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

September 2025
www.surrey-constabulary.com

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

Surrey Constabulary History 129

28 October 1970 – found by a retired officer Tony Collman on eBay.

Claire Whieldon showing the new Surrey Constabulary policewomen's uniform.

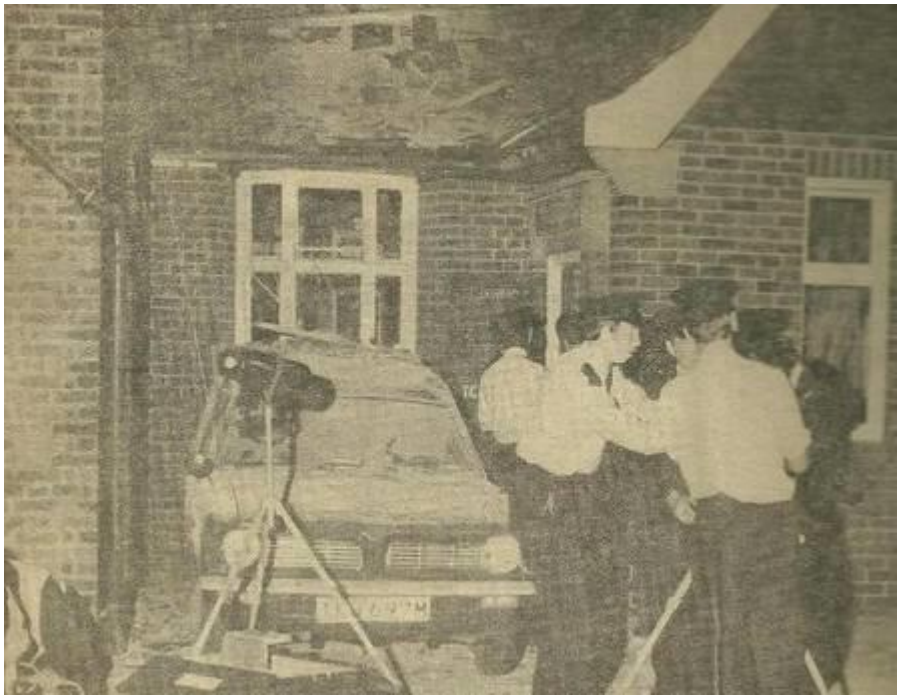
Contents

50th Anniversary Caterham Pub Bombing

Caterham August 27 1975

www.surrey-constabulary.com

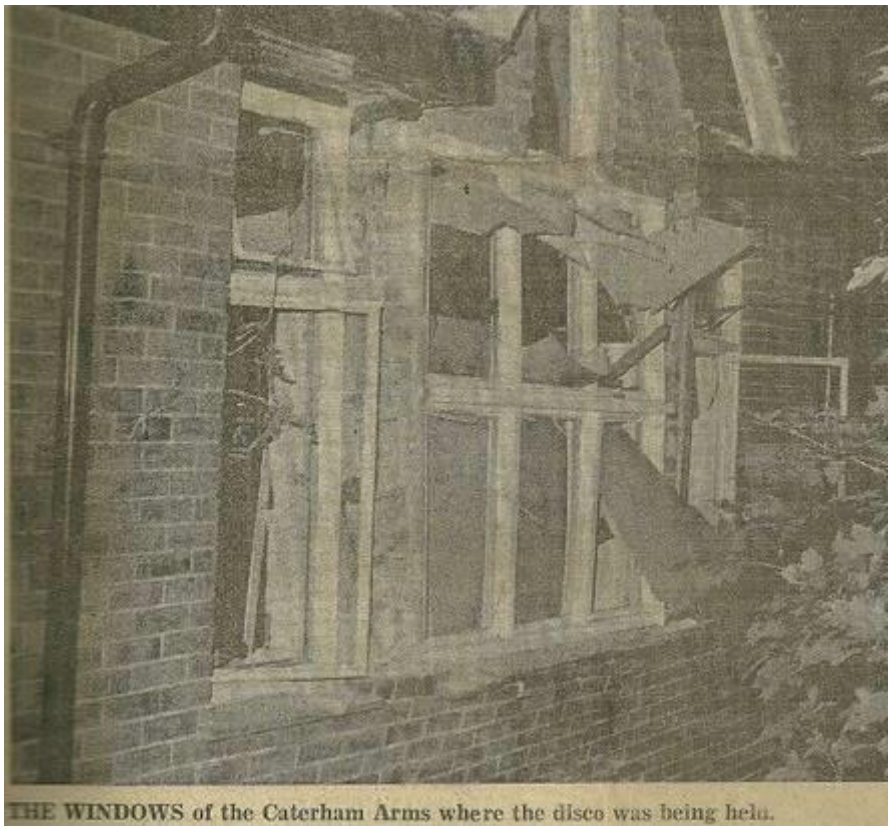
1975 August 27: IRA bomb: An explosive device was detonated in the dance area of the **Caterham Arms,** causing severe injuries, and extensively damaging the pub. A bomb was placed under a bench seat in the Caterham Arms in Caterham, Surrey, a pub frequented by soldiers from the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, whose barracks were nearby, and they had just returned from duty in Northern Ireland. No warning was given. Among the casualties are a man who lost his right leg and a soldier who lost both legs and an arm.



Press cutting from retired PC David Smith January 2013
Buz Shrewsbury front left with Mick Eaton, Jock Pollock, and Paul Levisen

1975 August 28: Eight people were seriously injured and at least twenty-five hurt, at an explosion in the Caterham Arms. The explosion occurred at 9.30 pm in the Coulsdon Road, four hundred yards from the Welsh Guards depot to where the soldiers recently returned from Northern Ireland. It is believed the bomb was placed under a bench in the bar and made up of about five pounds of explosive. A policeman, one of six playing bowls opposite the pub was one of the first on the scenes said there were bodies everywhere. “Some were pretty seriously injured. I believe one of them was blown clean out of the pub and hit the railings on the opposite side of the road.” There had been a warning that another bomb had been placed close by. Surrey

Bomb Squad had been reformed with fifty men under Detective Chief Superintendent Walter Simmonds head of Surrey CID.[1]


THE WINDOWS of the Caterham Arms where the disco was being held.

Press cutting from retired PC David Smith January 2013

Press cutting from retired PC David Smith January 2013

David Smith: On the day of this incident, I was on night shift. Earlier that evening a group of us met up in the staff social club of St Lawrence's Mental Hospital for a game of snooker. The

[1] 1975 August 28: The Times

main entrance to the hospital was immediately opposite the Caterham Arms Public House. We left the club at about 8pm and I headed home to get ready for night shift.

I lived in Milton Road, which was about 800 yards from the Caterham Arms as the crow flies but much further when you followed the road network. One of my neighbours was digging out his front garden and during the course of the day he had been filling up a skip outside the front of his house. There had been the occasional loud bang when he threw rocks into the skip.

At about 9.20pm I stepped out of my front door to travel down to the police station. As I did so there was a loud bang and I thought it was my neighbour throwing rocks into the skip. However, my street was deserted, and I realised later that it was the noise of the bomb exploding.

When I arrived at Caterham Police Station a few minutes later, I parked on the forecourt immediately in front of the main entrance. As I was getting out of my car, the office window was thrown open and I think it was PC Dave Riddle who shouted at me that a bomb had exploded in the Caterham Arms and to get myself up there. I drove up there in my own car and arrived a few minutes later. It was still daylight, but the light was just starting to fade.

The area car Bravo 2 and the first ambulance were already on scene. I think one of the area car crew was Dave Hathaway. The most seriously injured casualty was being put into the back of the ambulance. He had lost both legs and an arm in the blast.

The pub forecourt was crowded with people. I walked into the pub through the front entrance and was surprised to find it quite dark inside. The blast had blown out all of the lights and reduced a lot of the ceiling plaster to dust. Everything was covered in dust. There seemed to be casualties everywhere and a lot of people walking around in a complete daze.

Much of what followed is a bit of a blur and I don't recall much about the casualties we pulled out. The IRA had just started planting secondary devices to hit the emergency services attending the scene of bombings so as soon as the casualties were cleared, we were instructed to account for every vehicle parked in the immediate vicinity and to search for suspect packages. A suspect package was found close to the entrance of St Lawrence's Hospital and a bomb disposal officer from the Metropolitan Police attended to deal with it. It turned out to be a bag of workman's tools. I think the bomb disposal officer was Roger Goad who was killed some weeks later trying to defuse an IRA bomb in London. (Awarded the George Cross)

Eventually, the scene was cleared, SOCO etc., had finished their work and together with several other officers, I was detailed to guard the pub for the rest of the night. Shortly after a car containing a representative from the brewery pulled up and he told us that all of the stock was written off and to help ourselves. The only time in my life that has ever happened, and we couldn't take him up on his offer.

Buzz Shrewsbury: I was at home in the garden (at Evelyn Gardens) when we heard the shout go up from a crew on meal break that a bomb had gone off at Caterham. Several of us threw uniforms on and dashed up to the Traffic Centre. We grabbed hold of the lighting equipment.

1975 August 29: Police seek two men after Caterham explosion: Police throughout Britain were searching for two men with Northern Irish accents after the public house bombing on Wednesday at Caterham. Eleven people were still in hospital yesterday, three having lost limbs. Chief Superintendent Walter Simmons head of Surrey CID and the man in charge of the Force's 50-man bomb squad said that the bombing had been entirely unexpected. The blast caused by a 7lb bomb with a timer being placed under a seat. "May have had an Irish connection" he said. Detectives visited homes nearby and interviewed soldiers at Caterham barracks who had crowded the dance floor of the Caterham Arms before the explosion burst the discothèque's roof and walls. The men police want to see came into the public house at about 7pm and left an hour before the explosion at 9.30pm after buying drinks and sitting on the seat under which the bomb was probably planted. One of the young soldiers from Neath lost both his legs and an arm. He was married with a six-week-old baby. Two other soldiers lost legs, and another was critically ill with multiple injuries. [2]

Press cutting from retired PC David Smith January 2013

Dave Spratt: I attended this incident with numerous other officers. I was put in charge of a team of CID personnel who attended the Redhill General Hospital to obtain statements from all the soldiers who had been injured as result of the bombing. It was not a task I looked forward to with any relish. However, several of us attended the hospital to be confronted by a number of people who had various limbs blown off and I was amazed to find these people were laughing and joking which I considered at the time to be delayed shock. We obtained the statements and I obtained a statement from a Welsh Guardsman who was burnt from the top of his head to his feet, and it took me two to three days to obtain this statement, as he was in pain

[2] 1975 August 29: The Times

and the nurse had to keep attending to him to rearrange his dressings. I remember that one of the other officers with me was DC Derek Cordery**.**

August – The scene outside the Caterham Arms on the night of August 27th. Photo – John Lemon HCP

Chris Kearsey: We had just finished playing bowls at St Lawrence's Hospital and I was following Inspector Fred Rumbold through the gates when the bomb went off in front of us as we drove out. The main thing I remember was trying to clear the crowd that had gathered because at that time we were warned that the IRA was in the habit of planting secondary bombs to catch all those people who were trying to rescue those from the first explosion. I can remember spending a long time in the mobile communications vehicle.

John Gladwell: At the time I was a detective chief inspector Reigate Division and was playing bowls for a police team at St. Lawrence's Hospital, Caterham right opposite the Caterham Arms Public House when the bomb went off. The whole police team were on the scene within minutes to assist the injured and I worked on the case for the following six months. A package containing a bomb was placed under a seat in the public bar of The Caterham Arms Public House, which was packed with locals and soldiers from Caterham Barracks. Several people were injured, mostly military personnel. Some had very serious injuries including limb amputations. The people responsible were eventually prosecuted. They were the four IRA gunmen Martin O'Connell, Edward Butler, Harry Duggan and Hugh Doherty who were arrested by the Metropolitan Police after a six-day siege ended peacefully with the release of two hostages. (Balcombe Street) I interviewed them with Superintendent Tom Style and they were charged with ten murders and twenty bombings, including the Caterham job. They were jailed for life but were freed in April 1999 under the terms of the multi-party peace deal for Northern Ireland.

BBC 1975: Couple under siege in Balcombe Street: Three-armed IRA men on the run from police have burst into a flat in central London and taken at least two people hostage. Officers have now sealed off the corner of Dorset Square and Balcombe Street, in Marylebone, after a car chase through the West End during which shots were fired. The gunmen are believed to be members of an IRA hit squad, which has been behind a number of attacks in the capital and Home Counties over the past few months. They are accused of shooting dead TV presenter

Ross McWhirter at his Enfield home a week ago, and also of carrying out attacks on London restaurants, the Hilton Hotel and the Caterham Arms public house at Caterham in Surrey.

