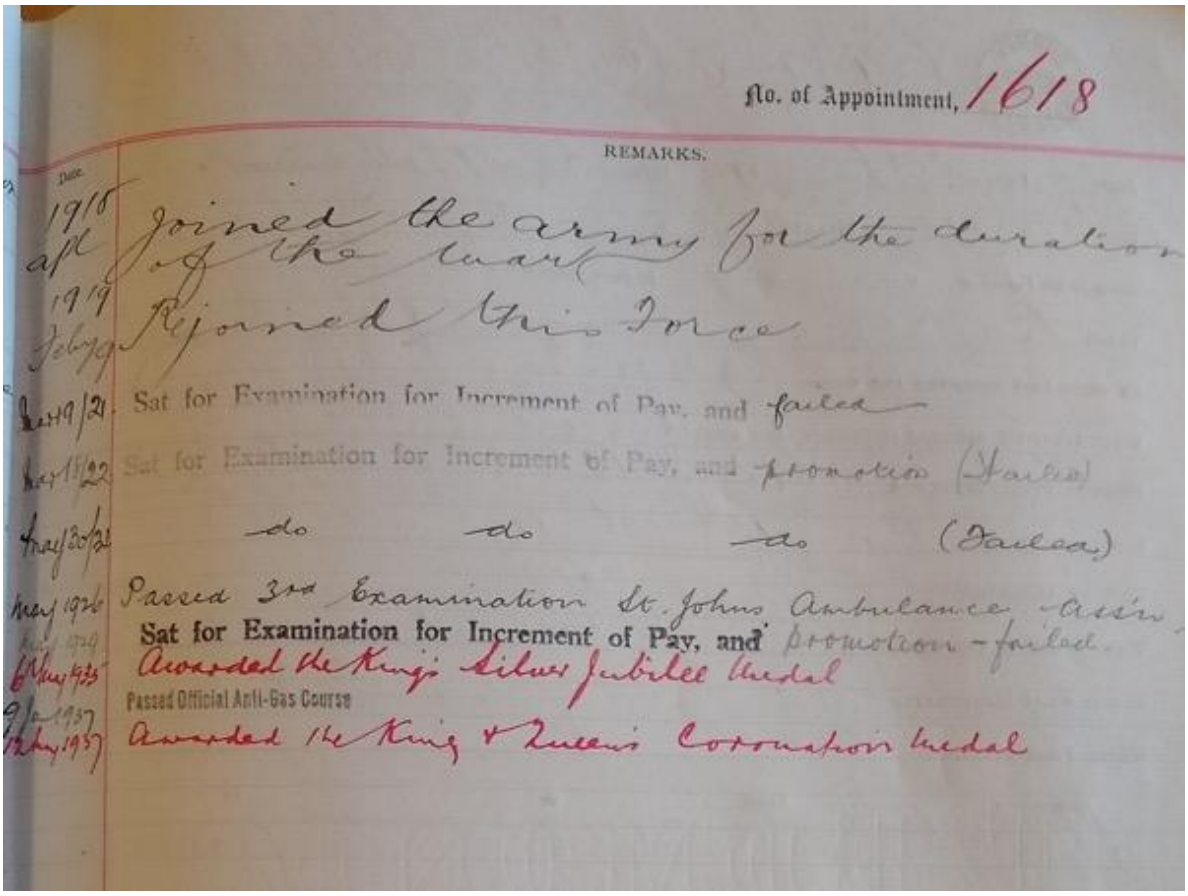
Date.	From	To
Nov 29/15	Ashtead	Caterham Valley
May 12/17	Caterham Valley	Tatsfield
Dec 9/19		Charlwood
May 1/19	Charlwood	Pelshurch
June 1920	Petworth	Brockham
May 12/27	Brockham	Horley P. Station
Sep 30/29	Horley	Dorking
4 Jan 1935	Dorking	Chaldon.



CAUSE AND DATE OF REMOVAL FROM THE FORCE 29th April 1939. Removed on completion of Period

CONDUCT DURING SERVICE Exemplary

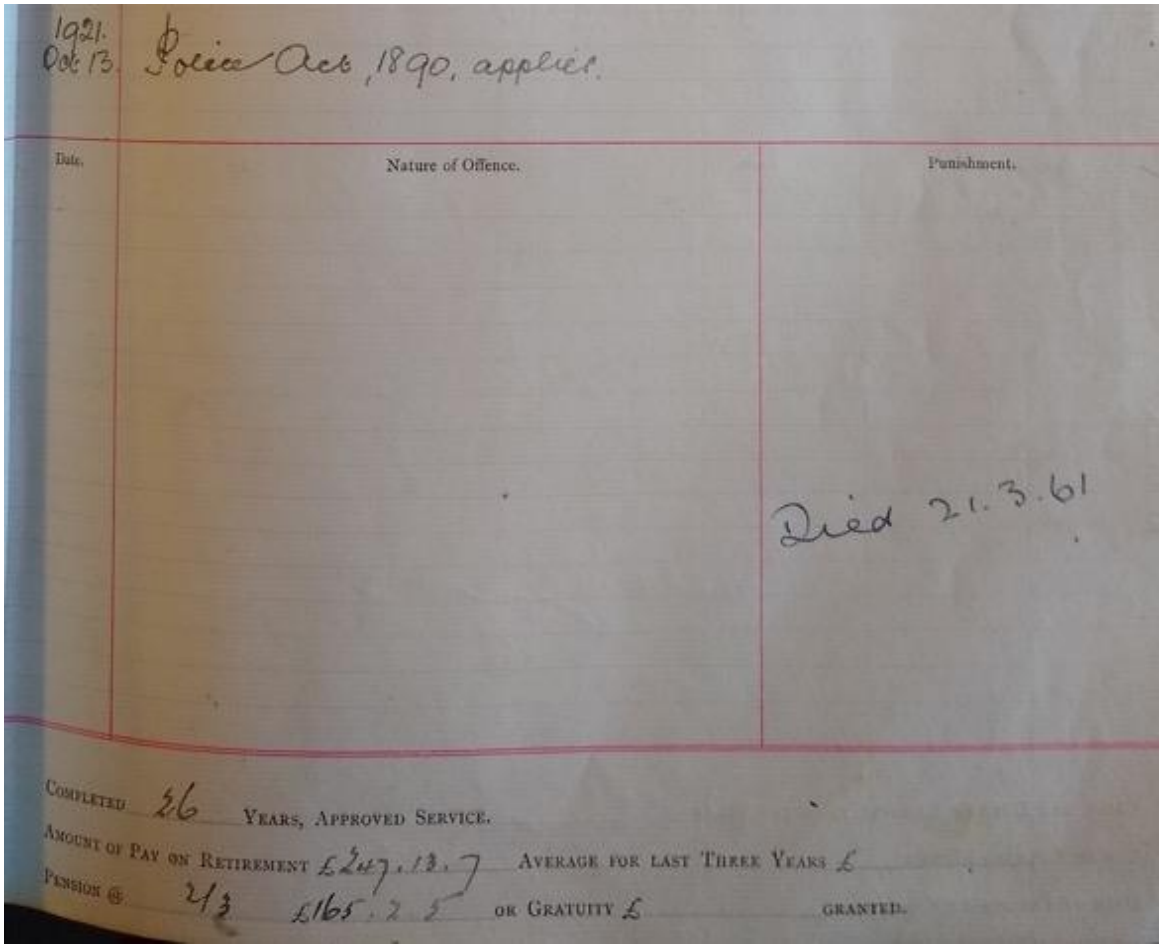
DATE OF PARCHMENT CERTIFICATE 28/7/39



No. of Appointment, 1618

REMARKS.

Date.	
1918 April	Joined the army for the duration of the war
1919 Feby 9	Rejoined this Force
Dec 19/21	Sat for Examination for Increment of Pay, and failed
Nov 1/22	Sat for Examination for Increment of Pay, and promotion (Failed)
May 30/23	do do do (Failed)
May 1926	Passed 3rd Examination St. Johns Ambulance Assn.
	Sat for Examination for Increment of Pay, and promotion - failed.
6 May 1935	Awarded the King's Silver Jubilee Medal
	Passed Official Anti-Gas Course
9/5 1937	
12 May 1937	Awarded the King & Queen's Coronation Medal


1921.
Oct 13. Police Acts, 1890, applies.

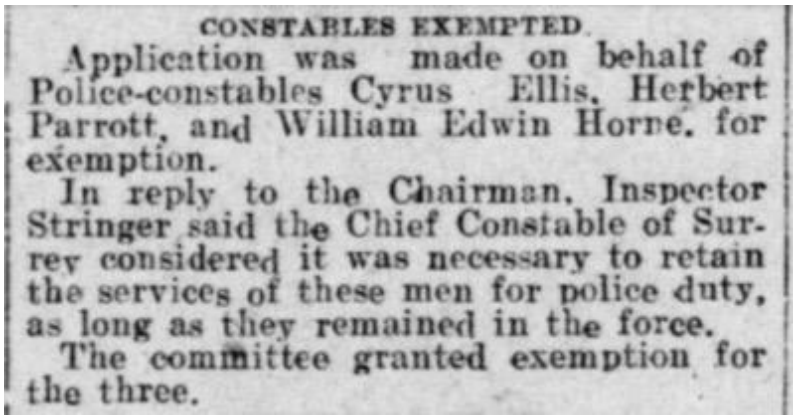
Date.	Nature of Offence.	Punishment.
		Died 21.3.61

Completed 26 Years, Approved Service.

Amount of Pay on Retirement £247.13.7 Average for last Three Years £

Pension @ 2/3 £165.2.5 or Gratuity £ granted.

Newspaper reports – Henry Pelham


CONSTABLES EXEMPTED.

Application was made on behalf of Police-constables Cyrus Ellis, Herbert Parrott, and William Edwin Horne, for exemption.

In reply to the Chairman, Inspector Stringer said the Chief Constable of Surrey considered it was necessary to retain the services of these men for police duty, as long as they remained in the force.

The committee granted exemption for the three.

Surrey Mirror 10 March 1916

SURREY POLICE HONOURS.

JUBILEE MEDALS AWARDED.

TO BE PRESENTED BY LORD ASHCOMBE.

The following officers of the Surrey County Constabulary have been awarded the King's Silver Jubilee medal: Major Geoffrey Nicholson, M.C. (Chief Constable), Supt. W. H. Bird (Deputy Chief Constable), Supts. C. P. Hilton (Dorking), C. Mann (Oxted), T. Runnegar (Farnham), A. E. Currey (Weybridge), Henry Minter (Leatherhead), J. H. White (Woking), and H. N. Back (Headquarters), Inspectors C. Erake (Oxted) and A. W. Stent (Hersham), Sergts., F. Hagley (Witley), A. Tanner (Chertsey), G. Peate (Horley) and W. J. Bright (Ripley) and Constables F. J. Smith (Weybridge), E. E. Rose (Blackheath), H. E. Brand (Ottershaw), F. Day (Old Woking), H. Powell (Addiestone), C. Ellis (Chaldon), A. W. Lidbetter and C. J. Dobbinson (Farnham), R. C. Hearsay ((Bramley) and William Gaymer (Bookham).

The medals will be presented to the officers by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey (the Lord Ashcombe, C.B.) at the County Hall, Kingston-on-Thames, on Tuesday morning next.

Surrey Mirror 24 May 1935

THE AIR DISASTER.

INQUEST ON OFFICERS KILLED AT CHALDON.

A LAD'S GALLANT EFFORT TO SAVE A PILOT.

The adjourned inquest concerning the death of two officers of the Royal Air Force, Kenley Station, who, as already reported, were killed when the aeroplanes they piloted, collided and crashed over Chaldon, during night exercises on November 23rd, was held by the Coroner for East Surrey (Dr. W. J. Lord), on Thursday of last week in the Soper Memorial Hall, at the Urban Council Buildings. The Coroner sat with a jury of seven, of whom Mr. S. Critchett was the Foreman. Inspector Bishop represented the police.

The deceased were: Pilot-officer Keith Victor Keen, aged 24, of Dagmar-avenue, Wembley Hill; and Pilot-Officer Montagu Percival Richards, aged 21, of Melrose, St. Austell, Cornwall.

At the outset the Coroner stated that the case arose from an accident over Figgs Wood, adjoining Ditches-lane, when the deceased were engaged in night flying.

Corporal Ernest Empson, of the R.A.F., Kenley, repeated his evidence reported above, and in reply to the Coroner, said neither of the deceased had been inoculated against typhoid.

Charles Arthur Weston, butcher's lad, of Newlands Farm, Caterham, deposed that at 6.45 p.m. on November 23rd he was sitting in a room at the farm when he heard a loud report like a heavy thud. He ran to the window, and on looking out saw a streak of fire gliding to the earth. On reaching the ground there was a loud report. That was about 400 yards from the farm. He ran out in company with another young fellow, Joseph George Gallaghar, to the spot, and then saw an aeroplane well alight with its nose to the ground. The flames were spreading towards the front of the machine. He saw the deceased, Richards, hanging over half out of the cockpit, and almost level with the ground. his head and shoulders being over the side. With the assistance of Gallaghar he went to the man and found he was not secured as the straps had been burnt through. They pulled him out of the aeroplane clear of the fire. His clothing was all alight, and they got some wet grass and earth and rubbed him with it. They also got off his parachute and smothered the flames on him with that and so extinguished them. He made no movement at all.

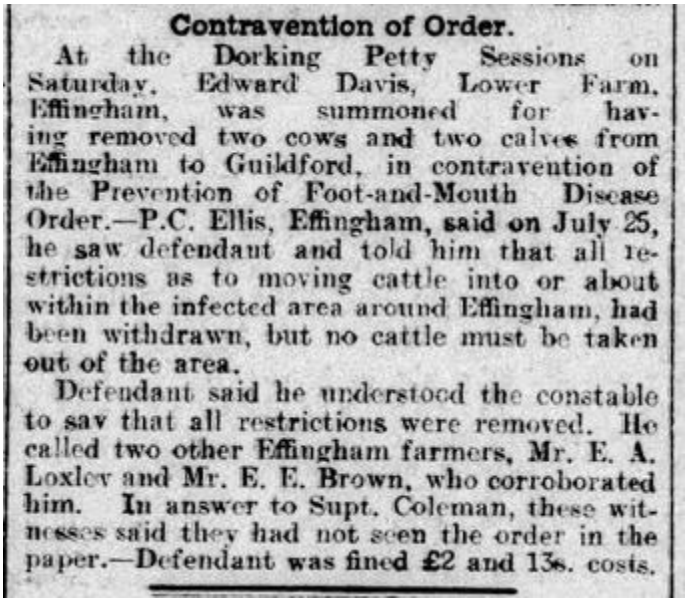
In reply to the Foreman, witness said the two planes were about 400 yards apart on the ground. He did not go to the other machine.

