Surrey Constabulary History

'An in depth history of policing in Surrey'

November 2025

www.surrey-constabulary.com

Editor Robert Bartlett MA (Cantab) CF

938at938@gmail.com

Surrey Constabulary History 131

PS Albert Edward Tanner 15 June 1930

Contents

Chief Constables of Surrey

Tony Forward

On 3rd October 2025, retired Inspector Tony Davie put an entry on the pensioners Facebook page, SurPol Past & Present, "Who was your first chief constable? Mine was Sir Joseph Simpson in 1953." That was the year Tony joined as a cadet. His question attracted 117 replies that covered several chief constables, many having 'Sir' in front of their name. As will be seen below, only one Surrey chief constable (Sir Peter Matthews) was a knight while serving in the Surrey Constabulary.

Chief constables of the Surrey Constabulary since formation were:

Captain Henry Cadogan Hastings 1851 – 1899
Captain Mowbray Lees Sant 1899 – 1930
Major Geoffrey Nicholson 1930 – 1946
Joseph Simpson 1946 – 1956. Left to join Met Police as Asst Commissioner, later Commissioner. He was knighted in 1959. Died in service
Herman Rutherford 1956 – 1968
Peter Matthews 1968 – 1982. Knighted while in post 1981.
Brian Hayes 1982 -1991 Left to become an HMI and later joined Met Police as Deputy Commissioner. He was knighted in 1998.
David Williams 1991 – 1998. Left to become CC of BT Police.
Ian Blair 1998 -2000. Left to join Met Police as Deputy Commissioner and later Commissioner. Knighted in 2003 and made a Life Peer 2011
Denis O'Connor 2000 – 2003. Left to become HMI then CHMI. He was knighted in 2010.
Robert Quick 2004 - 2008. Left to return to Met as Asst Commissioner.
Mark Rowley 2008 - 2011. Metropolitan Police as Assistant Commissioner. Retired and later rejoined as Commissioner. Knighted in 2018.
Lynne Owens 2012 - 2015. Left and later appointed Director General of NCA. Made a Dame in 202. Appointed Deputy Commissioner Metropolitan Police working with Mark Rowley
Nick Ephgrave 2016 - 2018. Left to join Met as Asst. Commissioner.
Gavin Stevens 2019 - 2023. Left to become Chair of the National Police Chiefs Council
Tim De Meyer 2003 – present.

Unconventional Forces and Organisations of the Second World War

(Some associated with Surrey)

Robert Bartlett

Combined Operations

This item may be straying a little from the history of the Surrey Constabulary but there are links to the county that did involve the war time forces of the county. Members of the Surrey police forces served in some of these clandestine and/or secret organisations.

Introduction. During World War II, the British developed a variety of unconventional, specialist units for missions extending from commando raids, reconnaissance, airborne assaults including a wide range of communications and clandestine organisations operating at home and overseas. Civilian structures played a significant part in the secret world. Set out in this review are a range of these organisation and structures set down in no particular order. I would welcome details of any further clandestine organisations operating during the Second World War. Organisations such as MI5, SIS and SOE had direct links with Surrey no doubt acting through E Department and Special Branch. There was a great deal going on!

There was not always support from the military establishment for these "private armies." They were expensive in manpower and resources with no doubt "boundary disputes" as senior people fought to protect the survival of their organisation. Specialists in most organisations soon believe that their mission is critical beyond all others and become difficult to manage and supply. Undoubtedly line regiments lost many of their best men to organisations such as commandos and airborne forces causing jealousies, protectiveness and ill feeling.

General Slim had firm views on the raising and deployment of specialist units. On accepting Wingate's Chindit concept individuals were not selected but battalions which were then subjected to advanced jungle warfare training.

Weighing The Cost – The use of non- traditional forces

National Army Museum website https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/special-forces-origins

After the war, Field Marshal Sir William Slim was among those who condemned many of the new forces as wasteful. But even he recognised that 'one kind of special unit… should be

retained - that designed to be employed in small parties, usually behind the enemy, on tasks beyond the normal scope of warfare in the field'.

Critics, like Slim, questioned whether the strategic advantages gained by special forces operations merited the required investment in time, training, material and personnel.

While the impact of the Bordeaux raid is debatable, the contribution of the LRDG and SAS in North Africa is clear. Both were cost-effective, provided vital intelligence, and eroded enemy airpower in that theatre. They successfully met Slim's criteria of undertaking 'tasks beyond the normal scope of warfare in the field'.

However, judging the impact of the Chindits, or the SAS and SBS in Europe, is more difficult.

Despite heavy losses, the Chindits successfully tied down thousands of Japanese troops. Similarly, SBS operations in the Mediterranean forced the Axis to garrison Yugoslavia, Albania and Greece with thousands of soldiers, preventing their use on other war fronts. Indeed, they were so effective that, by 1944, one estimate suggests that around 300 men of the SBS were holding down the equivalent of several German divisions.

However, special operations often relied on resistance support or help from local people. This led to brutal reprisals against civilian populations. Jellicoe's SBS raid on Heraklion in 1942 was considered a great success. But 50 Cretans were subsequently executed.

And it was fear of reprisals against the Kachins in Burma that led Force 136 and the British High Command to persuade Wingate to scale back his plans to foster risings in northern Burma. They realised that without a permanent British military presence there, the Japanese would attack the population following the end of operations.

There was also duplication of effort. Churchill and others allowed a proliferation of units and failed to co-ordinate their operations. For example, while the RMBPD was raiding Bordeaux in 1942, the Special Operations Executive was simultaneously planning to bomb the ships there. A French agent was approaching the ships when he heard the detonation of Hasler's limpet mines.

The initial overlapping of roles by the Special Boat Section, Special Boat Squadron, the RMBPD and COPP added to the confusion. And in Burma there was often a lack of co-ordination between Chindit efforts to foster native uprisings with those of Force 136 and others.

Eventually a controlling office at Whitehall was formed, responsible for avoiding inter-departmental rivalry, duplication and wasted effort.

Unconventional Forces and Organisations

Military Intelligence, Section 5 (MI5). As Britain's domestic counter-intelligence and security agency, MI5 worked to protect the UK from internal threats, particularly enemy espionage. Involved in many difficult and dangerous operations throughout the Second World War such as the **Double-Cross System.** This highly successful deception operation involved capturing and "turning" German spies into double agents who fed disinformation back to Germany. MI5 also investigated potential Nazi sympathizers and fears of a "Fifth Column" working within Britain. MI5 worked closely with all police forces which established security departments to deal with war related issues.

Secret Intelligence Service (SIS or MI6) foreign intelligence agency, SIS (commonly known as MI6) gathered intelligence outside the UK. It ran various networks of agents in occupied countries, including the Alliance network in France and Service Clarence in Belgium, to gather information on enemy military movements and defences.

Section D: Before the SOE's formation, SIS's "Section D" was responsible for carrying out sabotage and clandestine operations including within the UK. Formed in 1938 to plan and execute clandestine operations against Nazi Germany. It was a key precursor to the Special Operations Executive (SOE), established in 1940 by merging Section D, a War Office research department, and a Foreign Office propaganda group based in Electra House. Section D pioneered irregular warfare and provided much of the initial staff and expertise for the SOE. Planned and executed sabotage operations against German infrastructure, including railways, factories, and ports. Conducted "black propaganda" campaigns and leaflet drops in Germany to undermine the Nazi regime. Engaged in bribery and other political subversion tactics to weaken the enemy. Worked to build a European-wide anti-Nazi resistance movement. Developed and tested irregular warfare methods, which led to the formation of the military-run Auxiliary Units in Britain to counter a potential invasion.

Section D MI6 began recruiting personnel and accumulating arms and equipment in mid June, 1940. This roused suspicion among the military authorities, and General Ironside, the C-in-C of GHQ Home Forces, insisted that all guerrilla and sabotage organisations be subject to military control. Colonel Colin Gubbins was the obvious choice to command the new organisation.

Section D's head, Laurence Grand, was a co-founder of the SOE, and many of its personnel and expertise were transferred to the new organization. SOE was placed under the Ministry of Economic Warfare and led by Hugh Dalton, who was a strong proponent of this type of clandestine warfare.

Inter-Service Liaison Department (ISLD) was a cover name used by British intelligence, primarily the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), during World War II. It was employed in the Middle East and Far East to obscure the activities of the SIS, one prominent example being the creation of a Cairo post under Stewart Menzies's direction, overseeing the ISLD's operations. The department was instrumental in coordinating with other intelligence services and serving as a base for operations in regions like the Balkans.

"Sussex" teams: For the D-Day invasion. Known as **Operation Sussex** the mission was a joint effort between the British Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), the American Office of Strategic Services (OSS), and the French Bureau Central de Renseignements et d'Action (BCRA). Agents parachuted into France *after* D-Day to gather intelligence on German forces. These teams were distinct from the D-Day invasion forces and operated in the German rear. They were separate from other units like the Jedburgh teams, which supported the French resistance. Operation Sussex mission was to collect intelligence on German troop movements and positions after the D-Day landings. Teams consisted of an officer and a wireless operator who were parachuted into France between January and September 1944, with the intention of operating in the period following the invasion. The name "Sussex" was chosen because it was a training and staging area for the operation, specifically from the Stanmer Park area.

Government Code and Cypher School (GC&CS) secret codebreaking activities were housed at Bletchley Park, codenamed "Station X". Staff, including Alan Turing, decrypted German Enigma and Lorenz cipher messages. This intelligence, code-named "Ultra," is credited with shortening the war.

Y Service was a network of British radio intercept stations that collected enemy communications, providing the raw intelligence for codebreaking at Bletchley Park. Operated by the Army, Navy, and RAF, the Y Service monitored signals worldwide, which were then used to create intelligence for generals on the front lines and to help shorten the war by cracking codes, particularly from the Enigma machine. The Y Service's main role was to intercept enemy radio signals from a variety of sources. These intercepted messages were the crucial first step in the Signals Intelligence (Sigint) process that led to decryption at Bletchley Park. Interceptors also provided intelligence to Allied generals on the battlefield, helping to inform them of enemy movements and plans.

The Y Service operated hundreds of "Y stations" across the United Kingdom and overseas. These stations were staffed and operated by various branches of the military, including the Army, Navy, and RAF, as well as the Foreign Office. Some stations specialized in tasks like direction finding (DF),which involved rotating antennas to pinpoint the location of a transmitter.