1975 September 5: Caterham Bomb: Three men detained in London yesterday morning were later taken to Caterham police station where last night they were being held in custody under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Altogether eight men were held in raids in Penge, South London, made in connection with the bombing of the Caterham Arms last week, when 33 people were injured and three other bombings in London last week. Officers from Scotland Yard's Bomb Squad, Surrey CID, the Regional Crime Squad, and men from the Special Branch, many of them armed took part in the raids. Five of the men detained were later released.[3]

More information at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caterham_Arms_pub_bombing

James Metcalfe, Reigate Borough Police

Tony Colman

James Metcalfe Chief Constable Reigate Borough Police

On an afternoon in August this year I visited St Mary's Church, in Chart Lane, Reigate, RH2 7RN. I was with Martin Savage (who is now retired but served with Surrey Police). Martin informed about a week before, that he had seen Chief Constable James Metcalfe's grave, so we returned to take some pictures.

The grave is in area F of the Cemetery. Sadly, the grave is in a poor state and the headstone is leaning to the left, as the grave appears to be sunken on the left side.

[3] The Times (London, England), Friday, Sep 05, 1975

The wording on the headstone is as follows –

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
JAMES METCALFE
FOR 36 YEARS CHIEF CONSTABLE
OF THIS BOROUGH
WHO DIED 31st JULY 1931
AGED 67 YEARS

ALSO OF HIS WIFE
ANNIE LEE METYCALFE
WHO DIED 5th APRIL 1943

ALSO OF THEIR DAUGHTER
AGNES ROSAMOND BLACKLOCK
WHO DIED 28thg AUGUST 1968
WIDOW OF THE LATE
ROBERT BLACKLOCK


IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
ALSO OF THEIR DAUGHTER
WHO DIED 28TH AUGUST 1968
WIDOW OF THE LATE
ROBERT BLACKLOCK

A Victorian Surrey Constabulary Police House

Harry Whale, Canada; I have in my possession an original photo from the late 1800s, marked "Godalming" which depicts a building with a sign on it "County Police", and a group of people in the front yard including a uniformed police officer.

Ed: Harry kindly sent a copy of the photo which is rather special. What can we be certain of? The house has a county police sign at the front as did all police houses. The photographer came from Godalming. The police officer is an inspector who did not like gardening!

An early exponent of re-wilding!

County Police sign prominently displayed

Is it a barn, a stable or cart shed?

On the photo:

GODALMING.

W.H.STEERE, PHOTO.

Inspector Parish – uniform similar to that shown in photograph

Ellis Chapman died in August 2025

Member of staff at HQ in 1994-Cedar Bar which was transformed into the Information Room

Unsolved murder of 12-year-old Winifred Beatrice Baker at Woking in 1912

Researched by Jenny Tuffs August 2025

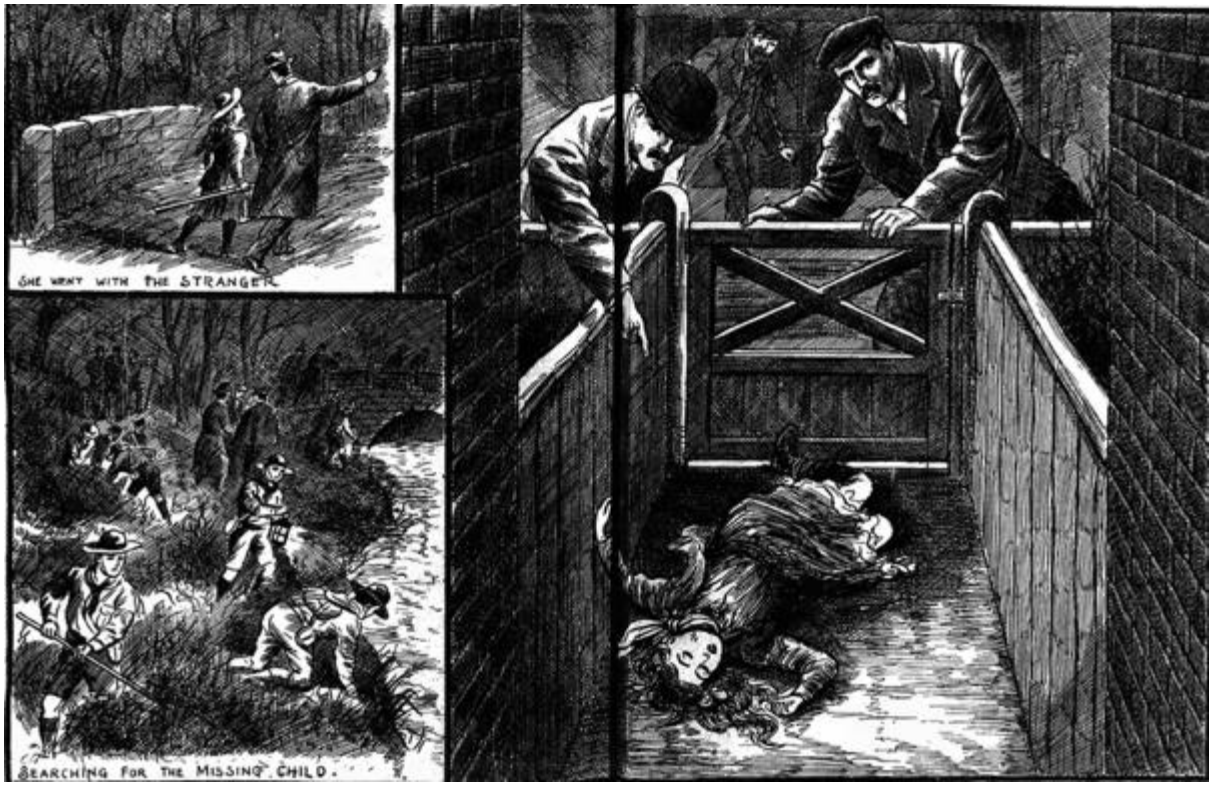
Editor: It is not known why but it does appear that the murder of this poor young girl slipped from the record of past unsolved murders. It is with thanks to Jenny Tuffs the sad story of this long dead child is not forgotten. This was a time before the county had detectives leaving the local superintendent responsible for the enquiry. There was an option with the consent of the Home Secretary, to seek assistance from New Scotland Yard. However, following a murder at Camberley in 1906 which was seen as bungled the chief constable, Captain Sant, he decreed that in the future aid would not be sought from the Metropolitan Police. At the end of this piece of Woking history are extracts from a national magazine John Bull which are very critical of the police response. Woking Division in 1912 was under the charge of Superintendent William Marks assisted by Inspector Robert Benstead a sergeant and 14 PCs. There were at least two rural sections Knaphill and Ripley. A scientific response was very limited though normally there was a very detailed examination of the scene with every possible witness traced.

Winnie Baker, the murdered Girl Scout. (Record Press.)

Winifred Beatrice Baker and her twin sister Enid Lilian Baker were born October/December Quarter 1900 at Woking. They were the first-born children of William, a sanitary engineer and Edith Baker.

The 1901 Census shows the family living at 1 Portland Villas, Walton Road, Woking, the twin girls being 5 months old.
The 1911 Census shows the family at Fieldside, Goldsworth Road, Woking. Winifred and Enid were both at school.

On 6thDecember 1912, "a painful sensation was caused at Woking in the morning by the discovery in a passage in one of the most frequented thoroughfares of the town of the dead body of a girl named Winifred Beatrice Baker aged 12, one of the twin daughters of Mr. and Mrs. W T Baker,1 Fieldside Goldsworth Road, Woking". The child, who was described as a bright and pleasant faced little girl, much liked by her fellows had apparently been strangled, and her body then thrust into the passage which separates no's 201 and 203 Walton Gardens, Walton Road.
The facts of the distressing affair are: About 7.30 on Thursday evening the girl left Walton Road Mission Hall where she had been attending a class for Girl Nightingales – a local name for an organization of Girl Scouts, taking its title from the famous Florence Nightingale. Only a month previously, Winifred and her sister Enid had joined the St Paul's Nightingales, the corps being organized by Rev H R Bates, curate of Christ Church Woking, which is about two miles from her home. The hall being in the centre of a mass of trees and bushes.
On the night in question, Winnie attended the class without her sister but with her two friends, Olive Simmonds and Doris Soper, who all lived near each other in Goldsworth Road.



http://www.unsolved-murders.co.uk/murder-content.php?key=3001&termRef=Winifred%20Beatrice%20Baker

WOKING TRAGEDY: GIRL SCOUT WHO SAW THE MISCREANT.

Doris Soper. Olive Simmonds. Olive in scout's uniform.

Olive Simmonds, of the Nightingale Scouts, who was with Winnie Baker when the man enticed her away and who gave the alarm when Winnie failed to return. Olive and her friend, Dora Soper, are the two children who were last seen with Winnie Baker.—("Daily Mirror" photographs.)

The three children were making their way home down Walton Road, when they were accosted by a gentlemanly looking young fellow with, it is stated, a fair or ginger moustache. The man seems to have been a stranger to the girls, though one of them stated she had seen him the previous Tuesday in Walton Road when he was with another man and on that occasion, he

turned round and stared. He spoke to the deceased and his words suggested he was not a complete stranger to her ways. He told the deceased that her temperance class teacher, who lived close by wished to see her and asked her to go with him.

Doris Soper, aged 11years, one of Winifred's friends, said that they left the Mission Hall carrying their Scout Poles soon after 7 o'clock. Winifred was carrying a piece of paper on which were pictures of flags and wearing a scarf tied around her neck. They had just stopped to buy sweets at Mr. Fox's shop at the corner of Kerry Terrace and after they bought sweets and left the shop a man came up behind them. He touched her on the shoulder and said, "Your Band of Hope teacher wants to see you." The girls replied, "We are not Band of Hope girls. We are Nightingales". The man said, "That is right then" and asked her to come. She refused and the other girl with them, Olive Simmonds also refused saying "My mother is waiting for me". Winnie then said, "Where is she? The man replied, "She is waiting in a house round here" waving his hand towards the end of Walton Road. Winnie said "I will go and see what she wants. She will be angry if we don't go back. Wait here, I won't be a minute," The man then caught hold of Winnie's hand and pulled her along towards the pine woods which are past the Mission Hall. The other girls went to follow but were waved back by the man who said he only wanted the girl in the velvet coat. Winnie had been wearing a jacket of brown velveteen at the time. The two girls turned back but subsequently met another girl scout who advised them to follow their friend. They set off but lost sight of them near the Mission Hall. When they got to the Mission Hall they spoke to the caretaker, but he said he had not seen Winnie. When they could not see Winnie they feared something was wrong and went into the town and informed the police what had happened. They also called at Winnie's home to see if she had arrived.

There were plenty of people around when the man took Winnie, but no one took any notice. Doris said the man who spoke to them stuttered and held his hand in front of his face.
The wanted man was described as aged about 25 years, below average height, with a moustache, ginger in colour with an impediment in his speech and wearing a striped brown or grey lounge suit and soft trilby hat.

Soon after the police were informed, search parties started scouring the woods and Canal bank between Monument Road, bridge and Byfleet. Mr. William Henry Gower, headmaster of Monument Hill School and Mr. Broderick, headmaster of the school attended by Winifred Baker organized a search party as soon they heard the news. About 120 people joined in the search using lamps. They started out, accompanied by Boy Scouts under the command of Rev H R Bates of Christ Church and divided into groups on the canal bank meeting up at Sheerwater Bridge, about 2 miles distant. They then separated again and searched in all directions. It was extremely difficult work as some of the party were waist high in mud and water. All the commons, heathlands and fields were searched. The search parties keeping in touch with Woking by means of cyclists. Mr. Ely, the manager of the gasworks, scoured the roads in his motor car. The search continued until 3 o'clock the next morning but without any trace of the missing girl or her companion being discovered.

At ten minutes past seven the next day, Charles Smith Lamdin of 203 Walton Road, a driver for the Maybury Laundry at Woking, set off for work and as he was going out of the gate of the passageway between no's 201 and 203 Walton Road, Mr. Frederick William Church who lived nearby came along. He stopped by the other gate and attracted by white clothing in the twilight said, "What's this lying here? We both looked and Mr. Lamdin said it was a human being." The body was so close to the gate, with the head pointing up the passage that the gate would only open a little way. Mr. Lamdin pushed the gate further and saw it was the body of a little girl. He spoke to her to see if she was asleep. He then lifted her head and hand, but she was very cold.