P.C. Cyrus Ellis, of Hilltop-lane, Chaldon, said at 6.45 p.m., in consequence of a message from the Caterham Police Station, he went to Figgs Wood, where he saw an aeroplane in flames. He was unable to find the pilot. In company with other officers he searched the wood, and at about 8.45 p.m. found the body of the pilot lying at the foot of an oak tree about 50 yards from the aeroplane. He was dead, and had severe injuries. With assistance he removed the body to the Kenley Aerodrome, where it was identified as that of Keen.

Surrey Mirror 10 December 1937

PC210Alfred James Ellis
Joined Surrey Constabulary 1907
First World War

Alfred James PC210 22 in January 1907. Not thought to be related to Alan and Cyrus. Surrey Constabulary Appointment Book (Defaulter's Book) entry number 1499 18 December 1907. The following information may have become confused with the two other Ellis both of whom were called up in 1918. Army 27 April 1918 Police say 22 April 1918. Re-join Surrey Constabulary 19 April 1919 Headquarters, Guildford.



Contravention of Order.

At the Dorking Petty Sessions on Saturday, Edward Davis, Lower Farm, Effingham, was summoned for having removed two cows and two calves from Effingham to Guildford, in contravention of the Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Order.—P.C. Ellis, Effingham, said on July 25, he saw defendant and told him that all restrictions as to moving cattle into or about within the infected area around Effingham, had been withdrawn, but no cattle must be taken out of the area.

Defendant said he understood the constable to say that all restrictions were removed. He called two other Effingham farmers, Mr. E. A. Loxley and Mr. E. E. Brown, who corroborated him. In answer to Supt. Coleman, these witnesses said they had not seen the order in the paper.—Defendant was fined £2 and 13s. costs.

West Surrey Times 24 August 1912

1913 November 10: Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser. A Good Gallop – Edward Davis of Lower Farm Effingham was fined 7 shillings inclusive for allowing three horses to stray. PC Ellis said on the night of Feb 10 the horses galloped around the village several times.

The Murder that Never Was

Michael Morley

I am currently reading: "Last Train to Hilversum – A Journey in Search of the magic of Radio," by Charlie Connelly. It traces the history of radio broadcasting from Marconi and includes Lord Reith, famous radio broadcasters of yesteryear and shock jocks phone in hosts. Mainly focuses on the BBC. One of the chapters is devoted to anthologies of the old SOS messages which we will remember from our early days in the job.

One of these stories relates to an appeal made by the then Surrey County Police seeking to trace Winifred Parrant, reported as a misper from her home in Sandhurst. I have scanned the two relevant pages of the story, and I have topped and tailed the start and finishing paragraphs which run over from the previous and following page.

Last Heard Of: The Lost World of the Radio SOS

In the 1920's the BBC radio service was born and listeners were to become familiar with the radio SOS messages appealing to listeners to assist with tracing persons missing or persons not heard of for some time, to alert them of a dying relative in hospital. These messages will be

familiar to those engaged at the time in the police service and hospital staff. This practice endured up until the end of the twentieth century, when it was quietly phased out.

One such appeal was made in 1931 by the chief constable of the then Surrey County Constabulary.

"Missing from her home at Albion Cottage, Sandhurst, Berkshire since 13 August 1929, Winifred Parrant, a domestic servant aged 20 years, last seen near Virginia Water, Surrey. *(Description given).* Will anyone able to give any information as to the whereabouts of this young woman please communicate with the chief constable, Surrey County Constabulary, telephone Guildford 83."

Soon after this appeal it seemed the mystery of Winifred's disappearance had been solved when Private T.H. Jennings of the 2nd North Staffordshire regiment, who had been posted as a deserter, gave himself up and confessed to her murder. He stated he had been in a relationship with Winifred and killed her by kneeling on her throat during a jealous rage, close to a golf course in Virginia Water. He claimed to have hidden her body in gorse bushes in Windsor Great Park, while a bloodstained army uniform found in Woking that contained letters signed 'W.P.' seemed to corroborate the account.

When the search in Windsor Great Park turned up a woman's hat and an attaché case containing underwear it seemed the police were edging closer to finding Winifred's body. Her family waited anxiously for news: in the weeks following Winifred's disappearance her sister had received a letter, apparently from Winifred, claiming she was on the way to Canada, while a letter to her grandfather said: "I am quite alright and in a good job. I could not stop at home. I am sorry for all the trouble I have given you. Don't try and find me."

The newspapers were full of the soldier's confession and the search for her body, which is when Winifred first became aware of her own murder by reading the headlines over the shoulder of a fellow tram passenger. By this time she had been married and the mother of a five month old daughter living in Greenwich with her new husband. She did not know and had never met Private Jennings.

Winifred duly reported her existence to the police who issued the following statement from Guildford police station: "The Surrey police feel that, with the great assistance by the press and the BBC, they have accomplished the task of finding Miss Parrant alive and no more credence is being placed on the confession of Private Jennings."

When Jennings was told that Winifred had turned up alive and married, he reportedly collapsed in hysterical laughter.

Acknowledgement: Charlie Connelly's book, "Last Train to Hilversum – A Journey in Search of the Magic of Radio."

Sixty Years of Public Service

Jim Findlay

I joined the Surrey Constabulary in March 1964. In March 2014 Lyn Owens invited me to Mount Browne and presented me with a medal for 50 years' service with Surrey Police. This March completes another 10 years, and I am still with the Coroner's Office however my claim for 60 years with Force was scuppered by the Coroner's Office moving from Surrey Police and coming under Surrey County Council in 2018. That would have been quite an achievement, but it was not to be.

I have however written to the chief constable asking to meet in March and get a photo with him to recognise the occasion.

The arrest of two dangerous local criminals Ash 1969
Army Air Corps helicopter used to follow them.

One of the prisoners put into a dog van! Handler PC Buck Taylor. Sergeant Lionel Attwood, rural sergeant for Ash.

Army Air Corps on the radio from dog van. Ash section Morris 1,000 in the centre.

It is recalled that two Ash residents went on a crime spree in the west country. They were pulled over in a car by a police motorcyclist. It was said that the criminals tossed the policeman into a hedge then threw his motorcycle on to him breaking a leg. A fifty-year-old memory so may be not quite accurate, but they upset someone to deploy the Army Air Corps!

Surrey History Centre, Woking

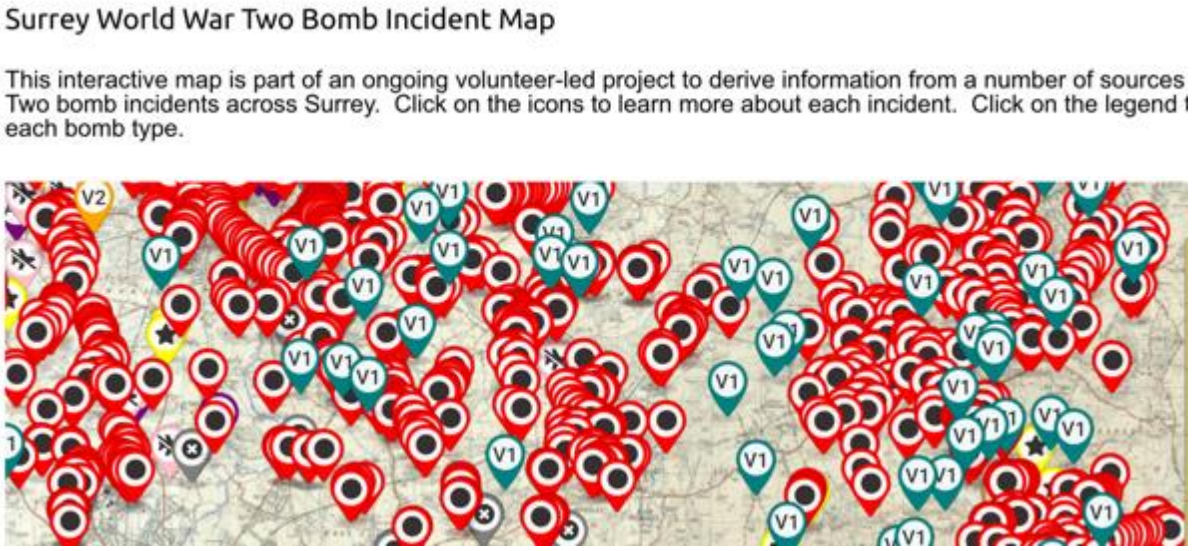
In a previous Surrey Constabulary History edition, a volunteer was sought who could scope the Second World War material held at the county archives in Woking using documents catalogued as CC/98. Former Surrey Constabulary officer Mick Weyland stepped forward and spent some time trawling through documents at the Surrey History Centre. There is no doubt that CC98 the classification for deposited Surrey Constabulary and war related material includes a great deal of documentation from the old basement at Mount Browne, being passed to the county archives in 1980. Much of this material relates to the Second World War and encapsulates day by day activity by police in the county and boroughs i.e. Guildford Borough Police and Reigate Borough Police before they became Surrey Joint Police. Mick Weyland took a small representative number of photographs of the documents some of which have been set out below in the form of an upcoming presentation.

What many will not have grasped in the past is how soon the police began training and preparing for war.(1936) Documents marked “Most Secret” (not seen by researchers) for the eyes only of the chief constable and his deputy began to build up a volume of work and preparation requiring the formation of “E” Department which appears to manage all war related initiatives. In addition, or maybe as a part of “E” Department, was a security branch dealing with significant volumes of Special Branch related activities. One thing you begin to understand is the volume of top-secret tasks undertaken by ordinary people across the country.

Thousands of civilians were involved in Auxiliary Units and a Special Duties Section (sometimes Branch) linked into an underground and most secret wireless network. (See below) There were established cellular structures ready to respond to any invasion. Volunteers were not expected to survive long! Once the invaders occupied territory further specialist spy networks were to come into play. Much remains unknown about who these people were and it is clear they will have had little knowledge of any activities beyond their own. Signing the Official Secrets Act and swearing secrecy, people never talked and much has gone to the grave. How much the police knew is uncertain though the Chief Constable is referred to in planning and recruiting documentation. One yarn, possibly apocryphal, was after the war when a husband and wife told each other they had meeting to attend. They found themselves at a reunion of one of the secret organisations never having told the other of their involvement.

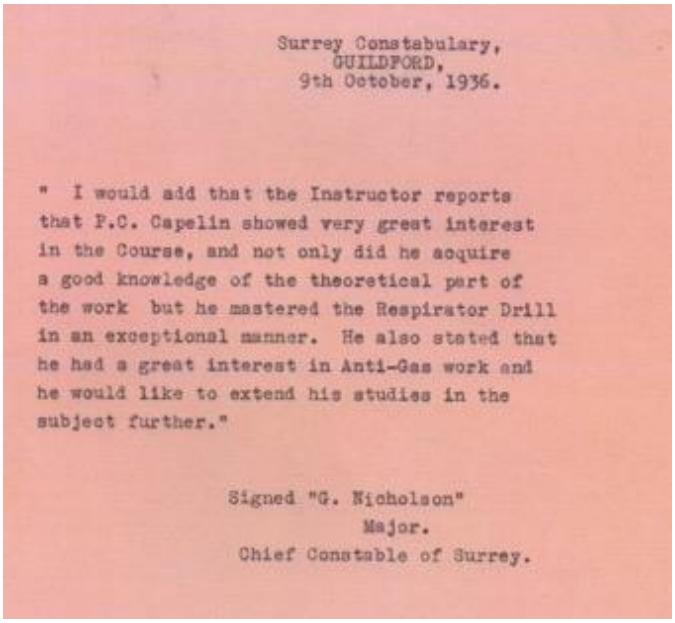
To take part in a more concentrated review of the documents a team is required to undertake structured research of the Archive, particularly CC98 to discover not just what has survived but to answer many questions. It is these chance survivals such as those set out below, that will open many doors. In addition to what is held in Surrey there must be the original documents of which CC98 are often copies of documents and letters sent to the Regional Government office at Reading and later Tunbridge Wells.

There are activities underway at the Surrey History Centre relating to the Second World War. An active WWII Bomb Incident Map project (www.exploringsurreyspast.org.uk/bombsites) is being compiled and there is potential to use some of the Surrey Constabulary records to enhance the detail on this. Exploring Surrey's Past website would like to enhance their WWII pages using research on the material identified. The History Centre may have some volunteers who would be interested in working on this. It does appear that our initiative and Mick Weyland's work is going to be supportive of existing projects. It must not be forgotten that every bomb or enemy incident involved policing and the sheer scale of involvement has to be uncovered to ensure what was done is not forgotten.



Lots of difficult and dangerous police work signified by every marker.

An example of early preparation was from 1936 possibly earlier than 9 October, police readiness for war was underway. There is a note of PC Capelin Reigate Borough Police successfully passing an anti-gas course and mastering respirator drill. He was trained by the Surrey Constabulary.



Surrey Constabulary,
GUILDFORD,
9th October, 1936.

" I would add that the Instructor reports that P.C. Capelin showed very great interest in the Course, and not only did he acquire a good knowledge of the theoretical part of the work but he mastered the Respirator Drill in an exceptional manner. He also stated that he had a great interest in Anti-Gas work and he would like to extend his studies in the subject further."

Signed "G. Nicholson"
Major.
Chief Constable of Surrey.

To Chief Constable Reigate Borough Police re Police Sergeant Capelin

Many other undertook the training including 14 November 1936, PC Currie passed an Anti-Gas course and in April 1937 PC Lewis passed the same course with PC Clutterbuck. (Later to be killed when serving with the RAF)

Surrey Constabulary HQ Woodbridge Road Guildford 1938

Off Beat readers may be interested to study this photograph, taken in 1938 by ex-Police Sergeant Arthur Durrant of Portsmouth who is a former member of the Surrey Constabulary.

Back row left to right: Insp. Roberts H.Q., Insp. Andrews H.Q., Insp. Bishop, Sgt. Lucas H.Q., Insp. Wanstall, Insp. Collins, Insp. Davies, Insp. Turner, Sgt. Baker – Garage, Sgt. Durrant – instructor.

Front row left to right: Insp. Cox, Sgt. Curry, Weybridge; Supt. Runnegar, Farnham; Supt. Hilton, Dorking; Mr. Beecher, C.C. Reigate; Major Nicholson, C.C. Surrey; Mr. Oliver, C.C. Guildford; Supt. Bird, D.C.C. Surrey; Supt. White, Woking; Supt. Minter, Leatherhead; Supt. Back, Chief Clerk.

All were attending an anti-gas course. Mr. Durrant has stated the ranks as far as he can remember – as they were when the picture was taken.