Special Communications Unit (SCU) formed twelve such units to support the secret Ultra intelligence project. While specific details about a **unit numbered "2"** are difficult to confirm, it is probable it was a mobile unit that helped transmit highly classified messages from locations like Bletchley Park to destinations worldwide. These units were vital for the rapid and secure communication of intelligence gathered from enemy codes during the war.

During WWII, British codebreakers at Bletchley Park decrypted enemy communications, producing highly valuable intelligence known as "Ultra". Transmitting this intelligence securely was a significant challenge. The Ultra summaries were sent from Bletchley Park via landline to radio transmitters and then broadcast globally. To manage this, the British

developed the Special Communications Units (SCUs), which were the mobile communications element of each **Special Liaison Unit (SLU).**

While the full list of SCUs is complex, **SCU2** was involved in operations in France before 1940 and later in India. SCUs were highly mobile, initially using civilian cars like Packards, and were designed to provide secure communications in often remote or difficult locations. They used radio transmitters built at Whaddon Hall and receivers made in the USA. Their primary function was to ensure that the highly secret Ultra information reached the appropriate military and civilian leaders quickly and without being intercepted by the enemy

Radio Security Service (RSS) was a secret World War II organization created by the British intelligence agency MI5 to intercept enemy radio communications and monitor their intelligence agencies and spies. It recruited civilian radio amateurs as "Voluntary Interceptors" (VIs) who used their home equipment to eavesdrop on transmissions, which were then sent to Bletchley Park for decryption, providing crucial intelligence to the Allies. The RSS's work helped identify German spy networks, track their activities, and understand their intelligence gaps.

Formed by MI5 in 1939 due to concerns about German spies using radio to send information from Britain. The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) helped recruit radio amateurs as VIs who used their own radio sets in locations like attics and sheds to listen to enemy communications. Initially focusing on domestic transmissions but soon expanding to include enemy transmissions from the continent, such as those from the Abwehr and the Gestapo.

Intercepted logs and information sheets were sent to the RSS headquarters, which moved to Arkley, north of London, in 1940. The intelligence gathered was sent to Bletchley Park for decryption and analysis. Once decoded, the information was distributed to Allied commanders and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, providing vital intelligence on enemy operations and plans.

Key achievements of the RSS were, they identified how German intelligence networks like the Abwehr operated and their influence on the war. Provided insights into the German intelligence's knowledge and misinformation strategies. Gave the Allies information on enemy ciphers used by other German and Italian services. Helped identify the training and arrival of German spies in Britain, allowing them to be captured or turned to the Allied advantage.

M.I.(R) (Military Intelligence (Research)), a semi-secret department within the War Office.

Military Intelligence, Section 9 (M.I.9) was formed in 1939 to help Allied prisoners of war escape and assist downed airmen and other personnel trapped behind enemy lines to evade capture. It created and supported a network of escape and evasion lines across Europe. M.I.9 sent prisoners and evaders escape aids like concealed maps and compasses hidden in games and created methods for secure communications.

It was established in 1940 as **M.I.9a**, a subsection of the parent organization, M.I.9, which was focused on assisting Allied POWs and evaders. In December 1941, M.I.19 was granted independence as a separate organization, though it remained closely associated with M.I.9.

M.I.10 A British department in World War II and the early Cold War focused on weapons and technical analysis. It was part of the War Office, its function was to provide intelligence on enemy and Allied weaponry,

M.I.14 Department during World War II that specialized in intelligence about Germany.

M.I.19 was a British wartime intelligence section responsible for interrogating enemy prisoners of war (POWs), originally created as a sub-section of M.I.9 before becoming independent in 1941. It operated through interrogation centres like the "London Cage" and was known for its work in recording German officer conversations and gathering intelligence from POWs, which included war crimes suspects after the war.

Combined Services Detailed Interrogation Centres (CSDIC): M.I.19 operated CSDIC facilities, including those at Beaconsfield, Wilton Park, and Latimer. **The "London Cage" was a** well-known, specialized interrogation centre was in Kensington Palace Gardens, commanded by Lt. Col. Alexander Scotland. Starting in 1940, M.I.19 famously recorded conversations between German officers who were held comfortably at Trent Park in North London, leading to the discovery of many important secrets. Following the war, M.I.19 interrogated and held war crimes suspects, including members of the SS and Gestapo. **In** 1945, M.I.19 staff were also sent to the Channel Islands to investigate potential collaboration during the German occupation.

London Reception Centre was a facility at the Royal Victoria Patriotic School in Wandsworth where MI5 interrogated over 30,000 refugees arriving from occupied Europe between 1941 and 1945 to identify potential spies. It functioned as a "vetting camp" to sift through the new arrivals, separating Axis agents from those who were not, serving as a significant intelligence-gathering centre for various government departments. Those suspected of being spies were sent to Camp 020 for further interrogation.
Beyond identifying spies, the centre collected valuable intelligence on conditions within occupied territory from the refugees themselves. The centre was involved in the interrogation of Rudolf Hess. To keep refugees cooperating and make the camp appear hospitable, an effort were made to provide a more pleasant environment, with amenities like pianos, films, and books available to those who were not detained.

Camp 020 was a secret British interrogation centre for captured enemy agents during the Second World War, located at Latchmere House, Ham, Surrey in South London. Run by MI5 and Lieutenant Colonel Robin "Tin Eye" Stephens. It was instrumental in the Double-Cross System, which used interrogation to turn German spies into double agents.

Its primary purpose was to interrogate captured enemy agents, many of whom were German spies sent to Britain via parachute or submarine as part of an espionage campaign. Camp 020 was designed to "break" agents through interrogation, though Stephens denied the use of torture, stating his instructions were to interrogate intelligently rather than physically. Techniques included psychological methods and using concealed microphones to eavesdrop on prisoners.

Reserve Reconnaissance Unit was a secret unit that assisted Allied soldiers who were trapped behind enemy lines and was an embodiment of the escape and evasion specialists of M.I.9.

M.D.1 (Ministry of Defence, initially M.I.(R)c): A technical research and development section nicknamed "Churchill's Toyshop". Focused on developing sabotage devices, specialist weapons and equipment such as the PIAT anti-tank weapon and limpet mines for irregular warfare. When most of M.I.(R) was absorbed into the new (SOE), the technical section was kept separate and became the independent M.D.1. **With direct accountability to Churchill** M.D.1 bypassed the usual bureaucratic channels and inefficiencies of the service ministries. Churchill was an enthusiastic supporter of their unconventional approach and provided the necessary resources and funds. Based at **"The Firs," Whitchurch, Buckinghamshire.**

Station IX, The Frythe, Hertfordshire SOE research and development station operating under the cover name **Inter Services Research Bureau** (ISRB), which developed radios, weapons, and booby traps.

The Cabinet War Rooms Whitehall, London: A secure, underground complex of offices and meeting rooms where Prime Minister and his War Cabinet directed the British war effort during air raids.

The Paddock, Dollis Hill, North London. A deeper, alternative underground command and control centre built as a backup should the Whitehall War Rooms be destroyed. Churchill is said to have disliked it due to dampness.

64 Baker Street, London. The headquarters of the **Special Operations Executive (SOE)**, the organisation responsible for espionage, sabotage, and supporting resistance movements in occupied Europe. The building was officially disguised with a "To Let" sign.

The Beaulieu Estate, Hampshire A complex of country houses used as "finishing schools" (Group B schools) for SOE agents, where they received final training in security, tradecraft, and other clandestine skills before being sent into the field.

Arisaig House and other sites in the Scottish Highlands Used for rigorous commando-style paramilitary training for SOE agents, teaching armed and unarmed combat in rugged terrain.

Hughenden Manor, Buckinghamshire. Codenamed "Hillside", this country house was an intelligence base where RAF and Air Ministry staff produced detailed maps and photographic intelligence for bombing raids, including plans for the Dambusters mission.

Royal Ordnance Factories (ROFs). Numerous secret "shadow factories" across the country produced armaments, aircraft (e.g., Avro bombers at Leeds and Bradford Municipal Aerodrome), and other war materiel.

Army Commandos were originally formed in 1940 as a raiding and reconnaissance force. The Commandos carried out "butcher-and-bolt" raids on German-occupied Europe. As the war progressed, their role expanded, and by 1944, they were organized into four Commando Brigades. Formed after the evacuation of Dunkirk recruits were all volunteers who endured intensive training in areas like unarmed combat, demolition, and amphibious assault. Notable Commando units included:

- **No. 2 Commando:** Originally intended as a parachute unit, it was briefly redesignated as the 11th Special Air Service (SAS) Battalion before a new No. 2 was formed.

- **5th (Special Reserve) Battalion Scots Guards**: Formed in February 1940 with men specifically recruited for their skiing abilities and experience in cold environments. It was composed of officers and volunteers, including those with experience in polar exploration. The unit trained in France (Chamonix) and was assisted by French *Chasseurs Alpins.* It was disbanded after the Finnish/Soviet armistice, having been originally intended for operations in Scandinavia.

- **No. 10 (Inter-Allied) Commando:** A unique secret unit of Jewish refugees from German-speaking countries, formed to conduct commando raids and gather intelligence. Composed of foreign volunteers from German-occupied countries, including troops from France, Belgium, and Poland. Also referred to as **X-Troop or No. 3 (Jewish) Troop .** Formed in 1942, these soldiers were trained in advanced combat and intelligence gathering, and uniquely, they used their fluency in German to both fight and interrogate Nazi prisoners to gain vital battlefield intelligence.

- Members were both elite commandos who fought on the front lines and intelligence officers who interrogated captured enemy soldiers for information on troop numbers, weapons, and locations. This duality was a unique and vital asset to the Allied forces. The troop trained in places like north Wales and were deployed in small groups attached to other commando units to maximize their effectiveness while minimizing risk.

- **No. 14 (Arctic) Commando:** Trained specifically for operations in Arctic conditions, using small boats and canoes to attack enemy shipping.

- **No. 30 Commando (Assault Unit):** An intelligence-gathering unit that trained in safe-cracking, photography, and prisoner handling. Proposed by Ian Fleming. Accompanied advancing Allied forces to capture intelligence, codes, documents, and equipment from enemy installations. Its members were instrumental in capturing top-secret German technology.