Mr. Charles S. Lamden, who found the body of Winnie Baker. (L.N.A.)

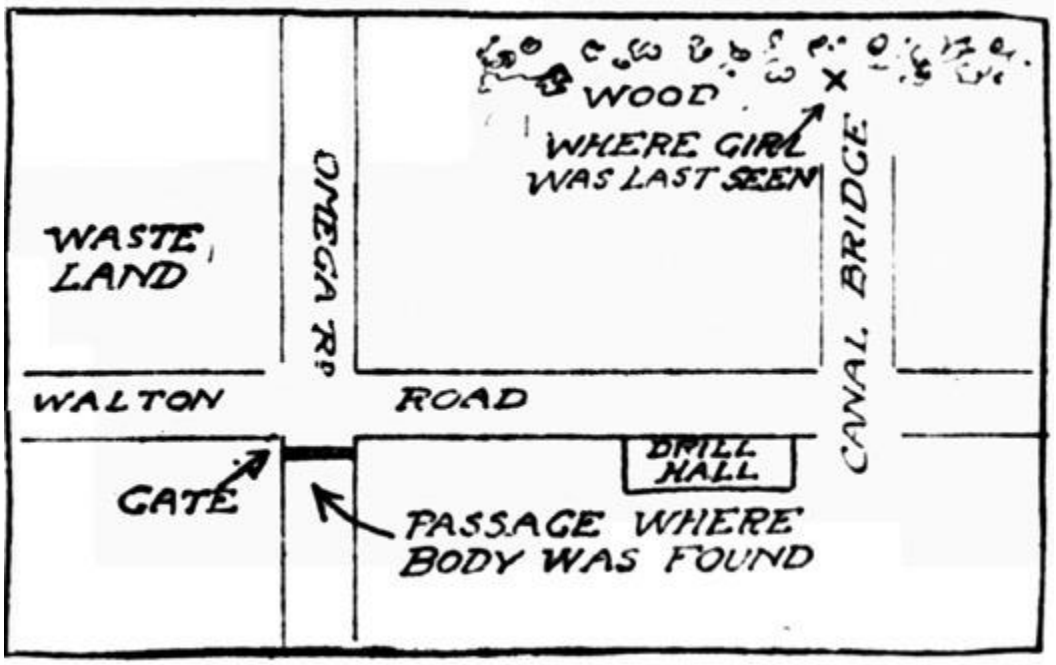
Mr. Church went for the police and Police Sergeant Knight and Dr B H Kingsford, the divisional surgeon, attended. Mr. Lamdin meanwhile got some bags to cover the body. A man then came up and asked, "Is that my Winnie?" Sgt Knight asked him who he was, and he replied that he was Mr. Baker. A bag was lifted and Mr. Baker said "That is her. Is she dead?" He was told she was. Police Sgt Knight found that the girl's scarf, which had been tied tightly round her neck, had clearly produced strangulation and that her clothing was dry. From the position of the body, it seemed it dropped over the gate from the footway, it being so close to the gate it was difficult to open properly. After the body was examined by Dr B H Kingsford, it was removed to the mortuary to await the inquest. The girl's hat, scout pole and a book she had been carrying were nowhere to be seen. The passage had been used by two householders from the terrace at 11.15pm and 1am respectively and both stated it was then unobstructed. It therefore seemed the body was placed there after this time. Nurse Buckler, who lived opposite the passageway, said at four o'clock she heard someone walking along at a very rapid rate but did not take much notice.

All indications were that the body had not been exposed to the weather all night and the police were puzzled to find motive for carrying the body to where it was found. The location of the body was close to where the three girls were approached and near where Winnifred Baker was born.

Walton Road is a road of small red brick houses with slated bays and passages leading between the houses to side or back entrances. Facing the passageway where Winnie was found, is Omega Road, a short road leading to the common where it was believed she was murdered before being taken back to Walton Road.

The body of Winnie was found (Record Press)

The passageway as it is in 2025 (*Google Maps*)



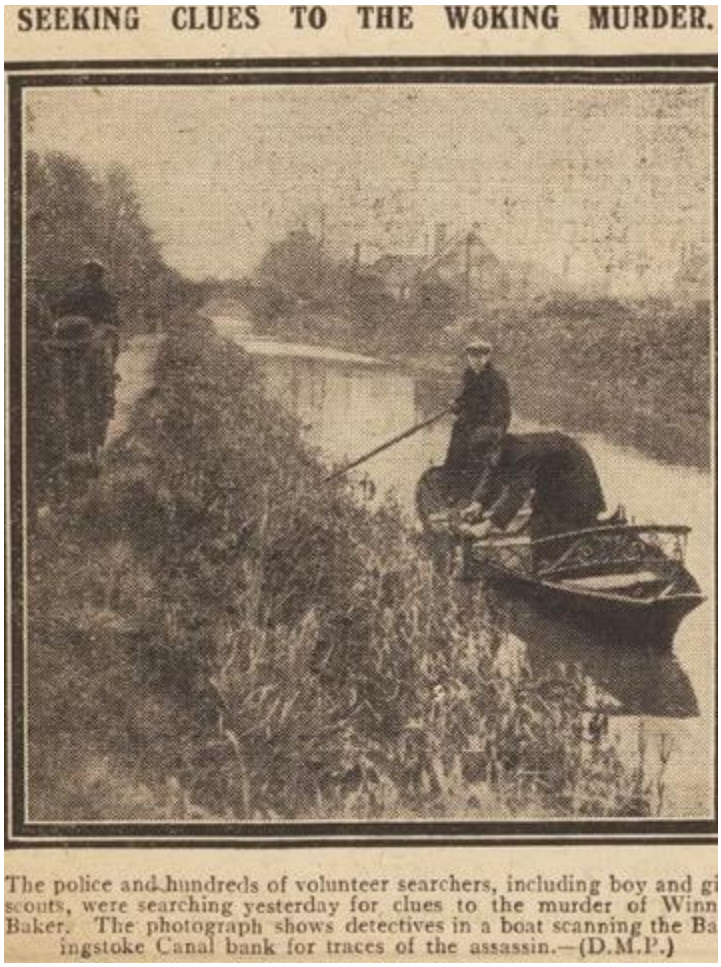
Ernest Girton, a builder's labourer living in Walton Road, saw a child's hat in the gutter in Walton Road as he was going to work at a quarter to seven. He picked it up, put it in his pocket and handed it to police when he finished work that evening. This discovery pointed to the fact that the dead child was carried along the road to where she was found and not brought from the waste ground onto which the passage opens.

The murderer made good his escape leaving no clues to his identity. The police have an idea the girl may have been taken into the surrounding countryside and the murderer subsequently returned with her body through the inhabited and not badly lit part of town. The girl's boots did not bear any trace of mud, so the crime was possibly committed on waste land where one end of the passage comes out near the Mission Hall. The man had apparent knowledge of the fact one of the teachers lived at the end of the road, so it was assumed he was familiar with the locality.

The police searched the dustbins in that part of the town hoping to obtain some information as to the method in which the assailant disposed of her staff. They also searched all nearby unoccupied houses. Boy Scouts searching for clues on Horsell Common discovered two handkerchiefs, one was small, such as a girl would carry and the other considerably larger. The larger had the initial "W" or "M" whilst the smaller had a laundry mark. Also found near the canal bridge were scraps of paper, upon one of which were the words 'Mission Hall'. Other pieces collected seemed it formed a letter from one child to another beginning "Dear Edie" and signed "Alwynne". 'Edie' (a nickname) being the twin sister of the murdered girl. It was later established the letter was written to the girl by a playmate whilst she was on holiday. These finds failed to provide any clues.

Police received information that a person had been seen to throw a parcel into the Basingstoke canal about half a mile from the scene of the murder. It was thought this might contain tell-tale

clothing so the police dragged the canal, but the work was fruitless. Although the girl's hat had been found, her staff was still missing.



SEEKING CLUES TO THE WOKING MURDER.

The police and hundreds of volunteer searchers, including boy and gi scouts, were searching yesterday for clues to the murder of Winn Baker. The photograph shows detectives in a boat scanning the Ba ingstoke Canal bank for traces of the assassin.—(D.M.P.)

Late on Sunday 8th December, police were investigating certain clues which had been brought to their knowledge during the day. They were flinging a wide net in the hope of catching the wanted man and no fewer than four men were detained on suspicion but released immediately, three in Middlesex and one in Wiltshire.

The Exeter and Devon County Police were also searching for a man stated to answer the description of the alleged murderer. A clergyman who travelled from London to Plymouth on Saturday 7th December, gave information to the police regarding a man who left the train at Exeter. The clergyman was alone in a compartment until a man suddenly came in and threw himself on a seat, acting in such a strange manner that drew the attention of the clergyman. Although the fellow passenger was apparently reading a book, he did not appear to make much progress. He showed a great deal of nervousness and displayed signs of fear. When the train reached Exeter, he hurriedly left the compartment.

The clergyman whilst realizing his suspicions might be unfounded thought it his duty to tell the police which he did when the train reached Plymouth. Details were passed on to Exeter police and although lodging houses and other places in the neighbourhood were checked, there was no trace of the man.

On Monday 9th December, the inquest on Winifred Baker was opened. Her father identified the body and said she left home at a few minutes to 6 o'clock on Thursday on route to the Mission Hall. She was with some friends and had her scout pole with her and he identified a hat found a short distance from the body as that worn by his daughter when she left home. Medical evidence pointed to the fact that an act of violation had been committed. Dr Kingsford stating that the body was found with its feet towards the gate, the right hand enclosed in a glove lying on the lower part of the abdomen. The left hand was uncovered. The boots were on the feet, but the heels did not reach the soles of the boots. The boots were not laced up, but the laces twisted round the boots and then tied. The boots had undoubtedly been removed and put back on by another person, presumably after death. The clothes were dry and the dress pulled up at the front. There was a scarf doubled and tied tightly round the neck with a single knot. Scattered all over the left of the face and left forehead were minute particles of dust and there was a mark on the tip of the nose which was slightly deflected to the right. There were several other small abrasions to the body. The cause of death being strangulation. She had been dead not less than six hours, perhaps longer and he did not feel the body had been thrown over the gate into the passage.

Once the evidence of identification and medical testimony had been given the inquest was then adjourned until the next Wednesday week

At a suffragist demonstration on 9th December Mrs. Pankhurst, alluding to the Woking murder, said these attacks upon young children, which were apparently unchecked, were in themselves sufficient justification for civil war on the part of women in order that they might secure their political rights and obtain stronger legislation. She said they wanted the public to understand that it was absolutely no use thinking that militancy could be stopped by punishment. The Government could not do more than kill them, and even if they resorted to capital punishment as a last resource that would not stop the agitation.

On Tuesday 10th December at a meeting of the Woking Urban Council, Mr. A R J Broderick introduced an appeal for the funeral expenses of Winnie Baker, for which he asked an official send off. It was thought that the matter should go forward privately but the members agreed that a letter of sympathy should be sent to the bereaved parents. The appeal reading – "Re the decease of Winifred B Baker. The sympathy of Woking has gone out in unstinted measure to the parents of Winfred Baker, a little girl of 12 years of age who was foully done to death on December 5th. It has been suggested that probably many people would like to give practical expression to this sympathy by subscribing somewhat to defraying the necessary funeral expenses connected with the burial of the child and to assist in the provision of a cross or other suitable monument to be placed at the head of the grave. Contributions are earnestly solicited for the purpose specified."

Mr. Broderick will gladly receive and acknowledge any sum, great or small and Mr. R Mossop has promised to audit the accounts when the fund is closed. At the head of the subscription list there appears an anonymous donation of £5 and the deceased fellow scholars with their teachers will contribute nearly £3.

The inquest was resumed on Wednesday 18th December when Doris Soper and Olive Simmonds, Winifred's friends, gave their version of the incident. The jury returning a verdict of 'Wilful murder by some person or persons unknown' and adding a rider regretting that the criminal had not yet been discovered as everything possible has been done to find him.