1938 Gas Course – police preparations for war were well in advance of hostilities.

Presentation – Ten Minute slot at Dorking u3a Military History Group

Some of the material recovered by Mick Weyland has been incorporated into a short presentation for the Dorking u3a Military History Group. This is all early days with much to be uncovered, considered and learnt by working with those who have an interest.

- First Police Reserve – were police pensioners who were re-engaged and paid a normal salary. (The retirement of officers already in service was also delayed.)

- War Reserve Police – under the age of 30 joined the police for temporary war service many later serving with the armed forces. Introduced in 1939 - by 1944 there were 17,000 war reserve constables. Dissolved 31 December 1948.

- Women's Auxiliary Police Corps – mainly employed women and children issues - morals!

- Special constables – unpaid, part-time volunteers who for reasons of age or reserved occupation were precluded from being called up for war service.

- Police Auxiliary Messengers – boys between14 and 18 volunteers to assist the police with communications by delivering messages on foot or on bicycle.

On the eve of the war there were some 60,000 police officers in England and Wales divided between 182 separate police forces.

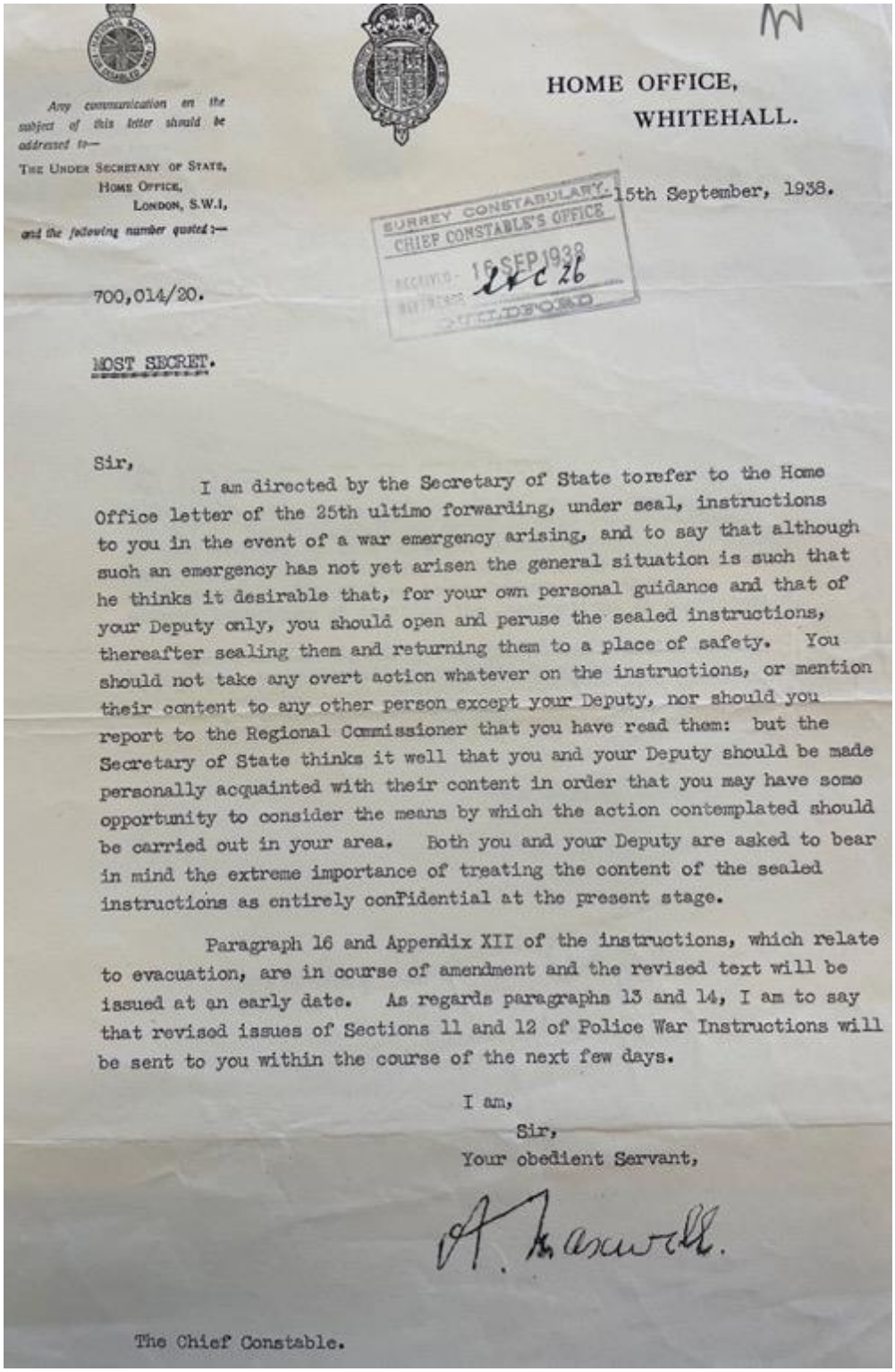
The largest force was the Metropolitan Police in London with just under 20,000 men.

There was a separate force for the City of London (1,100 men).

- 1939 call up of 3000 policemen with reservist obligations was deferred.
- About 6000 policemen under the age of 25 who were liable to conscription were retained and the police became a "reserved" occupation.
- 1940: After three months the reservists were recalled to the colours and the right to retire on pension was suspended.
- 1942 November, about 4000 of the younger policemen had been released from their Forces to be replaced by compulsory conscription into the police in the hardest hit areas. RAF/Commandos
- Nationally 278 members of the police were killed by enemy action whilst with their Forces
- 1275 police officers serving with HM Forces were killed.

The following are copies of some of the documentation. They are presented just as "tasters" and may not easily be read. From CC98 at the Woking History Centre:

1938 marked "Most Secret" the content in an attachment to be seen just by Chief Constable and his deputy.



Any communication on the subject of this letter should be addressed to—
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
HOME OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:—

HOME OFFICE,
WHITEHALL.

15th September, 1938.

SURREY CONSTABULARY
CHIEF CONSTABLE'S OFFICE
16 SEP 1938
2 C 26

700,014/20.

MOST SECRET.

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of State torefer to the Home Office letter of the 25th ultimo forwarding, under seal, instructions to you in the event of a war emergency arising, and to say that although such an emergency has not yet arisen the general situation is such that he thinks it desirable that, for your own personal guidance and that of your Deputy only, you should open and peruse the sealed instructions, thereafter sealing them and returning them to a place of safety. You should not take any overt action whatever on the instructions, or mention their content to any other person except your Deputy, nor should you report to the Regional Commissioner that you have read them: but the Secretary of State thinks it well that you and your Deputy should be made personally acquainted with their content in order that you may have some opportunity to consider the means by which the action contemplated should be carried out in your area. Both you and your Deputy are asked to bear in mind the extreme importance of treating the content of the sealed instructions as entirely confidential at the present stage.

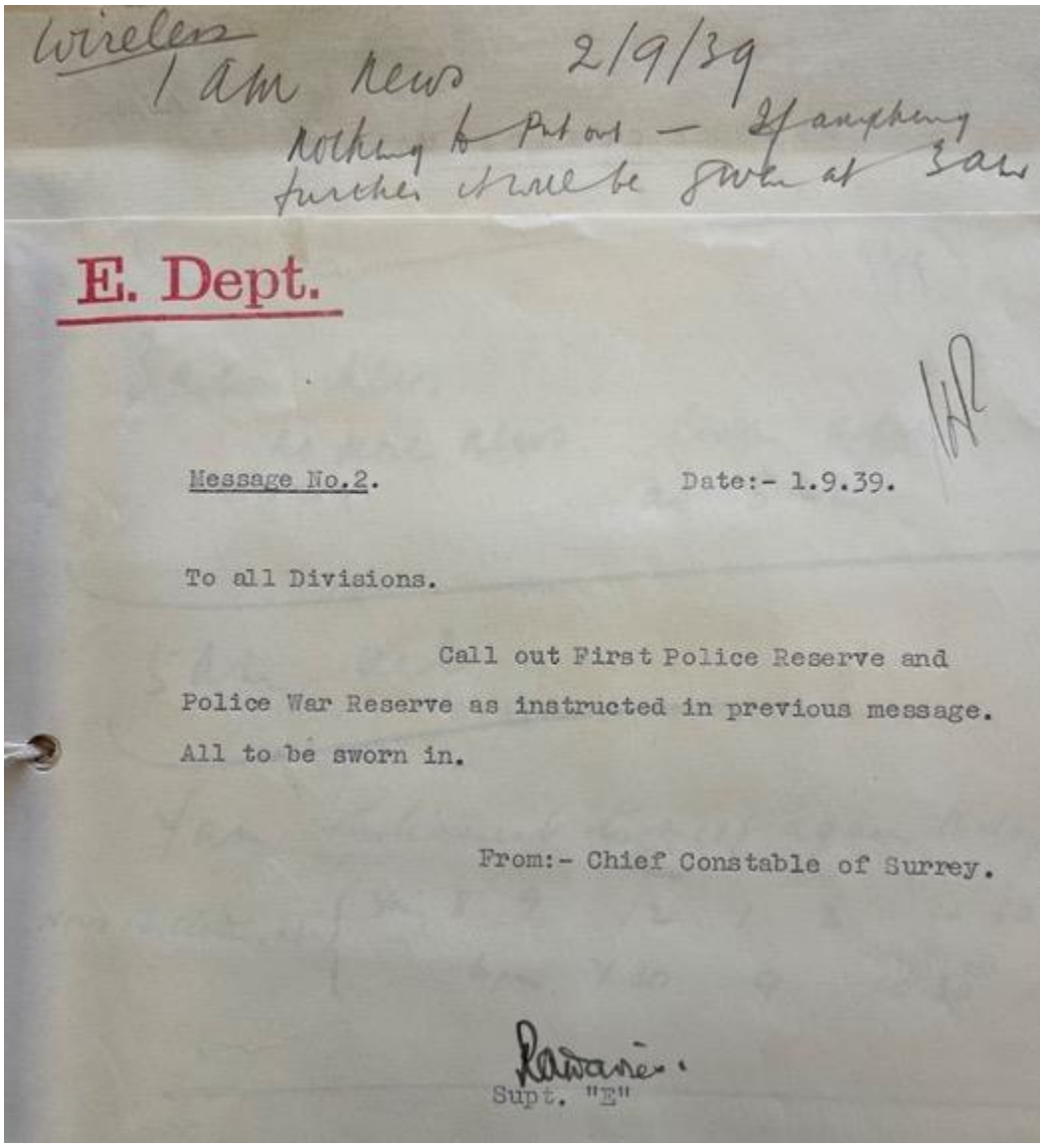
Paragraph 16 and Appendix XII of the instructions, which relate to evacuation, are in course of amendment and the revised text will be issued at an early date. As regards paragraphs 13 and 14, I am to say that revised issues of Sections 11 and 12 of Police War Instructions will be sent to you within the course of the next few days.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

A. Maxwell.

The Chief Constable.

Waiting for war to be declared on 2 September. It was the 3rd when that sombre broadcast was made from Downing Street telling the nation we were at war.



Wireless
I am News 2/9/39
Nothing to Put out — If anything
further should be spoken at 3am

E. Dept.

Message No.2. Date:- 1.9.39.

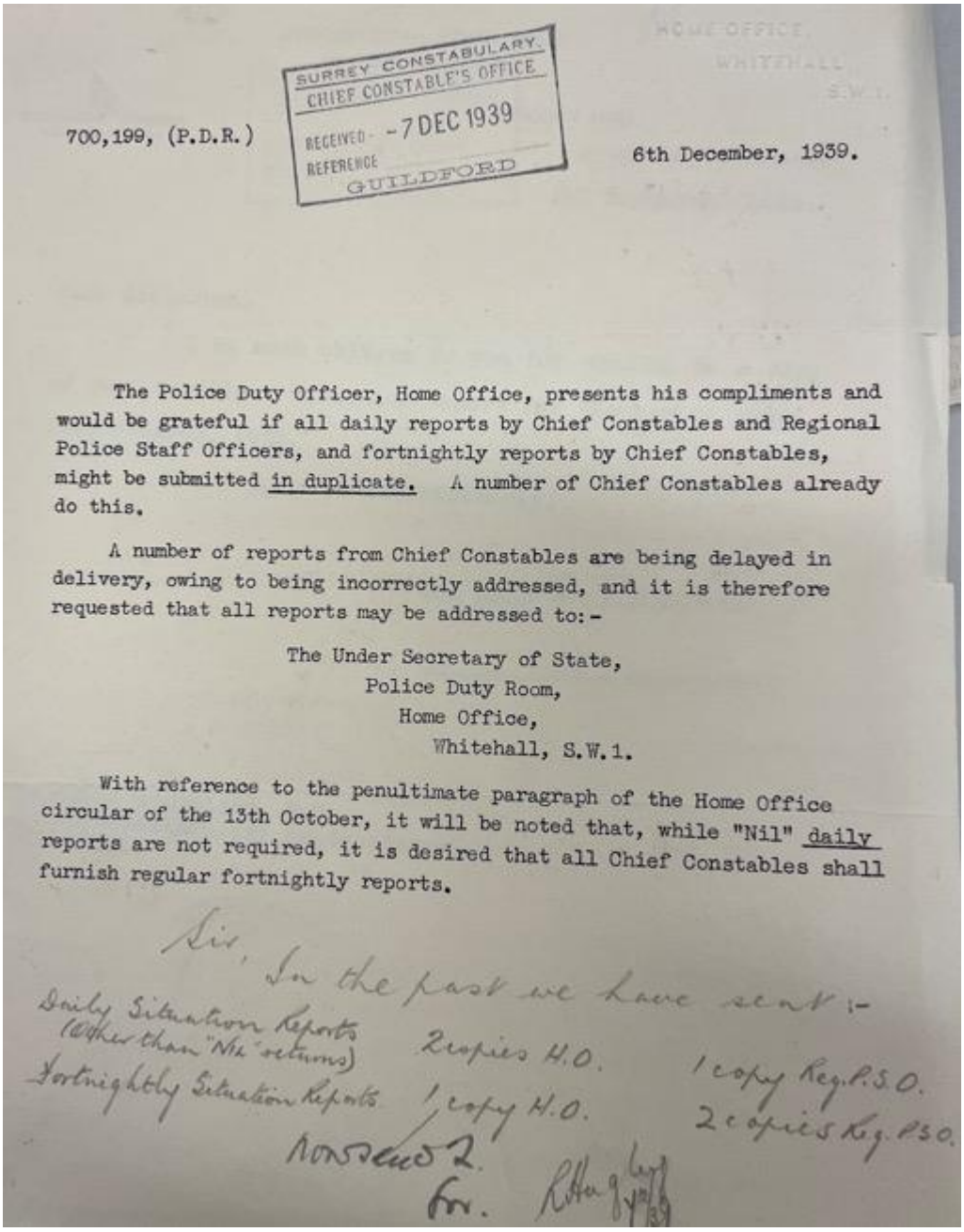
To all Divisions.