- **No. 62 Commando (Small Scale Raiding Force - SSRF)** This small British Commando unit was under the operational control of the SOE and carried out various small-scale raids, such as Operation Postmaster on the Spanish island of Fernando Po in 1942, before being disbanded in 1943.

Combined Operations Headquarters (COHQ) a British military department established during World War II to plan and conduct raids against German-occupied Europe using combined naval and army forces, including commando raids. Located in London at 1a Richmond Terrace, it was led by a Director (later Chief) of Combined Operations, with notable directors including Sir Roger Keyes and Lord Louis Mountbatten. COHQ was instrumental in planning major amphibious assaults, such as the Operation Torch (North Africa), Operation Husky (Sicily), the D-Day landings, and operations in the Far East.

Combined Operations Pilotage Parties (COPP) Specialist units that secretly surveyed potential landing sites for invasions, providing crucial intelligence on beach conditions and enemy defences. Members came from the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Royal Engineers, and the Special Boat Service.

Build Up Control Organisation (BUCO) created to manage troop and equipment movement during large-scale operations like the Normandy landings. Established for large operations like the Normandy landings (Operation Neptune) to manage the complex flow of troops and supplies from Britain to the continent. It focused on maximizing the use of shipping and landing craft, adapting to changing tactical needs.

Royal Naval Commandos - "Beach Commandos" The RNBC were formed in 1942 and consisted of 22 company-sized units by the end of the war. They trained with the army's Beach Groups but were a distinct Royal Navy unit.

Responsible for controlling the movement of troops, vehicles, and supplies on landing beaches during amphibious assaults. They ensured the "quick and safe turnaround of all boats" by preventing bottlenecks and delays, clearing mines, guiding landing craft, and providing vital communications. Their duties extended to assisting with evacuations, supervising prisoners, and providing intelligence to subsequent waves of troops.

Role was to establish and maintain control of the beachhead, ensuring the efficient flow of resources from the sea to the land by directing landing craft and managing traffic on the beach. Clearing mines and underwater obstructions. Marking safe routes for troops and vehicles. Providing vital communication between the beach and naval vessels. Aiding in the evacuation of wounded. Supervising enemy prisoners. They had to pass the same commando training course as the army commandos, which included earning the right to wear the green beret and the Fairbairn-Sykes dagger. RN Beach Commandos took part in all major Allied amphibious landings, including those at Dieppe, Operation Torch, and the Normandy landings (D-Day).

Beach Groups were specialized, multi-service units that managed the chaos of amphibious landings by handling tasks like unloading supplies, organizing traffic, treating casualties, and clearing mines. They were comprised of elements from the Army (infantry, engineers, medical, transport), Navy (commandos, signals), and RAF (balloon barrage, airstrip specialists). Their crucial role ensured that troops and supplies could flow efficiently from landing craft to inland areas, even under fire, as seen in operations like D-Day and the Sicily landings.

Key functions of Beach Groups was to **establish and maintain the beachhead m**arking landing areas, creating and maintaining vehicle and troop exits, and controlling traffic flow on the beach. Unloading supplies from ships, moving them to dumps for ammunition, petrol, and rations, and providing transport for these moves. **Ensure safety and security by** rescuing crashed vehicles, clearing mines and obstacles, and providing both beach and field dressing stations for casualties. **Coordinating military services through** working with Royal Navy and Royal Air Force units to arrange landing times and provide their specific support, such as anti-aircraft defence and airstrip construction. Arranging the movement of troops from landing craft to assembly areas and managing the evacuation of casualties, prisoners of war, and salvaged equipment.
Composition and formation Beach Groups combined personnel from all three military services, with the bulk of the force coming from the Army including infantry battalions, Royal Engineers, Royal Army Service Corps (RASC), Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC), and military police. Included were Royal Navy Commandos ("Beach Commandos"), signals units, and RAF specialists.

The need for these units became apparent after early operations, leading to their formation and training in the UK and elsewhere, with "Beach Bricks" being a similar equivalent organization in the Mediterranean.

"Beach Bricks" were support units responsible for beach defence, unloading supplies, and other light engineering tasks during amphibious landings. The concept of Beach Bricks originated with units formed in the Mediterranean and Middle East theatres. The equivalent units in the European theatre were known as "Beach Groups". The term referred to the specific structure of these combined-arms units, which typically included an infantry battalion and an R.A.F. component. These "Bricks" were integral to Allied operations in places like the Mediterranean and North Africa, for example, the R.A.F. component of 36 Beach Brick was formed in Egypt.

Their primary functions included beach defence, handling stores and equipment, and other local engineering support tasks. A "Beach Brick" was a unit built around a core infantry battalion, such as the Highland Light Infantry in 32 Beach Brick or the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in 33 Beach Brick. An R.A.F. component was often included to handle air support and other air-related logistics.

36 Beach Brick: This R.A.F. component was formed in Egypt and later trained at Kabrit. It was later assigned to Normandy for the invasion.

31 Beach Brick: This unit landed in Sicily on "D" Day 10 July1943.

32 Beach Brick: This unit landed in Sicily with the 5th Infantry Division.

Airborne forces: Although not secret organisations these regiments were in the lead of many sensitive and covert operations. The British airborne forces of specialist troops expanded significantly after 1942 and performed major operations in North Africa, Sicily, Normandy, and Arnhem.

- **The Parachute Regiment:** Formed in August 1942, this infantry regiment specialized in airborne infantry missions and took part in nearly every major theatre of the war.

- **Glider Pilot Regiment:** This unit flew glider-borne infantry into battle, often landing troops and heavy equipment directly behind enemy lines.

Special Air Service (SAS) 'L' Detachment, SAS Brigade. The original cover name for the SAS, formed in 1941 to conduct raids against Axis airfields and installations in North Africa. Originating in the North African desert, the SAS performed small-scale, deep-penetration raids and reconnaissance behind enemy lines. Initially for desert operations transported by the Long Range Desert Group. When transport became available early SAS teams drove into enemy territory in armed jeeps, destroying over 300 Axis aircraft. By 1944, the SAS had grown into a brigade-sized formation, with units operating deep behind enemy lines in France and Italy

Special Raiding Squadron (SRS): A unit restyled from the 1st SAS Regiment in 1943, which undertook raids in Sicily and Italy.

The **Special Interrogation Group** (SIG) formed largely of German speaking Jewish volunteers from Palestine. The SIG was a part of **D Squadron, First Special Air Service Regiment.** Its strength varied between 20 and 38, according to various sources. Disguised as soldiers of the German Afrika Korps, members of the SIG undertook commando and sabotage operations against Axis forces during the Western Desert Campaign. The inspiration for SIG was Captain Herbert Buck, MC Punjab Regiment. Captured January 1942 but escaped partly using German uniforms and vehicles. He was surprised by the ease of his deception and felt that, with greater planning and preparation, the concept could be used more offensively, to assist raiding parties attack key targets behind enemy lines. His plan was approved and in March 1942, he was appointed the commander of this new unit, the SIG. March 1942; --- “the strength of the Group would be approximately that of a platoon... The personnel are fluent German linguists... mainly Palestinian (Jews) of German origin. Many of them have had war experience with No. 51 Commando..."

Some personnel were also recruited directly from the Palmach, Haganah and the Irgun. Other recruits came from the Free Czechoslovak Forces, the French Foreign Legion and German-speaking Jewish troops.

The SIG drove captured German vehicles behind German lines near Bardia, set up roadblocks and carried out acts of sabotage. Dressed as Feldgendarmerie (German military police), they stopped and questioned German transports, gathering important military intelligence. On 3

September 1942 the SIG was assigned its first assault operation. They were to assist the Special Air Service, led by Lt. Col. David Stirling in destroying Luftwaffe airfields which were threatening the Malta convoys. These airfields were located 100 miles west of Tobruk at Derna and Martuba in Libya. During the raid, on the night of 13/14 September SIG member Brueckner was able to betray the Derna party, nearly all of whom were killed or captured.

Special Boat Service (SBS) Army Special Boat Section was formed in 1940. Established as an amphibious raiding unit that evolved from the Special Boat Section. The SBS conducted reconnaissance and sabotage missions using folding canoes (folboats) in the Mediterranean and Scandinavia.

Roger Courtney became a commando in mid-1940 and was sent to the Combined Training Centre at Achnacarry in Scotland. He was unsuccessful in his initial attempts to convince that the use of a folding kayak would be effective. He decided to infiltrate HMS *Glengyle*, an infantry landing ship anchored in the River Clyde. Courtney paddled to the ship, climbed aboard undetected, wrote his initials on the door to the captain's cabin, and stole a deck gun cover. He presented the soaking cover to a group of high-ranking Royal Navy officers meeting at a nearby Inveraray hotel. He was promoted to captain and given command of twelve men as the first Special Boat Service/Special Boat Section.

Initially named the **Folboat Troop**, after the type of folding canoe employed in raiding operations and then renamed **No. 1 Special Boat Section** in early 1941. One training exercise required SBS members to navigate folboats 140 miles (230 km) over three days and three nights from Ardrossan to Clachan, via the Isle of Kerrera, where they reconnoitred and sketched RAF Oban. Attached to Layforce, it moved to the Middle East. The unit worked with the 1st Submarine Flotilla based at Alexandria and did beach reconnaissance of Rhodes, evacuated troops left behind on Crete, and carried out a number of small-scale raids and other operations. In December 1941 Courtney returned to the United Kingdom where he formed No2 SBS, and No1 SBS became attached to the Special Air Service(SAS) as the **Folboat Section**. In June 1942 they took part in the Crete airfield raids. In September 1942 eight men of the SBS carried out Operation Anglo, a raid on two airfields on the island of Rhodes; all but two of the men were captured after carrying out their mission. Destroying three aircraft, a fuel dump and numerous buildings, the two uncaptured SBS men had to hide in the countryside for four days before they could reach the waiting submarine. After the Rhodes raid, the SBS was absorbed into the SAS due to the heavy casualties they had suffered.