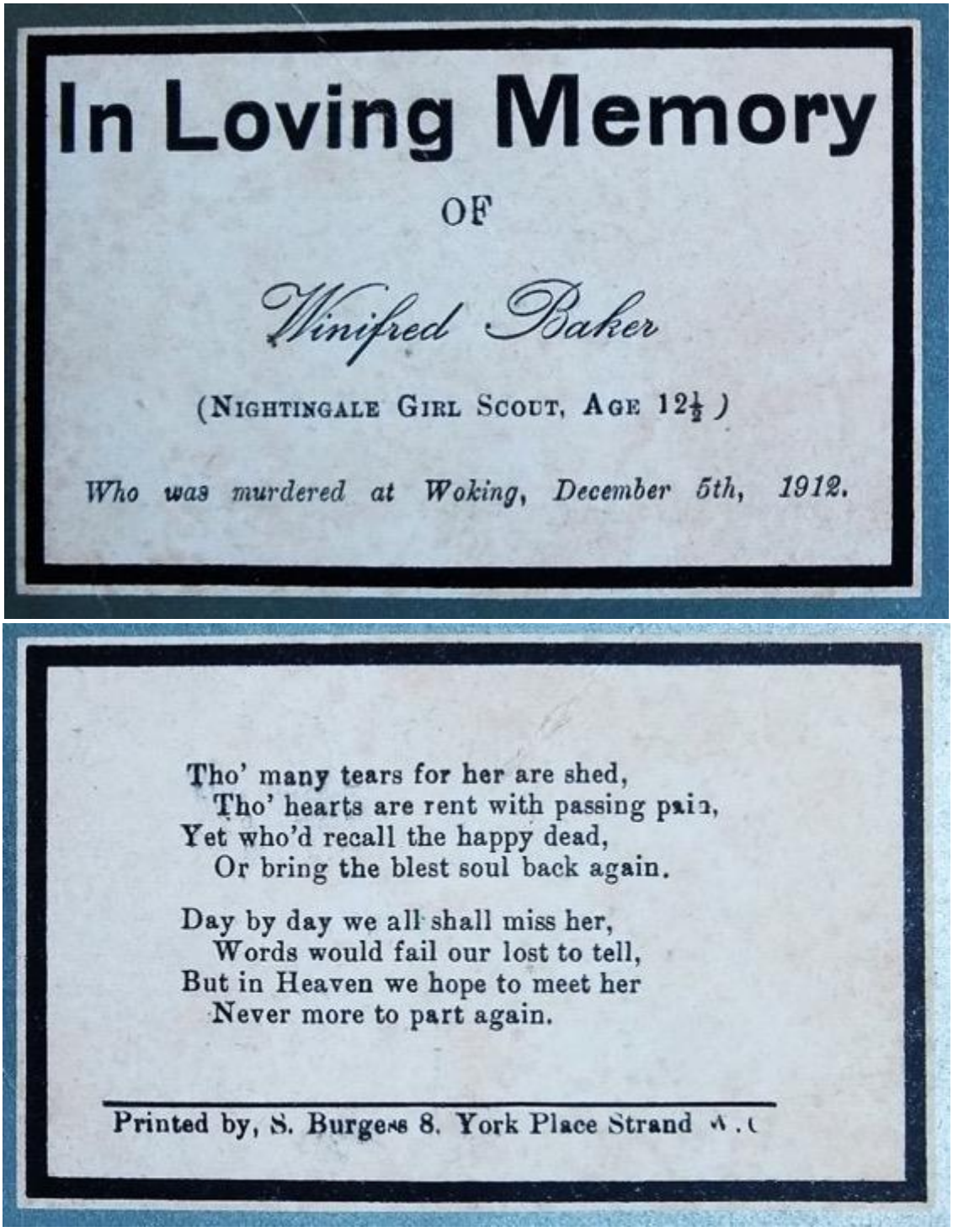
The funeral of Winnie was held on Wednesday 11th December. It being early closing day, long before the cortege left the house, large numbers of people assembled in Goldsworth Road and on the way to Christ Church for the first part of the service. It passed through two lines of scholars from Goldsworth School, who numbered about 350, many of whom sobbed bitterly as the body of their classmate passed by. Along the route tradesmen and private residents drew their blinds while Union Jacks at Goldsworth School and the Council Offices and the St Georges Cross in the churchyard were lowered to half-mast. A dense crowd of people watched the arrival at church and a guard of honour comprising members of the C.L.B. Training Corps and Incorporated Church Scout Patrol stood and saluted as the cortege passed. After the service hundreds of people witnessed the coffin being taken to the hearse.

THE GIRL SCOUT TRAGEDY AT WOKING.

The funeral of Winnie Baker at Christ Church, which was attended by the boy and girl scouts of the district.

The procession then made its way the five miles to Brookwood Cemetery, travelling at walking pace until it reached the outskirts of the town where the pace increased. Assembled around the small grave, lined with evergreens and flowers, in St Georges Avenue Brookwood, was another gathering some of whom were moved to tears when the body was lowered.

The coffin was of polished oak and bore the inscription, 'Winifred Beatrice Baker, died 6th December 1912 aged 12 years and on top was laid her scout hat. The wreaths, which came from all parts of the country and numbered nearly ninety, were beautiful and evidenced the sympathy of all classes, including the occupants of a gipsy encampment at Arthur's Bridge, Woking. The Nightingale tribute represented their sign, in the form of a window in red and blue flowers on a white background. After the funeral Winifred's parents tendered their sincere thanks to everyone for their extended sympathy at their time of bereavement and to all who sent wreaths.



Memoriam Card (Courtesy of Surrey History Centre)

Winnie's memorial Brookwood Cemetery

Also on Wednesday 11th December, at about midday, the body of a well-dressed man, about forty-five to fifty was found lying in a pool of blood with a shot wound to the head in the porch of an empty house in Castle Road, Horsell, which was thought may throw some light on the murder of Winifred Baker. He was later identified as Thomas James Harris Read. Mr. Read was a man of independent means who was a stranger to Woking. The revolver found by his side was five chambered and four were loaded, one cartridge having been fired. Police established the fact that there was no connection between his death and the murder of Winifred Baker as there was a striking dissimilarity between the description of the dead man and the wanted man.

Thomas Jasper Harris Reid found dead [4]

60 year old male found dead 11 December 1912 in Horsell, Woking.

[4] http://www.unsolved-murders.co.uk/murder-content.php?key=4729&termRef=Thomas%20Jasper%20Harris%20Reid

Thomas Jasper Harris Reid was found dead in the porch of an empty house. He was found shot and an open verdict was returned. He had lived in Wootton on the Isle of Wight. His sister said that he had never been to Woking before. She said that he had slight financial difficulties, although he was otherwise described as a man of independent means. It was said that his death was not connected in any way with the death of Winifred Baker who was murdered in Woking on 6 December 1912 and whose murder is also unsolved.

At a meeting of Woking Men's Own on Sunday 2nd January 1913, Mr. Fred Davis speaking on the subject of prayer, made reference to the murder. He said there were two kinds of sin to guard against, those of premeditation and impulse. If the murderer could be included in the former category there was no punishment too severe but if he was in the latter, he should be pitied.

On 6 January 1913 Mr. Macmaster, member of Parliament for Chertsey, asked questions in Parliament regarding the murder. He asked the Home Secretary whether he had any information in regard to the outraging and murdering of Winnie Baker, 12 years of age at Woking about three weeks before, whether any report had been made by the local authorities, whether the aid of central authorities at Scotland Yard had been asked in connection with the investigation of the crime and arrest of the criminal and whether any reward had been offered for his apprehension

Mr. Mckenna, the Home Secretary said, "I am informed by the Chief Constable that every possible inquiry has been made, but up to the present the police have not been successful in bringing to justice the perpetrator of the brutal murder. The Chief Constable has not considered it necessary to ask for the aid of a detective from Scotland Yard. He consulted me as to the offer of reward for information leading to the apprehension of the culprit, but the invariable practice of the Home Office for many years has been against the offer of rewards for information in cases of this description. Except where the person is definitely known or can be identified with certainty, rewards have been found to be not only ineffective towards the detection of the crime but even to operate prejudicially."

Mr. Macmaster asked that, "In view of the seriousness of this case is it not one in which Scotland Yard might be interested even though the Chief Constable does not think it necessary?" Mr. McKenna said he would consider the suggestion from the hon. member but it would be undesirable generally speaking, to interfere in the province of another office.

In January 1913, Albert Castle was searching for firewood at Queenborough, on the Isle of Sheppey in Kent, when he picked up a bottle containing a message written in pencil on a slip of paper from an exercise book. The message being, "I, E Lorimore, recently murdered a girl scout. Don't look. I have drowned myself." The bottle was found on the bank of the River Swale, about three miles from the Thames Estuary and it is thought it may have drifted from London. The boy took the message to the police and the Kent Constabulary thinking the message my throw some light on the murder of Winifred Baker informed Captain Sant, Chief Constable of Surrey of the discovery.

The John Bull Magazine took up the case. The article of February 15th, 1913, having the incorrect date for the murder.

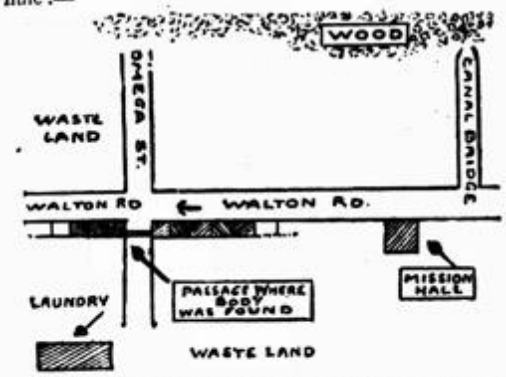
WHO MURDERED THE GIRL SCOUT?

£100 REWARD.

[The distracted parents of the slain girl, Winnie Baker, appeal to us to bring to justice the vile creature who outraged and murdered their child.]

A few days before Christmas, little Winifred Baker, aged 12 years, a member of the Woking Nightingale Girl Scouts, was brutally outraged and murdered. The fiend who committed this foul deed is still at large, and in a letter full of pathos the father of the little victim appeals to us to try and succeed where the police have failed. Such an application we cannot ignore, big as the task is.

Here is a rough sketch of the vicinity in which the outraged body of the child was found, the approximate length of the Walton Road portion being a quarter of a mile :—



Winnie Baker was a fine healthy child, 12 years of age, and weighed about 84 lbs. On the night of November 28th she attended, with other girls, a Scouts' drill class at the Mission Hall marked in the above sketch. She left the Hall soon after 7 o'clock in the company of other girls, and proceeded on her way home to Goldsworth Road—a distance of fully a mile up Walton Road, in the direction of the arrow. Not far from the Mission Hall the children were overtaken by a man, who touched one of them on the shoulder and said, "Your temperance teacher wants to see you." The girl first addressed hesitated, whereupon Winnie volunteered to accompany the man back to the Mission Hall. The children waited some time for Winnie to return. As she did not do so, they retraced their footsteps. The caretaker of the Hall told the children that Winnie had not been back, after which the youngsters seem to have at once made their way along the Walton Road home, and on their way they met a policeman, to whom they told the story of Winnie going away with a strange man. They then made all haste and told the child's father. He at once, with other neighbours, commenced a search which lasted all night.

Finding the Body.

The dead body of the child was first discovered on the morning of November 29th at five minutes past seven. Walking along the Walton Road a man saw something lying inside the gate in the position marked by an arrow, and found it was the body of a child. At this moment a man named Lamdin, who lived in the house immediately on the west of the gate, came out of doors. His attention was at once drawn to the discovery. While one of the men remained with the corpse, the other went for the doctor and police.

Doctor Describes Position of Body.

Dr. B. H. Kingsford states that he found the body of the child in a passage between 201 and 203, Walton Road. *The boots were on the feet, but her heels did not reach down to the soles of the boots. The boots were not laced up, but the laces twisted round them and then tied. The clothes were dry* and the jacket open in front, with a mud-stain on the lower part. There was a scarf doubled and tied tightly round the neck with a single knot.

We draw attention to the particulars in italics. *Evidence of the police went to show that there was rain on the night previous to the body being found, as there was also in the early morning.*

What Have the Police Done Since the Murder?

We can best answer by stating what the police have *not* done. They have not found the murderer. They have other business to attend to—such as trapping motorists, and dodging round street corners in order to get a conviction against a bookmaker's tout. We have nothing to say against the uniformed and subordinate policeman. He has to obey orders. What we should like to know is why detectives from New Scotland Yard were not called in by the County Police. In our own minds we know quite well. Jealousy! No wonder the inhabitants of Woking are indignant. Mr. Macmaster, the member of Parliament for the constituency, has to our knowledge done everything in his power to move the Home Secretary in the matter, to be informed that—

> The Chief Constable has not considered it necessary to ask for the aid of a detective from Scotland Yard. He consulted me as to the offer of a reward for information leading to the apprehension of the culprit, but the invariable practice of the Home Office for many years has been against the offer of rewards for information in cases of this description.

