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

January 2026
www.surrey-constabulary.com

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Surrey Constabulary History 133

Joint Helicopter unit Surrey Constabulary and Metropolitan Police Early 1990s

Contents

Police Sergeant John Stone

Retired PS 821 John Stone died on Wednesday 3rd December 2025 in Royal Surrey County Hospital following a short illness. The obituary below, was written by John.

John joined Surrey Constabulary in December 1961 after deciding that the pay at Woolworths was dreadful, although the police pay wasn't much better at £12 a week.

After training at the district police training centre at Sandgate, he was posted to Camberley. In 1963 John, along with his wife Bernie moved into a police house at Hersham police station and shortly afterwards to a more modern police house in Walton on Thames. John became a divisional motorcyclist although he regularly crewed the area crime car. In 1970 he was promoted to Sergeant and took charge of D rota which consisted of 12 Constables.

In 1975, he was posted to Haslemere, where with another sergeant he was responsible for the police station and the 15 PC's, a CID officer, typist and station cleaner. Back then there were three cars covering the area 24 hours a day and the station was open 8am until midnight. He remained at Haslemere until he retired in 1991 and then moved to Jarrow, his wife's hometown.

In May 2009 John and Bernie moved back south to Headley, Hampshire to be nearer their grandchildren. Sadly, Bernie died in November 2009. John is survived by his two children, Jeremy and Melinda.

1961 December: John Stone*:* I joined in December 1961 and did my training at Sandgate with "punchy" Wallace as the physical training instructor and Will Squires as the drill sergeant. Our class instructor was Sergeant Hill (Kent) and the commandant was Frank Brown. In my class that I can remember from Surrey were Clive Hanks, Pat Nagle (transferred

to Surrey Fire Brigade), Dave Morris, Ian Somerville, and Dave O'Connell, who became a solicitor. I remember the runs along the sea front, the drill parades where we were also taught how to direct traffic, the self-defence, and the end of course dances. It was hard work, but it was also good fun, and when we had a weekend off four or five of us would hire a car during which we had to spend a lot of time learning definitions for the Monday morning. I was posted to Camberley where the Inspector was Bill Ezzard and the sergeants, I remember were Ken Crafter, Vic Mansell, and Stan Plummer. One of the detective constables was John Over, and the court was just behind the old police station. I remember Saturdays in the summer having to do traffic duty on the old A30 at the Cambridge Hotel traffic lights. I recall climbing into the cab of a lorry on one of the trading estates just to rest the old feet and fell asleep. I think I missed three points (yes, we had to stand outside a 'phone box every hour for fifteen minutes). Nobody missed me fortunately. We cycled miles in those days on bikes we were told we had to buy on £12 a week although we got an allowance of half a crown. Mick Kenny was my tutor for the first couple of weeks then I was on my own, and I remember one of the first jobs I got from a point was a cot death. I headed off wondering how on earth I would cope and having arrived Jim Mundell (motorcyclist) turned up to help. I was truly grateful for that.

In the winter of 1963, I was posted to Hersham into my first police house at the old police station. There were two houses (Margaret and Frank Howell lived in the other) with a block of cells between and an office on the front with a toilet block in the front garden where the key to the front door was always hidden. The police station was originally a Metropolitan Police divisional station, so I was told. The office was manned for two hours morning and evening, and "Dolly" Stratton had a rota for the office men with a job each day such as polishing the brass, doing the garden, cleaning the windows, polishing the floor. Our section of six stretched to the A3 at Pains Hill (we used to cycle there and make a point at the AA box), to the Halfway, to the county boundary on the Esher Road, and the reservoir almost into Molesey.

Harold Wallace and Jock Burke were on the section as well as Frank and me but I can't remember the others. Wednesday was court day at Chertsey, and we used to cycle there, often three or four of us together. The bread-and-butter offences in those days apart from the basic motoring offences were riding two on a bike, bike without lights, riding on the pavement, and nicking road lamps. Two years later, after much complaining about the state of the house, we were moved into Meadowside at Walton where our neighbours whilst we were there included Terry Crockett, Brian Hooker, Ken Newell, George Williamson, Bob Marshall, Bill Barlow, Ken Harwood and John Bowra (both transferred to the Met), and Alan Longhurst. I remember the floods of 1968 and watching people wading down the road on their way home from work, but as our daughter Melinda was born in September fortunately, I was on annual leave. We didn't get water in the house although many others in the road did, but there was lots of sewage floating around which was rather unpleasant.

18 June 1972 **John Stone:** I was out for a quiet Sunday Bank Holiday drive in Walton with Inspector Mick Skinner when the "major emergency" came out over the air. At first, we thought just another false alarm, but shortly afterwards the operations room confirmed there was a plane down, and so we hotfooted it to the scene. Apart from a fire appliance and a

Metropolitan Police sergeant I think we were the first at the scene. The plane had belly flopped into a field and was pretty intact but there were no survivors. The field was awash with aviation fuel and the fire brigade almost lost their appliance as their hot exhaust set fire to the fuel underneath it. A couple of weeks later the soles came off my Doc. Martens due to the aviation fuel. We helped remove bodies from the aircraft and laid them out on the grass away from the plane, but as soon as the Metropolitan Police arrived in droves we were dismissed. I know the Chief Constable Peter Matthews was furious that so many had been given bank holiday leave, particularly on Traffic Department which left us ridiculously stretched in sorting out the resulting traffic chaos.

Memories of Northern Division and Haslemere

John Stone Retired Police Sergeant 821 who recently died

In 1961 I was Asst. Manager in F. W. Woolworths at Camberley, a company where I had worked for 9 years since leaving school. Shoplifters were a problem, and D.C. John Over (later to become Chief Constable of Gwent) regularly dealt. On one occasion I must have been having an off day, for John suggested I join the police. That year I had been moved on promotion from the West Ealing store, given an extra 10 shillings (50p) per week, and no help with travel or accommodation, so I was a bit fed up. Anyway, having discussed it with my wife who thought it was a good idea, John set the ball rolling for me.

I remember going into Camberley Police Station and taking a very basic (maths, English and general knowledge) entrance exam. I was stuck on an author question but managed it with a little help from the duty sergeant at the time. My, they must have been desperate for recruits. Then it was up to stores in Woodbridge Road in Guildford for kitting out. I had a Lambretta scooter at the time and a couple of days before this I was stopped in the Metropolitan Police and reported for a defective front brake. I was of course worried, but Sergeant Ball said not to worry, just plead guilty, which I did. Not long after that we were sworn in at Guildford Guildhall.

In December it was off to Sandgate, our main Instructors being Will Squires (drill) and punchy Wallis (P.E.), with our class tutor being Sergeant Hill from Kent. Mondays were a bit of a pain, for it was then we were tested on our definitions, which we had to learn, but apart from that it was generally good fun. I had done National Service of course, which did help. Most weekends we were allowed home, and we would hire a car. Usually I travelled with Dave Morris, Dave O'Connell and Ian Somerville. We were late back on a couple of occasions due to weather and were marched into the Commandant's office (Superintendent Brown) for a

rollicking. The passing out parade was something special and our wives had come down for the occasion, having met in London all wearing I think red roses so they could find each other.

I was posted to Camberley where Mick Kenny showed me around. The sergeants I remember were Ken Crafter, Vic Mansell, and Stan Plummer. The chief inspector was Bill Ezzard. First job was to be taken by Vic to the cycle shop in Camberley so I could buy a bike. I think we got 2/6d (12 1/2p) for using a bike on duty. My wife and I first lived in a flat in Heatherdale Road (owned by a Brigadier Churchill) and then a second flat on Crawley Hill (owned by a Brigadier Luck) – no slumming it for us! Saturdays the worst duty was on the old A30 directing holiday traffic at Cambridge Hotel traffic lights, usually for 2 hours. Will Squires tuition at Sandgate came in well here? The night duties spent cycling around was pretty boring, but there was an all-night café on the A30 county boundary which was always useful. We were expected to submit a fistful of vehicles seen at night forms, and all we had if we wanted to stop any suspicious vehicle was a torch, with not even a fluorescent jacket, obviously no Health and Safety in those days. No personal radios then of course either, we just made conference points at public telephone boxes each hour. If we wanted to contact the station, we rang without putting money in, and if the station officer was on the ball he would ring you back. Occasionally, very occasionally, a supervisor would meet us there. Stag Beetles (attracted by the light) were always a problem, and it was best to get inside the box to avoid them. One of the first calls I got at a point was to attend a cot death. No sergeant came out to offer guidance but Jim Mundell who was a divisional motorcyclist turned up and gave me the benefit of his experience. Without his help I think I would have floundered a bit.

During that awful winter of 1963 we were moved into the old Police Station in Hersham. It was an "H" shaped building with a house on each end, the corridor between being a cellblock, the cells being used for storage of found cycles and other junk. There was a brick toilet block in the front garden where we used to hide the front door key, which was about 9" long, to the police station. The sergeant was Dolly Stratton, and he had a rota of jobs to be done during the two hours a day (one in the morning and one in the evening) there was someone in the office. Cleaning the windows, polishing the brass, polishing the floor, and tidying the garden were some of the jobs. In the other house were Margaret and Frank Howell (transferred to Sussex). Other PCs were Jock Burke and Harold Wallis, who was a wartime reserve. The house was freezing; just coal fire in lounge, and a gas geyser over the bath, and the downstairs toilet was always frozen up. When Dr Bennett visited one day to see our first-born Jeremy, he refused to examine him upstairs saying it was too cold. There was ice on the INSIDE of the old style windows.

Hersham was quite a busy section. Our court was at Chertsey, and on court days (Wednesday) it was quite common for all of us to be cycling the 5 miles there to give evidence for offences such as stealing road lamps, cycling on the footpath, cycles without lights, two on a bike, document offences, and offences in connection with road traffic accidents. Another long cycle ride was the 4 miles to the A3 at Pains Hill where we had to make the occasional point at the AA box.

After a great deal of report writing and inspection by the chief superintendent we were re-housed three years later in Meadowside, Walton on Thames in one of six police houses. Hersham police station, which was once a divisional station for the Metropolitan Police, was demolished soon after we moved to Meadowside and four police owned terraced houses built on the site. Ray Thrumble was the previous tenant of the house we were allocated. From then on I worked at Walton, cycling in each day in uniform. The sergeants then were John Harrington, Rowley Cise, and Bill Andrews. Inspectors were Alan Tugwell and Mick Skinner. The Chief Inspector was Johnny Lowman. There was a social club and bar over the garage at the rear of the police station where we had many pleasant evenings. I often crewed the area car (J36) and it was not long before I managed to get on a motorcycle-driving course and became a divisional motorcyclist (J70) sharing the Triumph Twin 500cc bike with Mick Richardson. Personal radios were still fairly new and unreliable, so the divisional motorcyclists were always very busy dealing with most of the sudden deaths, accidents, 999 calls, outlying enquiries, and even checking pig movement licences on local farms. In 1968 I was on leave awaiting the arrival of our second child, when we had those terrible floods. I remember seeing commuters walking down our road with their trousers rolled up and carrying their shoes. I did a number of stints of acting sergeant, and in October 1970 I was promoted and surprisingly enough I remained at Walton. Peter Matthews said it was because of my involvement with the Scouts in Belmont, which wasn't too far away. Walton was another very busy station with many celebrities living in the area including John Lennon, Tom Jones, Englebert Humperdink, Charlie Drake, Elton John, to name a few.

In the autumn of 1975, I was summoned to H.Q. to see John Over, the then Deputy Chief Constable. Asking me if I knew why I was there I said, "There's obviously a move in the offing". "Yes" he said, "I want to send you to Haslemere." I hadn't a clue where it was. He suggested I took the following day off to visit with my wife, and to ring him the day after. We called at Haslemere Police Station and the first person we saw was Chris Stemp who had been stationed at Weybridge, and who I knew, who gave us a tour round in the area car, showing us the schools, hospital, etc. We fell in love with the place straight away and the next day I rang John Over and told him that we would take it, and not long after that we moved, the start of 16 years real community policing.

There were 12-15 constables there, two sergeants, a D.C., a typist, and a station cleaner. The sergeants occasionally had to help at Godalming either as duty or custody sergeants, and fairly often had to prosecute at either Farnham or Guildford, getting the papers the night before, but generally we were left alone. Being able to mug up on the cases before court was fine, but sometimes you would get a bundle from one of the other courts that had got behind. That wasn't so easy. The station was open 0800 - midnight, with a section car out 24 hours, plus quite often a beat P.C. until 2.00 a.m. It was only after Chief Constable Peter Matthews died that I heard from his wife that he referred to me as the Chief Constable of Haslemere. What an honour. He was a good chief constable at least you knew where you stood with him. He had a soft spot from Haslemere and would often call in on Christmas Day. Haslemere was a place where we were very much respected (even loved) by the public. Bats or squirrels in the house, locked out of cars or houses, we would do our best to deal, and this gratefulness was shown at

Christmas time by the amount of "thank you" presents left at the station. The raffle was almost as big as the Police ball raffle, so most of the Section and their wives would have got something.