No.2 Special Boat Section/Squadron members did not use the Special Boat Squadron name but instead retained the name Special Boat Section. They accompanied US Major General Mark Clark ashore before the Operation Torch landings in October 1942 on Operation Flagpole. Later, one group, Z SBS, which was based in Algiers from March 1943, carried out the beach reconnaissance for the Salerno landings and a raid on Crete, before moving to Ceylon to work with the Special Operations Executives, Force 136 and later with Special Operations Australia. The rest of No. 2 SBS became part of South-East Asia Command's Small Operations

Group, operating on the Chindwin and Irrawaddy rivers, and in the Arakan, during the Burma campaign.

The Royal Marine Boom Patrol Detachment (RMBPD) formed on July 6, 1942 and led by Major "Blondie" Hasler and based at Lumps Fort in Southsea, Portsmouth. The RMBPD's most famous mission was Operation Frankton, which took place in December 1942. A small group of RMBPD members paddled up the Gironde Estuary to sabotage German cargo ships in the port of Bordeaux. Named "Cockleshell Heroes" for their use of canoes, or "cockles".

Although their roles always overlapped to some extent, the various canoe and boat units became more specialised from late 1942 onwards. The RMBPD focused on ship attack and harbour sabotage, the Special Boat Section and **Combined Operations Pilotage Parties** (COPP) undertook covert beach surveys, and the Special Boat Squadron engaged in raiding, sabotage and reconnaissance above the high-water mark.

Combined Operations Pilotage Parties (COPP): Beach reconnaissance units that worked with the SBS to assess beaches for amphibious landings.

Small Scale Raiding Force: In April 1943, **1st SAS** was divided, with 250 men from the SAS joining to form the **Special Boat Squadron** under the command of Major the Earl Jellicoe. They moved to Haifa and trained with the **Greek Sacred Regiment** for operations in the Aegean. They later operated among the Dodecanese and Cyclades groups of islands in the Dodecanese Campaign and took part in the Battle of Leros and the Battle of Kos.

Greek Sacred Squadron and the LRDG served alongside in the Mediterranean and Aegean/Dodecanese theatres 1944. They collaborated on missions, especially in the Aegean, where the Sacred Squadron fought alongside British forces, including the SAS and SBS, in joint operations against German garrisons on various islands. The LRDG, known for its expertise in desert navigation, was also involved in operations in the Greek islands and the Balkans after its shift from North Africa.

Greek Sacred Squadron took part in the successful Raid on Symi in July 1944 in which the entire German garrison was either killed or captured. In August 1944 they joined with the Long Range Desert Group in operations in the Adriatic, on the Peloponnese, in Albania, and, finally, in Istria.

Force 136 was a far eastern branch of the Special Operations Executive. Originally set up in 1941 as the **India Mission** with the cover name of **GSI(k)**, it absorbed what was left of SOE's Oriental Mission in April 1942. The man in overall charge for the duration of its existence was Colin Mackenzie.

The organisation was established to encourage and supply indigenous resistance movements of British ruled India in enemy-occupied territory, and occasionally mount clandestine sabotage operations.

Force 136 operated in the regions of the South-East Asian Theatre of World War II which were occupied by Japan from 1941 to 1945, Burma, Malaya, Sumatra, Siam and French Indochina.

Although the top command of Force 136 were British officers and civilians, most of those it trained and employed as agents were indigenous to the regions in which they operated. Burmese, Indians and Chinese were trained as agents for missions in Burma, for example. British and other European officers and NCOs went behind the lines to train resistance movements. Former colonial officials and men who had worked in these countries for various companies knew the local languages, the peoples and the land and so became invaluable to SOE.

Special Operations Executive was formed in 1940, by the merger of existing departments of the War Office and the Ministry of Economic Warfare. Its purpose was to incite, organise and supply indigenous resistance forces in enemy-occupied territory. Initially, the enemy was Nazi Germany and Italy, but from late 1940, it became clear that a conflict with Japan was also inevitable.

SOE was a clandestine organization tasked with conducting espionage, sabotage, and reconnaissance in German-occupied Europe. It was known by nicknames such as "The Baker Street Irregulars," "Churchill's Secret Army," and "The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare". The SOE coordinated with and supplied local resistance movements in Europe and later Asia. Agents were trained in sabotage, subversion, and guerrilla tactics. In France, for example, SOE-backed sabotage delayed German divisions from reaching the Normandy front after D-Day. SOE was one of the few units that recruited and deployed women as field agents.

Special Operations Executive (SOE) Training Schools. SOE, which set Europe ablaze with sabotage and espionage, used several country houses and sites in Surrey as Special Training Schools (STS) to train secret agents before they were deployed to occupied territories

Wanborough Manor, Hogs Back (STS 5), Guildford. Used as a primary training school for the French section of the SOE. Agents received initial training here in various clandestine techniques.

Winterfold House (STS 4/7), Cranleigh. This location served as both a training school (STS 4) and later as the Student Assessment Board (STS 7), where potential agents were evaluated for their suitability for covert operations. STS 4. Preliminary School for N (Dutch) and T (Belgian) Sections. From June 1943 became STS 7, Students' Assessment Board (SAB).

Bellasis House (STS 2), Dorking, Box Hill. Another of the SOE's secret training establishments in the county. STS 2 - Bellasis, Box Hill Road, Dorking, Surrey - training of SOE staff and Danes, Italians. Became training and holding centre used by Czech Section and for F Section coup de main parties. Later used for initial assessment of German Army PoWs as **BONZO** agents

BONZO agents. German POWs were used by SOE to carry out sabotage, subversion, and assassination missions in Germany during World War II. These agents were anti-Nazi German prisoners who volunteered to be trained and infiltrated back into Germany on clandestine operations after being captured and brought to camps in England.

The SOE identified these prisoners who were compelled to join the German army but did not support Hitler. They volunteered to be trained for secret missions, with the hope of overthrowing the Nazi regime from within. Some missions succeeded, while others failed. The agents faced high risks, and some even returned to Britain after their missions were completed. The information about these operations comes from recently released personnel files, country section correspondence, training reports, and mission papers, as documented in books like Bernard O'Connor's four-volume series, "SOE Bonzos".

Men were identified in British POW camps, particularly after D-Day, and volunteered to be trained for secret operations in Germany. SOE trained these volunteers for specific missions, including sabotage, subversion, and assassination. The agents were sent back into Germany on various covert operations, with varying degrees of success.

Gorse Hill (STS 50), Witley/Godalming. SOE training site.

Station XXVIII (STS28) - Tything House, St Martha's Hill, Guildford. Holding/security establishment, also housed Field Security Section.

GS I(k), aka **Force 136 SOE Far East.** India mission was set up originally operating from the city of Meerut. Its location was governed by the fear that the Germans might overrun the Middle East and the Caucasus, in which case resistance movements would be established in Afghanistan, Persia and Iraq. When this threat was removed late in 1942 after the battles of Stalingrad and El Alamein, the focus was switched to South East Asia.

The India Mission's first cover name was **GS I(k)**, which made it appear to be a record-keeping branch of GHQ India. The name, **Force 136** was adopted in March 1944. From December 1944, the organisation's headquarters moved to Kandy in Ceylon. In 1946, Force 136 was wound up, along with the rest of SOE.

GHQ Liaison Regiment (Phantom) this special reconnaissance unit gathered and relayed real-time battlefield intelligence back to higher command. Phantom patrols operated close to the front lines, observing troop movements and listening to radio traffic to provide commanders with an unprecedented, up-to-date picture of the battlefield. The unit also incorporated a "J" service, which monitored enemy radio transmissions for vital information.

F Squadron GHQ Liaison Regiment was attached as a general signals section to the Special Air Service Brigade. Operating with Special Air Service parties and relaying intelligence back to the UK. Consisted of an HQ and four patrols, all under the command of Major JJ Astor. Two patrols were attached to 1 Special Air Service and two to 2 Special Air Service.

Long Range Desert Group (LRDG) founded in July 1940 by desert explorer Ralph Bagnold, the LRDG performed deep reconnaissance and raiding missions in the North African desert. The LRDG used specially equipped vehicles and developed advanced navigation techniques to traverse the desert. They were crucial in transporting the early SAS teams behind enemy lines.

Popski's Private Army was one of a number of "freelance armies". Belgian Vladimir Peniakoff, originally served in the Libyan Arab Force, before joining a number of Long Range Desert Group patrols. He proposed the formation of a small independent unit to work alongside the Long Range Desert Group which would specialise in carrying out sabotage behind enemy lines.

In October 1944 Popski was given command of No 1 Demolition Squadron consisting of 23 men all ranks. It never exceeded 80. Nicknamed PPA by Lieutenant Colonel Shan Hacket who was at that time the co-ordinator of special forces. Operational early 1943 and assisted in the Germans defeat in North Africa, most notably during the outflanking of the Mareth Line in Tunisia. Later served as a jeep mounted reconnaissance and raiding force in Italy up to the end of the war.

Libyan Arab Force. Lieutenant Colonel Vladimir Peniakoff D.S.O. M.C. "POPSKI" was born in Huy, Belgium. Was granted a commission in the Libyan Arab Force a company which he transformed into a commando-unit, with the idea of operating behind the enemy lines. But it was as a lone operator that Vladimir became known being taken to and from behind enemy lines by the LRDG. Towards the end of the desert campaign Vladimir was asked to form a raiding unit of his own the outcome being the "**No 1 Long Range Demolition Squadron".** During their travels with the L.R.D.G., the New Zealanders found his real name Peniakoff too much of a tongue-twister, so he was dubbed "POPSKI". General Sir John Hackett named the unit "**Popski's Private Army".** After the desert and North Africa campaign, P.P.A. operated extensively in Italy and Austria up to the last day of the war. After the war Popski lived in England where he died in May 1951 of a brain tumour.

Long Range Penetration Groups – Chindits operated deep behind enemy lines in Burma against the Japanese in 1943–1944. Led by Brigadier Orde Wingate, they encouraged and supplied local Burmese resistance groups while disrupting Japanese communications and supply lines.

Chindits were British and Indian empire troops who conducted guerrilla-style operations. Their role was to disrupt Japanese supply lines and communications, cut railway connections, and inflict casualties through hit-and-run tactics, as well as creating a diversion that prevented the Japanese from deploying all their resources to main battlefronts. The Chindits performed two major expeditions: Operation Longcloth in 1943 and Operation Thursday in 1944.

The Chindits relied heavily on air support for supplies dropped by parachute and for air evacuation of the wounded. The RAF also provided reconnaissance and close air

support. Mobility was vital, achieved through marching and using mules, which allowed them to attack where and when least expected and to withdraw without being pursued.