Call out First Police Reserve and Police War Reserve as instructed in previous message. All to be sworn in.

From:- Chief Constable of Surrey.

Supt. "E"

Two days before the start of the Second World War Surrey History Centre



700,199, (P.D.R.)

SURREY CONSTABULARY
CHIEF CONSTABLE'S OFFICE
RECEIVED -7 DEC 1939
REFERENCE
GUILDFORD

6th December, 1939.

The Police Duty Officer, Home Office, presents his compliments and would be grateful if all daily reports by Chief Constables and Regional Police Staff Officers, and fortnightly reports by Chief Constables, might be submitted in duplicate. A number of Chief Constables already do this.

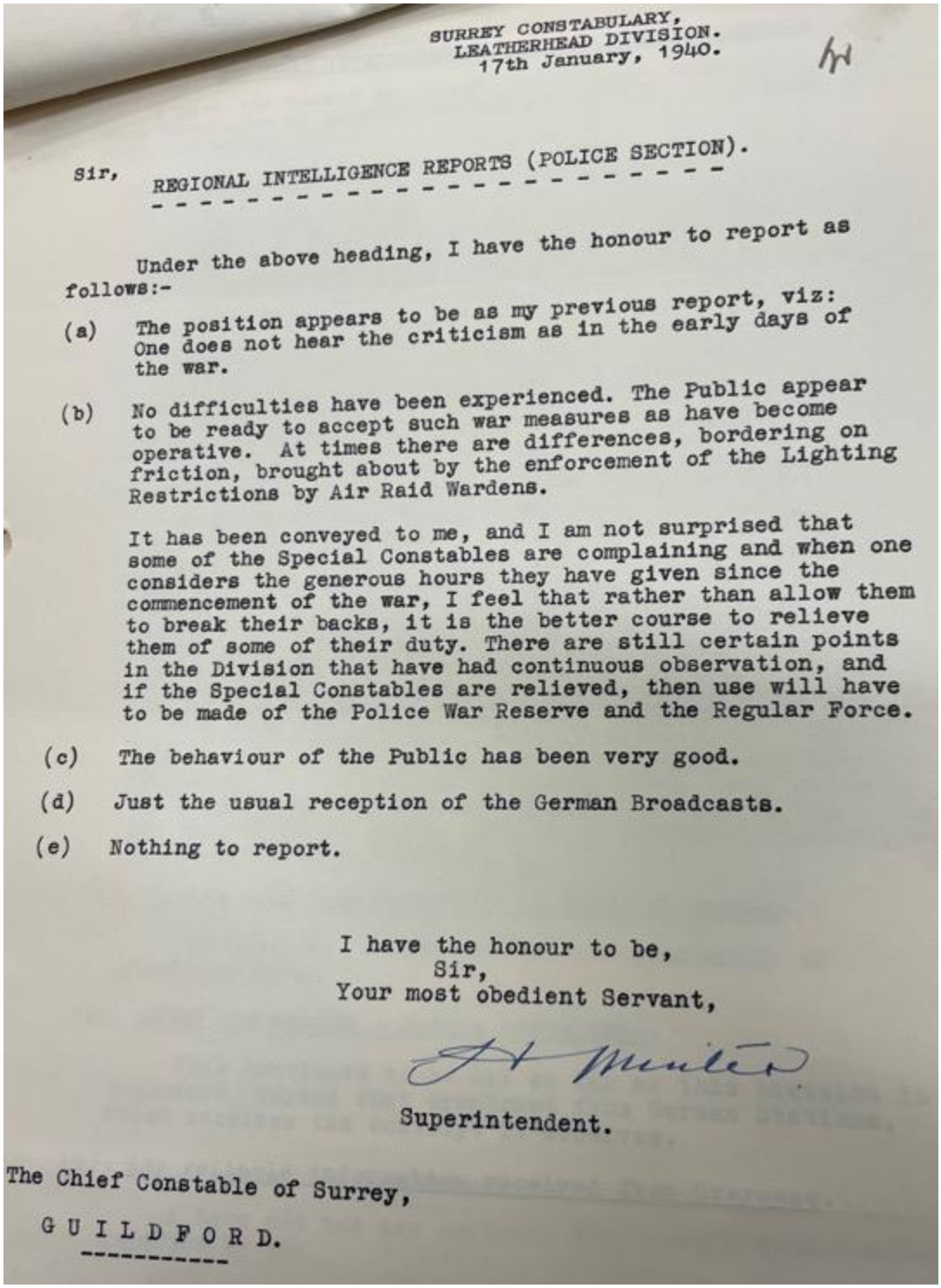
A number of reports from Chief Constables are being delayed in delivery, owing to being incorrectly addressed, and it is therefore requested that all reports may be addressed to:-

The Under Secretary of State,
Police Duty Room,
Home Office,
Whitehall, S.W.1.

With reference to the penultimate paragraph of the Home Office circular of the 13th October, it will be noted that, while "Nil" daily reports are not required, it is desired that all Chief Constables shall furnish regular fortnightly reports.

Sir,
In the past we have sent:-
Daily Situation Reports (other than "Nil" returns) 2 copies H.O. 1 copy Reg. P.S.O.
Fortnightly Situation Reports 1 copy H.O. 2 copies Reg. P.S.O.
Noted 2.
for. Ron Hagley 6/12/39

Surrey History Centre CC 98/8/19. Signed by Ron Hagley – in the future to be appointed chief superintendent.



SURREY CONSTABULARY,
LEATHERHEAD DIVISION.
17th January, 1940.

Sir,

REGIONAL INTELLIGENCE REPORTS (POLICE SECTION).

Under the above heading, I have the honour to report as follows:-

(a) The position appears to be as my previous report, viz: One does not hear the criticism as in the early days of the war.

(b) No difficulties have been experienced. The Public appear to be ready to accept such war measures as have become operative. At times there are differences, bordering on friction, brought about by the enforcement of the Lighting Restrictions by Air Raid Wardens.

It has been conveyed to me, and I am not surprised that some of the Special Constables are complaining and when one considers the generous hours they have given since the commencement of the war, I feel that rather than allow them to break their backs, it is the better course to relieve them of some of their duty. There are still certain points in the Division that have had continuous observation, and if the Special Constables are relieved, then use will have to be made of the Police War Reserve and the Regular Force.

(c) The behaviour of the Public has been very good.

(d) Just the usual reception of the German Broadcasts.

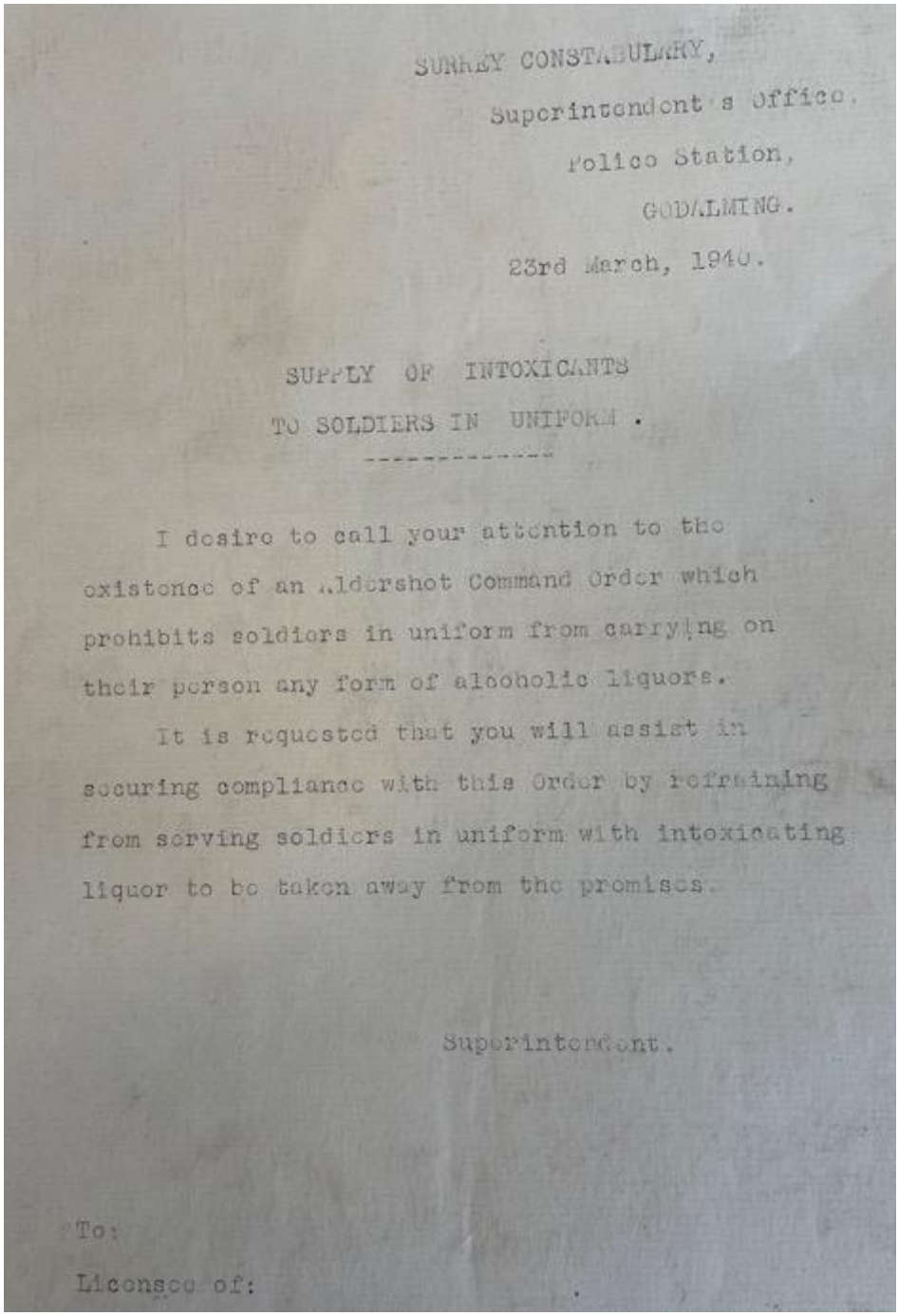
(e) Nothing to report.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

Superintendent.

The Chief Constable of Surrey,
GUILDFORD.

Regional Intelligence reports Surrey History Centre CC 98/8/19



SURREY CONSTABULARY,
Superintendent's Office,
Police Station,
GODALMING.
23rd March, 1940.

SUPPLY OF INTOXICANTS
TO SOLDIERS IN UNIFORM.

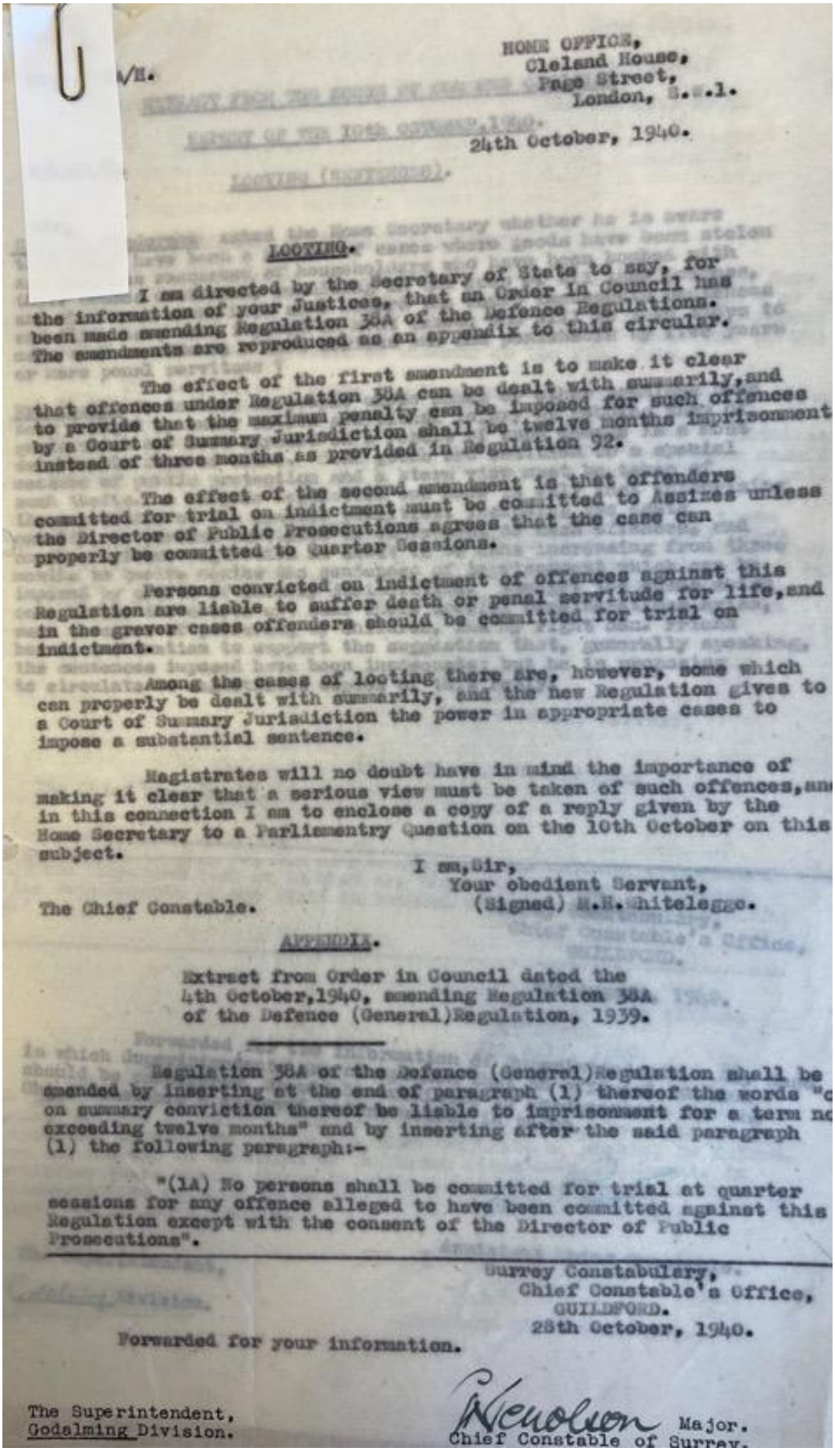
I desire to call your attention to the existence of an Aldershot Command Order which prohibits soldiers in uniform from carrying on their person any form of alcoholic liquors.

It is requested that you will assist in securing compliance with this Order by refraining from serving soldiers in uniform with intoxicating liquor to be taken away from the premises.

Superintendent.