We need hardly say that we do not agree with the Home Secretary. We have, therefore, decided to offer

£100 REWARD.

to anybody who can supply us with evidence which will lead to the conviction of the person who murdered Winnie Baker. Our representative has been over all the ground in the vicinity in which the body was found, and has formed a definite opinion that the child was murdered in some building near and then carried out and laid in the position in which the body was discovered.

Instructions to Correspondents.

We particularly ask those contemplating writing us upon this subject *not to trouble us with theories.* What we want is *evidence.* In offering a reward we do not mean to suggest for a moment that we expect to get a reply from any person who actually saw the crime committed. Such a person would be as bad as the murderer himself. What we do, however, expect to get is some clue that will lead us to track the beast down.

Every communication will be dealt with in a strictly confidential manner.

Our Theory.

It will be understood, as we have already indicated, that in a matter of this gravity it is incumbent upon us to move, and speak, with the utmost caution. We should, however, be false to our readers if we did not tell them that we have formed a very definite theory as to the crime; and if subsequent events should justify our view, some of the words we have written above will be found to bear a very damning significance. We *think we shall lay the murderer by the heels.*

"WHO MURDERED THE GIRL SCOUT?"

ON THE TRACK OF THE VILLAIN—THE INEPTITUDE OF THE LOCAL POLICE—AN OMINOUS SILENCE.

In our issue of February 15th we offered a reward of £100 to any person giving such information as would lead to the conviction of the scoundrel who outraged and murdered the twelve-years-old child Winnie Baker in a lonely spot at Woking, Surrey, on the night of December 5th, or in the early morning of December 6th. The enormous number of letters which we have received shows the keen interest taken in the case, and incidentally the "esteem" in which the local police are held in the minds of the people of Woking. They are blamed—and quite rightly—for not having found the murderer. Let our readers recall the simple facts. On the night of December 5th, this child—who was a Girl Scout—attended a drill class at a mission hall about a mile away from her home. She left the hall soon after seven o'clock, in company with two other girls about her own age. The three proceeded on their way home, but before going many yards a man overtook them and said, "Your Temperance teacher wants to see you." The children stopped. Two refused to accompany the man, but Winnie consented. Then the man, taking the child's hand, marched her back in the direction of the hall. Her two companions watched her till out of sight, and after waiting fruitlessly for her to rejoin them, returned and asked the caretaker if he had seen Winnie. His answer was in the negative. The children then retraced their steps and proceeded home. On their way they met a policeman and reported to him what had happened. Soon afterwards they also related the incident to Winnie's parents, who in turn reported their loss at the police-station. An all-night search was instituted by both the police and a number of civilians, but no trace of the child was found until her dead body was discovered at five minutes past seven on the morning of December 6th, quite close to where the man had accosted her on the previous evening. Rain had fallen during the night, and also in the early morning, yet when the body was found the clothes were quite dry, the only portions which had been disarranged were her boots and a portion of her underclothing. The boots were on her feet, but her heels did not reach down to the soles; they were not fastened, but the laces were twisted round and then tied loosely up. There was a scarf doubled round the neck and tied tightly with a single knot. One glove was missing, as also was her Scout pole. Her weight was about 84 lbs. Such are the salient facts of the case.

Result of Investigation.

First of all, let us assure all our correspondents that their letters have been read by no one but ourselves, and that, to set their minds at ease, we shall return the original letter whenever requested to do so. We are taking this course because a strong expression of fear is mentioned by most of our correspondents, lest the fact of their communicating with us should ever leak out.

The first startling piece of information is that within a stone's throw of where the dead body of the child was found there live several men who are known to have committed indecent assaults upon children! Various complaints from parents to this effect we have verified at the headquarters of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The next important item is that we can now produce two witnesses who can identify the man who lured Winnie Baker away from her companions on the fatal night. It may be asked why the local police are not at once informed of this evidence, in order that arrest may follow. We prefer, however, to leave the Woking police out of the case—at any rate, for the present. In due course all the evidence will be placed in the hands of the Public Prosecutor, whom we think we will be able to satisfy that the child was outraged and murdered in some premises adjacent to where the body was found. We have already referred to the fact that, despite the rain, the child's clothing was quite dry. It follows also that the body must have been carried out and placed where it was discovered; an experiment in carrying a body weighing 84 lbs. shows that an average man could not take it very far. Then, as we have said, the boots had been taken off and replaced after death, and were quite clean. And here we may mention that the taking off of the boots has an important bearing upon the clue we have in hand.

Inept Police.

The inhabitants of Woking are naturally indignant with their police, whose apathy has been remarkable. Within a few minutes of the child being missing, the case was reported to them. They searched for her and did not find her. Surely, commonsense should have prompted the Chief Constable to wire to Scotland Yard at once for assistance to scour the neighbourhood. Even when the body of the poor little victim was found, outraged and strangled, the dull and inefficient police did not alter their clodhopping methods. Nor does this murder stand out alone as an example of police inefficiency at Woking. Several burglaries, for instance, have occurred in the district lately, but no arrests have been made. We say, without hesitation, that in this murder of the Girl Scout there was a straight case—capable of prompt solution. All the facts pointed to the child having been murdered on premises close to where the body was found. In that district live several scoundrels who have at different times indecently assaulted children. Every one of these brutes should have been arrested on suspicion and put up for identification by the two little companions of the victim, and it is a monstrous scandal that this course was not taken. Surely the inhabitants of Woking are a set of very docile citizens, or they would have long ago held a protest meeting. The fact of the matter is, that they have from long habit come to look upon the police as their masters, instead of realising that the whole force—including even the sleek Chief Constable—are their servants. It is high time this state of things was altered. In the meanwhile, parents in Woking are afraid to let their children out alone after dusk. A nice state of things in a civilised Christian country!

The Murderer *MUST* be Found.

The beast who murdered this little girl *must* be found, and we hope ere long to be the means of bringing him to justice. We have already indicated how the evidence we have collected is going to be dealt with. If the Woking police wish to save their faces, they had better make a move at once. And, as the result of his independent enquiries, our Special Commissioner makes the Chief Constable a present of the following suggestions:—

(1) The child was outraged and murdered in a building adjacent to where the body was found.

(2) The body was, after the commission of the crime, placed in the position where it was discovered between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m.

(3) A peculiar kind of dust was found on the body.

(4) The poor child's gloves and Scout pole are missing: is it not likely that they were burnt?

(5) Ascertain at what buildings in the immediate neighbourhood there were facilities on the night of December 5th for burning such articles.

(6) Take to the place of the discovery a child of similar weight to the little victim, and ascertain how far a moderately strong man could carry it.

A Suspicious Silence.

Meanwhile, we have to thank the numerous correspondents who have supplied information in this terrible case, *though there are at least four people in Woking who could supply material evidence, but have, so far, remained silent.* They will read these lines, and we hope they will take the hint.

The murderer of little Winnie Baker *must* be found, and must—and *will*—hang!

WHO MURDERED THE GIRL SCOUT?

OUR EVIDENCE PLACED BEFORE WOKING'S M.P., MR. STANLEY BUCKMASTER, K.C.

We have now completed our enquiries into the mystery of the murder of the little Girl Scout at Woking in December last, and we say, without hesitation, that we have quite sufficient evidence against a certain man to justify the police in arresting him on suspicion. The grave part of our indictment, however, is undoubtedly the gross negligence on the part of the local police in not having apprehended this man immediately the body was found. We will go further and say that immediately the child was lost, his house ought to have been searched. That he is a man of abnormal sexual habits we have ample evidence. Some time ago he molested other little children. Why he was not prosecuted on that occasion passes our understanding.

It has come to our knowledge that the man in question —although not invited to do so—has made several attempts to establish an *alibi* to the people in the district, stating that he was elsewhere at the time the child was missing. This we can prove by overwhelming evidence to be untrue When the body was found, although it had been raining for many hours the clothing was perfectly dry, and on it was a certain amount of peculiar dust which we are informed is similar to dust which can be found in a room frequently occupied by the man in question. Closely associated with this man is another individual, living not far away from him, and bearing anything but a good character, and our Special Commissioner is not satisfied that he, too, was not concerned in the crime.

We may add that the two companions of the little victims are absolutely sure that they could identify the man who enticed the girl away.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE.

We suggest that the two men we have indicated should at once be asked to account for their movements on the night of the murder, and to place themselves for identification amongst a number of other men—if not actually arrested on suspicion. Of course, it is a very serious matter, and it would not be in the interests of justice were we to publish the details of the evidence we have collected. We have hesitated as to whether to disclose it to Scotland Yard or the Public Prosecutor, but in the end, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, we have decided to place it in the hands of Mr. Buckmaster, M.P.—the distinguished lawyer who represents Woking in Parliament. Mr. Buckmaster has taken a deep interest in this matter, and is, we believe, highly indignant at the attitude of the County Police in regard to it. At any rate, we are sure that, busy as he is, he will not begrudge the time necessary to sift thoroughly the evidence, and, if possible, to bring to justice the outrager and murderer of the little child of one of his constituents.

John Bull 6th December 1913: The Woking Murder. We note that yet another false clue to the murderer of the little girl scout has been exploded. Our £100 reward is still on offer, and we hope to pay it very soon as there are signs that the culprit's nerves are breaking down. He should ponder whether a quick death by rope is not preferable to life- long misery.

On January 5th 1922, the murder was again mentioned because at the time, out of sympathy with Winnie's sister Enid, many friends contributed to a fund to pay certain expenses, the balance to be invested in the names of the trustees to be handed over to Enid at some future date when the trustees felt fit. After paying the burial and other expenses, there was a balance left of £10 2s, which was put into Lloyds Bank and £2 3s interest accumulated. A sum of 2s1d was added and 16 National Savings Certificates purchased which were handed over to Miss Baker at the Council Offices by Mr. H A Whitburn. Mr. Whitburn said Miss Baker was now 21 years of age and he hoped the certificates would be helpful to her for years to come and prove an incentive for her to add to the amount rather than reduce it. Miss Baker thanked the trustees for their kindness and all who subscribed.

Sources: This item was put together using articles from numerous newspapers both in Great Britain and abroad. There is also a video on You Tube, a mention on unsolved-murders.co.uk site and the book Unsolved 1912 - Unsolved True Crime Cases from 1912 by Pat Finn.

Tug of War about 1983

Nigel Foster, Paul Palmer, Mark Roberts, Lenny Milsom, front left Joff Clement, Simon Kersley, Mark Clark, Mick Wraight at the Percy Arms, Chilworth. This was a Godalming Police team at a Charity match sponsored by the pub.
The team took part in several local fetes.

Surrey Police in the RGA (Royal Garrison Artillery)[5]

SURREY POLICE IN THE R.G.A.

Top Row.—Thatcher (Ash), Rapley (Godalming), Newble (Godalming), North (Camberley), Cox (Guildford), Brant (Guildford), Knight (Godalming), Haseman (Weybridge).
Second Row.—Gates (Woking), Rose (Bisley), Horne (Woldingham), Parrott (Limpsfield), Critchard (Hersham), Fortman (Hersham), Collins (St. George's Hill, Weybridge).
The above illustration is published by the courtesy of the proprietors of the 'Police Review and Parade Gossip.'

Top row: Thatcher (Ash), Rapley (Godalming), North (Camberley), Cox (Guildford), Brant (Guildford), Knight (Godalming), Haseman (Weybridge), Second row: Gates (Woking) Rose (Bisley), Horne (Woldingham), Parrott (Limpsfield), Critchard (Hersham), Fortman (Hersham), Collins (St George's Hill, Weybridge)

The above illustration is published by courtesy of the proprietors of the Police Review and Parade Room Gossip.

[5] The Surrey Times October 12 1917

Website; Hampshire Dog Section

Chris Kearsey

https://www.hampshireconstabularyhistory.org.uk/history/dog-section/

This is a link to the History of Hampshire Police dog section which had close links with the dog school at Mount Browne. My Uncle Henry Harper was one of the first dog handlers to be trained at Mount Browne in the early 1950's.

Police Sergeant James Bishop

Surrey Constabulary 1856-1884
b1833 Oxfordshire - d1900 Caterham
Badly beaten and had to retire

Family History

Parents: Robert Bishop (Father) and Elizabeth (Mother)

Married: 1859 to Celia Comford in Godstone

1841 Census: Living with parents, aged 7, brother and sisters, Elizabeth aged 3, John aged 2 and Hannah aged 1. Living in Oxford.

1851 Census:

1861 Census: Living Harriet Cottage, Cottage on Common, Chelsham, Godstone, Surrey, with James Comford – Head aged 45, Susan L Comford aged 52, W Comford – Nephew aged 26, James Bishop – Lodger occupation Police Constable, Celia Bishop – Lodger aged 32 wife, James R aged 1 son and Hannah aged 0 daughter.