The force was primarily made up of soldiers from the British Indian Army, with a significant number of Gurkhas, and included some Burmese soldiers. The name "Chindit" came from a mispronunciation of "Chinthe," the name for a mythical Burmese temple guardian, which was featured on their badge.

V Force was a British reconnaissance, intelligence-gathering and guerrilla organization with a **mission t**o combat Japanese forces and protect India during the Burma Campaign. Created by General Sir Archibald Wavell in April 1942. It operated as a guerrilla force behind enemy lines, conducting ambushes, sabotage, and gathering intelligence in the Burma Campaign.

"V Force" and "Force 136" were two distinct World War II-era British military organizations. **V Force** was an irregular, army-controlled force operating in the border regions between India and Burma to defend against potential Japanese invasion, while **Force 136** was a Special Operations Executive (SOE) group tasked with intelligence gathering and supporting resistance movements in Japanese-occupied countries, primarily in Southeast Asia.

V Force was built around platoons of Assam Rifles and augmented by 1000 hill tribesmen. The Assam Rifles were a force of five military police battalions composed of Gurkhas commanded by British officers.

Detachment 385 was a secret Royal Marines unit that operated behind Japanese lines in Southeast Asia. It was part of the **Special Operations Group** and collaborated with **Combined Operations Pilotage Parties** (COPP) on missions that involved intelligence gathering and reconnaissance, such as Operation Copyright in Thailand. Operations took place primarily in Southeast Asia, behind Japanese lines. One of its operations, Operation Copyright, involved reconnaissance near Phuket, Thailand, in March 1945.

South-Eastern Command HQ (Monty's Bunker), Reigate Hill, Surrey. A large, deep underground bunker complex was built into an old chalk quarry under Reigate Hill. It served as the headquarters for the South Eastern Army command, from where General Bernard Montgomery is rumoured to have briefly operated before going to North Africa. The complex was also an "in-station" for the Auxiliary Units' clandestine radio network.

Hughenden Manor ("Hillside"), High Wycombe (Buckinghamshire, near Surrey border): While just outside Surrey, this site was a vital RAF intelligence base focused on photo reconnaissance and target mapping for bombing raids across Europe.

Burhill Golf Club, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. The golf club was requisitioned for the war effort and used by the Ministry of Aircraft Production. It housed a team led by the famous inventor Barnes Wallis (creator of the "Bouncing Bomb") who developed various aircraft designs and secret projects there.

GHQ Auxiliary Units (British Resistance) were established in the UK as a secret resistance force, stay-behind units, to counter a potential German invasion. Also known as "Churchill's Secret Army," these were civilian guerrilla units formed in 1940, the units were part of the Home Guard but operated independently. Their role was to conduct sabotage and resistance activities behind enemy lines after an invasion based in highly secret underground bunkers. These highly trained units were made up of volunteers like farmers and landowners who operated from hidden underground bases to carry out guerrilla warfare behind enemy lines if Britain had been occupied. Following the Dunkirk evacuation and with German troops amassing on the Channel coast, Britain prepared for the possibility of a German invasion, codenamed Operation Sea Lion.

Special Duty Branch was separate from the Auxiliary Units' Operational Patrols originally recruited by SIS and carefully vetted and selected from the local civilian population. It acted as "eyes and ears" and would report back to military intelligence any information that it heard from 'careless talk' or from watching troop movements and supply routes. It was supported by a signals network of hidden, short-range, wireless sets around the coast. The structure allowed no way of passing on such information to the Operational Patrols.

Surrey Special Duties Branch, Auxiliary Units were part of a secret, nationwide resistance network formed in 1940 to operate behind enemy lines in the event of a German invasion. While the main Auxiliary Units were guerrilla fighters, the Special Duties Branch focused on intelligence gathering through civilian observers, such as doctors, vicars, and postmen, who would relay information via secret radio operators. About 4,000 members were recruited.

Members were recruited for their ability to move around freely and remain inconspicuous during the occupation. The role was to observe German troop movements and other intelligence, report on them, and relay this information to radio operators. Surrey had a significant network of these units, which had a key installation at Reigate Hill.

The reports would be collected from dead letter drops by runners and taken to one of over 200 secret radio transmitters operated by trained civilian signals staff. The civilian personnel operated as 'Intelligence Gatherers' and operated the **OUT-Station** radios. ATS subalterns or Royal Signals personnel operated **the Special Duties IN-Stations and Zero Stations.**

Operators were trained to make simple intelligence reports on German troop movements, vehicles, and high-ranking officers. Reports were passed on using a system of runners and "dead letter drops" to avoid detection. The Special Duties Branch was overseen by officers from Military Intelligence. The overall headquarters was initially at Hannington Hall, but was later relocated to Coleshill.

The Reigate Hill installation, with the call sign Harston 0, was a vital part of the network in Area 14.There were many other units operating across the country, and Surrey had a number of these, with various outstations reporting back to the control station at Reigate Hill.

The Special Duties Branch was designed to provide a way to monitor the progress of an invading German army, allowing British commanders to make informed and timely decisions about counterattacks. It provided a way to counter the speed of Blitzkrieg, where the enemy was able to pass through territory without opposition or knowledge of their intended destinations.

The reports would be collected by runners and taken to one of over 200 secret radio transmitters operated by trained civilian signals staff. The civilian personnel operated as 'Intelligence Gatherers' and operated the **OUT-Station** radios. ATS subalterns or Royal Signals personnel operated **the Special Duties IN-Stations and Zero Stations.**

Section VII It is unlikely that the wireless network would survive long after invasion and that it would not have been possible to link the isolated Operational Patrols into a national network that could act in concert on behalf of a British government in exile and its representatives still in the United Kingdom. Instead, SIS (MI6) created a separate resistance organisation with powerful wireless sets that was intended to act on a longer-term basis.

The Auxiliary Units were intended as a last line of defence. Colonel Colin Gubbins was put in charge of establishing the organisation that operated from a network of secret cells in hidden Operational Bases (OBs). Members were trained to use sabotage, explosives, and to live off the land, often recruited from the most able members of the Home Guard but were not officially part of it, although they were given Home Guard uniforms for cover. Their mission was to conduct attacks on invading German forces from behind their own lines, targeting infrastructure like fuel dumps and railway lines, as well as senior officers. The units were stood down in late 1944 when the threat of invasion had passed.

Surrey also had numerous hidden Operational Bases (OBs) for the Home Guard Auxiliary Units, a secret "stay-behind" force trained to conduct guerrilla warfare in the event of a German invasion. These were typically concealed underground dugouts with a number of recorded sites across the county, such as in Bourne Wood, Farnham.

They were organized into self-sufficient patrols of six to eight men who operated from concealed underground bases, known as Operational Bases (OBs). Their mission was to conduct sabotage operations against occupying German forces, with the grim knowledge that they were expected to fight to the death and had a life expectancy of just 12 days.

The **main training establishment** for the Auxiliary Units during World War II was **Coleshill House near Swindon**, which served as the headquarters for the **British Resistance Organisation** from 1940 to 1944. Here, around 2,000 to 3,500 men were trained in clandestine guerrilla warfare, including sabotage, demolition, unarmed combat, and living off the land. The training was for a last-ditch defence force meant to be a "stay-behind" network in the event of a German invasion.

Bradley Farm, Dorking (Now Denbies vineyard). Specialist and secret training area for training Home Guard in guerilla warfare,

Jedburgh programme was the brainchild of Britain's 'fourth armed service', the Special Operations Executive, and brought to life thanks to an active collaboration between it, the US OSS Services. The Jedburgh role focussed on assisting partisan leaders to organise, train and arm their men. This was an entirely new role very different from that of the *coup de main* 'commando' parties who established operational bases in enemy-held territory. all three nationalities, and in this respect they were unique. Personnel were actively encouraged to choose their partners and an officer of any of the three nationalities could emerge as the leader of a team. Volunteers kept their own individual identities as members of a particular regiment or corps. They wore no distinguishing badge. Teams were dropped by parachute into occupied France. The objective of the Jedburgh teams was to assist Allied military forces who invaded France on 6 June 1944 with sabotage and guerrilla warfare, and leading local resistance forces in actions against the Germans.

They served as the crucial link between local resistance forces (like the Maquis) and Allied high command organising airdrops of weapons and equipment for the resistance. They trained and led resistance fighters in guerrilla tactics to disrupt enemy supply lines and hinder their forces. They directly supported Allied advances, such as during the D-Day landings and Operation Dragoon in the South of France, by engaging German forces in the rear. Jedburghs received specialized training in commando tactics, demolition, sabotage, radio operation, and foreign languages (especially French). Unlike other SOE agents, they operated in their military uniforms to distinguish them as combatants.

Royal Air Force Servicing Commandos were specialist ground units formed in 1942 to support advanced air operations in theatres like North Africa, Europe, and the Far East. The primary role of the RAF Servicing Commandos was to rapidly establish and operate forward airstrips and captured enemy airfields as close to the front line as possible. This allowed Allied fighter and fighter-bomber aircraft to have the shortest possible flying time to provide close air support to the advancing ground troops. Their specific duties included performing urgent repairs and maintenance on operational aircraft (such as Spitfires, Typhoons, and Mustangs) often under adverse conditions. Efficiently re-fuelling and re-arming aircraft using jerry cans and improvised methods, enabling a high sortie rate.

Transporting essential fuel, ammunition, spare parts, and other provisions from beachheads to the forward airfields. Working with Army Airfield Construction Units to clear and activate new landing strips. Providing local defence for themselves and their airfields against enemy counterattacks, a task for which they received military training.

Fifteen units were formed each commanded by an engineering officer and usually with an armament officer and an adjutant. Each unit comprised about 150 men organised into four flights like an army platoon. There was a flight sergeant with corporals as section leaders. A sergeant was responsible for each trade such as engine, airframe and armourers

Volunteers for the RAFSC underwent rigorous training similar to British Army and Royal Marines Commandos, which included physical training, weapons drill, driving, and amphibious assault techniques at the Combined Operations Training Centre in Inveraray, Scotland. Upon successful completion, they were permitted to wear the coveted Combined Operations badge.