To:
Licensee of:

Supply of Intoxicants to soldiers Surrey History Centre CC 98/8/4



HOME OFFICE,
Cleland House,
Page Street,
London, S.W.1.

24th October, 1940.

LOOTING.

I am directed by the Secretary of State to say, for the information of your Justices, that an Order in Council has been made amending Regulation 38A of the Defence Regulations. The amendments are reproduced as an appendix to this circular.

The effect of the first amendment is to make it clear that offences under Regulation 38A can be dealt with summarily, and to provide that the maximum penalty can be imposed for such offences by a Court of Summary Jurisdiction shall be twelve months imprisonment instead of three months as provided in Regulation 92.

The effect of the second amendment is that offenders committed for trial on indictment must be committed to Assizes unless the Director of Public Prosecutions agrees that the case can properly be committed to Quarter Sessions.

Persons convicted on indictment of offences against this Regulation are liable to suffer death or penal servitude for life, and in the graver cases offenders should be committed for trial on indictment.

Among the cases of looting there are, however, some which can properly be dealt with summarily, and the new Regulation gives to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction the power in appropriate cases to impose a substantial sentence.

Magistrates will no doubt have in mind the importance of making it clear that a serious view must be taken of such offences, and in this connection I am to enclose a copy of a reply given by the Home Secretary to a Parliamentry Question on the 10th October on this subject.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) H.H. Whitelegge.

The Chief Constable.

APPENDIX.

Extract from Order in Council dated the 4th October, 1940, amending Regulation 38A of the Defence (General) Regulation, 1939.

Regulation 38A of the Defence (General) Regulation shall be amended by inserting at the end of paragraph (1) thereof the words "on summary conviction thereof be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months" and by inserting after the said paragraph (1) the following paragraph:-

"(1A) No persons shall be committed for trial at quarter sessions for any offence alleged to have been committed against this Regulation except with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions".

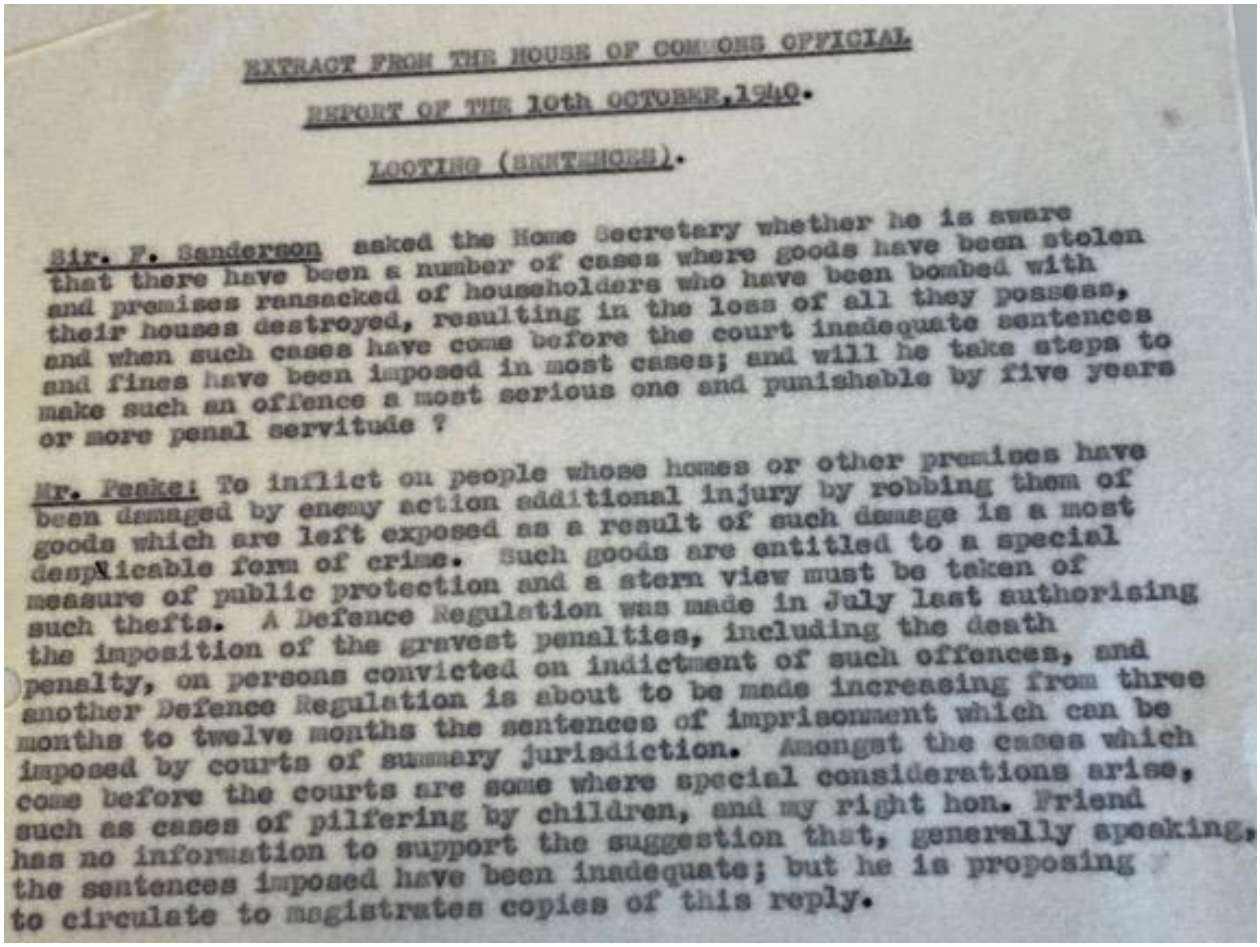
Surrey Constabulary,
Chief Constable's Office,
GUILDFORD.
28th October, 1940.

Forwarded for your information.

The Superintendent,
Godalming Division.

Major.
Chief Constable of Surrey.

Looting Surrey History Centre CC 98/8/4



EXTRACT FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OFFICIAL

REPORT OF THE 10th OCTOBER, 1940.

LOOTING (SENTENCES).

Sir. F. Sanderson asked the Home Secretary whether he is aware that there have been a number of cases where goods have been stolen and premises ransacked of householders who have been bombed with their houses destroyed, resulting in the loss of all they possess, and when such cases have come before the court inadequate sentences and fines have been imposed in most cases; and will he take steps to make such an offence a most serious one and punishable by five years or more penal servitude ?

Mr. Peake: To inflict on people whose homes or other premises have been damaged by enemy action additional injury by robbing them of goods which are left exposed as a result of such damage is a most despicable form of crime. Such goods are entitled to a special measure of public protection and a stern view must be taken of such thefts. A Defence Regulation was made in July last authorising the imposition of the gravest penalties, including the death penalty, on persons convicted on indictment of such offences, and another Defence Regulation is about to be made increasing from three months to twelve months the sentences of imprisonment which can be imposed by courts of summary jurisdiction. Amongst the cases which come before the courts are some where special considerations arise, such as cases of pilfering by children, and my right hon. Friend has no information to support the suggestion that, generally speaking, the sentences imposed have been inadequate; but he is proposing to circulate to magistrates copies of this reply.

Looting Surrey History Centre CC 98/8/4

HOME OFFICE,
WHITEHALL.
26th October,1940.

700,309/104.

Sir,

CONTROL OF PHOTOGRAPHY.

I am directed by the Secretary of State to refer to the Home Office Circular of the 14th September,1939, and subsequent circulars on the Control of Photography Orders, and to say that he thinks Chief Officers of Police may wish to have some guidance on the line to be folowed in cases where persons take photographs of buildings damaged as a result of air raids.

Where it comes to the notice of the Police that a householder has taken a photograph of his own damaged house without being in possession of a permit under the Control of Photography Order,1939, the Secretary of State considers that, providing the picture does not include any military objective or show serious damage to a number of houses, the Police need take no action beyond a warning that the photographs are not to be put to any other than the personal use of the householder and that permission must not be assumed to photograph air raid damage to other property.

Where a person has photographed buildings other than his own house, if there is no reason to consider that the photographs have been taken with any subversive intention and the buildings concerned are not military objectives and have not been seriously damaged, the case could probably be best dealt with if the Police were to administer a caution and if possible to obtain agreement to the rendering useless of the films by exposing them to the light.

The Control of Photography Order should, however, be strictly enforced in cases of photographs of extensive damage to private property (such as demolition of a large number of houses) or damage to important factories and other military objectives.

Signed J.M.Ross.

SURREY CONSTABULARY,
Chief Constable's Office,
Guildford.
29th October,1940.

The above copy letter is forwarded for your information and guidance.

Signed C.C. of Surrey.

Control of Photography Surrey History Centre CC 98/8/4

COPY NO. 21

SECRET

SURREY CONSTABULARY,
Crime Bureau,
GUILDFORD.
26th. November, 1940.

I give below a copy of a circular issued by the Regional Security Liaison Officer for No.6. Region. The information should be helpful in checking up on strangers who may be enemy agents. Each copy is numbered and great care must be taken to ensure that they are kept under proper cover. I may recall them at a later date or give orders for destruction. On no account are copies to be made of it. Great importance is attached by the Regional Security Officer to the keeping of the information contained in the circular, secret.

G Nicholson Major.
Chief Constable of Surrey.

In view of the danger that enemy agents may now or in the near future attempt to operate in this country, it is becoming increasingly necessary that the utmost care should be taken to check carefully the bona fides of all strangers.

In this connection it may be noted that the production of an Identity Card is not necessarily a guarantee of good faith.

Any person who is unable to produce satisfactory evidence of his business, and if enquiries reveal that there is reason to believe he may be an enemy agent, a communication should be made at once to M.I.5 through Police Headquarters, and further interrogation should be discontinued, as it may hinder the work of M.I.5 Officers who are collecting valuable information concerning methods of introducing agents into the country.

It is appreciated that the police are fully aware and constantly on the watch for a great many of the following points, which should be looked for in making enquiries into the bona fides of strangers, but it is hoped that the following list may be of some assistance to the police.

1. A careful examination of passports should where-ever possible be carried out and any passport issued in Luxembourg should be regarded with the gravest suspicion and reported at once.

2. The failure of an alien to have his registration particulars endorsed on his Identity Card is a matter for suspicion. There are indications that the Germans are unaware of the necessity for this.

3. A clean or new Identity Card bearing an old date. If necessary the address on the Identity Card should be checked with the letters which denote the district in which it was issued.

4. Any suspect carrying a pink travellers' ration book with "CA" number merits special attention, as ration books of this description are out of date and have been since about June 1940.

5. Documents should be checked against each other, i.e. a Ration Card and Identity Card should be compared to see that there is no inconsistency in their issue to the same individual.

6. An address written in continental fashion, either on Identity Card or on other documents or clothing, i.e. the name of the town before the street, or the number of the house after the street, viz.Copenhagen, W. adolf Strasse 6. Name on Identity Card showing initials or Christian names preceeding the surname.

7. The German or Eastern European method of writing the number 7, i.e.7, instead of 7.

Enemy agents – identification Surrey History Centre CC 98/8/4

8. Clothing of foreign cut. Most aliens now permanently resident in the country will have acquired clothing of British manufacture. New tabs denoting English manufacture sewn on to old clothing should naturally arouse suspicion.

9. A foreign accent. In view, howevver, of the large number of aliens in the country, this cannot by itself be regarded as suspicious.

10. Possession of large sums of money, particularly of £5 notes. It is always as well to take the numbers of any bank notes found on a suspect as these can be traced.

11. An individual carrying a suitcase or baggage may be suspect. Suitcases made of imitation crocodile skin of light or dark brown, with two catches, size about 1' 4" by 1' 6" may contain a wireless set, as also may suitcases of black imitation leather measuring 1' by 7" by 3½" or 8" by 8" by 4".

12. Any presence of Pyramidon on a person is highly suspect. This is usually carried in tablet form and looks like aspirin tablets with the word "Pyramidon" stamped on it. It may be worth mentioning here that aspirin can be used as a secret ink in the same way as Pyramidon.

13. Lack of knowledge of the neighbourhood should give rise to suspicion.

14. Possession of large scale maps is also a matter for suspicion.

It is thought that the above may be worthy of attention, as it is a list which has been drawn up as a result of practical experience in dealing with German agents arriving in this country.

REGIONAL SECURITY LIAISON OFFICER.

19. 11. 40.

REGION NO. 6.

Enemy Agents Surrey History Centre 98/8/4

E74/41. L.

SURREY CONSTABULARY,
Superintendent's Office,
Emergency Department,
GODALMING.
26.6.41.

Unexploded Bombs.

The following is a copy of a form made out at Report Centres and forwarded to Surrey Control whenever UXB's are reported in the area of the particular Report Centre.

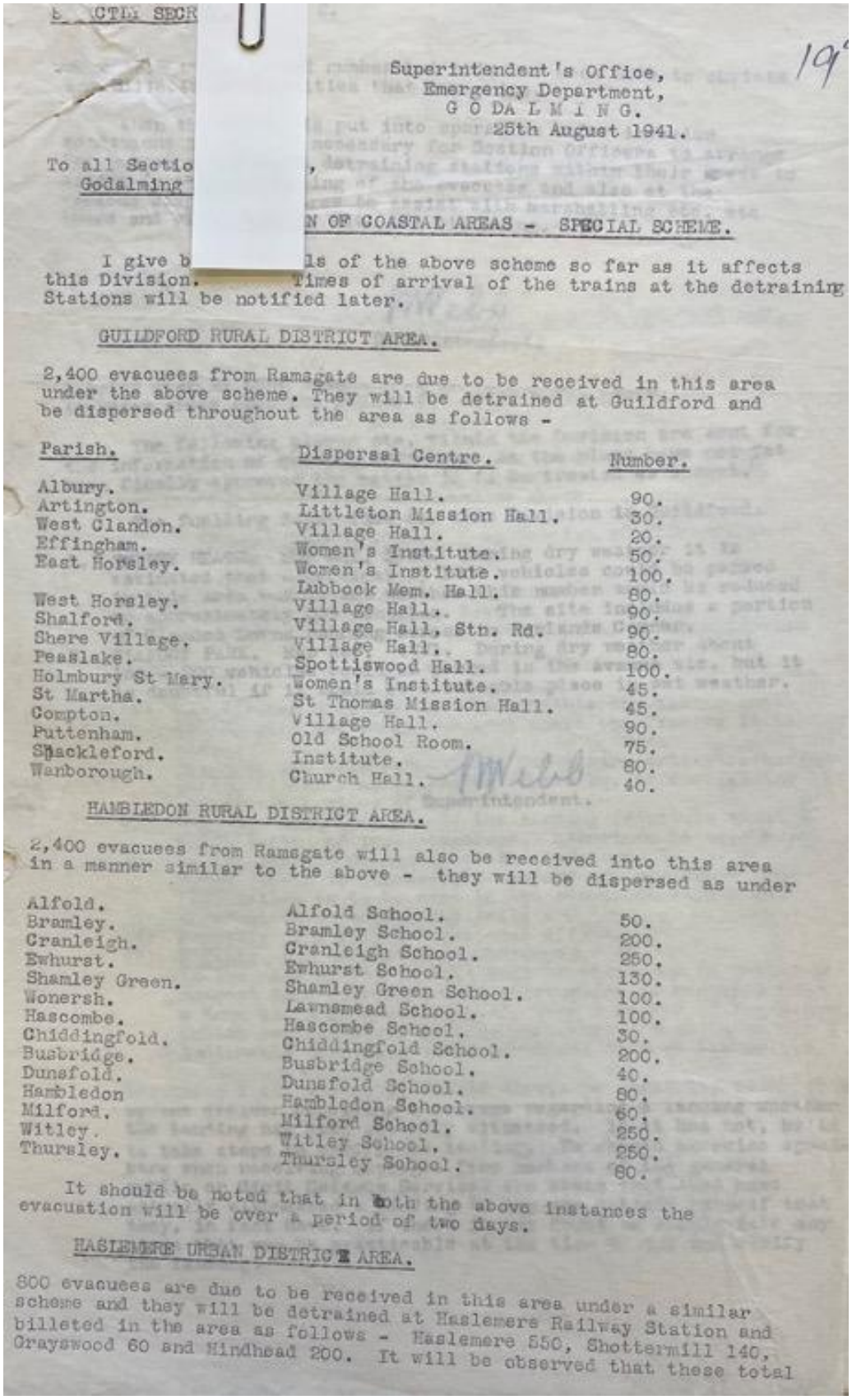
In future, would reporting officers obtain the particulars as set out below so as to enable the reporting of UXB's to be as uniform as possible.