1871 Census: Living Prospect Cottage, Capel, Dorking, Surrey with wife Celia, and children – Priscilla, Elizabeth, Francis, Alfred, Lucy E Comford – Sister-in-Law. Occupation Police Sergeant.

1881 Census: Living – Cottage, Caterham, Surrey, With Celia his wife and children. Occupation – Police Sergeant.

1891 Census: Living – Cross Road, Caterham, Surrey with wife Celia and daughter Minnie. Occupation Retired Police Sergeant.

1900: Death recorded James Bishop aged 66 in the December quarter of 1900 registered in the Godstone registration district

1901 Census: Celia is listed as a widow

Surrey History Centre Archive June 2014

A search has been made in the census and death records available on the family history website Ancestry and it appears likely that the sergeant who was attacked in Chelsham in 1884 was not the same man who was reported as dying in 1908.

In the 1881 census there is a James Bishop, police sergeant living in Caterham, born in Oxfordshire, aged 47, living with his wife, Celia, and six children. In the 1891 census he is listed as a retired police sergeant. I am assuming this was the Sergeant James Bishop who was so brutally attacked. In the next census for 1901 Celia is listed as a widow and a subsequent search of the General Register Office index of deaths found an entry for James Bishop aged 66 in the December quarter of 1900 registered in the Godstone registration district, which includes Caterham.

The defaulters (appointment) register does not give dates of death for the police listed; the last entry is when they left the force. The only James Bishop found is listed in the first volume we hold, for 1851-1866 (9152/1/2/1/1) and the place of birth and age tally with the information given in the census, as do the places he served. James joined the force in 1856 aged 23 and was promoted to Sergeant in 1865. His date of removal from the force was on 1 April 1885.

Press cuttings

1866 July 16 Surrey Advertiser: Cattle Plague: Matthew Napper, Holmwood, Dorking farmer, was summoned for de-pasturing a cow and calf in the Holmwood Common without a licence by one of the magistrates for that purpose but did not attend. PC (sic) Sergeant Bishop[6]proved the offence. Ordered to pay a penalty of £5 and 12s 6d.

Edward Tullett, Holmwood, victualler was charged with a like offence which was proved by PC Sergeant Bishop. The defendant tried to excuse himself by saying the cattle got out and were on the common by accident, but the constable stated that he saw the defendant turn them out. Fined 2s and costs.

1866 August 11: Surrey Advertiser: This is not the same offence as reported above 16 July 1866. This report has PC Bishop (in the same report Sergeant Bishop) giving evidence that he saw the animals twenty yards from the turnpike road at Holmwood. He spoke to Matthew Napper who was abusive towards him. Superintendent Page said Napper admitted to him that they were his animals. Fined £5 and 12s 6d costs, again.

1866 December 29: Dorking Sessions: John Ansell of Coldharbour a labourer charged with **stealing ten turnips**. He was stopped by PC Bishop Surrey Constabulary and found to

[6] The rank of sergeant was new and this obviously confused the reporter

be in possession of the turnips. Cautioned because of previous good character and released by the court.[7]

1867 December 3: Reigate County Bench: George Charman of Betchworth a labourer was summoned for being on certain lands at Betchworth **with a gun in pursuit of game** on the 14 November. Police Sergeant 5 Bishop Surrey Constabulary stationed at Holmwood said he was at **Brockenhurst in the parish of Betchworth** about half past ten at night when he heard the report of a gun. He waited and Charman and another man came out and when they saw him the two men ran off. The officer ran after Charman and stopped him and on searching him found a gun that had recently been discharged. Policeman Argant stationed at Leigh corroborated the evidence. As it was a first offence a mitigated penalty of 10s would be imposed and 15s costs or 7 days.[8]

1869 August 21 West Surrey Times: William Dowland, of Dorking, a labourer, was charged with being drunk and riotous behaviour at Capel on the 4 July last. PC Potter heard the defendant and four or five others at about half past twelve at night making a terrible noise, singing, swearing and blowing a whistle. He and Sergeant Bishop turned their light upon the men and Potter took hold of the defendant but having at the same time two of the others in custody, the defendant made his escape. Sergeant Bishop corroborated the evidence. The defendant said he could prove he was elsewhere but produced no evidence. The Bench were satisfied that the defendant was one of the party, the others of which had been sentenced to seven days in the House of Correction. The defendant had at the last bench been convicted of furious driving and leniently dealt with and on the following morning he was found with others in a drunken and riotous state, and evidently a desperate row would have occurred if the police had not been on the alert. £5 and 13s 6d costs or two months in default. He was removed as the penalty was not paid.

1870 August 13: Dorking County Bench: Edward Mayheir (?) of Coldharbour was summoned for ill-treating a horse but did not attend the court when Police Sergeant Bishop proved the case and a warrant was issued.[9]

1870 October 8 Surrey Advertiser: James Farebrother, Josh Farebrother, Solomon Farebrother and George Brooker of the Holmwood were charged by Police Sergeant Bishop with being drunk and riotous near the Norfolk Arms at the Holmwood on 21 September. They pleaded guilty and were fined 5s each and 18s 6d costs to be divided between them.

1870 October 8 Surrey Advertiser: William Jenner, Peter Ede and William Finch labourers were charged by Sergeant Bishop with being drunk and riotous in front of the Plough Inn at Blackbrook at one o'clock on Sunday morning the 25 ult. They were drunk and fighting amongst themselves. Fined 5s and costs.

---

[7] 1866 December 29 Surrey Advertiser
[8] 1867 December 3: The Sussex Express, Surrey Standard Weald of Kent Mail, Hants and County Advertiser
[9] 1870 August 13: The Surrey Advertiser and County Gazette

1873 October 4 Surrey Advertiser: Charge of stealing a goose: Thomas Ede of Holmwood was charged on remand with stealing a live goose the property of John Turner of Capel a brewer. The prosecutor bought 22 geese and four of them strayed. Three were subsequently found and on the 20 September, he went to the Fox at Norwood Hill where he identified a goose as his. The landlord bought the goose at the Norfolk Arms, Holmwood for 4s 3d. Sergeant Bishop went after the prisoner who had gone to Kent hop picking. On the appearance of the officer at the hop field the defendant ran away but was captured. He pleaded guilty and sentenced to a month's hard labour at Wandsworth.

1875 October 9 Surrey Advertiser: Too much beer again: Clement Gough for on 31 August drunk whilst driving a horse and cart at Newdigate. Case proved by Police Sergeant Bishop and PC BH Knight. Fined £1 and 13s 6d costs. A previous conviction was proved against the defendant.

1878 June 8: Surrey Advertiser: Dorking: Walter Goff a person of independent means possessing considerable property in this parish and residing at Sunnyside, Holmwood appeared at the Magistrates' Clerk's office charged with being drunk and disorderly and threatening bodily harm to Samuel Beagland and others. PC Fuller during the previous evening went with Police Sergeant Bishop to Wimbledon Cottage, Holmwood where he found the prisoner drunk and in an excited state. Mrs and Miss Goff the wife and sister of the defendant complained he had been knocking and kicking them about, and that he had taken his sister to the pump and pumped some water on her. The police were called and they saw that the outer door had been smashed with extreme violence and a large plate glass window was also broken. Mr Goff was arrested and went quietly for about 150 yards when he began to struggle whereupon he was handcuffed he continued to say to the officers they were "dead men." Eventually he was taken to Dorking police station. Police Sergeant Bishop corroborated the evidence. In evidence Mr Beagland said he heard Miss Goff screeching "murder" as she came to the door of his house entreating him to save her. The prisoner rushed after his sister but was thrusted back and closing the door. He returned and with some tremendous blows with an immense sledgehammer broke the door down and came in forcing Beagland and his sister to make a hurried exit and run for their lives into a neighbour's house. He thought that if the prisoner had caught his sister, he would have killed her. The prisoner had acted almost as bad earlier that week during a mad drunken fit. The prisoner declined to ask questions of the witnesses and said he would fix all the damage and that he did not have the slightest recollection of the damage.

He had been drinking cider and was not responsible for his actions. Miss Goff who was most respectably attired said she was not present to support the charge but to qualify some of the allegations against her brother who was much to be pitied having suffered great pain in his head and she asked on behalf of her aged father and herself that he be dealt with lightly. The Chairman reminded Miss Goff that he had only recently looked over some gross conduct of the prisoner in deference to the wishes of the family. Mr Beagland said protection from the prisoner's violence was essential. Miss Goff became excited and interrupted and was warned

that she would be removed if she persisted. Sentenced to one month imprisonment with hard labour and at the expiration of that time to find two sureties for £10and further to be bound in his own recognisance of £20 to keep the peace for six months. The prisoner said he would never trouble the police or the magistrates again as he would take the pledge of total abstinence, adding that he bore no animosity against any person who had taken part in the case, he was then removed.

1880 October 30: Surrey Mirror: Marine Store dealing: At Godstone a store dealer was charged with having through his wife, purchased off William Barber a quantity of brass of less weight than 56ilbs. He pleaded guilty. Police Sergeant Bishop was a part of the investigation.

1881 Westcott: Frederick Broomer, a ragged little boy of 12 from Chapel Lane was accused of **stealing** 2½lb butter, 3lb currants, 1lb tea and a box of nightlights from Thomas Wood's van. Mrs Wilmott described how she was in her Summer House and saw him take things out of the van and give them to his sister, aged 5. PC Bishop made the arrest and after an altercation with Mrs Broomer, who struck him on the head with a copper stick, found the prisoner hiding in a bedroom between the mattress and the bed. Frederick was given 5 strokes with a birch rod, his mother was reprimanded and required to ensure that he attends school more regularly. [10]

1882 February 11 Surrey Mirror: A bad boy: Stephen Jones 15, and Rosina Jones 12, were charged with stealing 8ils of beef the property of George Ede at Caterham on the 2 February. The prisoners begged at Mr Ede's door and managed to get into the larder and take the beef whilst the girl watched outside. Police Sergeant Bishop apprehended the two and the girl admitted the boy stole the beef. The parents said the boy had been trouble since he was 9 years old. When he was eleven, he ran away and did not return for three years. He had been with the gipsies. He had now been home twelve months and gone away three times. Police Sergeant Bishop said the children were always begging in the neighbourhood but the father said it was never with his knowledge. He however admitted he ate a part of the beef. The girl was discharged and the boy sentenced to 14 days hard labour and five years confined to a reformatory.

1882 March 11 Surrey Mirror: Dog cases – keeping dogs without a licence. PC Pallen Oxted, Police Sergeant Bishop a case at Caterham, PC Summer, PC Stone and PC Barber.

1882 September 9: At Croydon bench a number of Metropolitan Police and Surrey Constabulary officers were presented with cash awards for their work in the **arrest of a gang** of burglars who committed their crimes at Whyteleafe. The money was a subscription from the residents of Caterham, Coulsdon and Whytleafe. After a trial at the Guildford assizes the gang were sentenced to 12 years penal servitude. There was a series of burglaries

[10] Terry Wooden Westcott Local History Society January 2012

and officers of the Surrey Constabulary PC Richardson and Bishop were party to their detection and arrest.[11]

1882 December 23: Surrey Mirror: Licensing Business: An application was made for an extension of the license of the Railway Hotel, Caterham one evening last week. Superintendent Redford stated the house was badly conducted. The landlord had been heard shouting murder and, on the sergeant, enquiring what was the matter he asked the officer to feel his head, stating that the landlady had struck him there with a poker. Police Sergeant Bishop corroborated the statement. The landlord said he frequently had to seek shelter in the cellar from the violence of the landlady. The application was refused.