There was a great social life with most held at Godalming police club, but we did sometimes have socials at the fire station. We had socials with the S.C.C. depot staff, some of the big firms like Clembros, the Post Office, and banks. We would play darts, shove ha'penny, and bar skittles. If there were an organised event at the club with a band, disco, or comedian we would support that too. We also had a rounder's team, and through the local paper would challenge teams from wherever to take us on. There were plenty of challengers, and throughout the summer on a Wednesday evening on the sports ground at Polecat, we would take them on. Didn't matter about the winner (sometimes we didn't know) but the home-made wine, French bread and cheese went down well afterwards and all for 50p a head.

Reading all the above you may get the impression we were a soft lot, but we ran a very tight ship and dealt with our own prisoners. No C.P.S. in those early days wanting an 80% chance of a conviction. Even if the evidence was a bit slim, if we thought the offender was guilty, we would charge him/her and give him/her a run for their money. Invariably they would plead guilty. We were very firm though and anyone breaking the law was dealt with, even parking infringements. Unfortunately, later, with all the P.A.C.E. rules we were not allowed to deal with our own prisoners and had to take them to Godalming.

Once a year we would run a Police Ball, usually on a Friday until 2.00 a.m. and on the same night as the senior officers' dining in night at H.Q. Sir Peter Matthews and several chief superintendents would turn up rather late, but we would have reserved a table for them. The balls were always a sell out; with a brilliant raffle thanks to the generosity of local businesses, and the proceeds were donated to local charities e.g. Chiddingfold Youth Club, Wey Centre Youth Club, Holy Cross Hospital, Hindhead children's' home, and many more. We received some marvellous publicity through these events.

The sergeants would normally be invited to the Town Mayor's reception, and other civic functions and church services, sometimes, but not always to give a talk, though at one church service I had to read the lesson. I was invited to a British Legion dinner at the time of the Falklands War and was expected to give a vote of thanks. No problem, but my wife was expected to do the same for the ladies, and she was terrified. After weeks of rehearsing her few words though, it went off all right on the night.

After Tony May retired there were several Sergeants at Haslemere including Dave Miller, Vernon Eydman, Barry Wilding-Webb, and Bob Knowles, and around 1985 there were inspectors posted to Haslemere including Chris Farmer and Steve Buss. Things changed then, the police ball stopped, as did the Wednesday rounder's challenges, and the enthusiasm for other social events seemed to have diminished. It was a great pity, for I had always said, "we had some fun, but we got the job done". Nothing suffered.

Despite this I look back on my 16 years at Haslemere with pride. The 16 years passed very quickly, and it was time to go. I spent a couple of hours on the clothing stores computer one day, listing everyone I had worked with and noting their present station, determined that I would have the best farewell do ever. Invitations were sent out to everyone I had known, and at the Haslemere Scout H.Q. it really was something special, not just police but many local people turned up too. On my last day the section had got hold of a double deck bus with Jarrow on the destination board. We did a tour of the town and ended up in the Georgian Hotel for a drink.

Still living in a police house, we decided to move to Jarrow where my wife had a brother and sister and other relatives (she was a Geordie). After another 18 years we moved back in May 2009. Sadly, my wife died 6 months later, but I still organise the Haslemere police re-union each May and so am still in touch with many of mine and my wife's old friends and colleagues.

One thing I do know, and that is policing has changed dramatically, and not for the better. I certainly would not want to serve now but it was good while it lasted.

John Stone: 1976 is about right for the Chiddingfold murder, for I went to Haslemere in 1975. I was one of the first uniformed officers to attend. The address was "Coombe Court", Chiddingfold, and I got my photo' on the front page of the Telegraph with the burning building in the background. The murdered woman's name was Fanny Fanshaw, and the murderer was the handyman/gardener whose body was found in the lake in the grounds the following day.

PC 80 Edward Thomas Powis
Surrey Constabulary
Army Commando 1942-1945

Tony Moore – retired Metropolitan Police superintendent 20 December 2025: Edward Thomas Powis was a volunteer for the Commandos, joining the 3rd Police Intake of 1942 on 15 October 1942. On completion of his training, he was posted to 5 Commando, seeing active service in Burma and, as a result, was awarded the Burma Star. As such, he will have probably served along with John Buxton.

He resigned less than two months after rejoining the Surrey Constabulary at the end of the war. According to the Commandos Association newsletter an entry in Newsletter No. 18 (1954) suggests he was a Dairy, Pig and Poultry farmer at Home Farm, Coton, Salop. He subsequently emigrated to Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and was living/farming(?) at Mutare. He died in the District of Ashford With Shepway in Kent in 1998.

Jenny Tuffs: In 1958 he was travelling back to England from Kenya when his occupation was farmer.

PC 80 Edward Thomas Powis joined Surrey Constabulary 1937. Black Watch and Army Commando 15 October 1942 – 15 November 1945 rejoined Surrey Constabulary but resigned in January 1946.

There was an intake of police officers to the Commando Basic Training Centre on 15 October 1942. All those identified so far had 8-figure army numbers commencing with 14311??? **Powis** army number was 14311517 joined 15 October 1942. His administrative regiment was The Black Watch. In 1950, his medals were sent to him at 'One Oak', Littlefield Common, Guildford, Surrey. Amongst them was the medal for service in Burma, a war theatre that both 1 and 5 Commando served.

Defaulter's book ref. 9152/1/2/1/5 Robert Simonson Woking History Centre.

Edward Thomas POWIS

Age 20 years. Date of Birth 13 July 1916 Height 5 feet 10½ inches. Complexion Fresh Hair Dark

Eyes Lt. Blue Marks None

Born in the Parish of Twickenham in the County of Middlesex

Trade Clerk. Last Residence 4 Third Cross Rd Twickenham

By whom last employed, and where Mrs S. Bowyer of Twickenham

What relatives residing in Surrey, and where Uncle at Ash

Previous Public Service None

Length of Service

Date of Appointment 9th May 1934 No. on Collar 82

When sworn in, and where 14th May 1937 at Guildford

Before what Magistrates Capt C.H. Tuckwell & Mr R. Bray

Where first stationed Egham (15.5.37)

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

DATE	FROM	TO

REMOVALS

DATE	FROM	TO
7 Oct 1938	Egham	Egham Hythe
12 May 41	Egham Hythe	Wentworth
22 June 42	Wentworth	Egham Hythe
15 Oct 42	Egham Hythe	Army
15 Nov 45	Army	Witley

Cause and Date of removal from the Force Resigned Voluntarily 5th June 1946

Conduct during Service

Date of Parchment Certificate 7 Jan 1946

A 2330. 1B. 444. 27.10.31. S.C.C. 7918.

No. of Appointment 2212

Remarks

Sat for Examination for Sergeant and Naval Education Subjects only

Name or Office

Punishment

Years Approved Service

Average for last three years £

Amount of Pay on Retirement £

£ or Gratuity Granted.

RATEABLE DEDUCTIONS £89-10-0 ordered to be returned by S.I.O. 19...

Tony Moore 20 December 2025: Edward Thomas Powis was a volunteer for the Commandos, joining the 3rd Police Intake of 1942 on 15 October 1942. On completion of his training, he was posted to 5 Commando, seeing active service in Burma and, as a result, was awarded the Burma Star. As such, he will have probably served along with John Buxton.

As you know, he resigned less than two months after rejoining the Surrey Constabulary at the end of the war. According to the Commandos Association newsletter an entry in Newsletter No. 18 (1954) suggests he was a Dairy, Pig and Poultry farmer at Home Farm, Coton, Salop. He subsequently emigrated to Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and was living/farming(?) at Mutare. He died in the District of Ashford With Shepway in Kent in 1998.

PC 410 Cyril V Hearn BEM
Soldier

BEM awarded for gallant and distinguished service in Italy
Royal Humane Society's Testimonial on parchment

SURREY CONSTABULARY
APPOINTMENT BOOK

NAME Cyril Victor Hearn
AGE 26 **D.O.B** 14.4.12 **HEIGHT** ~~6~~ **ft** ~~Tins~~ **COMPLEXION Fresh**
HAIR ~~Brown~~ **EYES** ~~**Grey**~~ **MARKS** ~~**small** scar on~~ chin
BORN in the parish of Battersea **In the county of** London
Married on 26.11.39 to Alice Maud West **with** ~~**-**~~ **children**
TRADE Printer **LAST RESIDENCE** 96 Elsley Rd, Clapham Junction
BY WHOM LAST EMPLOYED, AND WHERE: H.M. Army
WHAT RELATIVES RESIDING IN SURREY AND WHERE None
PREVIOUS PUBLIC SERVICE ~~Coldstream Guards 21-10-31 – 25-8-38~~
LENGTH OF SERVICE 6 years and 309 days
NO. ON COLLAR 410
DATE OF APPOINTMENT 13th November 1938
WHEN SWORN IN AND WHERE ~~**18th**~~ November 1938 at Guildford
BEFORE WHAT MAGISTRATES Capt E H Tuckwell & Capt Sent
WHERE FIRST STATIONED Oxted (19.11.38)

Removals

Date	**From**	**To**
20 Feb 39	Oxted	Dorking
1 Dec 39	Dorking	ARMY
27 Jan 46	ARMY	Dorking
29 Apr 46	Dorking	Woldingham
4 Apr 49	Woldingham	Addlestone
4 June 51	Addlestone	Walton-On-Thames
24 Feb 57	Walton-On-Thames	HQ T (W.I. Chertsey)
17.8.58	HQ “T”	Chertsey (Beat)
6.10.58	Chertsey	Walton-On-Thames (Beat)
29.6.59	Walton-On-Thames (Van	
26.10.62	Driver)	
	Egham - beat	

Date	
	Passed Official Anti-Gas Course as trainee.
1 Dec 1939	Called to the Colours as Reservist.
20 Sep 1945	Awarded the British Empire Medal (Military Division) in recognition of gallant and distinguished service in Italy – G.O. 1079 (112) – 16.3.46.
27 Jan 1946	Return to Force from the Army. GAVE NOTICE OF WISH TO PAY PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS AT THE Higher RATE.
4.4.48	Sat Examination and failed educationally.
9.4.49	Sat Examination for Sergeant and failed in criminal law.
12.7.49	ACCEPTED AVERAGING FOR PENSION Police Pension Regs
1.4.50	1949. Sat Examination for Sergeant and failed in police duties.
6.2.58	Sat Examination for Sergeant and failed.
27.2.58	Sat Examination for Sergeant and failed in police duties.
23.6.58	Failed advanced driving course at Maidstone.
26.6.58	Awarded the Royal Humane Society's Testimonial on parchment for his part in attempting to save the life of a boy who fell into the sea at Bournemouth on 26.12.59.
19.5.60	Police Long Service & Good Conduct Medal.

CAUSE AND DATE OF REMOVAL FROM THE FORCE ~~Pensioned 4.7.64~~
CONDUCT DURING SERVICE Exemplary
DATE OF CERTIFICATE 6.7.64
COMPLETED 25 1/2 **Years, Approved Service.**
Amount of pay on retirement £ **Average for the last three years £** 1003.17.4
Pension @ 31/60 **£** 518.13.3 **or Gratuity £** **Granted.**

1939 details of residents Moores Road, Police Station, Dorking. Superintendent is Clifford P Hilton born 17 March 1888**.** Police Sergeant Frank Melton 23 December 1902 in 2 Police Cottages, Police Station Moores Road. PC Clifford Aggar 25 April 1918. PC Owen T Armstrong 7 June 1917. PC Richard Arthur 23 November 1913. PC Harold Dudley 7 September 1912. PC Cyril Hearn 14 April 1912 (Later BEM) military service. PC Robert Kim 31 October 1914 (Later DFM). PC Edward Williamson 13 April 1915.

Soldier Details: Surname: Hearn Initials: C.V. Rank: Sergeant Army No. 6769169

Notes*:* CMP. 62 Sect SIB. From New Malden. Regimental number in London Gazette reads 6769162, see this number for more details. Cyril Victor Hearn. He was the author of three books Desert Assignment, Foreign Assignment and Russian Assignment. All stories relating to his wartime service in the SIB. C V Hearn joined the Surrey Constabulary after the war.

Decorations British Empire Medal Gazette Date: 1945-09-20, Gazette Issue: 37274, Gazette Page: 4674.