The work was physically demanding and hazardous. During the Normandy landings, RAF Commandos of the Second Tactical Air Force landed shortly after the initial assault waves (D-Day or D+1), facing heavy enemy fire and some units suffered significant casualties. The RAF Servicing Commandos were an essential, though often overlooked, part of the Allied war effort, providing vital, forward-deployed technical and logistical support that ensured air superiority and rapid tactical air support for ground forces. The units were disbanded in 1946 after the war ended.

RAF Special Duties Squadrons. During WWII, the RAF's clandestine activities included covert flights to drop agents and supplies into occupied territory, reconnaissance missions, and early jet propulsion trials. Special Duties Squadrons, such as 138 and 161, performed low-level night flights for SOE. The **Photographic Reconnaissance Unit (PRU)** conducted vital aerial mapping and intelligence gathering, while other secret operations involved the development of jet aircraft and testing of weapons like the bouncing bomb.

RAF Central Interpretation Unit (CIU), later known as the Allied Central Interpretation Unit (ACIU), was a British-led unit that analysed aerial reconnaissance photographs to provide crucial intelligence for Allied operations. Located at RAF Medmenham, Buckinghamshire the unit grew to include American personnel and, by the end of the war, was analysing millions of images to help plan operations, develop models, and track enemy activity.

Hub for processing and analysing photographic intelligence, which was used to support nearly every Allied operation. The unit was comprised of civilian experts such as geographers and architects, along with military personnel from Britain, the US, and other Allied nations. Provided critical, up-to-date visual information for Allied leaders to make informed decisions. Involved in the planning of almost every operation and helped create models of landing sites for the D-Day landings. Analysed and distributed imagery to the Army, Navy, and Air Force, handling over a million photographs each month at its peak.

It was renamed the **Allied Central Interpretation Unit (ACIU)** in May 1944 to formally recognize the significant American contribution. After the war, the American personnel left, and the unit reverted to its original name, eventually evolving into the **Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre** (JARIC)

Naval Intelligence Division (NID) was the Royal Navy's main intelligence unit which operated the **Operational Intelligence Centre (OIC)** as its nerve centre. The NID also created specialized units, such as **30 Commando (later 30 Commando Information Exploitation Group),** which was tasked with capturing enemy intelligence and technology from forward

areas. Other units were involved in activities like aerial reconnaissance (handled by the RAF Coastal Command) and specific deception operations.

Royal Navy Operational Intelligence Centre (OIC) was the "nerve centre" of naval intelligence, dedicated to collecting and analysing information to track German naval forces. **Operation Mincemeat was a** specific, highly successful deception operation that used the NID to mislead the Germans about the location of the Allied invasion of Italy.

Western Approaches Tactical Unit (WATU) Created to develop and share new tactics to counter the threat of German submarine attacks on Allied convoys. Staffed primarily by officers and ratings from the Women's Royal Naval Service (Wrens).

Inter-Services Security Board (ISSB) a British organization established in February 1940, primarily responsible for overseeing the security and deception of British war plans, particularly those related to potential intervention in the Finnish/Soviet war.

The ISSB managed security for British war plans and was involved in deception operations to mislead potential adversaries. A significant function of the ISSB was managing the system for allocating code names for multi-service operations, a system that was adopted internationally by Allied forces. The code name system developed by the ISSB was not limited to Britain, and its principles were eventually implemented across all Allied theatres of operation. The selection of code names was a subject of controversy, with even Prime Minister Winston Churchill becoming personally involved in the process.

Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC), which served as the senior intelligence assessment body for the UK during the war. Crucial to Allied intelligence operations, coordinating information from various military and intelligence branches to support strategic decisions. Founded in 1936, it became the UK's top intelligence assessment body during the war. Coordinated intelligence from various sources, including signals intelligence from Bletchley Park, espionage, and reports from military attachés. Provided assessments and advice to British military and political leaders on a wide range of issues, from enemy capabilities to strategic threats. Following the war, it remained a key body and moved to the Cabinet Office.

Intelligence Corps during the Second World War was the British Army's primary intelligence unit, responsible for gathering, analysing, and disseminating military intelligence to support all army elements. The Intelligence Corps was formally constituted on July 19, 1940, and played a vital role by providing intelligence support to the British Army. The corps was developed from the Field Security Wing, which had been raised in the lead-up to the war.

Created 31 Field Security Sections that deployed with the British Expeditionary Force in 1939. The Intelligence Corps was formally constituted on July 19, 1940, by absorbing the Field Security Wing of the Corps of Military Police. The Corps grew rapidly throughout the war, eventually reaching a strength of 3,040 officers and 5,930 other ranks.

Key roles and contributions included analysing aerial photographs to gather intelligence on enemy positions and movements .Intercepting and breaking enemy codes, with a significant contribution at Station 'X' at Bletchley Park. Taking steps to counter enemy agents and espionage activities.

Police Bomb Reconnaissance Officers Second World War

During the intense air raids of 1940/41, the sheer number of unexploded bombs was more than the hard-pressed bomb disposal service could deal with. By December 1940 the few available Squads had over 3,000 unexploded missiles on their books awaiting investigation and disposal, all of which caused work to be held up, traffic diverted, houses evacuated. It was the police, who with perhaps something approaching the same disregard for their own safety as that demonstrated by the bomb disposal units, had to find the bomb, estimate its size, and report the details to the appropriate authority. It was imperative that genuine reports should be sifted from the false or mistaken ones and so some police officers and wardens were trained as Bomb Reconnaissance Officers whose work would be supplementary to the many informal and often dangerous reconnaissance made by beat officers.[1]

Metropolitan Police at War[2]: Bomb **reconnaissance** was a part of the evacuation decision making process. Early days the duty officer in Metropolitan Police were mostly inspectors who took on the decision making around safety and evacuation without training. Eventually by

[1] The Gentlemen at War Roy Ingleton P224
[2] HMSO 1947 page 28

1944, 230 Inspectors had been trained to assist them in detecting the presence of bombs and mines to be able to determine their size and radius of evacuation zones.

To assist in the identification of unexploded bombs, anti-aircraft shells and cannon shells, it was decided in early 1942 to send wardens and police officers on special **bomb reconnaissance** courses.

It was initially thought that 100 **Bomb Reconnaissance Officers** (BRO) per civil defence region would suffice but it was realised by the summer of 1942 that additional officers would be required in some areas.

Over four days, recruits to the courses would be trained in identifying unexploded ordnance both during the day and at night and filling in Part I of the UXB form. Knowing the type and size of the UXB would assist in the managing of the incident. BROs did not get involved in the actual disarming of any UXB.

Only men were allowed to become bomb reconnaissance officers.[3]

Police Sergeant Sidney Lewis, Surrey Constabulary

It was mentioned in the press at the time of his death that he was involved in bomb disposal during the Second World War. This was not so, but he was a trained Bomb Reconnaissance Officer in 1942 with the task of visiting all bombings to ascertain what ordinance was involved and what action needed to be taken by Bomb Disposal. Every division of every police force had officers trained to visit bomb scenes particularly where they had not exploded. Known as Bomb Reconnaissance Officers this may have been Lewis's duty in the Second World War. This was a perilous task as the role included going to the scene of unexploded bombs to work out the threat including the size and nature of the device and deciding if bomb disposal were to be called. Lewis became qualified instructor of incident officers in 1944. Pensioned 2 April 1955 with extemporary conduct after 30 years' service with average pay last three years £605.5.5 and a pension of £403.10.3d.

To coordinate the response of the police to all war related preparations and incidents in May 1939 an emergency department established at HQ in the heart of Guildford. Superintendent Davies was in charge with an especially appointed inspector on each division. Known as E Department.[4]

1939 Ken Browning wrote to Off Beat in July 1976: During the Second World war there existed in the Force six to eight men who were designated bomb reconnaissance officers. One I remember was Inspector Sizer from Walton on Thames. I had my full share of danger being the BRO for Oxted Division where we had one hundred and twenty-three flying bombs alone

[3] https://www.ww2civildefence.co.uk/bomb-reconnaissance.html

[4] Durrant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 58

and one night sixty thousand explosive incendiaries, hundreds of which I defused myself with Superintendent Mann.

Bomb Reconnaissance Officers Second World War

AI Overview: During World War II, bomb reconnaissance officers (BROs) were specially trained police officers and wardens who identified unexploded ordnance (UXO) to assist in managing incidents. They were not involved in disarming the bombs, but their training enabled them to accurately identify the type and size of the UXO, which was crucial for determining the appropriate response.

In early 1942, it was decided to send wardens and police officers on bomb reconnaissance courses. They were responsible for filling out Part I of the UXB (Unexploded Bomb) form, which included details about the type and size of the ordnance to aid in managing the incident.

BROs were responsible for quickly arriving at the scene of a bombing, collecting evidence (like fragments of fins or fuses), and interviewing witnesses.

The use of Incident Officers, who were trained to manage various rescue services at air raid incidents, was adopted nationally, with both wardens and serving police officers trained for this role.

BROs wore specific insignia to identify them, such as the "INCIDENT OFFICER" armband and a light blue helmet cover, later replaced by a badge worn on the lower right sleeve. Armbands were also used to distinguish Bomb Reconnaissance Officers from other personnel.

1834 January “Supposed Murder”

Reported in January1834 The Times “Supposed Murder.” While the Surrey Union Fox Hounds (which are under the direction of H. Combs Esq) were out hunting Saturday last on Leatherhead Common a most extraordinary and horrid circumstance occurred which at present is involved in a great mystery. About 12 o’clock in the day, as the huntsmen (Kitt) was beating about for a fox, the hounds suddenly made a dead set at a clump of bushes on the common. As no fox made his appearance the huntsman whipped the dogs off, but they still returned to the bushes and smelling around would not leave.

Supposing there was a fox that would not break cover, the huntsman beat the bushes and in doing so, to their astonishment and horror they discovered the body of a woman in a state of decomposition, so much so, that attempting to remove it was found to be impracticable.