Serial No._____(to be filled in by Report Centre).

REPORT ON UNEXPLODED BOMBS.

1. EXACT LOCATION.....
2. DATE AND HOUR OF FALLING.....
3. SAY IF IN (a) Open Ground.....
   (b) Hard Surface.....
   (c) Building.....
4. IS ANY PART OF BOMB EXPOSED...(Give Details).....
5. DIAMETER OF HOLE.....
6. ESTIMATED DEPTH OF HOLE.....
7. (a) Has a crater been formed.....
   (b) Are windows over 20ft away broken.....
   (c) Have splinters or splinter marks been found.....
   (d) Is there any sign of blackening.....
8. Reason for believing bomb NOT exploded and remarks.....
9. CATEGORY.....

Unexploded Bombs reporting Surrey History Centre 98



Superintendent's Office,
Emergency Department,
G O DA L M I N G.
25th August 1941.

19

To all Sectio
Godalming

N OF COASTAL AREAS - SPECIAL SCHEME.

I give b ls of the above scheme so far as it affects this Division. Times of arrival of the trains at the detraining Stations will be notified later.

GUILDFORD RURAL DISTRICT AREA.

2,400 evacuees from Ramsgate are due to be received in this area under the above scheme. They will be detrained at Guildford and be dispersed throughout the area as follows -

Parish.	Dispersal Centre.	Number.
Albury.	Village Hall.	90.
Artington.	Littleton Mission Hall.	30.
West Clandon.	Village Hall.	20.
Effingham.	Women's Institute.	50.
East Horsley.	Women's Institute.	100.
	Lubbock Mem. Hall.	80.
West Horsley.	Village Hall.	90.
Shalford.	Village Hall, Stn. Rd.	90.
Shere Village.	Village Hall.	80.
Peaslake.	Spottiswood Hall.	100.
Holmbury St Mary.	Women's Institute.	45.
St Martha.	St Thomas Mission Hall.	45.
Compton.	Village Hall.	90.
Puttenham.	Old School Room.	75.
Shackleford.	Institute.	80.
Wanborough.	Church Hall.	40.

Superintendent.

HAMBLEDON RURAL DISTRICT AREA.

2,400 evacuees from Ramsgate will also be received into this area in a manner similar to the above - they will be dispersed as under

Alfold.	Alfold School.	50.
Bramley.	Bramley School.	200.
Cranleigh.	Cranleigh School.	250.
Ewhurst.	Ewhurst School.	130.
Shamley Green.	Shamley Green School.	100.
Wonersh.	Lawnsmead School.	100.
Hascombe.	Hascombe School.	30.
Chiddingfold.	Chiddingfold School.	200.
Busbridge.	Busbridge School.	40.
Dunsfold.	Dunsfold School.	80.
Hambledon	Hambledon School.	60.
Milford.	Milford School.	250.
Witley.	Witley School.	250.
Thursley.	Thursley School.	80.

It should be noted that in both the above instances the evacuation will be over a period of two days.

HASLEMERE URBAN DISTRICT AREA.

800 evacuees are due to be received in this area under a similar scheme and they will be detrained at Haslemere Railway Station and billeted in the area as follows - Haslemere 550, Shottermill 140, Grayswood 60 and Hindhead 200. It will be observed that these total

Evacuation of Ramsgate residents to Surrey - Surrey History Centre 98

Superintendent's Office,
Emergency Department,
G O D A L M I N G.
27th May 1942.

75.

80

To all Section Officers,
Godalming Division.

BOMBS WITHOUT WARNING.

In future when bombs fall within your Section without air raid warnings being received please report such information to this Office immediately for the information of "E" Department. Headquarters and also of Regional Headquarters.

The time of the sounding of the siren, if and when it occurs, should also be included in the report.

The type of report required is as follows -

"3 H.E. bombs fell and exploded at 1900/16 (Without warning) at (place), map reference..... ... miles South of Godalming Police Station. No damage or casualties. Sirens sounded 1905/16."

MWebb

Superintendent.

Bombs falling without warning Surrey History Centre 98/4

123.

Superintendent's Office,
Emergency Department,
Godalming.
23rd Octr. 1942.

D.O.

To all Section Officers,
Godalming Division.

Situation Reports.

A case has recently occurred in this Division where, some days after a military exercise, a pony was badly injured and had to be destroyed, as the result of treading on what must have been either a grenade or other explosive missile.

No steps were taken by the reporting officer to ensure that the necessary information was telephoned to this office in time for the daily situation report and the matter only came to light when the paper report was submitted some days later.

I must therefore ask Section Officers to impress upon their personnel that any matter arising from the war, either real or exercise, which can be termed an incident is to be reported in the usual way (by telephone) in time for the situation report on that day.

Even if it would appear not to be a matter for the Situation Report it should be sent in so that I can decide.

In future the following procedure is to be adopted with regard to Situation Reports -

If you have nothing to report, either in the morning or afternoon, then no message need be sent here.

If you have something to report in the morning it should be sent in at 0830 hours at the latest.

If you have something to report in the afternoon it is to be in by 1700 hours at the latest. If it is not possible to get full details in by that time let me have what you have got and submit the remainder as soon as possible after 1700 hours.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

First Aid for Phosphorus burns.

With reference to paragraph 5 of the leaflet on phosphorus and other bombs now being used by the enemy, please note that I am sending out, under separate cover, one pound of washing soda and half a pound of copper ~~xxx~~ sulphate crystals which are to be added to the First Aid Set "A" at your Station. (for information)

F Inspector for
Superintendent.

Situation reports and Phosphorus burns Surrey History Centre 98/4

Espionage on the Home Front

For most people then and now, the secret work undertaken in cities, towns and villages to ensure the fight continued had Britain been invaded, was completely unknown. Before Churchill was setting out his "fighting on the fields and on the landing grounds" strategy, never surrendering, was a task set for secret organisations with a target to be up and running before any invasion. Take the ground early and be in front of the game. Much was learnt from what was happening in Europe where occupation had begun hence the involvement of SIS (MI6) whose role was normally on secret activities outside the United Kingdom.

Much of what is available to researchers is confusing, unclear with little firm understanding of what was started and when and how things developed. It is also uncertain though likely, that organisations were run in parallel. Resilience if one organisation is rolled up? This obfuscation is not helped by government who remain reluctant to release all they have on this aspect of the Second World War. The reasons why are subject to an industry of speculation!

On 27th May 1940 in the midst of the Dunkirk crisis, Churchill and the war cabinet had agreed and approved: "The regular defences require supplementing with guerrilla type troops, who will allow themselves to be overrun and who thereafter will be responsible for hitting the enemy in the comparatively soft spots behind zones of concentrated attack...[3]

A letter from the War Cabinet to Colonel Gubbins who was to be in command of the organisation:

"**A**. They are intended to provide within the framework of the Home Guard organisation small bodies of men especially selected and trained, whose role it will be to act offensively on the flanks and in the rear of any enemy troops who may obtain a foothold in this country. Their actions will be particularly directed against tanks and lorries ----- ammunition dumps, small enemy posts and stragglers. Their activities will include sniping.

B. The other function of the Auxiliary units is to provide a system of intelligence whereby Regular Forces in the field can be kept informed of what is happening behind enemy lines." [4]

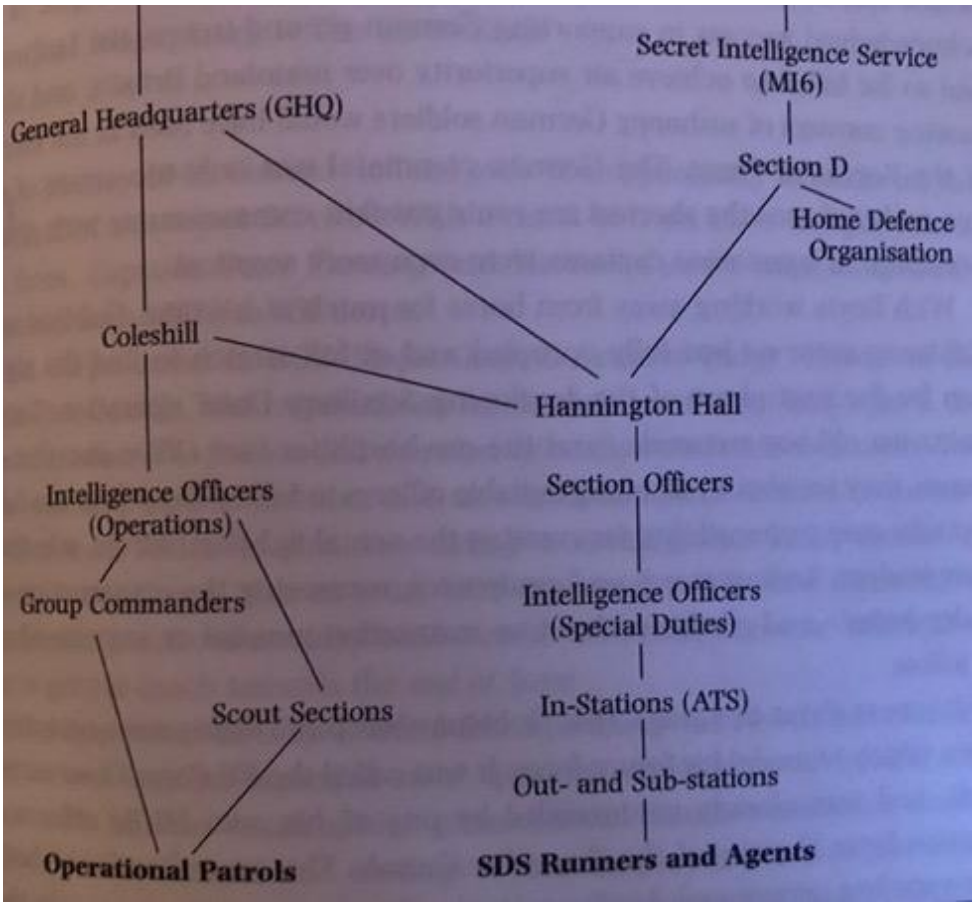
"A" was the task of the Patrols which is a larger tale to be told. "B" became the role of the evolving Special Duty Sections a part of the organisation sometimes referred to as Special Duty Branch. To add to the confusion seemingly unbeknown to most, SIS established Section V11 of which more below.

[3] " With Britain in Mortal Danger" Ed John Warwicker Cerberus Publishing 2002 page 23
[4] "Beating the Nazi Invader" Neil R Storey Pen and Sword 2020 page 230

Second World War Home Front - Most Secret

Special Duty Sections and Signals

Robert Bartlett 26 January 2024



Structures of command and control were not straight forward as far as can be judged with so little source material. At some point SIS drop out and establishes Section V11.[5]

Regional Security Liaison officers (RSLOs) were placed by MI5 throughout Britain in advance of the outbreak of the Second World War. They developed contacts at all levels including business and commercial communities, factory managers, local government officials, aristocrats and prominent landowners. The principal conduit of information and in many cases, direct action, was the local chief constable.[6] Regional government was established in the build-up to war and during early days of the conflict. Regional HQ for Surrey was in Reading although as the war progressed Surrey was transferred to a different structure in Tunbridge Wells. A number of Surrey Constabulary superintendents played a role in regional activities including Detective Superintendent Tom Roberts.

[5] "Churchill's Underground Army" John Warwicker Frontline books 2008 page 57
[6] Churchill's Underground Army p 177

The Surrey Constabulary established “E” or Emergency Department under a superintendent. It was a small organisation which became the lynch pin of the response of the county to the war. There was also a beefed-up Security Department that included Special Branch, busy people given the endless spy and fifth column scares. This included liaising with Regional Government and all manner of secret organisations such as SOE, SIS and MI5. Surrey as a county had numerous secret establishments but no evidence has been seen of Auxiliary Units or Special Duties sections.

Emergency powers: As war loomed in August 1939, Parliament passed the Emergency Powers (Defence) Act which allowed the government to issue whatever controls and regulations it felt were necessary to pursue the war effectively on the Home Front. Its provisions were extended by a further Act in 1940, which contained wide-ranging powers. These laws included provision for punishment, detention without trial, and for the requisitioning of land and property for military use. Detailed defence regulations were also issued under these Acts, including the establishment in 1940 of the Local Defence Volunteers, better known as the Home Guard. Other regulations covered areas which affected practically everyone such as the blackout, air raid procedures, and food rationing.

Separate from the Auxiliary Units' Operational Patrols (AU) was the Special Duty Section (SDS sometimes referred to as Branch) which was originally recruited by the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS MI6) selected from the local civilian population and carefully vetted. It acted as "eyes and ears" and would report back to military intelligence any information obtained about the invader, 'careless talk' or from watching troop movements and supply routes. It was supported by a signals network of hidden, short-range, wireless sets in the early months just around the coast. To ensure security and cellular isolation, there were no means by which the intelligence won by SDS could be passed directly to the Operational Auxiliary Patrols for action.[7]

It is unlikely that the wireless network would survive long after invasion and that it would not have been possible to link the isolated Operational Patrols into a national network that could act in concert on behalf of a British government in exile and its representatives still in the United Kingdom. Instead, SIS created a separate resistance organisation (Section VII) with powerful wireless sets that was intended to act on a longer-term basis.