Citation: Regimental number on citation reads 6769169. Italy. Citation for BEM. The above-named NCO has, over a long period, continually distinguished himself by his high sense of duty, perseverance, and hard work, showing a great degree of bravery under difficult and unusual circumstances. His cheerful character, together with the above remarks, have inspired other members of this section, and has led to the arrest of many dangerous criminals, both Service personnel and civilians. In my opinion, he merits and award of the BEM. One example of his work in the Special Investigation Branch is as follows: Many offences had been committed by a gang of armed deserter-thieves in this Area during the later months of 1944 and it became know that certain deserters, well known to this Section, were responsible. Extensive enquiries were made and certain plans adopted. On 28 Nov 44, two members of this gang were arrested. They were armed with Italian pistols. The known ringleader and other members of his gang were still at large. On 5 Dec 44., information was received that these men were in a public square in Bari. Sgt. Hearn and two other SIB men, accompanied by a CMP Patrol went to this square. The CMP Patrol could not be actively employed in the search for the deserters because of their conspicuous dress and were told to watch the movements of the SIB men. Sgt Hearn and the other two SIB men then went into the crowded square and commenced to look for the deserters. It was well known that they would be armed and they would resist arrest. As he neared four men (3 British deserters and an Italian criminal) they opened fire with automatic pistols and ran quickly away, firing at the Sgt and other SIB men as they did so, but without hitting them. Sgt Hearn chased two of the men towards the CMP patrol. On seeing the patrol one of the two men (the ringleader) opened fire on them. A CMP Cpl returned the fire and shot the deserter, who was then arrested. Sgt Hearn continued after the other man and eventually arrested him. The remaining two deserters escaped in the large crowd that gathered, but good work by Sgt Hearn led to their arrest the following day. Subsequent on this incident, Sgt Hearn brought about the arrest of no less than 24 Italians who were charged with being concerned with the deserters in larceny and receiving stolen property. Property to the value of over £4,000 (W D vehicles etc) was recovered against the ringleader alone. It is considered that the arrest of this gang had a great deterrent effect on other less dangerous deserters who might then have been in this Area and the good work of Sgt. Hearn enabled this Section to concentrate on other pressing work. Recommended by: DAPM 62 SIS. Maj APM HQ 54 Area. Brigadier Comd 54 Area. Maj Gen Comd 3 District. National Archive WO 373/73.

From Richard Callaghan RMP Museum 17 April 2023: Cyril Victor Hearn. Served as sergeant in Corps of Military Police SIB 67 Section No 6769162. Also, the author of "Foreign Assignment" detailing his time in Italy. He mentored the young George Churchill-Coleman

(also serving in the RMP and later the civil police). He also wrote “A duty to the public – a frank assessment of today’s Police Force.” His medal entitlement is somewhat exaggerated – most appear to be Italian orders of chivalry which he would not be entitled to wear in British military uniform.

BEM awarded on 20.9.1945 (LG Issue 37274 p 4674) Regimental number on citation reads 6769169. Italy. Citation for BEM. The above-named NCO has, over a long period, continually distinguished himself by his high sense of duty, perseverance, and hard work, showing a great degree of bravery under difficult and unusual circumstances. His cheerful character, together with the above remarks, have inspired other members of this section, and has led to the arrest of many dangerous criminals, both Service personnel and civilians. In my opinion, he merits and award of the BEM. One example of his work in the Special Investigation Branch is as follows: Many offences had been committed by a gang of armed deserter-thieves in this Area during the later months of 1944 and it became know that certain deserters, well known to this Section, were responsible. Extensive enquiries were made and certain plans adopted. On 28 Nov 44, two members of this gang were arrested. They were armed with Italian pistols. The known ringleader and other members of his gang were still at large. On 5.12.1944., information was received that these men were in a public square in Bari. Sgt Hearn and two other SIB men, accompanied by a CMP Patrol went to this square. The CMP Patrol could not be actively employed in the search for the deserters because of their conspicuous dress and were told to watch the movements of the SIB men. Sgt Hearn and the other two SIB men then went into the crowded square and commenced to look for the deserters. It was well known that they would be armed and they would resist arrest. As he neared four men (3 British deserters and an Italian criminal) they opened fire with automatic pistols and ran quickly away, firing at the Sgt and other SIB men as they did so, but without hitting them. Sgt Hearn chased two of the men towards the CMP patrol. On seeing the patrol one of the two men (the ringleader) opened fire on them. A CMP Cpl returned the fire and shot the deserter, who was then arrested. Sgt Hearn continued after the other man and eventually arrested him. The remaining two deserters escaped in the large crowd that gathered, but good work by Sgt Hearn led to their arrest the following day. Subsequent on this incident, Sgt Hearn brought about the arrest of no less than 24 Italians who were charged with being concerned with the deserters in larceny and receiving stolen property. Property to the value of over £4,000 (W D vehicles etc) was recovered against the ringleader alone. It is considered that the arrest of this gang had a great deterrent effect on other less dangerous deserters who might then have been in this Area and the good work of Sgt Hearn enabled this Section to concentrate on other pressing work. Recommended by: DAPM 62 SIS. Maj APM HQ 54 Area. Brigadier Comd 54 Area. Maj Gen Comd 3 District. National Archive WO 373/73.

CV Hearn[1]

Cyril Hearn's biographical work: Hearn, C. (1964). With Royal Military Police Special Investigation Branch in North Africa & Italy during WWII. London: The Adventurers Club.
From a policeman extraordinary and one of England's most decorated men, C.V. Hearn, here is a racy account and graphic portrayal of the thrilling stories of wartime crime, when the author was a member of the Army's little-known Special Investigation Branch. Of the many battlegrounds of WWII none gripped the British public's imagination as strongly as North Africa. In this fast-moving story of a fast-moving, fluid war, the author has chosen the more exotic, the more bizarre and the more un-English types of crime committed abroad. *Desert Assignment* bristles with exciting incident involving murderers, arms traffickers, drug peddlers, espionage, dope, vice and intrigue on a grand style.

C.V. Hearn was known as a tough, plain-speaking policeman, who upheld the traditions of law and order, honestly and impartially. He pulled no punches in his work and pulls none in this book. The qualities of British policemen are well known throughout the world - quiet, helpful, efficient, stolid, and calm in the face of chaos, with the ability to make big decisions when the occasion demands. Instead, Hearn became a tough and ruthless breaker of international gangs and excelled as a fast-shooting law enforcement officer, allied with a Cockney wit, a determined spirit and a profound respect for British justice and police methods. [2]

Decoration: British Empire Medal *Gazette Date:* 1945-09-20 *Gazette Issue:* 37274 *Gazette Page:* 4674

1959 Cyril V. Hearn BEM: Nick Brent:[3] I knew CV or Dickie Hearn as he was known to all his friends. I first met him when I was a boy cadet in 1959 stationed at Walton on Thames. He was on permanent station office duties and a more helpful, nice and flamboyant character you could not wish to meet. The story told about him leaving his station office duties to go out

[1] War time photo for Cyril Hearn copied from his book Foreign Assignment by Nick Brent
[2] http://www.corpsofmilitarypolice.org/soldier/465/
[3] The Working Life of the Surrey Constabulary www.surrey-constabulary.com

and arrest someone, which was before I joined, was typical of him. I have known him to abandon his station duties to go over to the local cinema opposite to turf out rowdy youths rather than get someone else to do it. Who would do that sort of thing now? While I was at Walton, he took me very much under his wing. His books were written mainly during duty time whilst on night station office duties. His first book which was called Foreign Assignment was about his wartime S.I.B. duties in Italy and I was very privileged to be the only person in the nick to be given a free copy which he signed "To my pal Nick for your kindness." I can't think what I did to deserve that comment other than to look after the switchboard and customers whilst he was writing his book. I still treasure that book even if only to prove to some people including my wife that I can be kind.

Robert Hale Limited of 63, Old Brompton Road, S.W.7, published that first book in 1961. He then went on to write others as already mentioned previously, in O. & B. Dickie lived in the police quarters adjoining the police station with his wife Alice and he spent his spare time building a houseboat at the back of the Nick, which I believe, sank whilst being launched on the Thames at the Cowie Sale, or so I heard. They never had any children of their own but did adopt a boy named George Churchill-Colman. He also joined the military police and like Dickie served in the SIB. He later joined the Metropolitan Police and went on to be Commander of the Bomb Squad in the 1970s and 1980s. Unfortunately, Dickie suffered from angina and retired on ill health grounds. He then went to live at Egham where he worked for a local solicitor. He remained a dear friend and even attended my wedding and presented us with a coffee table that he made as a wedding present. He was also a very great friend of Detective Sergeant Bill Bruce who was aircrew in the war and shot down over Germany where he was taken prisoner. Dickie died at Egham I believe at the age of sixty-nine and unfortunately gone forever was one of world's characters rich in humour, compassion and patience.

Derek Hayles Military Books: PC Cyril V. Hearn MP SIB served in the Middle East and published a book "Desert Assignment" (and others about police service serialised in a national Sunday newspaper) much to the consternation of Herman Rutherford and the Standing Joint Committee who attempted to block its publication. As a point of interest, he was a "character". On one occasion in l957 a Traffic car driven by Roland Cise was near Weybridge when it was sent to an address in Burwood Park where an intruder had been disturbed. Roly was not sure where this particular (large) house was situated. The crew called in at Walton police station (early hours of the morning) and found it deserted although open! No sign of a station officer. The car went to Burwood Park and saw a house lit like a Christmas tree and assumed they had found the address and that the intruder had long disappeared. There was a Rolls Royce, index TT1, on the drive and near it, an older Morris or Austin. PC Cise knocked on the door and the officers were shown into the lounge. Lo and behold sat on the large sofa were Tommy Trinder and Cyril Hearn who had the intruder handcuffed to him. All three were supping whisky. Cyril said he overheard the radio message whilst in the police station. As he knew TT he had jumped in his car and done the business. Cyril was about to publish another book just before his retirement whilst at Walton. During his last week a report of a bomb was received having been found on Walton Bridge. The newspapers reported that the scene was visited by "much decorated PC Cyril Hearn who defused the bomb and made it

safe, etc. PC Hearn this week releases a book etc." I seem to remember the bomb was an Oxo tin or something similar. Dutchie Holland nearly had a seizure but that was Cyril. Unfortunately, Cyril had poor health later on and didn't particularly make old bones. Some reader out there will remember him better than I, he retired I think living in Egham.

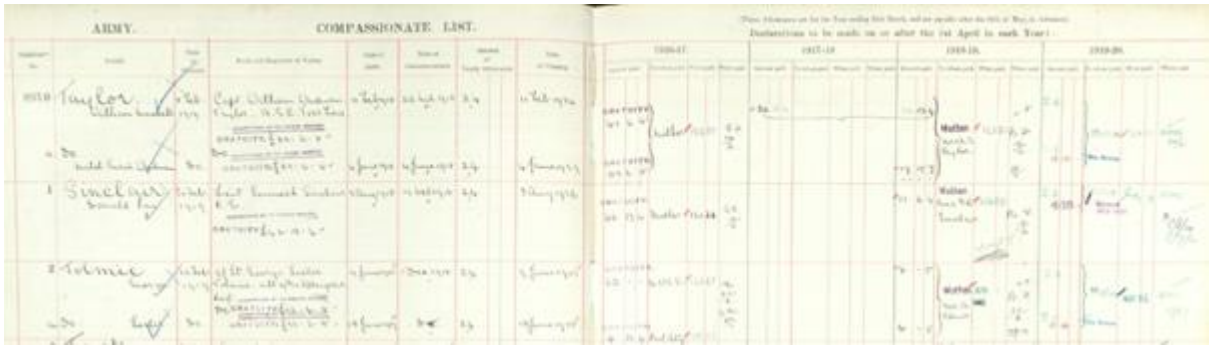
Police Constables George and Lester Tolmie
Surrey Constabulary

Jenny Tuffs December 2025

George was the elder brother born 9th June 1915 Sculcoates Registration District Yorkshire and Lester was born 18th June 1917 Aukland Registration District, Durham.

Their parents were George Lester and Alice nee McQue. George was a 2nd Lt in 6th Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment who died of wounds at the Empire Hospital, St Vincents Square, Westminster on 19th November 1918, aged 36 years. He is buried at St Martin's Cemetery, Beverley Yorkshire. His family were living at 45 Mintfield Grove, Holme Church Lane in Beverley at this time.

After George died the children were granted an allowance as shown below.

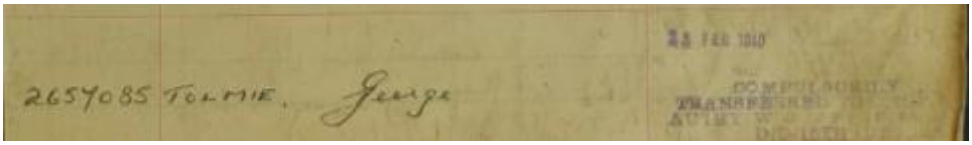


Enlarged version for Tolmie but remains unclear

1921 Census for 59 Flemingate Beverley Yorkshire lists Alice Tolmie, head, a widow with her sons George aged 6 years and Lester aged 4 years.