A person was placed to watch the remains and information was sent to Dr Evans of Leatherhead who promptly attended. On examining the head, a severe wound was found, and from the

general appearance of the body it is supposed to have lain there several months. It was placed in a shell and removed to the Royal Oak, on the common, where a coroner's inquest is summoned to assemble this day (Monday). Various rumours are afloat some stating that the unfortunate woman was the wife of a travelling tinker. (*and knife grinder* added in the Dorking Advertiser 12 December 2013)"

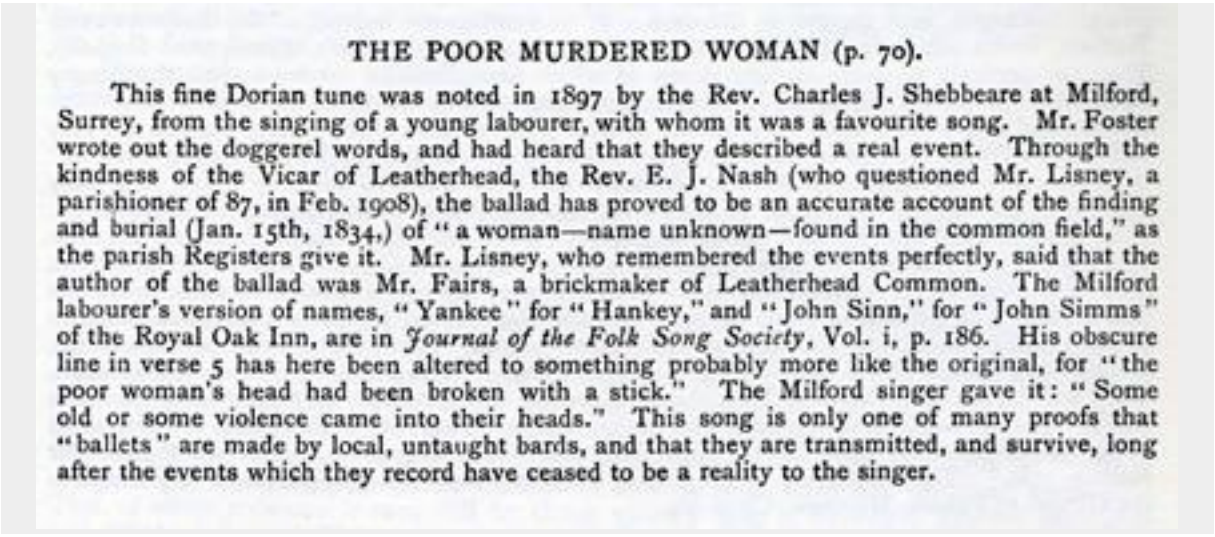
The murder victim was buried in a pauper's grave at Leatherhead Church [5]

Union Hall suspected murder Leatherhead: Body found in January 1834: Peter Bullock alias Williams was charged on suspicion with having murdered an unknown woman in the neighbourhood of Leatherhead. In January some men were out coursing near Leatherhead when one of the dogs discovered human bones in a thick copse. Notice was immediately sent to Epsom and upon medical examination the bones were found to be those of a female who had been murdered there or close by. The skull had been beaten in apparently with a sharp implement and several teeth knocked out and had not dropped from the sockets. Handbills were printed describing the particulars of the finding but no clues were uncovered about the crime or who the woman was. The prisoner is a travelling tinker and knife-grinder and sometime previous to the discovery of the bones he had been following his trade in the country.

In March last a little girl was sent up to town from Tonbridge Wells by magistrates who said she was in possession of important evidence relating to the murder. At Union Hall[6] the girl made a statement that she travelled about the country with a man and his wife and that she knew a man answering the description of the prisoner from the circumstances of meeting him in the country when she was on the tramp with the persons who employed her. On one occasion when she was sleeping in a barn near Dorking the prisoner who also slept there at the time returned from the town in liquor and commenced talking to himself about a woman whom he called his dear Nancy. He lamented her death and upbraided himself with having been her murderer and at the same time said he did the deed with a hammer after leaving a public house where they had a quarrel in Leatherhead, and that he dragged her body to a wood and left it there. The girl gave a detailed description of the man who was taken into custody when he was found. Sergeant McGraw M Division said that after hearing the girl he had been trying to find the prisoner and last Thursday he received private information and found the prisoner as he was going into a lodging house in Kent-street. When seized the prisoner asked "Is it for murder you are taking me? Are you going to hang me?" The sergeant added that the prisoner has a wife but they are not living together and the prisoner denied he ever travelled with a woman and could not recall saying to the sergeant was he being arrested for murder. He was remanded in custody. [7]

[5] Dorking Advertiser article 12 December 2013
[6] Union Hall in Southwark, was the police office attached to the magistrates and responsible for investigating serious crime in south east London and Surrey
[7] The Morning Post 24 June Tuesday

The Poor Murdered Woman – the song



THE POOR MURDERED WOMAN (p. 70).

This fine Dorian tune was noted in 1897 by the Rev. Charles J. Shebbeare at Milford, Surrey, from the singing of a young labourer, with whom it was a favourite song. Mr. Foster wrote out the doggerel words, and had heard that they described a real event. Through the kindness of the Vicar of Leatherhead, the Rev. E. J. Nash (who questioned Mr. Lisney, a parishioner of 87, in Feb. 1908), the ballad has proved to be an accurate account of the finding and burial (Jan. 15th, 1834,) of "a woman—name unknown—found in the common field," as the parish Registers give it. Mr. Lisney, who remembered the events perfectly, said that the author of the ballad was Mr. Fairs, a brickmaker of Leatherhead Common. The Milford labourer's version of names, "Yankee" for "Hankey," and "John Sinn," for "John Simms" of the Royal Oak Inn, are in *Journal of the Folk Song Society*, Vol. i, p. 186. His obscure line in verse 5 has here been altered to something probably more like the original, for "the poor woman's head had been broken with a stick." The Milford singer gave it: "Some old or some violence came into their heads." This song is only one of many proofs that "ballets" are made by local, untaught bards, and that they are transmitted, and survive, long after the events which they record have ceased to be a reality to the singer.

It was Hanky the squire as I've heard men say
Who rode out a-hunting on one Saturday
They hunted all day but nothing they found
But a poor murdered woman laid on the cold ground
About eight o'clock, boys, our dogs they throve off
On Leatherhead Common and that was the spot
They tried all the bushes but nothing they found
But a poor murdered woman laid on the cold ground
They whipped their dogs off and they kept them away
"We do think it proper that she should have fair play"
They tried all the bushes but nothing they found
But a poor murdered woman laid on the cold ground
They mounted their horses and they rode off the ground
They rode to the village and alarmed it all around
"It is late in the evening, I'm sorry to say
She cannot be removed until the next day"
The next Sunday morning about eight o'clock
Some hundreds of people to the spot they did flock
For to see the poor creature, your hearts would have bled
Some cold-hearted violence came into their heads
She was took off the Common and down to some inn
And the man that has kept it, his name is John Simms
The coroner was sent for, the jury they joined
And soon they concluded and settled their mind
The coffin was brought, in it she was laid
And took to the churchyard of this court Leatherhead
No father nor mother nor no friend I'm told
Came to see the poor creature laid under the ground
So now I conclude and I'll finish my song
And those that have tarried shall find themselves wrong

To the last day of Judgement a trumpet shall sound
And their souls not in heaven, I'm afraid, can't be found.[8]

The circumstances of the discovery of the body were very much as described in the song. The inn the body was taken to, was the nearby Royal Oak, a coaching inn, which still exists, although it has been rebuilt in a slightly different location. The landlord at the time was indeed John Simms, who later became a brick maker.

George Barnard Hankey of Fetcham Park, who came from a wealthy banking family but preferred to live a life of leisure, was the Lord of the Manor of Fetcham and Master of the Surrey Union Hunt. Their dogs, mentioned in the song, were kept on his land in what is now called Kennel Lane. The other gentleman named in press reports, H. Coombe, was from the brewing family of that name and lived in Cobham.

The doctor who was summoned, Abel Evans, had his surgery in Church Street and was the oldest practitioner in town – he was dead by the time of the 1841 Census. A rumour quickly spread that the body was that of the wife of a travelling tinker – the locals must have remembered them camping on the Common the previous summer and they would no doubt have visited the local pubs.

Handbills with a description of the suspect were circulated and as a result a young girl from Tunbridge Wells came forward and said she remembered passing the night with some travellers in a barn in Dorking, one of whom, Peter Bullock, alias Williams, confessed while drunk to have killed his sweetheart Nancy with a hammer after a night drinking in Leatherhead (probably in the Plough rather than the Royal Oak, it being the pub favoured by working men).

There is a record of Bullock being arrested and remanded in custody at Union Hall Magistrates Court after a preliminary hearing but no trace has been found of any record of his trial or conviction. He denied being anywhere near Leatherhead at the time and said that he already had a wife (albeit living with another man) and was not in the habit of travelling with any other woman. The only evidence against him would have been the testimony of the girl alone. The case may never have come to court. There is no record of his having been hanged or transported [9]

PC Fuller – on Duty in the Countryside

1878 June 8: Surrey Advertiser: Dorking: Walter Goff a person of independent means possessing considerable property in this parish and residing at Sunnyside, Holmwood

[8] Extract from English Traditional Songs and Carols - The song was collected in the late 19th century by Lucy Broadwood

[9] http://www.folkradio.co.uk/2013/04/new-programme-the-tale-of-the-poor-murdered-woman-an-interview-with-shirley-collins/ Paul James February 2013: Much of what James has written cannot be relied on.

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 £10 and 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.

Intent to injure persons using the railway

1896 September 21: 19 October: Central Criminal Court: William Clements aged eighteen, feloniously placing a piece of iron rail upon the London and South Western Railway, with

intent to endanger the safety of persons travelling. Second count with intent to injure persons using the railway.

James Bull. I am an engine driver on the London and South Western Railway. On September 21st last I was driving the six p.m. from Portsmouth to Working. We were due at Woking at 7.51. We got into Working at 8.7. The night was dark, and it was raining. When I got against the bridge between Worplesdon and Woking I felt the engine strike something. This was followed by a crash underneath; the train did not leave the rail although we were going about forty-five miles an hour. When I felt the crash, I shut off steam, but finding the train running all right, I decided not to stop, not wishing to alarm the passengers. I proceeded slowly into Woking. When I got to Woking, I examined the engine, and I found the break gear greatly damaged. I reported the case to my foreman. It was a passenger train. We had a great many passengers from Portsmouth, as it was Portsmouth Town Regatta Day. The number of the engine was 555.