The Special Duties Sections were recruited largely from the civilian population, with around 4,000 members. They had been trained to identify vehicles, high-ranking officers and military units and were to gather intelligence and leave reports in dead letter drops. The reports would be collected by runners and taken to one of over 200 secret radio transmitters operated by trained civilian signals staff. The civilian personnel operated as 'Intelligence Gatherers' and

[7] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auxiliary_Units#:~:text=Special%20Duty%20Sections%20and%20Signals,-Separate%20from%20the&text=It%20acted%20as%20%22eyes%20and,wireless%20sets%20around%20the%20coast.

operated the OUT Station radios. ATS subalterns or Royal Signals personnel operated the Special Duties IN-Stations and Zero Stations.

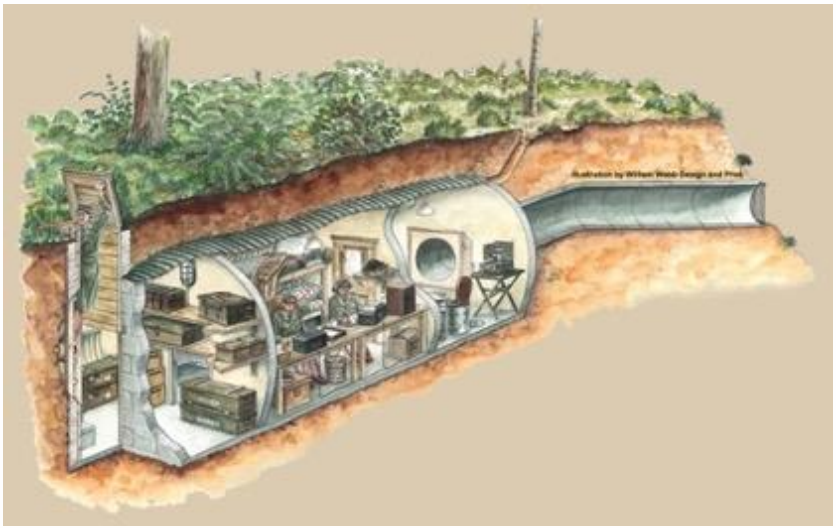
Special Duties (Section) Branch[8]

The SDS was formed in July 1940. Led by Intelligence Officers from Military Intelligence, initially it was a network of civilians known as Key Men, Observers and Runners. Each was given the code and a password. Information would be passed from person to person using Dead Letter Drops (DLD) without them ever meeting. Initially it was planned that after an invasion, runners would have been sent across the front line to report to British troops.

In 1941 wireless transmitters were brought in to speed the passage of the messages. Special wireless sets were designed and built that used speech, easier for civilians to use. Pre-war radio amateurs were recruited into the Royal Signals to design and build the sets. They were concealed in a variety of ingenious ways. The civilian Outstation operators transmitted reports back to Instations manned by the Royal Signals or the ATS, who passed these to Army Headquarters.

No comprehensive record of the Special Duties Network or Personnel exists. A report written by Major R.M.A. Jones in June 1944 records 233 Wireless Stations, of which 30 were the Instations. There were said to be 3,250 men and women involved but no nominal roll of the participants has come to light.

In the late 1990s former Royal Signals Sergeant Arthur Gabbitas, recorded his former colleagues' recollections which are invaluable, as is a partial map of the Wireless Network he put together.



Wakehurst Place Zero Station drawn by William Webb Design & Print

[8] https://www.staybehinds.com/special-duties-branch

SDB (or SDS) Origins and MI6

The SDS had its origins in another secret stay behind organisation already created by Section D of MI6 a few months earlier. This was known as the Home Defence Organisation (HDO). Along with the civilians, a number of officers transferred to AUs from MI6's Section D. These men would be the Intelligence Officers in the new SDS.

Civilian spy networks

The civilian spy network was formed before the wireless network came into being. Initially it was set up as part of the Section D HDO. This was a network of observers, linked by runners, whose role was transport messages across the front line, after an invasion, to reach the British commanders. However, it became clear that in practice this would take far to long for the messages to be useful, resulting in the setting up of the wireless network, in 1941 on into 1942. The spy network was modified for messages to be passed securely to the wireless operators.

Each wireless station had in the region of 20 to 30 people involved in supplying messages. Some would be observers who would produce the intelligence. They were provided with materials to allow them to identify German units and equipment. Some were runners, who would carry the messages between DLDs. These were locations where a message could be concealed for another runner to collect, without the two ever meeting. A range of different DLDs were used. These included hollow tree stumps, behind ID plates on telegraph poles, hidden within gateposts. This was designed to avoid the whole network being compromised if one person was captured. Unlike the Operational Branch, the SDS civilians were both men and women. Women were felt less likely to be stopped and searched by the occupiers. It seems a number were widows of servicemen or whose husbands were serving overseas.

The network would cover an area of around 10 miles around each wireless station. A Key Man was in charge of this network and documents indicate that the Key Man was usually a wireless operator.

A Group Leader was in charge of the civilian staff over a much wider area, possibly even the whole network. Unlike the Operational side of AUs, very few of these group leaders and key men are known. Even fewer of the observers and runners can be confirmed.

A cadre of the SDS was in place as war broke out, a part of MI(R) which according to SOE records had authority to organise the "collection of information by special means outside the province of other sections of the Military Intelligence Directorate."[9]

Following Dunkirk, the SDS continued to expand from what started as a civilian network Home Defence Organisation which in turn was created by D Section (D for destruction) of SIS whose dictum "to be effective a secret service must remain secret". Never negotiable and never means never ever! Not a single radio of the TRD type used by SDS has survived. The complexity of developing a SDS post invasion meant that SIS started early.[10]

[9] With Britain in Mortal Danger Ed John Warwicker P 151 2002 Corberus Publishing
[10] With Britain in Mortal Danger Ed John Warwicker P 151 2002 Corberus Publishing page 153

The civilians were selected by Regional Officers of Section D attached to Regional Commissioners. Men and women were sought who had a very good reason for staying put and attempt to carry out their normal life as far as every day work permitted in country or town. [11]

Led by "key men" "who by virtue of their local standing, could instil confidence and courage into that part of the civilian population which may still be alive after the battle has swept beyond them." They knew "the whole story."[12]

By 22 July 1940 nearly 200 Key Men had been appointed and 1,00 dumps of material placed, including 1,000 bottles of sulphuric acid and enough petrol and paraffin to build 45,000 petrol bombs.

Organisational change came as SDS were reconstituted as a cellular intelligence gathering and communications network with volunteers retrained as spies supplied with radio communications as non-combatants but part of the Auxiliary Units. They remained separate and unaware of their operational comrades in the patrols.[13]

By D Day the SDS was still a part of the order of battle for the defence of the UK and heavily involved in the periphery of the Normandy landings.[14]

"There are 10 areas covering the coastal belt from the north of Scotland down to but excluding Devon and Cornwall and including parts of South Wales. Each area under an Intelligence Officer.[15]

a. In each area an organisation has been built up of civilians able to transmit accurate information about the enemy in event of raids or an invasion.
b. There are well above 200 RT stations situated throughout the coastal areas- mostly concealed underground in dugouts capable of holding three men. These stations are known as OUT Stations and are manned entirely by civilians.
c. These OUT Stations fed by Sub OUT Stations in many cases – communicate with IN Stations which are manned by Royal Signals personnel and ATS officers.
d. IN Stations are sited in depth with an inner system established with an inner system established at Headquarters of Commands.
e. There are 3,250 civilians within the organisation." [16]

The SDS of the Auxiliary Units continued in place until 1944 when the important role of deceit for Overlord was finalised. It July 1944 the SDS disappeared forever.[17] Or did they? Did SDS

[11] With Britain in Mortal Danger Ed John Warwicker P 151 2002 Corberus Publishing page 154
[12] With Britain in Mortal Danger Ed John Warwicker P 151 2002 Corberus Publishing page 155
[13] With Britain in Mortal Danger Ed John Warwicker P 151 2002 Corberus Publishing page 156
[14] With Britain in Mortal Danger Ed John Warwicker P 151 2002 Corberus Publishing page 157
[15] CO Auxiliary Units written before D Day when a national trawl of under utilised soldiers was undertaken.
[16] With Britain in Mortal Danger Ed John Warwicker P 151 2002 Corberus Publishing page 157
[17] Churchill's Underground Army p 177

and other wartime secret organisations remain in place during the cold war? Or is it no more than the SIS dictum "to be effective a secret service must remain secret".

Section V11 of the Secret Intelligence Service

Robert Bartlett 28 January 2023

This is an area of study suitably only for those who like to work with acronyms!

It is essential to get inside the mind of wartime intelligence officials to make any sense of the myriad security organisations charged with defence of the realm. Easily written, practically almost impossible! The threat was obvious so intelligence officers had to devise schemes how that threat could be met? One area of developing interest to historians of intelligence, is the response to any invasion of the UK and the reaction of organised members of the population. Much effort by researchers has gone into unravelling the Auxiliary Units (AU) and Special Duties (SD) structures, roles and participants but still there are gaps in public knowledge about what our countrymen and women were being asked to do should we be invaded. There is an apparent division between activity during and immediately following invasion where it may be all those tasked with an aggressive role would be killed. There was therefore a need for an organisation of civilians "clean skins" who played no part in countering the invasion. "Keep your head down until called!" This appears to have been the role of Section V11, so secret its separate existence was not revealed until 2010, until then the written activities of AU and SD encompassed Section V11.

There are many, many questions including how during the Second World War SIS (MI6) were operating agents within the UK the territory of MI5? The SIS role was to co-opt civilians to spy following a successful German invasion. Organisational planning began in the Spring of 1940. Immediately there is the potential for muddle by researchers given all the secrecy and subterfuge associated with the intelligence world with a continuing reluctance to record or talk about what were once "Most Secret" activities. Was V11 just a part of the Auxiliary Units? If not, what were they up to that was different from existing structures? Where and how did they fit into the command-and-control structure of British intelligence? What was their link with the army, GOC? There was also an issue about support from war-time leaders. Very few would be in on the secret but of those that were, there may well have been a reluctance to sanction such civilian organisations as considering the need for such units may be considered defeatism. Given the nature of the proposed organisation and the deep cover under which participants were to work, the numbers who knew of the existence of V11 in SIS would have been very small and outside the organisation even fewer!

Another speculative route is around why it all remained so secret long after the war. Was it because the organisation remained in place during the cold war? It did in Europe encourage by spy agencies. Is it, or something similar, out there today?

SIS made plans against the possibility of a German invasion of Britain. They were not alone in this task but how much information was shared is not fully understood. There were many possibly competitive organisations with a range of acronyms, planning to biff the invader by one means or another. Section V11 was established and by July 1940 stay-behind agents were being identified. Initially six agents were selected and trained and equipped with wireless sets in Norfolk, Suffolk, Sussex, Somerset, Cornwall and Devon. The nascent organisation was eventually extended to include twenty-four "head agents" with wireless sets.[18] SIS developed a structure for passing messages between areas of Great Britain, possibly in a country divided as the Germans had with Vichy. Intelligence had to be gathered and transmitted to an exiled government possibly in Canada.[19]

There is limited evidence that army officers using cover such as billeting officers, were posted to an area from where they had to undertake the sensitive task of recruitment. Potential recruits were somehow identified, approached, sworn to secrecy then, without knowing what they were agreeing to or letting themselves in for, agreed to become a member. The recruits were told they could never reveal any detail of the organisation and most did not, adding to the difficulties of the modern historian. Recruitment was restricted to people who by the nature of their occupation could remain in enemy controlled territory and continue their normal work without raising undue suspicion. Doctors, dentists, chemists, bakers and small shopkeepers all of whose jobs required them either to move around or receive visits from a range of people.[20] It was the author Keith Jeffrey in 2010 in the official history of SIS who was the first to release information on Section V11 acknowledging that the designation was in fact the accountancy section of SIS.[21]

All recruits would have signed the Official Secrets Act and little is known about these early agents. It is suggested that Section VII may been a much larger organisation than the AU. More information might come out as the years go by, but from the snippets known, it appears that, while AU and Special Duties Section were expected to provide immediate resistance during an invasion campaign, Section VII was designed for action only under enemy occupation. [22] Section VII and X Branch appear to have been the urban cousins of the countryside-dwelling AU – though they were trained for disrupting any occupation, not as part of the anti-invasion resistance.[23] [24] It is also considered that there was much going on that is still not in the public domain. One thought is that when SIS moved on from controlling the AU and SDS (transferred

[18] MI6 The History of the Secret Intelligence Service 1909-1949 Keith Jeffrey Bloomsbury 2010 page 361
[19] Britain's Secret Defences Andrew Chatterton Casemate 2022 page 162
[20] MI6 The History of the Secret Intelligence Service 1909-1949 Keith Jeffrey Bloomsbury 2010 page 361
[21] Britain's Secret Defences Andrew Chatterton Casemate 2022 page 162
[22] https://the-past.com/feature/britains-secret-resistance-plans/
[23] https://the-past.com/feature/britains-secret-resistance-plans/
[24] Separate from the Auxiliary Units' Operational Patrols was the Special Duty Branch,[12] which was originally recruited by SIS and carefully vetted and selected from the local civilian population. It acted as "eyes and ears" and would report back to military intelligence any information that it heard from 'careless talk' or from watching troop movements and supply routes. It was supported by a signals network of hidden, short-range, wireless sets around the coast.

to military control) they did so without reluctance interpreted by some as a certain indicator they had another organisation operating on the Home Front i.e. Section V11.[25] [26]

According to Malcolm Atkin in Fighting Nazi Occupation: British Resistance 1939-45, the primary role of Section VII was to collect intelligence, which could be transmitted to any government in exile. There were also several sabotage cells (whose arms caches can be dated to as late as 1944) and also 'lone wolves' who would carry out individual missions.[27]

The civilians recruited to V11 were given only very basic information needed to undertake their future task. However, they needed a level of information to retain their enthusiasm and morale and effectiveness. Agents were no doubt grouped in cells, but messengers must know some detail, more than wireless operators. Agents had little understanding who they were working for other than something vaguely to do with intelligence.[28] There is evidence of wireless operators, two ladies in a tailors' shop in Matlock who had a hand grenade (pin stapled to the table to allow for quick one handled withdrawal) and revolver by the radio. [29]

It was likely that German invaders might introduce 'Occupied' and 'Unoccupied' territories as in France. In this more settled phase of occupation with V11 involved in a system of 'grapevine telegraph' with couriers passing intelligence between the zones would finally come into its own (rather than during any military invasion phase). There were plans for 'escape lines' to pass escaped prisoners and fugitives between zones. [30]

Members were not to become involved in opposing invasion, that was to be left to the AU, as their role would begin after occupation. Men and women in reserved occupations or were often too old to be called up were recruited into intelligence units. Those in the Home Guard were instructed to keep a low profile. Teenagers were used as couriers (sometimes using roles as ARP Messengers as cover) and, in at least one case, were trained as wireless operators. The men and women of Section V11 would start their work after any invasion and it is likely that once an invasion began volunteers would receive more detailed guidance and training. No need to spread secrets before there was a need to know! Some were to be messengers and wireless operators, others, saboteurs and resistance fighters, more in line with French resistance groups. [31]

Agents would serve as a cadre to expand the resistance if and when necessary - ready to support liberation by an external army or from the implosion of the Nazi state (considered a real possibility in 1940).