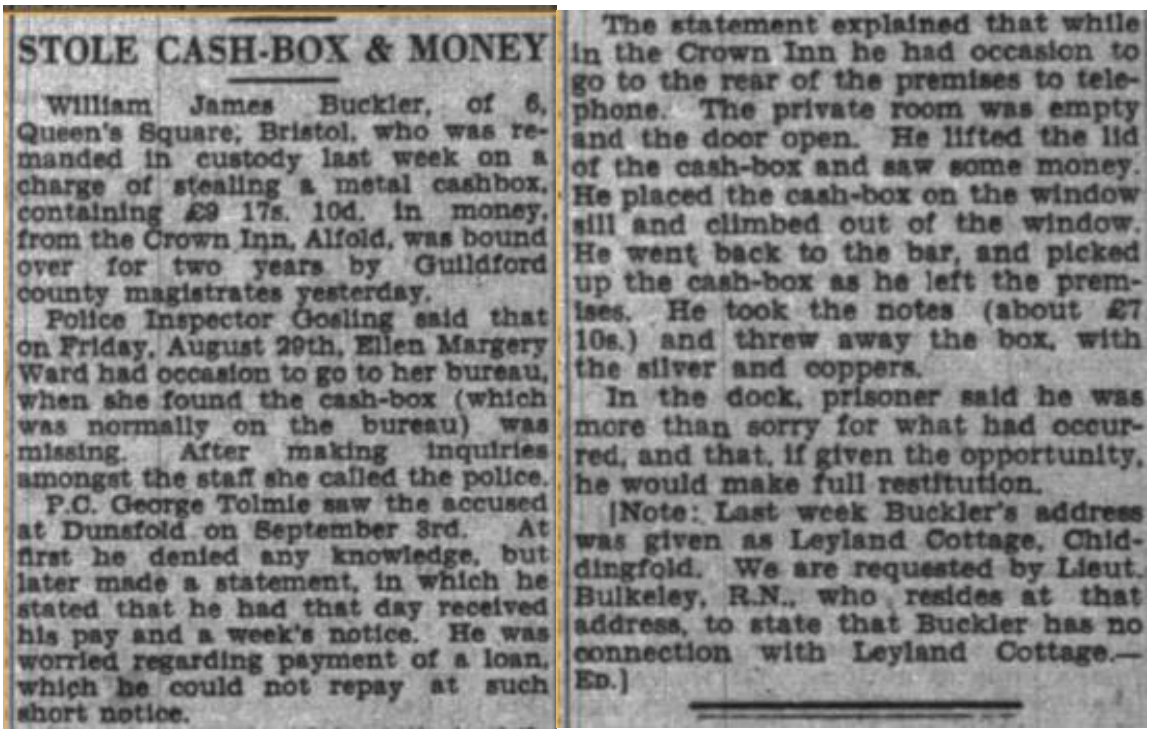
George Tolmie

George served with the Coldstream Guards and was awarded the General Service Medal and clasp for Palestine (1936-39) and was transferred to Corps of Military Police on 23RD February 1940



1939 Register shows George as a Police Constable (P.C. 30) in Surrey living at 9 Albert Road Ashtead with the Ellis family. He had army reserve reg no 265708 3rd Battalion Coldstream Guards. His widowed mother was also living in Ashtead at 56 Read Road.
1944 January/March Quarter George Tolmie marries Hazel Annie Grace Henshaw at Battle Registration District Sussex.
1946 Electoral Register for Dene Road Ashtead lists George and Hazel A G Tolmie
1947 Electoral Register for Police House Alfold lists George and Hazel A G Tolmie

1947 13th September Surrey Advertiser



STOLE CASH-BOX & MONEY

William James Buckler, of 6, Queen's Square, Bristol, who was remanded in custody last week on a charge of stealing a metal cashbox, containing £9 17s. 10d. in money, from the Crown Inn, Alfold, was bound over for two years by Guildford county magistrates yesterday.

Police Inspector Gosling said that on Friday, August 29th, Ellen Margery Ward had occasion to go to her bureau, when she found the cash-box (which was normally on the bureau) was missing. After making inquiries amongst the staff she called the police.

P.C. George Tolmie saw the accused at Dunsfold on September 3rd. At first he denied any knowledge, but later made a statement, in which he stated that he had that day received his pay and a week's notice. He was worried regarding payment of a loan, which he could not repay at such short notice.

The statement explained that while in the Crown Inn he had occasion to go to the rear of the premises to telephone. The private room was empty and the door open. He lifted the lid of the cash-box and saw some money. He placed the cash-box on the window sill and climbed out of the window. He went back to the bar, and picked up the cash-box as he left the premises. He took the notes (about £7 10s.) and threw away the box, with the silver and coppers.

In the dock, prisoner said he was more than sorry for what had occurred, and that, if given the opportunity, he would make full restitution.

[Note: Last week Buckler's address was given as Leyland Cottage, Chiddingfold. We are requested by Lieut. Bulkeley, R.N., who resides at that address, to state that Buckler has no connection with Leyland Cottage.—Ed.]

1948 20th February Sussex Agricultural Express – Births – Tolmie - On January 15th, 1948, at County Police House, Alfold Nr Cranleigh to Hazel, nee Henshaw, wife of George Tolmie- the gift of a son (Barry Lester).

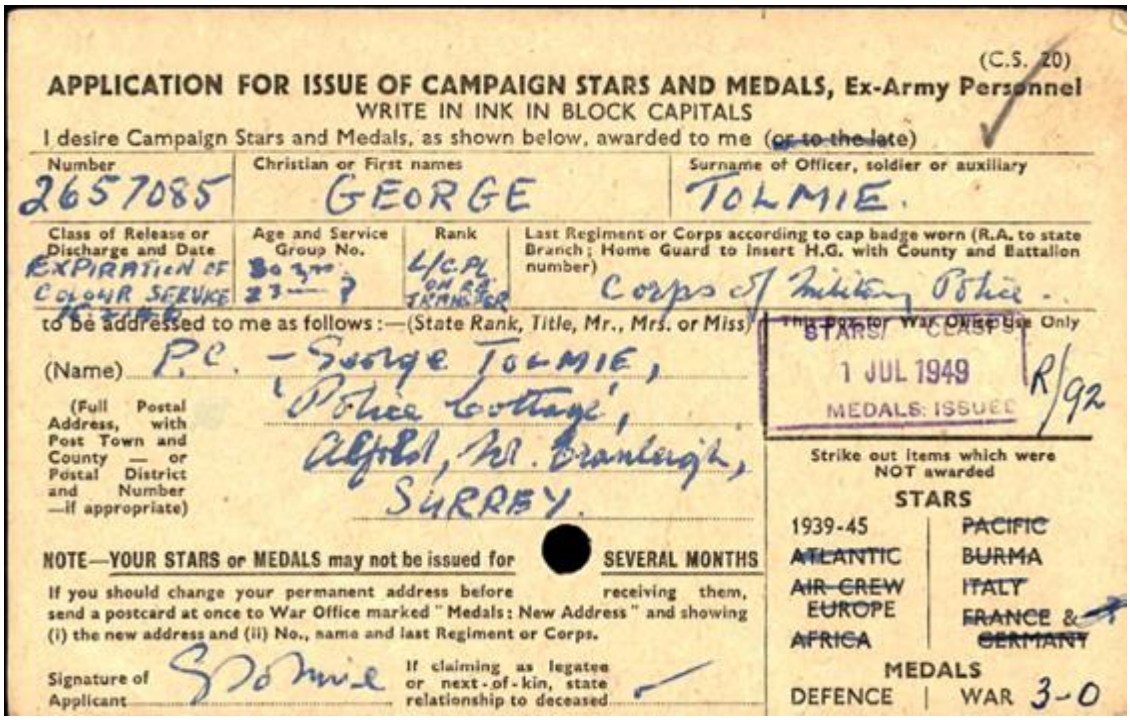
1949 Electoral Register for Police House, Alfold lists Alice (the mother of George), George and Hazel A G Tolmie.

1949 2nd September Sussex Agricultural Express – Births- Tolmie. On July 17th, 1949, at "Police House" Alford (sic) to Hazel nee Henshaw wife of George Tolimie a daughter (Joy Hazel) a sister for Barry

1948 Electoral Register for Police House, Alfold lists George and Hazel A G Tolmie

1951 Electoral Register for Police House, Robin Hood Road St Johns Woking lists George and Hazel A G Tolmie

1952 Electoral Register for Police House Forest Green, Ockley lists George and Hazel A G Tolmie



(C.S. 20)

APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF CAMPAIGN STARS AND MEDALS, Ex-Army Personnel

WRITE IN INK IN BLOCK CAPITALS

I desire Campaign Stars and Medals, as shown below, awarded to me (~~or to the late~~)

Number	Christian or First names	Surname of Officer, soldier or auxiliary
2657085	GEORGE	TOLMIE.

Class of Release or Discharge and Date	Age and Service Group No.	Rank	Last Regiment or Corps according to cap badge worn (R.A. to state Branch; Home Guard to insert H.G. with County and Battalion number)
EXPIRATION OF COLOUR SERVICE 16.7.48	30 3rd 23 — ?	L/C.PL on A.T. TRANSFER	Corps of Military Police.

to be addressed to me as follows:—(State Rank, Title, Mr., Mrs. or Miss)

(Name) P.C. - George TOLMIE,

(Full Postal Address, with Post Town and County — or Postal District and Number —if appropriate) 'Police Cottage', Alfold, Nr. Cranleigh, SURREY.

NOTE—YOUR STARS or MEDALS may not be issued for SEVERAL MONTHS

If you should change your permanent address before receiving them, send a postcard at once to War Office marked "Medals: New Address" and showing (i) the new address and (ii) No., name and last Regiment or Corps.

Signature of Applicant G. Tolmie

If claiming as legatee or next-of-kin, state relationship to deceased

This Box for War Office Use Only

STARS/CLASPS

1 JUL 1949

MEDALS ISSUED

R/92

Strike out items which were NOT awarded

STARS

1939-45	~~PACIFIC~~
~~ATLANTIC~~	~~BURMA~~
~~AIR CREW~~ EUROPE	~~ITALY~~
~~AFRICA~~	~~FRANCE & GERMANY~~

MEDALS

DEFENCE | WAR 3-0

1953 18th April Surrey Advertiser

Dog bit girl in leg

Ronald Stanley Weller, of Meadow Corner, Forest Green, pleaded not guilty at Dorking on Wednesday to a summons alleging that as the owner of a dangerous dog he did not keep it under proper control.

Kathleen Grace Duffell (17), of Brookside, Forest Green, said that at 5.30 p.m. on February 26th she was cycling home through Forest Green and when she reached the garage two collie dogs chased her and one caught hold of her leg and bit it, leaving two teeth marks. Her father complained to the police.

P.C. Tolmie said he saw two marks on the girl's leg which looked as if they had been caused by the teeth of a dog. He told defendant to keep his dog under control. It was a black and tan collie.

"I agree the dog bit her," Weller told the court, "but I don't agree the dog is dangerous."

He was ordered to keep the animal under control and to pay 23s. costs.

1954/1955/1956/1957 Electoral Registers for Police Cottage, Forest Green lists Alice, George and Hazel A G Tolmie (Alice not shown in 1957as she died in 1956 at Croydon))

1958/1959/1960/1961 Electoral Registers for 2 Police House, Chart Lane South, Dorking lists George and Hazel A G Tolmie (In 1961 Annie Henshaw also listed at this address)

1969 Phone Directory for 52 Fairfield Rd, Dorking lists Geo Tolmie.

1970 15th May Surrey Advertiser

P.C. TOLMIE TO START A NEW CAREER

AFTER 17 years with the Dorking Police, P.C. George Tolmie, of 52 Fairfield Drive, Dorking, is leaving on Saturday.

It is over 30 years since he first joined the police, aged 23 years, in 1939. Now, aged 54 years, Mr. Tolmie says he has not yet decided whether to continue this career, or to branch out into a new one.

Mr. Tolmie said he started his life in the police force in Ashtead where he was employed for three months, before he joined the Guards.

After the war he returned to Ashstead, living in lodgings at the local vicarage. After one-and-a-half years he moved to a police house in Alfold, and worked in the Godalming Division.

Before coming to Dorking, he was also employed in forces at Woking, Leatherhead (before it merged with Dorking division) and Forest Green.

OLD WAR WOUND

It was an old war wound that caused him to be transferred from Forest Green, after six years there, to Dorking. A fractured femure that he had received affected his leg and caused him to be transferred from normal duties to station duties in Dorking, with which he continued for 13 years.