Uriah Sansom: I am stationmaster at Woking. I received certain information on September 21st, about 8.30 p.m., in consequence of which' I took an engine and proceeded in the direction of Worplesdon Station. Halfway I discovered this piece of iron rail embedded in the side of a sleeper in the four-foot of the up road (rail produced). The sleeper was very badly splintered. I took possession of the piece of rail, and I took it to Woking Station, kept it in my office, and eventually handed it over to the police. The prisoner was coming on duty that night. I did not see him.

George Collins. I am a detective sergeant, employed by the London and South Western Railway. On Wednesday, September 23rd, in consequence of information received, I went to Kemishford with Sergeant Marshall about 1.30. I saw the prisoner and his father, who accompanied us to Worplesdon Station. Marshall spoke to the prisoner about the way he walked home, and what time he left home on Monday night, September 21st, and which way he went to Woking Station. The prisoner said, "I left home about eight, and game along the road towards Worplesdon Station and passed under the bridge and up the footpath to. Mayford Bridge, by the side of the line." the road from Kemishford to Worplesdon Station is through the common. The road to Mayford Bridge is through Smart's Heath or Smart's Common. He said, "I went from Mayford Bridge down to Mayford Post-office, where I posted a letter for mother; I then went up the Guildford Road, past the Bird-in-Hand public-house and Jackman's nursery and came out by the Woking Police-station; then down underneath the railway bridge, facing the new public hall, Woking" He said he went by the road from Mayford to Working. I had another interview with the prisoner on Friday, the 25th, at Worplesdon, after he had been seen by Superintendent Robinson. Police Constable Fuller, of the Surrey Constabulary, was with me. I have my notes, taken at the time. I said, "Why don't you tell us the truth in the first place." He was not in custody. He said, "What I have told the gentleman" (meaning Superintendent Robinson) "is the truth" and in the presence of his father and Police Constable Fuller he said, "I left home on Monday night, the 21st, and went straight across the common to Mayford Bridge." (This would be Smart's Common) "Down to the post-office and posted a letter for my sister. I then returned to Mayford Bridge, where I got on the line, as I thought it

was the nearest way to Woking, not passing under Hook Bridge. I fell over something, what, I thought, was part of the line, hurting my knee, and nearly tore the toe-cap of my boot off; I did not touch the metal with my hands; I am sorry I went up the line." (At the same time showing me his boot; the toecap was severed from the remainder) I received this piece of metal from Mr. Sansom; it is seventy-four pounds in weight.

William Marshall: I am a sergeant in the Surrey Constabulary. I was with the last witness on Wednesday, September 23rd, at the interview with the prisoner. I told him I was making inquiries respecting an obstruction placed on the line on the Monday previously. I cautioned him as to anything he might say. He said, "I never put anything on the line." I said, "You have given three versions of the way you went that night. It is a serious matter. I can take you into custody; or you can tell me the way you did go" He said, "I went over Mayford Bridge, past the Hand-in-Hand, passed Jackman's nursery, passed under the railway bridge, up High Street." His father was present at the time. He said, "Tell them the truth, which way you did go." He said, "I have told the truth; I went round the road." He then went away with his father. He said, "I arrived at the station about twenty minutes to nine." I made further inquiries and saw him at his cottage. I asked him to accompany me to Worplesdon Station, where Superintendent Robinson spoke him to. I was present but did not take a note. I took him into custody and charged him. He made no reply. On the road to the station, he said he was sorry he went up the line, he kicked up against the iron, and that he should not go that way again.

The Prisoner's defence: I am not guilty. I never put it on the line. I went straight down the common and along the road towards the station. I never went on the line. I came home at a quarter past eight. The post had gone when I got to the Post-office, and I posted the letter the next morning. I went to the Post-office, and I got a stamp at Working Station, and posted it at Working Station, and not at Mayford.

Guilty, with a recommendation to mercy, on the ground that the jury thought the prisoner was of weak intellect. Twelve Months' Hard Labour

Guildford Woman's Terrible Condition

1914 January 28: Frozen to Death[10] The inquest was held at the Guildhall on Monday night by the Borough Coroner Mr FW Smallpeice.

Evidence of identification was given by Detective Sergeant Bias, who said deceased was a single woman. She had been living a low life and was in a filthy condition. He had made enquiries and found that she had a brother abroad whilst her late father was the stationmaster at Farnborough. Deceased was seen about 11pm on Friday night going up the Mount in the direction of where the body was found. There was 8d in cash on her body.

[10] Surrey Advertiser Wednesday 28 January 1914

PC Edward Lawty said he was on the Hog's Back about 4.50 am on Saturday between the two cemeteries when he saw a woman's coat under some bushes. On going to the spot, he saw deceased lying with her chest bare under some bushes with her head towards Farnham. He found she was still warm and he tried artificial respiration, which however failed. He went to the nearest house for assistance and later Police Sergeant Read, PC Fuller and Dr Milligan arrived on the scene. It was a very cold night and had been freezing all the time.

Dr JK Milligan spoke to seeing the body at 6.30am on Saturday. Life was extinct. There were no marks of violence on the body. He had never seen a body in such an uncared for and filthy condition. Deceased was a debilitated subject. She was a chronic alcoholic and had tubercular disease of the lungs. In his opinion death was due to exposure. Asked if he examined the brain; the doctor replied in the negative whereupon the Coroner expressed the opinion this ought to have been done.

A verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was returned.

1916 Food was short and PC Fuller, Guildford Borough was awarded a gratuity of 10 shillings for the action he took leading to the conviction of a butcher for having diseased meat in his possession.[11]

1969 new police station at Godalming

The Surrey Constabulary opened a long overdue police station on the 29 January 1969, a part of a programme to replace most of the major police stations across the county. The new police station had an establishment of 1 superintendent, 3 inspectors, 16 sergeants, 78 constables and 4 Women police constables all supported by 10 civilian staff.[12] What would Biddlecombe have thought of that!

The senior people who took charge of the new police station were Superintendent Ken Gosling, Inspector Norman Jesty, Inspector Harry Lee and Detective Inspector Lesley Haynes.[13]

[11] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[12] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 10
[13] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 10

The new police station had offices, a parade room, interview room, charge room and cells, mess and recreation facilities. There was living accommodation for seven families and garages for the police cars. The building had cost £159,000 and was on the site of the old Godalming Gas Works.[14]

The sub-division covered 87,011 acres with a population of 76,700, approximately 870 acres and 767 people per police officer.[15] However that is not a true figure for the divisional cover, as additional officers from the Traffic Department would have covered the area and of course not all the officers were on duty at any one time. Given all the modern abstractions of the late 1960s about 17 officers a day would have been available.

1969 April: Cannabis offences and burglary: Convictions for cannabis offences in Surrey last year were double those of 1967 the Chief Constable reports. Break-ins (Burglary) jumped by 2127 to 3563 and the total number of crimes committed was 14,537 compared with 12,909 in 1967.[16]

1970 The Equal Pay Act brings full pay to women officers: The Equal Pay Act required that women police officers should receive the same pay as their male colleagues. Previously they had received 90% of the men's pay. A crisis in police manpower forced the authorities to concede an interim pay increase, but this was not enough to stem the wastage of experienced officers or attract recruits in the numbers required. [17]

1970 January 8: 50 Youths arrested: About fifty "Hell's Angels" motorcyclists faced a long walk last night after they were arrested by Surrey police at the devil's Punchbowl near Hindhead in connexion with an alleged theft from a vehicle in Hampshire. A road block was set up to stop the motorcyclists after a request from Hampshire police and the youths who were travelling from the coast northwards towards London were told to abandon their machines.

[14] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 10
[15] "Blue Coat with Silver Lace" Inspector Richard Ford 29 January 1969 Page 10
[16] Dorking Advertiser 24 April 2014 reprint of 45 years ago
[17] http://www.polfed.org/aboutus/69DD9AB47F534348AD5D1415843163AA.asp Internet 19 Jan 2010

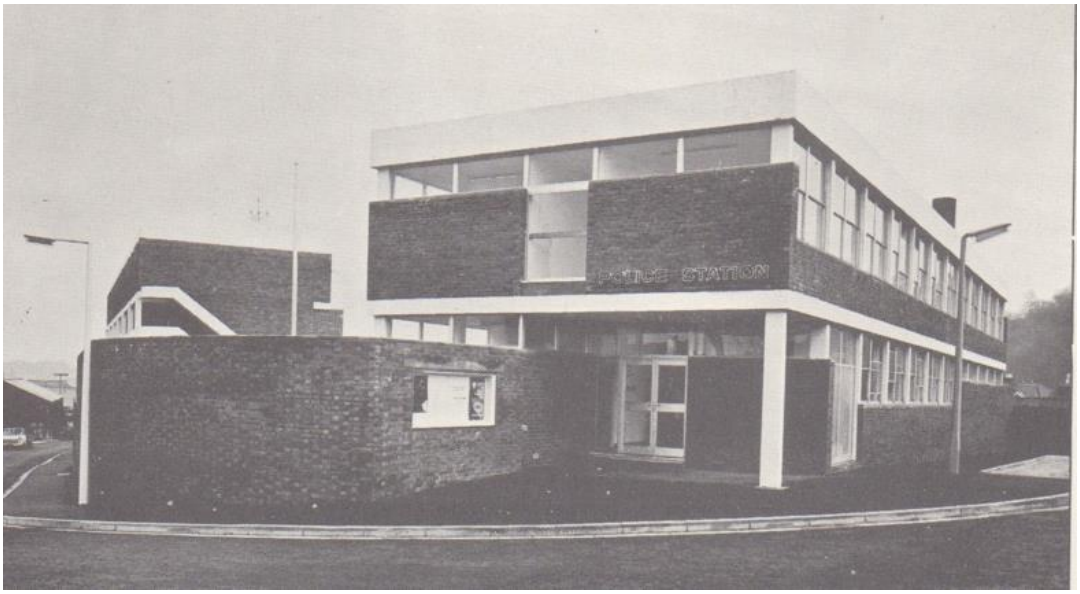
They were taken to the police station at Aldershot. After they had been questioned they were released on bail in ones and twos and had to make their own way 20 miles back to the Punchbowl. Police guarded their motorcycles until they arrived.[18]

Godalming Police Stations

Godalming 1897

Bridge Road, Godalming old station

[18] 1970 January 8: The Times



Opened 29 January 1969 - Closed August 2020