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[25] Britain's Secret Defences Andrew Chatterton Casemate 2022 page 115
[26] Britain's Secret Defences Andrew Chatterton Casemate 2022 page 161
[27] https://the-past.com/feature/britains-secret-resistance-plans/
[28] Britain's Secret Defences Andrew Chatterton Casemate 2022 page 161
[29] Britain's Secret Defences Andrew Chatterton Casemate 2022 page 165
[30] https://www.mwatkin.com/sect-7#:~:text=Section%20VII%20of%20SIS,The%20British%20Resistance%20organisation&text=Head%20of%20the%20SIS%20resistance,whom%20was%20the%20wireless%20operator.
[31] Britain's Secret Defences Andrew Chatterton Casemate 2022 page 162

There are only glimpses of the existence of Section VII as an organisation. There was a nationwide establishment with cells documented in Norfolk, Suffolk, Sussex, Isle of Wight, Somerset, Cornwall and Devon.[32] After a successful introduction more recruitment including 24 "head agents" with wireless sets. [33] (Are Head Agents the same as Key Men?) Oral testimony includes other cells in Worcester, Birmingham, Nottingham and Manchester. There is anecdotal evidence for arms caches in Snowdonia and Birmingham and archaeological evidence for a mid-war arms cache from Mellor, near Stockport. [34] [35] There is oral evidence from a former member based in Matlock of an ammunition cache and explosives hidden in a quarry from where they would be taken if there was an invasion and hidden in a further very secret location. There was petrol stored in a log pile to make Molotov cocktails, a spigot mortar with bombs secreted close to the town hall in a scrap yard.

The numbers of people expected to continue the fight must depend on who or what organisations were considered up to the task. People can be excellent decision makers in training but when the bullets fly, they freeze not necessarily through fear, but the consequences of their decisions are overwhelming. The responsibility of life and death decisions can lead to total indecision. The inevitable problem would have re-occurred; intelligence gathering requires stealth and discretion whereas countering the invaders would be very violent and would attract considerable enemy attention. One needs quiet the other makes lots of "noise." A classic example is the conflict between the role of the LRDG and that of the SAS in the desert.

It is thought that part of the agreement to allow SIS to operate in Britain[36] was that Section VII would assist MI5 in internal security. This included both 'eavesdropping' on the local community and locally stationed troops and using their wireless sets to help triangulate any enemy spy wireless transmissions. Any notion of spying on the British public made any operation particularly sensitive. [37]

On the Isle of Wight, a suspected Section VII cell contained two doctors - one of whom was the wireless operator. As cover, one served as a Fire Guard and the other was in the Home Guard. Their existence is known only because in April 1943 the house of the wireless operator (Dr Stratton) was destroyed in an air raid. MI5 were sent out to recover the wireless set as belonging to "one of DBs people." [38]

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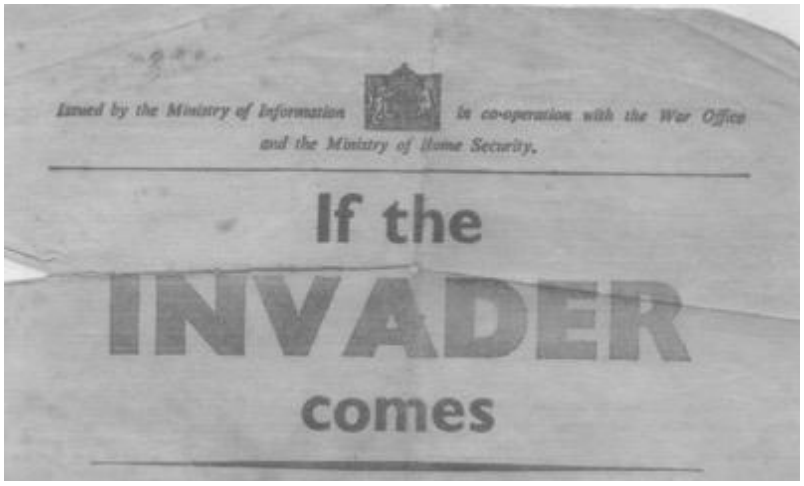
[32] Britain's Secret Defences Andrew Chatterton Casemate 2022 page 163
[33] Britain's Secret Defences Andrew Chatterton Casemate 2022 page 163
[34] https://www.mwatkin.com/sect-7#:~:text=Section%20VII%20of%20SIS,The%20British%20Resistance%20organisation&text=Head%20of%20the%20SIS%20resistance,whom%20was%20the%20wireless%20operator.
[35] https://www.mwatkin.com/sect-
[36] SIS operate overseas MI5 within the UK
[37] https://www.mwatkin.com/sect-7#:~:text=Section%20VII%20of%20SIS,The%20British%20Resistance%20organisation&text=Head%20of%20the%20SIS%20resistance,whom%20was%20the%20wireless%20operator.
[38] David Boyle. Head of the SIS resistance network known as Section VII (its cover with the accountancy branch of SIS), or simply as 'DB's organisation'.

Section VII looks at first glance to have been a much larger organisation than the AU. More information might come out as the years go by, but from the snippets known, AU and SDS were expected to provide immediate resistance during an invasion campaign, Section VII was intended for action only under enemy occupation.[39]

The organisation survived until at least 1944. After D Day the likelihood of invasion finally passed with all resource directed at the battles in Europe and the Far East. The time of Section V11 had come and passed without being tested.

Note: It seems that the Auxiliary Units evolved from the Home Defence Organisation established by Section D (Destruction) of SIS. Supporting the operational Auxiliaries was the Special Duties Section whose role was to act as observers and runners with information passed from person to person using dead letter drops, without ever meeting. Messages would find their way to a radio operator who in turn, would transmit by voice to professional communicators from the ATS or Royal Signals. In overall control was army GHQ. SIS became concerned that the organisation could be wiped out during an invasion so established an even more secret operation Section V11, whose role was similar to Special Duties Section but would not get involved until after any invasion. How Section V11 fits into the picture is not simple to understand other than as a fallback, resilient organisation established to survive any invasion after which they fulfil their spying role.



Invasion of the Home Front- Second World War

The threat of invasion during the Second World War was substantial particularly in the period immediately after Dunkirk with the withdrawal of the remains of the BEF. This time the Germans had a plan to invade England. Operation Sea Lion (Unternehmen Seelöwe) could only take place if the Germans had control of the channel on the sea and in the air something they failed to achieve. However, plans were made for the population should there be a landing.

[39] https://the-past.com/feature/britains-secret-resistance-plans/

The late Bob Cozens a former Surrey Constabulary police officer recalled [40]: That when he was 13 and living in a cottage in Wonersh the leaflet "If the Invader Comes" arrived on what to do if the Germans attacked Great Britain. It was produced in co-operation with the War Office and the Ministry of Home Security. The Government during Second World War constantly gave advice on how people should behave – be about food, general behaviour in the war, evacuation etc. This government advice was an attempt to control the way people acted. The bulk of the advice came from the Ministry of Information.

If the invader comes: what to do – and how to do it. The Germans threaten to invade Great Britain. If they do so they will be driven out by our Navy, our Army and our Air Force. Yet the ordinary men and women of the civilian population will also have their part to play. Hitler's invasions of Poland, Holland and Belgium were greatly helped by the fact that the civilian population was taken by surprise. They did not know what to do when the moment came. You must not be taken by surprise. This leaflet tells you what general line you should take. More detailed instructions will be given you when the danger comes nearer. Meanwhile, read these instructions carefully and be prepared to carry them out. When Holland and Belgium were invaded, the civilian population fled from their homes. They crowded on the roads, in cars, in carts, on bicycles and on foot, and so helped the enemy by preventing their own armies from advancing against the invaders.

You must not allow that to happen here. Your **first rule**, therefore, is:

If the Germans come by parachute, aeroplane or ship, you must remain where you are.

The order is "stay put".

1

If the commander-in-chief decides that the place where you live must be evacuated, he will tell you when and how to leave. Until you receive such orders you must remain where you are. If you run away, you will be exposed to far greater danger because you will be machine-gunned from the air as were civilians in Holland and Belgium, and you will block the roads by which our own armies will advance to turn the Germans out.

II

There is another method, which the Germans adopt in their invasion. They make use of the civilian population in order to create confusion and panic. They spread false rumours and issue false instructions. In order to prevent this, you should obey the **second rule**, which is as follows:

[40] Former Surrey Constabulary chief superintendent and later, Chief Constable of West Mercia email to Robert Bartlett September 2015.

2) Do not believe rumours and do not spread them. When you receive an order, make sure that it is a true order and not a faked order. Most of you know your policemen and your ARP wardens by sight; you can trust them. If you keep your heads, you can also tell whether a military officer is really British or only pretending to be so. If in doubt, ask the policeman or ARP warden. Use your common sense.

III

The Army, the Air Force and the Local Defence Volunteers cannot be everywhere at once. The ordinary man and woman must be on the watch. If you see anything suspicious, do not rush round telling you neighbours about it. Go at once to the nearest policeman, police station or military officer and tell them exactly what you saw. Train yourself to notice the exact time and place where you saw anything suspicious and try to give exact information. Try to check your facts.

The sort of report which a military or police officer wants from you is something like this:

"At 5.30 p.m. tonight I saw twenty cyclists come into Little Squashborough from the direction of Great Mudtown. They carried some sort of automatic rifle or gun. I did not see anything like artillery. They were in grey uniforms."

Be calm, quick and exact. The **third rule**, therefore, is as follows:

3) Keep watch. If you see anything suspicious, note it carefully and go at once to the nearest police officer or station, or to the nearest military officer. Do not rush around spreading vague rumours. Go quickly to the nearest authority and give him the facts.

IV

Remember that if parachutists come down near your home, they will not be feeling at all brave. They will not know where they are, they will have no food, they will not know where their companions are. They will want you to give them food, means of transport and maps. They will want you to tell them where they have landed, where their comrades are, and where our own soldiers are.

The **fourth rule**, therefore, is as follows:

4) Do not give any German anything. Do not tell him anything. Hide your food and your bicycles. Hide your maps. See that the enemy gets no maps. See that the enemy gets no petrol. If you have a car or motor bicycle, put it out of action when not in use. It is not enough to remove the ignition key; you must make it useless to anyone except yourself.

If you are a garage proprietor, you must work out a plan to protect your stock of petrol and your customers' cars. Remember that transport and petrol will be the invaders' main

difficulties. Make sure that no invaders will be able to get hold of your cars, petrol, maps or bicycles.

V

You may be asked by Army and Air Force officers to help in many ways. For instance, the time may come when you will receive orders to block roads or streets in order to prevent the enemy from advancing. Never block a road unless you are told which one you must block. Then you can help by felling trees, wiring them together or blocking the roads with cars.

Here, therefore, is the **fifth rule**:

5) Be ready to help the military in any way. But do not block roads until ordered to do so by the military or LDV authorities.

VI

If you are in charge of a factory, store or other workplace, organise its defence at once. If you are a worker, make sure that you understand the system of defence that has been organised and know what part you have to play in it. Remember that parachutists and fifth column men are powerless against any organised resistance. They can only succeed if they can create disorganisation. Make certain that no suspicious strangers enter your premises.

You must know in advance who is to take command, who is to be second in command, and how orders are to be transmitted. This chain of command must be built up and you will probably find that ex-officers or N.C.O's, who have been in emergencies before, are the best people to undertake such command.

The **sixth rule** is therefore as follows:

6) In factories and shops, all managers and workmen should organise some system now by which a sudden attack can be resisted.

VII

The six rules, which you have now read, give you a general idea of what to do in the event of invasion. More detailed instructions may, when the time comes, be given you by the Military and Police Authorities and by the Local Defence Volunteers; they will not be given over the wireless as they might convey information to the enemy. These instructions must be obeyed at once.

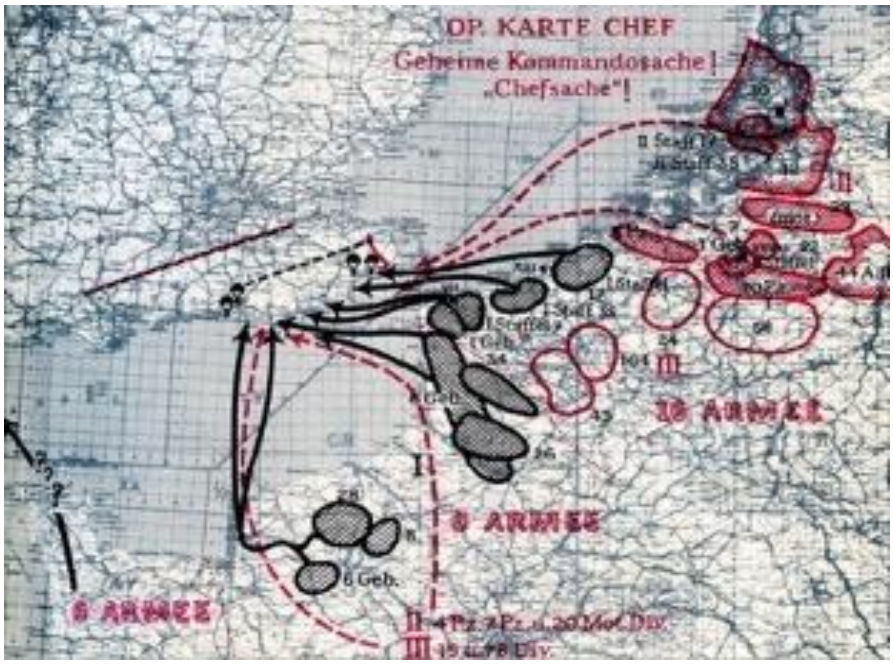
Remember always that the best defence of Great Britain is the courage of her men and women.

Here is your **seventh rule**:

7) Think before you act. But think always of your country before you think of yourself.

A copy of the flyer can be found at:

http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/world-war-two/world-war-two-in-western-europe/britains-home-front-in-world-war-two/the-home-front/



German invasion plans – Surrey was en-route