During his service with the Dorking Police Mr. Tolmie has been active with police shows at Guildford, and has represented the force at the doors of police dances and balls in Dorking.

1998 7th July George Tolmie died at East Surrey Hospital

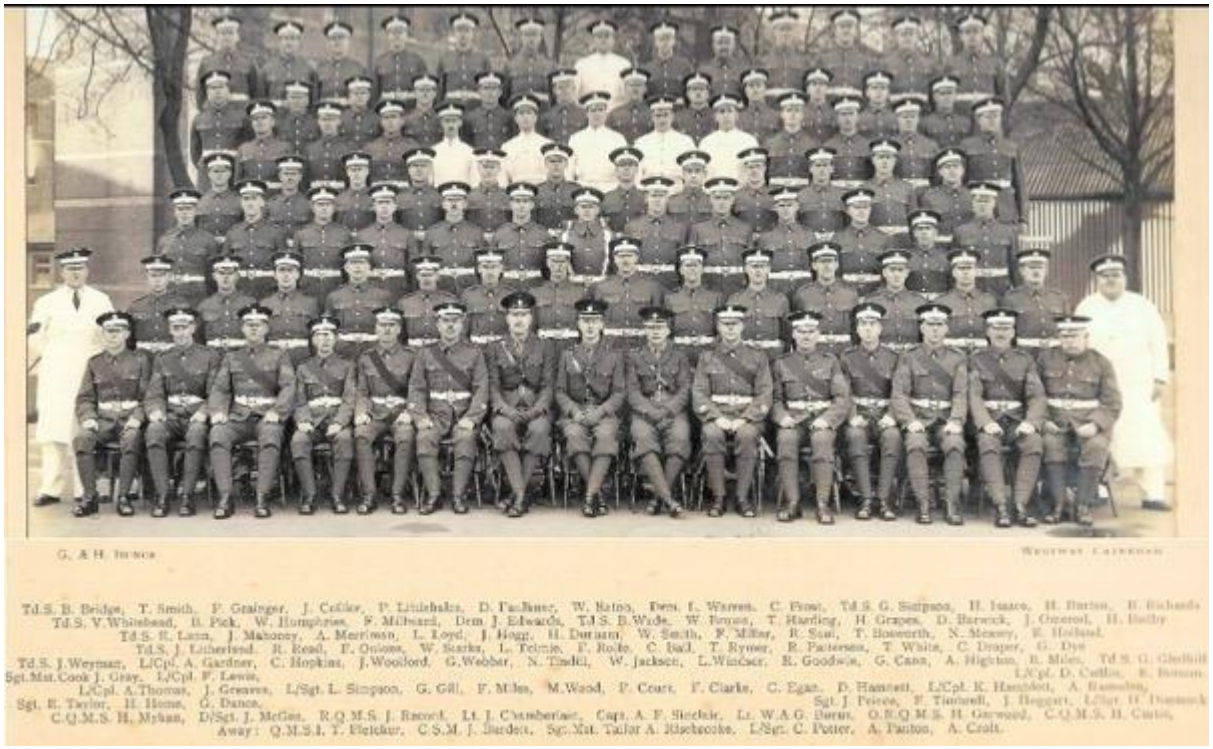
1998 July George Tolmie was buried at Dorking Municipal Cemetery

1998 16th July, Surrey Mirror, Horley and Gatwick Mirror, Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser all carried a death notice for George Tolmie.

TOLMIE George aged 83 and much loved and missed husband of Hazel and father of Barry and Joy and grandfather of Duncan, Jamie, Christopher and Holly, passed away peacefully, but suddenly on Tuesday 7th July 1998. Funeral service to be held at St Martin's Church, Dorking at 10.30am Monday 20th July. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired for the South American Mission Society may be sent to Sherlock & Sons, Trellis House, Dorking. Special thanks to all friends and neighbours in Fairfield Drive for their genuine help and support at this difficult time. We would like to thank the Dorking Ambulance Crew who attended, also all the staff in Casualty and on Tandridge Ward, at East Surrey Hospital.

Lester Tolmie

By the mid 1930's Lester had joined the Coldstream Guards and is shown in the 1937 photo below.



1939 Register shows Lester was a Police Constable in Surrey living at Woking Police Station. He was on reserve Coldstream Guards no 2657047 L/Cpl.

1939 26th August Surrey Advertiser – Cricket – PC Tolmie played for Woking Police when they were defeated in a match by Horsell.

1940 26th March he was transferred to the Corps of Military Police.

1940 July/September quarter Lester Tolmie married Winifred Elsie M Page, Surrey South Western District.

1941 April/June Quarter Wendy Rosalind Tolmie was born Surrey South Western, her mother's maiden name was Page.

1946 Electoral Register for Shepherds Hill Guildford lists Alice, Lester and Winifred E Tolmie (May 1945 Register for this address just lists Winifred).

1949 Electoral Register for 19 Durham Close Guildford lists Elsie and Lester Tolmie

1963 Electoral Reister for 1 Links View Rd Shirley Croydon lists, Lester, Wendy R. and Winifred E.M. Tolmie

1965/1966 Electoral Registers for 1Links View Rd Shirley Croydon lists Lester and Winifred E.M. Tolmie.

1966 1st October Lester otherwise Lister Tolmie of 1 Links View Rd Shirley Croydon died, his Administration (with will) was at London 8th November to Barclays Bank Ltd, £11933.

Sandgate 1952

Photo from Dr Peter Kennison son of Frank

Sandgate – 6 District Police Training Centre

Wakefield – Roy, retired as a chief inspector born 8.11.28 PC no.632

Mace - Arthur no 630. He was at Frimley 1959/60. Lived on the Guildford Road near Frimley Office. No photograph in collection.

Harding – David - retired chief superintendent, born 23.12.31

Kennison – Frank, Traffic sergeant, born 08.08.27

Rhimes - Larry. born 20.5.29 rural sergeant at Shere who on retirement worked as a civilian in stores.

Copas S.J. – possibly Vic V.J. Copus born 27.5.27. Served at Bagshot in the 50s and played football for the village team. He finished his service at Cranleigh, Alfold beat for many years.

Berryman E.C. - Born 8.1.25 known as Fred Berryman and may have worked Ash.

1975 Long Service Medal

Rear: Danny Shaw, Archie Scott, Roland Perry, David Dalrympole, Alan Sauze
Front Larry Rhimes, Roy Wakefield, Dave Harding, Fred Berryman, Frank Kennison

Vic Copus long time rural constable cantered on Alfold, Cranleigh

PS Wilfred St. G Chandler DFC

Surrey Constabulary Reigate
Wartime RAF Flight Lieutenant Reconnaissance Pilot

Post war served as Police Sergeant Reigate Division in charge Home Defence

PC Wilfred St. G Chandler DFC[4]

A sale of medals: A very rare Second World War Photographic Reconnaissance Unit pilot's Mediterranean theatre D.F.C. group of seven awarded to Flight Lieutenant W. St. G. Chandler, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, who flew nearly 90 solo missions in unarmed, stripped-down P.R.U. Spitfires, and latterly Mosquito aircraft

Distinguished Flying Cross, G.VI.R., reverse officially dated 1945 and further engraved, 'F./Lt. 141356 W. S. G. Chandler', with Royal Mint case of issue; 1939-45 Star; Africa Star; Italy Star; Defence and War Medals; Police Exemplary Service Medal, E.II.R. (Sergt.), mounted as worn, good very fine, together with Royal Life Saving Society and S.J.A.B. medals / badges from the 1950s, both named to the recipient

[4] https://www.biddr.com/auctions/stacksbowers/browse?a=2218&l=2444630

D.F.C. London Gazette 2 January 1944. The original recommendation states: 'This pilot completed an operational tour in eleven months, flying 86 sorties amounting to 300 hours. These missions over Greece, Crete, the Dodecanese and Cyclades entailed long hours in a single engine unarmed aircraft, and often a complete front (sic[5]) as high as 35,000 feet was encountered but with determination this pilot continued to his target.

On one occasion he was intercepted by a twin-engine enemy aircraft, which he evaded. He continued his mission and was then attacked by two Me. 109s. These he also evaded and returned to base. On another sortie he was again attacked by a twin-engine enemy aircraft over Thera. He managed to break away from this enforced combat and continued his sortie, returning to base with valuable and detailed visual information of Candia harbour.

He is recommended for the honour of the Distinguished Flying Cross.'

Wilfred St. George Chandler, who enlisted in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in September 1941, commenced pilot training at No. 29 E.F.T.S. in January 1942 and qualified for his "Wings" at No. 22 E.F.T.S. at Thornhill exactly one year later. Commissioned as a Pilot Officer, he was posted to the Middle East and attended No. 74 Operational Training Unit, gaining flying experience on Hurricanes and Spitfires, prior to being sent to No. 680 (P.R.) Squadron.

Given the importance of a pilot's high-altitude capabilities if he was to be at all effective in a Photographic Reconnaissance Unit, unarmed Spitfire, Chandler was quickly assessed in a decompression chamber, and, showing no 'evidence of bends' and good 'eustachian clearage', he went operational four days later, flying a mission to Candia on 17 September 1943. As evidenced by his Flying Logbooks and D.F.C. recommendation, over the next eleven months he was constantly on active service, flying nearly 90 solo operational sorties. And nor were prowling enemy aircraft the only danger, his entries making mention of intense flak opposition at several "targets." In June 1944, he started to fly his first missions in Mosquito aircraft, in addition to Spitfires, and it was not until the end of July 1944 that he completed his last sortie to Greece. Chandler returned to the U.K. in October 1944 and served as an instructor at assorted training units for the remainder of the War.

The medals are sold with a quantity of original documentation, including the recipient's Flying Log Books (2), covering the periods January 1942 to November 1943, and December 1943 until August 1945; Buckingham Palace forwarding letter for the D.F.C. and Air Council campaign medal forwarding slip; R.A.F. Service and Release Book and Medical Card Record; eight wartime photographs; and his R.A.F. officer's peaked cap and two pairs of uniform "Wings".[6]

[5] Sic

[6] https://www.biddr.com/auctions/stacksbowers/browse?a=2218&l=2444630 Stacks and Bowers Auctioneers

Dave Vigar. In charge of all Civil Defence matters for the Reigate sub division was Sergeant Wilfred St George Chandler[7], a resonant name if ever there was one. **Sergeant Chandler** had been in the RAF during the War and been very highly decorated with a DFC. He always looked the part with his handlebar moustache. [8]

There were many former commissioned and senior NCOs who post war did not seek promotion but sought the quieter life. There is a story of a PC returning from the war called to see the chief constable Mr. Nicholson to be told he wished to be addressed as major – from the First World War. The alleged response of the PC was to say you can call me colonel.

George Cameron
Control Commission

Email to editor from Nigel Cameron: My father served as a **prosecutor in Germany** in the Allied Control Commission having been a policeman (not in Surrey) during the Second World War. Many police officers served in the control commission. Guildford Borough lost an officer who was killed by a mine in Holland or Belgium. Chief constable of Surrey Herman Rutherford was a Lt Colonel in the control commission retaining and using the rank after military service. Most were used as chief of police or were involved in the regeneration of policing in newly occupied territory.

Nigel Cameron: I hope you do not mind an email enquiry about a former policeman in Surrey Constabulary, Wilfred St. George Chandler who served as a pilot in World War 2.

My father, George Cameron, a policeman before and following WW2 (in the Durham, Teesside and Cleveland forces) was a pilot in 1945. His pilot's logbook records one of his flying instructors during April 1945 at 24 Air School in South Africa was a Flying Officer Chandler.

From a chronology of London Gazette promotions, the area in which he served, and note in the linked document about postings from late 1944 to 1946, lead me to think that a policeman in Surrey Constabulary, F/O (later Flt Lt) Wilfred Chander is the likely instructor. (p 27 & p28):

It would be good to track down the owner of Wilfred Chandler's pilot's logbook to confirm whether this is the case. I note that a police researcher called Geoff Todd found the information about W. St. G. Chandler. Wilfred Chandler's logbooks appear to have been sold at auction, however, it might be possible for me to contact the buyer through the auctioneer if I could

[7] Flight Lieutenant Wilfred St. George CHANDLER (141356), R.A.F.V.R. 680 Squadron DFC and Bar:
[8] Latest version of Surrey Constabulary History Part 4

identify the company and date of sale. Perhaps you could forward my message to Geoff in case he might know more about Chandler?[9]

Mount Browne Memorial

I have a secondary, wider question on police history that you may be able to answer. Research into my father's RAF service suggests that an unusually high proportion of his fellow RAF pupil pilots and instructors were associated with the Police before and after the war. This may be a bias in the contacts I know of, but I have noted comments in books I have read about the Joint Air Training Plan , the Commonwealth Air Training Plan and Arnold Scheme re the

[9] https://www.surrey-constabulary.com/uploads/1/1/2/9/11293584/100_history_journal_may_2023_2_2.pdf

selection of policemen for aircrew training. I wonder if you are aware of a government/RAF recruitment policy during World War Two that favoured policemen for selection to train as pilots or other members of aircrew? I would guess that this might have been implemented after the immediate threat of invasion in 1939 - 1940 had subsided.