1884 February 25: Brutal attack on a Police Sergeant: The Croydon Police apprehended two notorious poachers named Charles Fairman and Eli Gambrell on a charge of murderously assaulting and robbing Police Sergeant Bishop of the Surrey Constabulary about seven miles from Croyden. The constable received two deep wounds in the back of his head, while his eyes were closed up and his cheek lay bare to the bone. He also recived a severe injury to his spine where he was kicked in his back. The unfortunate officer was on his way to visit one of his men when he saw three persons coming towards him. He turned on his bulls-eye towards them and had no sooner done so than one of them felled him to the groundwith a blow from a stick, and all three attacked him. **[12]**

1884 February 26: The Assault on a Police Sergeant at Godstone: Death of the Injured Man. Sergeant Bishop of the Surrey Constabulary who was murderously assaulted and robbed by three notorious poachers has died at his home at Caterham from the effects of the injuries received in the highway at Godstone. He was terribly knocked about and evidently left for dead. Two men named Gumbrell and Fairman are in custody and will now be charged with the murder, together with a third man when arrested.**[13]** The above proved to be wrong![14]

1884 March 1 Surrey Mirror: Murderous outrage upon a Police Sergeant near Caterham: Last Thursday evening an assault so brutal was committed upon Police Sergeant Bishop of the Surrey County Constabulary at Chelsham-place a small village between Caterham and Godstone. Whilst doing his rounds in an unfrequented lane he saw three persons approaching him. He was suspicious and as they closed, he turned on his lantern. He was immediately struck with a heavy stick and fell to the ground. He endeavoured to rise and laid about him with a stick he was carrying. Before he got to his feet he was rushed and heavily kicked on the head and became insensible. He was then badly maltreated by the three men who then robbed the sergeant of his watch before making off towards Croydon. After some time, the sergeant partially recovered consciousness and despite the intense agony he was suffering he succeeded in crawling to a nearby cottage where a lady lived on her own. After getting over the shock of the sight of the sergeant she arranged help with the intention of getting him to his home in Caterham. His tunic and shirt were saturated with

[11] 1882 September 9 The Surrey Mirror and General County Advertiser
[12] 25 Feb 1884 Pall Mall Gazette
[13] 26 Feb 1884 Pall Mall Gazette
[14] Email Surrey History Centre 25 June 2014 to Robert Bartlett

blood, which was flowing copiously from two large wounds to the back of his head and a deep cut on his cheek the bone of which was laid bare.

With some difficulty the bleeding was stopped but the injured man was in such a condition it was impossible to move him and he rested for some time stimulated with some brandy. He was eventually taken home where a medical man was soon in attendance who also found injuries to the spine and ribs where he had been violently kicked. His head was swollen to an enormous size and his eyes were totally closed. The injuries were serious and the doctor ordered the officer to be kept quiet.

Enquires for the guilty parties were immediately made with suspicion falling on three notorious poachers one of whom was a resident at Croydon. He had previously threatened Surrey Police Bishop who had previously had him convicted of robbery. He is well known to the police. The two men named are Charles Farriman and Eli Gambrell both resident at Croydon who have previous convictions for various offences, poaching in particular. The men had been drinking at the Bull's Head, Chelsham. Superintendent Redford reported the case to Sanderstead police station a part of the Croydon district of the Metropolitan Police. Other evidence was obtained and warrants for arrest of the three men were obtained.

On Saturday morning before daybreak, Police Sergeant Moss 34W Metropolitan Police accompanied by Constables Bock and Whatling went to the Brighton Road where they arrested Farriman. They then went to Gambrell's house and demanded admission which was refused they burst open the door and after a short struggle took their prisoner. On being charged both men admitted being at Chelsham on the night in question but stated they left there at 9.30 which was an hour before the outrage was committed. They were taken to Croydon and searched but as to the watch, an old-fashioned silver hunter with double case and a piece of the dial chipped off and replaced could not be discovered and it is supposed that the third man had it. This man had decamped immediately after the assault. The prisoners were taken to Godstone police station on Saturday afternoon and on Monday appeared before the magistrate and remanded for a week.

The injuries to Sergeant Bishop became known to the public and a great deal of excitement was caused all along the road from Croydon to Redhill when on Tuesday morning it was currently reported that he had succumbed to his injuries. The public felt indignation against the cowardly perpetrators. The rumour was borne out when the London papers reported Bishop had died. This was not the case and it was found he was recovering but the spinal injury probably means he will be permanently lame. Bishop had been in the police for more than 30 years and if he is now compelled to retire from active duty, the force will lose a valuable officer, for during his career he has always borne an excellent character and has more than once rendered material assistance in bringing offenders to justice.

Quite recently he took part in the arrest of a gang of burglars at Whyteleaf and the serious nature of that duty is shown by the fact that several of the gang were sentenced to periods of 12-14 years penal servitude.

It is intended, if Bishop is well enough to take his evidence at his house before Monday in the presence of the prisoners, whom he will be called upon to identify as the men who assaulted him and it is possible thereafter that they will at once be sent for trial at the Assizes.

1884 March 1 Sheffield Weekly Telegraph: The report that Sergeant Bishop of the Surrey County Constabulary has **died** of his injuries caused by three men supposed to be poachers at Godstone is **now contradicted**. The officer is slightly better.[15] [16]

1884 March 4 London Daily News: Redhill: Eli Dumbrell and Charles Fairman were charged on remand with assaulting Police Sergeant Bishop of the Surrey County Constabulary with **intent to commit murder** on the night of 21st February and stealing his watch value £3. The prisoners pleaded not guilty.

Mr Superintendent Redford stated on the previous Friday he took the two prisoners before Bishop who identified them as two of the three men who had assaulted him. A certificate from Dr Eady at Caterham stating Bishop was still in a very critical condition and totally unable to give his evidence was put in and Mr Superintendent Redford asked for a further remand of a week which was granted.

The third man Brooks had not been arrested. He was seen at Croydon on Saturday last and the police have been upon his track for some days.[17]

Surrey Mirror March 22, 1884: The proposal to raise a **pecuniary testimonial** to Sergeant Bishop of the Surrey County Constabulary is one that will commend itself not only to residents in the Caterham and Godstone districts but to the County at large. The officer has suffered severely in pursuit of a duty which he knew to be dangerous and which he might easily have shirked; and he must have necessarily suffered in pocket as well as in person.

The police are not naturally a popular body notwithstanding that when we are in trouble or difficulty, we invariably look to them, and to the law they represent for assistance. Nevertheless, the English people recognise an act of devotion and pluck wherever they might find it, and if there ever was such an act it is that for which it is proposed to reward Sergeant Bishop. A letter from Mr Hall in another column will give the requisite information to those wishing to subscribe.

1884 March 29 Surrey Mirror: Sergeant Bishop: We have pleasure in acknowledging the receipt through Lt. Col. Mackinnon of a cheque for £7 14s 2d on account of the fund being raised for Police Sergeant Bishop of Caterham. The amount has been raised amongst the

[15] Surrey Advertiser 1 March 1884
[16] Weekly Dispatch (London) 2 March 1884
[17] Surrey Mirror 8 March 1884

Guards stationed at the Depot in Caterham and reflects greatly on them in every way. (His pay would have been about 25 shillings a week so £7 14s would be well received)

1884 April 21: Central Criminal Court; Eli Dumbrell aged twenty-eight and Charles Fairman aged twenty-two for robbery on James Bishop, and **stealing from his person** a watch and chain, his property, and beating and striking and using other **personal violence** to him.

James Bishop. I am a police sergeant in the Surrey Constabulary, and the prosecutor in this case. On the night of 21st February, I was on duty on the high road at Chelsham at 10.30 when I met the two prisoners and a third man on the highway. They had two dogs with them, and one of the dogs had white about his neck. The men were coming in a direction from Ledger's Lodge; and as they were passing me Dumbrell said to me "Can you tell us where this road leads to?" I said "Yes, it leads to Farley, Gilston, and Croydon; if you don't want to go there, turn to the left when you get to the bottom of the town" I turned my light full on their faces thinking it was a curious question to ask me, and I have no doubt that I saw these two prisoners. The third man was close behind them and he came up and struck me on the back of my head and knocked me down. The two prisoners then commenced kicking me about my head and body, one hitting me with a stick, and I became insensible. When I came to myself, they were gone. I searched my pockets and found that my watch and chain were gone. I had laid there over half an hour. I had seen my watch safe about five minutes before I was attacked, I pulled it out and looked at it at 25 minutes past 10. When I turned my light on, I saw that Dumbrell had quite a black moustache and I noticed that Fairman was cross-eyed. I got up and went to a cottage, and a woman washed me and bathed my wounds, and I had to stop there till about 5a.m. I gave a description of the men, in consequence of which the two prisoners were apprehended.

The witness was then c**ross-examined by Mr. Avery:** I saw the two prisoners eight days after the occurrence at my house, where I was in bed. They were brought to my house. No one else was brought. I did not pick them out from others. I was unable to get out of bed and these two prisoners simply were brought to my bed. Before I turned my lamp on, I saw Fairman's face, because he brushed close to me. There were no lights in the road, and I could not see their faces to swear to them without my lamp. I stood there about two minutes looking at them with my bull's-eye, staring them in the face. As soon as they asked me the question, I turned my bull's-eye on them directly. That was after they asked me the question. I told them the way, and immediately afterwards I was struck by a man on my eye. I mean to say that they stood there looking me in the face for two minutes; they seemed to be waiting for the other man to come up. I say that they walked by asking me the way to go. I also say that the man who I identify as Dumbrell had quite a black moustache and it was heavy. I am quite certain about the time; it was 10.30 within one minute. I am as certain about one prisoner as I am about the other if I am mistaken about one, I am just as likely to be mistaken about the other.

The witness was c**ross-examined by Mr. Lilley:** I had seen the prisoners before that night. The spot where I was attacked was, as far as I can say, about five miles from the Brighton Road at Croydon. I mentioned at Godstone about Fairman being cross-eyed. I have not seen my depositions and I do not think they were read over to me before I signed them. I know that they are read over as a matter of certain practice chiefly, but I have no recollection of it. I was suffering from illness at the time I was examined. I had only been out of bed two days. The name of the woman to whose cottage I went is Richardson. I told her how I had been treated. I did not in the course of my statement to her say that I did not know the men. I have not seen her here today. I remained at the cottage till about 5 o'clock in the morning. The men had dogs with them; a great many people have dogs in the country. I told the Magistrate about Fairman's eyes. My watch was a silver hunter, and it had a steel chain; it cost me over three pounds but I have had it over twenty years. I have not identified it; I have not seen it since. I know that it is usual to advertise in the Police Gazette, but I have been laid up and unable to do anything. I gave information to the superintendent.

Re-examined*:* I gave information to one of the other constables, and he went and looked for my watch. I am quite sure I mentioned the fact of Fairman being cross-eyed before the Magistrate at Godstone.

George Stephens (Surrey Constabulary 192). I am stationed at Chelsham. On 21 February I was on duty near Ledger's Lodge, Chelsham, and just before I reached the lodge, I met three men with two dogs. It was about 10.25 or 10.30 p.m. One of the dogs appeared to be dark, and the other had white on the side of his neck as I passed on the left. The three men were walking in file one after the other, and as I passed, I said, "Good night," and the front one replied, and as he did so he turned his face towards me, and to the best of my belief it was Dumbrell. When they met me, they were going in the direction of Croydon and in the direction of the place where Sergeant Bishop was assaulted. They were about a quarter of a mile from the Bull, or a little more. I heard of this attack the next morning and went down to the cottage where the sergeant was staying and stayed there with him till, I took him home with assistance. He said that he had lost his watch. I went and searched for it, but could not find it, but I found his hat. There was lots of blood about.

William Moss (Metropolitan Police Policeman W34). On the morning of 22nd February, I received information of this attack on the 21st. The prosecutor gave me a description of three men, in consequence of which I went in search of someone and apprehended the prisoner Fairman at 9.20 p.m. on 22nd February. I took two constables with me, and went to the Purley Arms, where I saw Fairman, and told him I wanted him. He said, "What for, Moss?" I said, "Come along, and I will tell you," and when he came outside, I said, "There has been a highway robbery with violence at Warlingham, and I shall take you on suspicion of being concerned with two other men" He said, "I don't know where Warlingham is; I was at the Bull at Chelsham at 20 minutes to 10" I said, "Well, it was at Chelsham where it occurred. they are adjoining villages." I then took him in custody and went in search of Dumbrell and about an hour and a half afterwards we went to his house and knocked at the door for about a quarter of an hour. His wife answered and said that he was asleep. After

knocking for about a quarter of an hour off and on, we burst the door open and found Dumbrell on the top of the landing by the bedroom door dressing. It was then about 12 o'clock at night as near as possible. He said, "I don't know what you want with me." I said, "You will be charged with Fairman with a highway robbery at Chelsham with violence" He was not wearing a moustache.

Henry Redford: I am superintendent of police for the Godstone division. I saw the two prisoners at Croydon in custody on Saturday, February 23, and conveyed them to Godstone. On arriving I read the charge, which was "Unlawfully and feloniously assaulting Police Sergeant James Bishop in the execution of his duty, thereby causing him grievous bodily harm; also stealing from his person a silver watch and a steel chain, value 2 pounds, on the highway at Chelsham, on the 21st of February 1884." They both said, "I know nothing about it" On Friday, the 29th, I spoke to Dumbrell at the cell door, and said "I see, Dumbrell, by the description you were wearing a moustache that night". He replied, "Yes, I had it cut off." When I received him in custody, he was wearing no moustache, his upper lip was clean shaved.