After gaining his wings, my father served as a prosecutor in Germany in the Allied Control Commission immediately post war before returning to Durham Constabulary.

From Editor: This is the Surrey Constabulary war memorial to be found at HQ in Guildford. You will note the large number of fatalities of those serving in the RAF. Policing was a reserved occupation and only those with reserve commitments were allowed to join up. There were pressures on military manpower in 1942 and initially police could join up if they went to air crew or army commandos. (There was a complete commando of ex police officers under Lord Lovet who wrote they were the best of men.)

PC Charles Spencer Page
Metropolitan Police

Internet request from Canada: I am undertaking research on my GG grandfather Charles Spencer Page. I have evidence he lived in Dorking and Lambeth in Surrey. He served as a policeman as seen in numerous census). This is from the National Archives' catalogue MEPO - Records of the Metropolitan Police Office: Spencer Page, warrant number 45544. Joined on 5 December 1864 and left on 6 May 1891. Last posted to V Division as a PC.

The Surrey History Centre also has a Page serving in Dorking in 1815 long before there was an organised police force.
https://www.surreyarchives.org.uk/collections/getrecord/SHCOL_QS_16_404_85

"Examinations of Henry Lilliot of Wotton, farmer, and Charles Page, a constable of Dorking: accusing John Simmons of stealing thirteen or fourteen shillings in silver coin and a watch belonging to Henry Lilliot"

I am going through the records you have on this site. It is amazing that so many records have been digitized! Thank you for that. I am wondering if you can provide me any direction about how to find and possibly acquire his service record.

I live in Canada so personal visits to the places that hold these records is very unlikely.

From the Editor: The Page you uncovered in Dorking was in 1815 - it is unlikely to have been the man who joined the Met. Too old by 1864. Page was the name of two officers who had careers in Surrey Constabulary and had links with Dorking. It seem as if Charles almost

completed 30 years in the Met and so I have sent the info on to a Met contact. Having served until 1891 it is unlikely he joined Surrey. I am wondering if you have identified more than one Page. What census addresses do you have? During Second World War the Canadian Army HQ close to Dorking at Headley Court.

Dr Peter Kennison retired Metropolitan Police research indicates:

1. Charles Page was born Netley, Sussex (Southampton) 23rd Dec 1838 - became a part of Hampshire
2. Joined Metropolitan L or Lambeth Division 5th Dec 1864
3. Retired from V or Wandsworth Division 6th May 1891
4. Pay increase 10th Feb 1867
5. Graduated to First Class Pay 8th April 1871
6. In 1881 resided in Laurel Cottage Richmond Road Ham Common
7. On retirement earned 32/- per week.
8. Pension was £55 9s 4d per year

Conduct certificate No. 5 - This is the interesting bit. Conduct certificate 1 means Exemplary behaviour 2 = Very Good 3 = Good 4 = Generally good and 5 just gives dates of service without alluding to conduct or behaviour. This often meant he had been disciplined several times mainly involving drink or drunkenness.

The Death of Harry Roberts

Graham Richings

I joined Surrey Constabulary in 1965 and was stationed at Weybridge and living in the Section house at the time. I got married in 1966 and went to Virginia Water.

Our normal procedure when on duty at night was to stand in Weybridge High Street and stop and check vehicles at random. A very wide road. The night that this happened nothing got stopped! We were waiting for Firearms Officers to stop and deal with Roberts.

Editor: I visited Gartree prison looking at ideas on how to restrain violent prisoners in a cell. I saw Roberts in a workshop at a machine. I also saw Reggie Kray (a great deal smaller than you would imagine) who just scowled at me!

Harry Roberts, triple police killer behind 1966 manhunt, dies aged 89[10]

Roberts, who murdered three police officers in Shepherd's Bush and served 48 years in prison, was released in 2014.

Tue 16 Dec 2025 Mathew Pearce. The Guardian.

Harry Roberts, the triple police killer whose 1966 murders shocked Britain and triggered one of the country's largest manhunts, has died aged 89.

Roberts died in hospital last Saturday after a short illness, the Sun reported. He had been living in sheltered accommodation in Peterborough after his release on licence in 2014, after serving 48 years in prison for the killings.

The case shaped public debate on sentencing, parole and the protection of police officers.

Roberts' murders took place on 12 August 1966 in Shepherd's Bush, west London. DS Christopher Head, 30, DC David Wombwell, 25, and PC Geoffrey Fox, 41, had stopped a van containing Roberts and his associates John Duddy and John Witney

Remembering Sergeant Christopher Head, Detective Constable David Wombwell, and PC Geoffrey Fox, of the Metropolitan Police, who were murdered on duty in 1966

[10] The Guardian 16 December 2025

The officers were carrying out a routine check when Roberts opened fire without warning, killing Wombwell at the scene and shooting Head in the back. Fox, who was seated in an unmarked police car, was shot through the windscreen.

The brutality of the attack caused nationwide shock at a time when armed violence against police was exceptionally rare.

The killings led to a 96-day search, one of the most extensive in British policing history. Roberts used his former military training to evade capture before he was eventually found sleeping rough in Hertfordshire. All three men were convicted at the Old Bailey.

Capital punishment had been abolished the previous year, but the judge described the murders as "the most heinous crime for a generation or more" and imposed a life sentence with a minimum tariff of 30 years.

Roberts became one of Britain's most notorious inmates and was repeatedly refused parole amid concerns about his behaviour and associations. His eventual release in 2014 prompted anger within policing, and news of his death has renewed longstanding criticism.

Matt Cane, general secretary of the Metropolitan police federation, said: "The three officers murdered by Roberts never got a chance to grow old. The life sentence for their loved ones still continues. Life should mean life if you murder a police officer in the course of their duties – Roberts should never have been freed."

Duddy and Witney both died years earlier. The case remains a defining reference point in discussions about sentencing, policing and public protection in the UK.

From Surrey Constabulary History 1988

1988: **Bob Bartlett:** Chief Superintendent Eric Hughes and Danny McNulty as Superintendent T with Bob Heaton chief inspector who with grace provided some of his best officers as crew for the helicopter project. Danny retired and Shane Burrows took over from being chief inspector at Chertsey – Traffic became Mobile Support Department (or Music Singing and Dancing!) as there was a feeling amongst chief officers that Traffic should respond more to general calls and get involved in crime – many would argue the traditional role of Surrey Traffic. I took over from Eric Hughes and like subdivisions the chief superintendent was taken from the equation and MSD stood alone. MSD under Shane developed a technique for stopping those that did not want to. The driving school trained many other forces in this mobile containment requiring a very high standard of driving and nerve. The new system was called TPAC, Traffic Pursuit and Containment. Things were developing, TPAC, Stinger, Tracker, helicopters – to get away was fast becoming unlikely. Stinger was initially, I must admit, I thought a crazy, unworkable idea – just as well I retired. Having gone to the launch meeting of Tracker in the West Midlands I watched its development with great interest.

1988 About Mick Wayland: Movement of travellers from Inkerman Barracks, Woking. Some one hundred and fifty or more caravans whose occupants had taken up residence on the barrack site and the local authority with police to keep the peace were aiming to remove them and escort them out of Surrey with Traffic cars. We were all briefed not to have physical contact with the occupants if possible as there were a lot of cases of a very infectious type of lung disease amongst the travellers. We assembled around the site at about 5am and all was still and quiet. The first movement was a caravan door opening and a small pony being pushed out for its constitutional! Things got under way as the council representatives spoke with the apparent leader. He was an impressive blonde man, who despite being only some five feet three inches tall, the same wide, with arms bigger than my thighs. We all stood prepared, as he was required to leave first under considerable verbal protest. He walked to his close-coupled caravan, which was some twenty-five feet long and located some three yards away from his up-market Range Rover. We all thought that he would back his vehicle up for coupling but none of it. Grasping the caravan, he lifted it up and single-handed towed the caravan, load and occupants to his vehicle and attached it with ease. We all made a mental note that he would be one to avoid if at all possible.

Public Order Training

1988 One of the major problems with the Surrey public order training was the number of injuries suffered. This was partially caused by an excess of enthusiasm of the training staff. The problem was that there were not enough of them properly qualified. A crash selection and training course was instituted to ensure that there were enough trainers and each injury was thereafter recorded and investigated to obtain learning points to ensure it did not happen again. This type of training could never be risk free. Where large amounts of wood blocks and petrol bombs are being thrown at moving lines or individual police officers sometimes things will go wrong. The emphasis on preventing injury was well received and with the enthusiasm of the new instructors the numbers hurt fell dramatically. The extra instructors were to have the spin off that they were able to act as tactical advisors for the less experienced and more senior ground commanders during live deployments and of course during exercising.

Training was reorganised using Stoughton Barracks in Guildford to practise clearing buildings, which had long corridors and wide staircases, which gave useful training for simulating the prison environment. Because the buildings had several floors, they were also useful for training in dealing with attacks from flats. Great emphasis was given to dealing with the armed, violent and angry man in a confined space. Link the shield party together and crash the man against the wall. Very effective! Surrey was training for deployment anywhere as the PSU was in a national pool. Longmoor military training area at Liphook was used for the more advanced training using vehicles, full equipment, with petrol bombs and a great deal of throwing wooden blocks at the units. Longmoor was excellent. It was totally secure, as it was a military FIBUA or site for fighting in a built-up area. An area that was once married quarters and had all the appearance of a council estate had been developed for training soldiers for Northern Ireland. Regional training was implemented Surrey would travel to other Force areas to work with the

host PSUs in Kent and Sussex and Surrey would host return matches. Visits were also made to train regionally with the Metropolitan Police at their Riot City in Hounslow. This was extreme training and very arduous.

Tom Burrell's photo of PSU training at Longmoor

1988

1988 from the Annual Report of the Chief Constable:

- Special Crime Patrol Unit arrested 34 people for burglary, theft, deception and handling stolen property
- Drug Squad dealt with 49 people for offences of drug misuse executed 35 search warrants and gave 95 lectures to members of the force and other interested bodies. The drugs dog attached to the squad carried out 101 searches in premises and vehicles making significant seizures of all types of drugs.
- Fraud Section involved in two major international mortgage fraud investigations
- Stolen Vehicle Squad: This small unit recovered vehicles and plan worth in excess of £700,000.
- Criminal Intelligence Section: identified a large number of London criminals who had organised themselves into a disciplined unit with the common purpose of committing burglaries in the Home Counties.
- Special Branch undertook 180 protection duties for Royalty and VIPs. Also 1125 aliens were registered

1988 January 1: A single lady aged 29, returned home and went to bed. She heard a noise downstairs and went to investigate to be confronted by a man holding a commando style knife. He forced her back upstairs where he **raped** her. The man ordered the lady to get him a drink

and as he did not follow her, she escaped and police were called but he had gone. Later a man was arrested in Sussex and at the Central Criminal Court sentenced to twelve years.[11]

1988 January 8: Police were called to a house in Milford where a young man was threatening to kill his parents. He was **brandishing two knives** and at one stage lunged at the officers who were trying to reason with him. He eventually tried to stab himself but was overpowered and arrested. One of the officers requires surgery on an injured Achilles tendon.[12]

1988 January 18: A man entered a bank in Redhill claiming he had a bomb and demanded money. On escaping he left what was considered a possible device and a large area was cordoned off. The army used a **controlled explosion** and declared the area safe. [13]

1988 January 21: Police can keep case file secret: A Surrey teacher yesterday in a preliminary legal round of a court battle in which he is suing Surrey police for wrongful arrest for the murder of his woman friend. A High Court judge in London ruled that David Evans of Guildford was not entitled to see police documents sent to the DPP, which led to the police charging Mr Evans with murder. Miss Glenys Coe was found murdered in a Guildford car park in August 1984 and Mr Evans was arrested the following month, released and re-arrested in October, the released again. The following March the DPP authorized the charge of murder. The next day another man arrested for rape admitted murdering Miss Coe and was later convicted. Mr Evans is suing the Chief Constable of Surrey for exemplary damages for wrongful arrest and false imprisonment.[14]

1988 January 26: Armed robbery on a security van at Copthorne. Two guards were taken at gunpoint in their van to Shipley Bridge where shots were fired into the ground, £200,000 stolen and the vehicle and guards abandoned. The four offenders ran to the motorway where a vehicle was waiting for them. This was a part of a series of offences and a team of robbers was arrested at a similar offence in Kent. This crime remains undetected but there were no more in this series![15]

1988 Special Crime Patrol Unit commenced surveillance on a target provided by the Force Intelligence Unit following a series of burglaries. The suspect who was dressed as a chauffeur was followed to Normandy where he was arrested for burglary. He later admitted a number of other burglaries and was imprisoned for five years.[16]

[11] Annual Report 1988
[12] Annual Report 1988
[13] Annual Report 1988
[14] 1988 January 21 The Times
[15] Annual Report 1988
[16] Annual Report 1988

Ted Sherwood leading a parade of the Queen's Regiment exercising their right as freemen of the Borough of Guildford

1988 Special Crime Patrol Unit: A series of burglaries were committed in the county and it appeared that there was one offender. The MO was the same as a man dealt with by the SCPU in September 1987 and surveillance was mounted and the following day he was arrested entering premises he had been seen to have a close look at the day before. Admitting 35 offences he was sentence to three and a half years in prison at Guildford Crown Court.[17]

1988 Drug Squad: Was engaged in an enquiry of international importance with over 30k of cocaine valued at £5,000,000 having been seized. This was the largest police seizure of drugs in the UK.[18] The case was uncovered through investigation by the Surrey Fraud Squad. On the 23 December 1989 the principal offender was sentenced to 15 years in prison and identified assets of £1,452,101 were confiscated.[19]

1988: New Zealand and the Drug Squad: Operation Panther UK involved working with the police in New Zealand to disrupt supplies of LSD from Surrey to that country. A man was arrested in Surrey and extradited to New Zealand.[20]

1988 January: Major armed robbery, when Securicor cash in transit vehicle was seized and disappeared complete with crew. Surrey used the Metropolitan Police helicopter and Sussex helicopter as they did not have one and eventually the vehicle was found abandoned on open country and the crew rescued. Operation Cricket

[17] Annual Report 1988
[18] Annual Report 1988
[19] Annual Report 1989
[20] Annual Report 1988

1988 January: An **American Airlines** aircraft disappeared off the radar just after it took off. A full alert was called and it was thought that the aircraft had probably crashed into the side of Russ Hill close to the end of the runway. Later it was revealed that as the pilot took off a gust of wind blew out one of the engines and so the power was reduced. Reaching Russ Hill the aircraft was so low it dropped off the radar. The plane hit the tops of the trees but managed to pull away, out over the English Channel to dump fuel, to make a lighter and safe landing. On the approach the aircraft was too heavy and more fuel had to be dumped out again over the Channel before the aeroplane was finally able to land and the passengers hosed out! It was a near run thing and was the closest to a major crash since 1970.

1988: Surrey Police Federation: The Federation expressed concern to the HMI that the failure of the Home Office to authorise a **realistic establishment**, despite requests for increases from the chief constable over recent years. The Federation receives comment from every station in the county reference shortage of staff and officers feel unable to perform their duties properly due to this shortfall. The forthcoming change in policing methods, we fear, will be unsuccessful without an establishment to meet the demands of the late 80's and 1990's. The increase in civilian establishment as a direct result of Home Office Circular 114 is of concern to the Joint Branch Board. There is already clear indication that any further civilianisation would be a disaster for the Force, it could result in civilian bureaucracy being put before operational policing.[21]

1988 February 11: Vicar has sex with girl of 13: A vicar aged 32, who followed a girl age 13 to Majorca where she was on holiday with her parents had sexual intercourse with her on the beach Guildford Crown Court was told. On their return home the vicar had sexual intercourse with her up to six times a week it was alleged. He was also accused of having sexual intercourse with a girl of 15 and fondling a choirgirl at his vicarage. The case continues.[22] (Redhill)

1988 February 13: The vicar was found guilty of indecent assault and sentenced to six months imprisonment. He was found guilty of having sexual relations with a girl aged 13 at least 100 times over two years, enticing a girl of 15 into sexual relations and fondling another girl of 15 when she went to him for bible study.[23]

1988 February: The **Firearms Support Team** and the Metropolitan Police in a joint operation arrested two men wanted following a shooting in the Metropolitan Police District. The operation was centred on a gypsy camp at Egham. Two men were arrested and one more later that day at Windsor. [24]

[21] Letter Robert Knowles Secretary Surrey Joint Branch Board to the HMI 8 August 1988
[22] 1988 February 11: The Times
[23] 1988 February 13: The Times
[24] Annual Report 1988

1988 early in the year: CS gas was used by youths during a disturbance in Egham at Holloway College where students were attacked and eight received hospital treatment for exposure to the gas. A further incident occurred a few weeks later in a public house.[25]

1988 February 27: Killer captured by intuition, science and sheer hard work: John Francis Duffy was convicted for the railway Murders yesterday – trapped by forensic science, backed for the first time by the latest psychological profiling techniques. Duffy, a workshy former British Rail carpenter, was caught by a computer-based police operation costing £3million. He was convicted of five rapes and two murders, but police believe he may have attacked more than 30 women. He was acquitted of a third murder, but police say that investigation is closed. Four forces were involved in Operation Hart the biggest manhunt since the Yorkshire Ripper; Scotland Yard, Surrey, Hertfordshire and British Transport. In the autumn of 1986, they watched every railway station along the North London Link Line from Docklands to Richmond. They even checked a million railway tickets in a search for fingerprints. But in the end, it was the intuition of Detective Superintendent John Hurst of Surrey Police that led to Duffy. He spotted similarities between one of the murders and a rape, which had not been linked to the police enquiry. Duffy was a petty criminal who became a "shrewd, sharp, calculating killer with eyes like laser beams." ---- The link became clear three months later when Maartje Tamboezer a 15-year-old schoolgirl was killed on her way to buy sweets in West Horsley. [26]

In a desperate attempt to remove evidence Duffy set fire to Maartje's body but he still left clues; semen traces, an unusually small footprint, lengths of an unusual nylon and Swedish-manufactured string. A neck bone, which martial arts students know as a week point, was broken. Her hands were tied behind her back. In July police saw Duffy; he was on a list codenamed "Z men" whose blood roughly matched tests on Maartje. Detectives from the Metropolitan Police, Surrey and Hertfordshire had combined in Operation Trinity started with a list of 5000 suspects, drawn up after forensic scientists identified blood from samples on Maartje's body. The 5000 were researched by a special team, which compared them with indexes on descriptions, ages, their methods of attack and any links to railways. The list came down to 1999 men who fitted all the categories or were suspects whose blood groups were unknown. All were seen. Duffy, number1505 on the list was interviewed in July and gave an alibi and his description did not seem to fit but police were unhappy. He refused to give a blood sample and the next day put himself into a mental hospital falsely claiming he had been mugged and was suffering from amnesia. He had paid a friend to slash his chest.

In September 1986 Superintendent Hurst looked through a computer printout from Scotland Yard showing patterns of rape across London using a system called crime pattern analyses. The print up threw up 40 attacks, which might have been carried out by the same men. The attacks were identified by Operation Hart as secondary to the twenty-seven they were investigating. One of the attacks – a rape at Copthall Park, North London a year earlier looked very like that

[25] Annual Report 1988
[26] 1988 February 27: The Times

on Maartje – the scenes were very similar, so were the methods. Mr Hurst targeted the case with a squad of 12 officers. He told his men "If we find the man who did that rape we will find Maartje's killer." In October 1986 Professor Cantor's profile was received and after computer comparisons the name Duffy came up. For two weeks more than 20 Surrey detectives followed him and he was arrested when he headed back to Copthall Park apparently planning a fresh attack. At his mother's home detectives found the rare combination of nylon and twine found by Maartje. Fibres from his clothes matched 14 found on the body of another victim. The attacker was caught. John Hurst and the psychological profile had been right.

1988 February 28: An officer arrested **two elderly ladies** at a car boot sale in Woking. They were selling new clothes with the labels removed and it was found that they had obtained the property by shoplifting. They were sentenced to 240 and 120 hours community service.[27]

1988 March: Operation Lynx. This was a Firearms Support Team operation following several raids on Securicor vans in East Surrey, Kent, and other police areas. The teams were mobilised early in the day each week to sit and watch from pre-planned observation points the security vans as they made their deliveries. The intention was of course to try and arrest the armed robbers. It went on for weeks and eventually the robbers were arrested in London during an armed robbery.

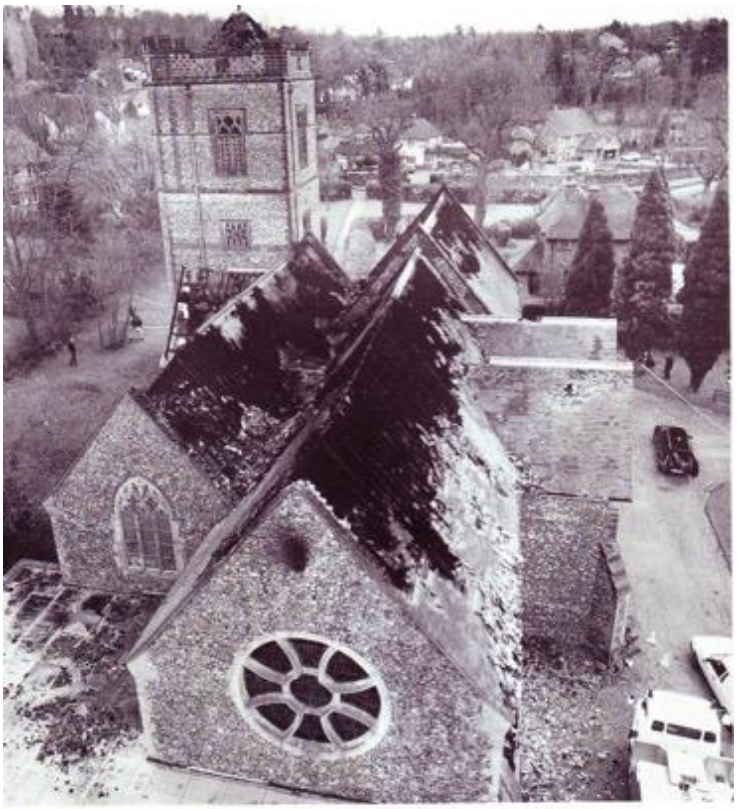
1988 March 24: Reigate town centre. A man called **999 and threatened suicide** with a firearm. He was kept talking by the operator, as police were deployed and saw the man striking something concealed in a plastic bag, which exploded. He later died. It was found that there was a short piece of pipe with a shotgun cartridge, which was discharged by striking.

Frank Austin: This incident was at the phone box at the traffic lights at the junction with Reigate Road and Wray Park Road I can't remember who he was on the phone too, but he had a length of tube with a shotgun cartridge inside and from memory he was ramming it with a screwdriver. Eventually he was successful and the cartridge fired into his stomach and he eventually died. I believe DC Colin Edwards was also present.
Robert Bartlett: I was newly appointed in charge of Operations and I went to the control room when called because of this job. I looked at the handwritten message and it said SAS called. I was a little bemused and asked was it not possible for Surrey firearms to deal with such a small-scale incident to be told it was Surrey Ambulance Service. New Boss!

1988 April: The Firearms Support Team was deployed to an incident at Chertsey involving a twenty-year-old girl. All the windows in her top floor flat were broken and she threatened to shoot local officers and the sound of a low powered weapon was heard coming from the flat. The girl barricaded herself in the roof piling bricks on the trap door. An entry was made by the unarmed Firearms Support Team through a hole in the roof made by the girl. The girl was arrested and taken to hospital for assessment.[28]

[27] Annual Report 1988
[28] Annual Report 1988

1988 April 1: Hurst Green church was severely damaged by fire causing £300,000 of damage. A local man was charged with **arson**[29]



An arson attack caused damage of £300,000 to the St John the Evangelist church at Hurst Green in April.