Cross-examined by Mr. Avery: It was on 29th February that I had that conversation; eight days afterwards; it was at the cell door. The door was shut and I spoke through the trap door; my object in doing so was because the description did not answer. I thought it seemed strange that he should be wearing a moustache that night and the next day it should be off. It was no business of mine; I had no object. I mean to say that I did not do it for the purpose of getting something out of him. As to my discussing his identification with him I simply said, "You had a moustache that night." I knew that by the description, which I had in my pocket. The description I had did not agree with the man at that time. The description I had agreed with the man who was in the cell except the moustache. I did not think I could reconcile the two by a little judicious conversation with him; as I said before, I had no particular object.

Q. Then it was for the mere pleasure of having a little conversation with him?

A. I cannot give any other reason. I wanted it cleared up; and I wanted him to clear it up. It is not my practice on the contrary, when I want a thing cleared up, to go to a prisoner and get him to clear it up. I had cautioned the prisoner eight days before. What I said to him was "I see by your description, Dumbrell, that night you were wearing a moustache." He said "Yes, I had it cut off," and I think he said to the other prisoner "I suppose I can't go to a barber without a permission." When I made the observation to him about his moustache he did not say "My moustache would only be about a month's growth"; but he did a day or two afterwards. That was not at the cell. I cannot recollect when it was. I cannot recollect whether it was at the cell, but if I speak rightly, I think it was on the road to Caterham. I cannot swear that he did not make that observation at the cell, but I do not think so. I will not swear now that he did not make it at the cell on the occasion when I first spoke to him. I do not mean to swear before the Jury that when I asked him to reconcile those two things he did not say, "Why my moustaches have only been about a month's growth." I say that his answer was

"Yes, I had a small moustache, but I cut it off." I do not recollect anything about the month's growth. It was the prisoner Dumbrell himself who cross-examined me on that subject before the Magistrate, and I said in answer "I think you said, “My moustache would only be about a month's growth." I did not say a word about that observation being made to me till several days afterwards; I was not asked.

Mr. Eadie: I am a surgeon, of Caterham Valley. On 22nd of February I was called to see Sergeant Bishop between 6 and 7 o'clock in the morning. I found him in a very weak state from loss of blood. His right eye was black and closed, and his left eye nearly closed, and twenty-four hours after both eyes were completely closed. His cheeks were very much bruised, and one cheek was cut; the blow of a boot might do that. In forty-eight hours, there were several bruises on his body and he was ill for a week, but he has mended very much in the last two or three weeks. His life has been in danger.

Guilty: The police stated that both prisoners had been several times convicted of offences under the Game Laws and sentenced to 7 years Penal Servitude each.[18]

1900 November 9 Surrey Mirror: Funeral of ex-Police Sergeant: On Thursday afternoon the funeral took place in St Mary’s churchyard of Mr James Bishop who died on Sunday in his 67th year. He was for many years in the Surrey County Constabulary and held the rank of sergeant. Some time since, he was attacked and seriously injured by some men in the neighbourhood of Chelsham and, being unfit for further duty, retired on pension. A detachment of the county constabulary under Police Sergeant Southcott attended and there was a wreath from the officers and men of the Godstone division

1908 Thursday 6 August: The Cornishman newspaper: reported that a Sergeant Bishop, of the Surrey County Constabulary, who was murderously assaulted and robbed by three poachers, has died at his home. (This is so obviously wrong!)

[18] Illustrated Police News May 3, 1884

Magna Carta Procession in Englefield Green, 1920's. Special PC Herbert Weller in foreground. Egham Museum P947

Egham's Police Force

https://eghammuseum.org/tag/surrey-constabulary/

First patrols

Despite its distance from London, Egham and Englefield Green were included in the Bow Street Horse Patrol. The patrol was originally founded in 1763 to have a presence patrolling the highways in and around London, but it died out due to a lack of funding after 18 months. It was revived in 1805 by Sir John Fielding, who despite being blind could recognise 3,000 criminals by voice alone. The new and improved Bow Street Horse Patrol had 60 men patrolling from the centre of London outwards towards places like Windsor. Bow Street Patrol were recognisable from their uniform, as they were the first uniformed police force in Great Britain. They wore blue jackets with brass buttons, a leather hat, blue trousers and leather boots; but what made them stand out were their scarlet waistcoats, earning them the nickname of 'robin red breast'. As officers they carried a cutlass, truncheon and pistol as a form of protection. The patrol was very effective in removing highwaymen from the roads into and out of London, particularly Hounslow Heath, until they were disbanded by the government, and the highway men returned.

Appointment of Special Constables in Egham

In an 1822 letter to Charles John Lawson Esq, Clerk of the Peace, the establishment of special constables in Egham was outlined. Various local residents named in the letter were worried about the number of felonies happening in the local area, both in the past and present. Because the men named were of 'fine respectable households' in the Parish, their call warranted the introduction of special constables in the local area, made up of local volunteers, to police during the upcoming winter. This was allowed under an Act of Parliament in 1820 during the reign of George IV, which gave magistrates the power to appoint Special Constables in time of public unrest, but local authorities were often reluctant to appoint them.

The Surrey Constabulary

The idea of establishing of a police force outside of the Metropolitan police district was first brought up in December 1850. It was decided that the 96 parishes would be put into 3 divisions: Dorking, Godalming and Chertsey, with Dorking housing the chief constable. The Surrey Constabulary then became operational in the New Year in 1851, with 70 police officers, including 5 superintendents, and the chief constable, Captain Hastings. Officers had to be less than 30 years old and at least 5 feet 7 inches, but there was no minimum age, and a 14 and 15 year old were recorded as officers.

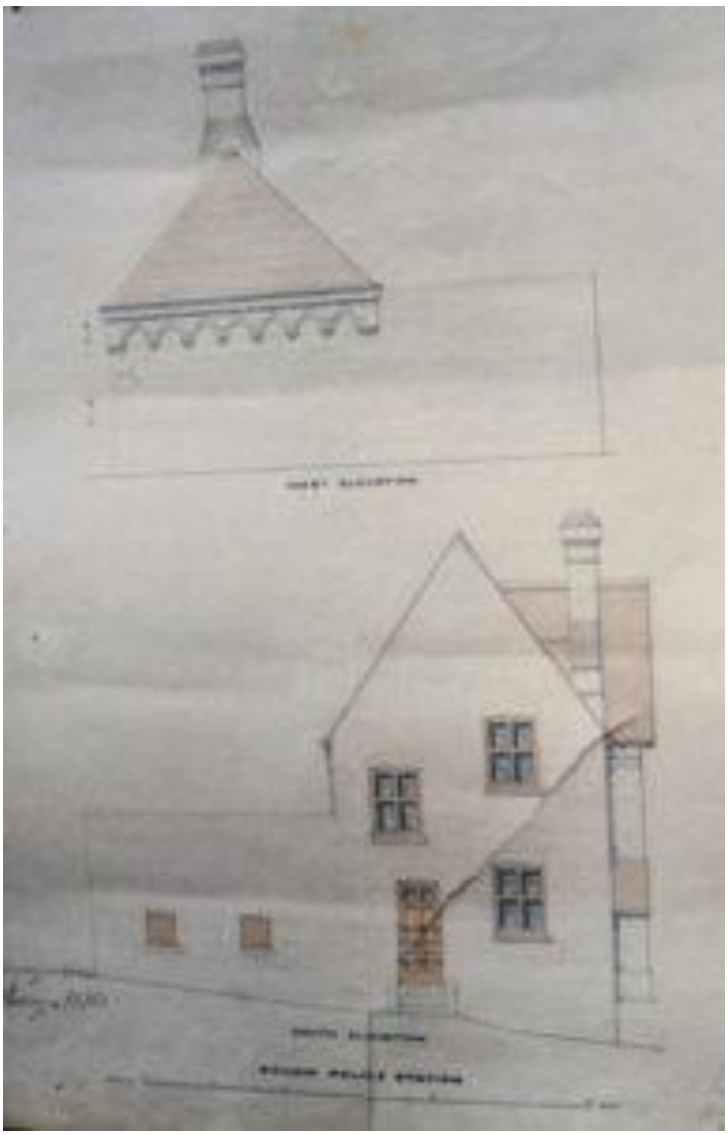
In 1898, there was talk of introducing telephone communication between the Surrey police stations; the Surrey Standing Joint Committee wrote to the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police about the matter. They argued it was of particular importance for Egham and Staines to have a phone line because they communicated about all petty felonies within the area, and it would save them from having to cycle between the stations. The Met didn't greet the suggestion with much enthusiasm, and thought it benefited Surrey more than it did them. The connection then never went ahead.

Egham Police during World War Two

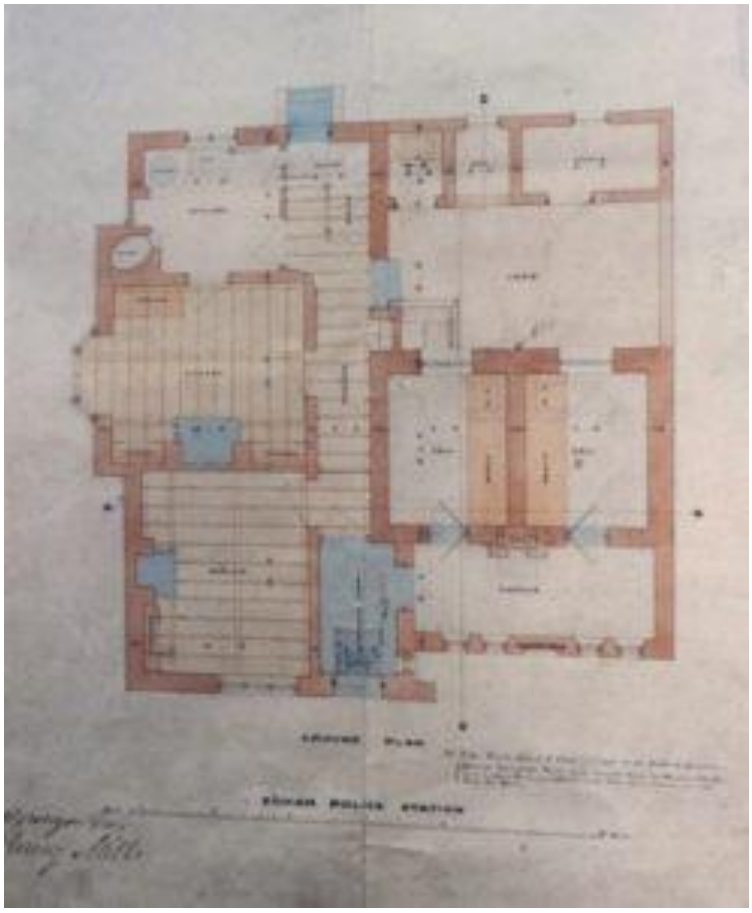
During the Second World War, many police officers went to the front, because many were reservists and already trained, and many young officers volunteered. This meant the police force across the UK was spread thin, so the government introduced some measures to stop officers going to fight. In addition, they recruited reserve policeman, more women, and more special constables. The special constables were still active in Egham from the previous century and seemed to have increased during wartime; there were 130,000 special constables across the country in the Second World War, a number which hasn't been reached since. Throughout the war years, it was difficult to leave the position of special constable, as seen in a letter to all special constables in 1945, which said the restriction on the right to resign was now lifted. The letter did still encourage the constables to maintain their position, as they were always an important part of the police force.

Egham Police Station

Before the first Egham Police Station was built in 1859, other local buildings were used as a police station. In 1843, before the inauguration of the Surrey Constabulary, the Egham Vestry converted 62, The Avenue from a former poor house into the first iteration of the police station. Simultaneously they appointed Parish Constables for Egham. In 1858, part of the Literary Institute, which currently houses Egham Museum, was used as a police station before one was purpose built by the Surrey Constabulary. Egham Police Station was built in 1859, 8 years after the establishment of the Surrey Constabulary, at the bottom of Egham Hill. It remained there until 1937, when the police station moved to the site of Denham House on the corner of Egham High Street and Vicarage Road. This closed in 2013 and the police station moved to the Runnymede Civic Centre.



Old Police Station Egham Hill Site plans, Egham Museum



Old Police Station Egham Hill Site plans, Egham Museum

Egham High Street, Denham House / police station site, 1937. Egham Museum

The Old Police Station, Egham Hill, demolished in 1973. Egham Museum P969