1988 early in the year: A temporary prison was established at Alma Dettingen barracks, Deepcut to house 335 prisoners who could not be found spaces in the prison system. The prison was fully manned by the military but police were required to respond on a number of occasions some of which were riot situations. The extra commitment and ever-present threat was a considerable drain on resources.[30]

1988 April 11: During the early morning rush hours a **fully laden petrol tanker** was involved in an accident with a private car in Walton. The tanker overturned and 6000 gallons of fuel spilled. Those involved in the accident were soon released suffering minor injuries, but a major incident was declared. The fuel fumes caused a minor explosion in the basement of a nearby public house and local houses were evacuated. The tanker driver was prosecuted for reckless driving.[31]

1988 April 15: The Firearms Support Team attended Leatherhead to a report that a shotgun was being discharged on a housing estate. On investigation local officers were confronted by three children running from the house; they had seen their mother shot by her common law

[29] Annual Report 1988
[30] Annual Report 1988
[31] Annual Report 1988

husband. The premises were contained and the Firearms Support Team called and entered the house to find the mother and the man dead in the bedroom from gunshot wounds.[32]

1988 June 16: Street violence alarms police: Unprovoked violence and public disorder once confined to inner cities is spreading rapidly to rural areas, stretching already strained police resources and alarming senior police officers. Brian Hayes chief constable Surrey Constabulary paints a gloomy picture of affluent young people, normally well behaved turning into thugs after drinking sessions with friends. The problem is exacerbated by inadequate police presence in outlying areas and the difficulty in getting back up officers to the scene before a minor incident gets out of hand. Mr Hayes said there were half a dozen such incidents in Surrey each day of assaults on his officers. Violence was no longer confined to male officers. A women was just as likely to be attacked these days. In Guildford and other Surrey towns extra officers were brought in for Friday and Saturday nights between10pm and 1 am the hours when most disorder took place. This stretched resources at other times resulting in fewer officers being available for other shifts. Mr Hayes admitted this had been a factor in reduction of police presence in rural areas bitterly criticised by residents unhappy at losing their village Bobbies. The public must be prepared to pay more if it wanted extra officers on the street.[33]

1988 June 16: Chief Constable in plea for more police officers: The Surrey Constabulary is chronically short of manpower and must have extra officers if it is to police the county effectively. Less than a month after the Home Secretary turned down his request for just six extra officers Chief Constable Brian Hayes told the county police committee that he must have 122 more officers. Mr Hayes said they had not received extra officers to deal with general policing since 1979 even though crime had increased by more than a third, emergency calls had increased by 22.8%, road accidents by 11%, arrests by 24.3% and crime prevention by 56%. Recently the shire counties had experienced an upsurge of violence, and in Surrey by 25% last year. Requests for more men had repeatedly been rejected with the last significant increase in 1977 when a request for 599 officers resulted in approval for 75. Since then only 37 extra officers had been permitted and then only for specific purpose mostly, for the newly opened M25. In real terms manpower had fallen. More sophisticated training accounted for the loss of 5425 days the equivalent of 18 officers. Better conditions of service accounted for a further loss of 14 officers.

Mr Hayes said he had civilianised every possible job but the 65 officers released have been swallowed up by new demands created by the motorway and Police and Criminal Evidence Act. He saw no scope for further civilianisation. The cost of the extra officers is put at £1,953,720 of which the Home Office would meet 51%, with the remainder funded by Surrey County Council. The county council policy committee agreed that a proposal could be sent to the Home Office for an establishment increase of 4 inspectors, 11 sergeants and 107 constables.[34]

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[32] Annual Report 1988
[33] Woking News and Mail 16 June 1988 page 5
[34] Woking News and Mail 16 June 1988 page 5

1988 June 16: Chief Constable: The new system of policing to be introduced in Surrey was to be named **Total Geographic Policing.** To be introduced later this year it is designed to make the best possible use of resources available and has been successfully tested over the over the past three years in areas of Addlestone and Camberley. The new approach has five basic elements: the assignment of officers to local areas; the use of flexible duties to cope better with emergency and other calls, careful handling of calls to ensure the most appropriate response to public needs; greater use of computers and a strong emphasis on tackling crime and disorder. [35]

1988 June 17: Horley Town centre: The centre was pedestrianized and this attracted loutish behaviour by local youths which culminated when fifty young men congregated and **attacked police officers** causing injury and damage to their vehicles. During the following Saturday afternoon at the local carnival arrests resulted in the police station coming under attack. That evening 80-100 young men gathered in the precinct and there were further outbreaks of violence. Officers again suffered injuries when the group was confronted and arrests made. [36]

1988 June 18: The Times: Dinner Night: Chief Constable Brian Hayes presided at the annual ladies' night dinner of the Surrey Constabulary senior Officers Dining Club held at the officer's mess of the Guards Depot at Pirbright.

1988: Police Support Unit: Deployed on aid to Wiltshire and on fourteen occasions within the county.[37]

1988 June: PSU emergency deployment to assist Wiltshire at Stonehenge: There was serious trouble in Wiltshire on Salisbury Plain where the Druids were trying to celebrate midsummer, and thousands of hippies and travellers had turned up. The local police had lost control and were calling for urgent assistance from every Force south of the Wash. It was the 21 June 1988, and the Assistant Chief Constable had authorised the deployment of five PSUs. Operations Department's job was to mobilise the officers, the vehicles and equipment, along with food and drink to leave at the given time. Operations had developed a means of managing emergency call out. This would entail using any member of staff who was available and giving specific responsibilities. Fred might be responsible for gathering the people; George the vehicles; Alan the catering; Simon the radios and other specialist kit. Each would go off and do their thing and the superintendent would stay in the centre to resolve queries. We would as a team, gather about every thirty minutes or an hour for a few minutes to ensure co-ordination of effort. It worked well and was an efficient and effective means of quickly putting together an emergency operation.

[35] Woking News and Mail 16 June 1988 page 5
[36] Annual Report 1988
[37] Annual Report 1988

The units from across the county were to gather in Cedar Bar on the first floor at Mount Browne for a briefing, and then they were to make all haste towards the setting sun and the ancient stones on the edge of the Salisbury Plain. The deployment would consist of sixteen vehicles, motorcycle outriders to keep the convoy together, and at the front would be the commander's carrier, with spare equipment, food, extra radios etc. One Operation's recent initiative had been this spare carrier loaded with additional equipment, food and drink. So often it is not possible to ensure that operational feeding is effective. The men were always happy to know that no matter how long we worked and how far we went there was always food and drink available, and under our control.

Wiltshire Police were in real trouble. Mobilised assistance from a large number of Forces was beginning to pour into the scene. There had been no designated rendezvous points or marshalling areas, just straight to the scene off the A303. It was that bad. Local Traffic motorcycles had met Surrey on the Countess Roundabout about two miles from the action and led them straight to the scene, where they were to be deployed in the line immediately. It was a warm and dry evening and this ancient landscape was covered in police vehicles and demonstrators. Surrey was not the first of the reinforcements to arrive, but many more were to follow. They arrived to the west of the Stones to be met by a very harassed chief inspector, given a quick brief, and then deployed. Firstly the instruction was to stand with our backs to a wire fence with the unruly hippies to the front of us. On arriving at our allocated sector Surrey refused to do as bid, the superintendent insisting that officers be stationed with the fence between them and the crowd. Seems a bit obvious! There was so much going on that no one had the inclination to argue. Things deteriorated quickly without Surrey doing anything. There was a great deal of abuse from the crowd and movement in the area of the Heel Stone about one hundred yards to their left.

The Heel Stone is a large isolated standing stone alongside the road and a short distance away from the main monument although a part of ancient site. Here there were crowd control barriers but they had not been secured properly, and they were soon torn apart and being used to drive the police back. The barriers were being held by the crowd and used to strike at the police, as stones and other debris were flying. None of the officers had protective clothing on. Very soon someone was going to get hurt. It was going very wrong, and it was obvious that there was eventually to be a major thrust by the crowd to get at the Stones. Superintendent Bartlett found someone who seemed to be in charge and sought permission to let Surrey officers get their

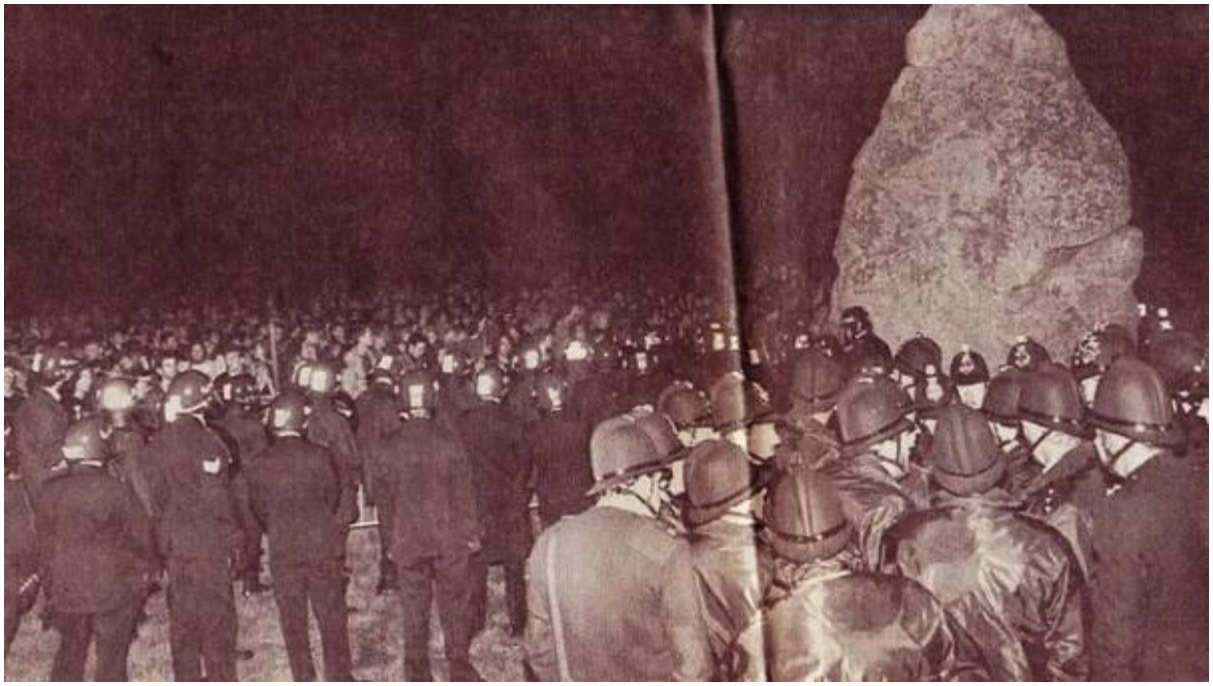
protective kit on, (riot helmets, overalls and leg and arm guards, with the short and long shields) but no one would make a decision. He therefore took the initiative and instructed the Surrey units to kit up two PSUs at a time, ensuring that their part of the line continued to be covered. In addition to pushing and shoving, stones and bottles were being thrown at the police who were trying to stop an invasion of the area and on into the Stones. The Metropolitan Police were there with Wiltshire. The chief constable was in the thick of it in civilian clothes, and Surrey asked permission to form a wedge and break through the crowd and disperse them. This was reluctantly accepted, but not until after the helicopter had given warnings for the crowd to disperse. The helicopter came over using sky-shout but the warning was unintelligible because of the roar of its engine and the noise from the crowd. The Chief Constable Donald Smith therefore wanted it to go around again. Meanwhile Superintendent Bartlett had met up with an inspector from West Mercia who he knew through regional police support unit training in the Midlands and they began to pull a plan together. A V wedge was formed. Surrey were on the right and West Mercia on the left with an infilling of five MOD police PSUs. Whilst waiting for the helicopter to do its bit, the superintendent walked up and down the Surrey officers warning them that if they used their truncheons they should aim at arms and legs and not heads. They would smile back with a most unreassuringly "Of course Guv. Don't worry Guv". He was reminded of the Duke of Wellington who said of his soldiers "I do not know what they do to the enemy but by God they frighten me". The remainder of the fencing keeping back the crowd was removed by a number of police officers and the instruction was given and out the PSUs went cutting through the hippies like a hot knife through butter. Very disciplined and with Surrey turning right and West Mercia left. Superintendent Bartlett gained a four to six inch blade sheaf knife that came at him from the crowd. Senior officers did not have protective clothing or helmet on. In those days it would not do for the boss to be kitted up as it was thought to show a lack of confidence i.e. if the boss believes he could get hurt, the thing has really gone to the rats. Having made the initial dash encouraging the demonstrators to break and run, with the assistance of units from other Forces the crowd were pushed back for several miles to the east. Surrey worked with the Metropolitan Police and Dorset. (The Metropolitan Police inspector was a woman, which was quite revolutionary in those days). Surrey went as far as the Countess Roundabout on the A303.

There they stopped and waited for instructions and vehicles driven by Traffic officers to catch up. Some of the crowd went into Amesbury but many continued on up the A303 towards a major campsite. After sunrise, police mounted their vehicles and went to the campsite in a wood at Cholderton where about two thousand of the hippies had been living in their vehicles. This was about five miles from the Stones. Local officers entered the site and told the "campers" they would have to move within the hour or they would be moved. There was a history of the "Battle of the Beanfield" a few years before where local police had moved travellers from a site when it all got out of hand. (Later to be investigated by Chief Superintendent Peter Stevens of Surrey Constabulary). That event however sent the message that if the police said they would be moved they would be and the demonstrators were well aware of the numbers of police now deployed. They packed up and were allowed to leave the site in small packets of vehicles. Surrey supervised the departure. Or at least some did as others caught up with lost sleep. The Surrey units drove tired but pleased with the outcome to Devizes

where they had breakfast at the Wiltshire Police HQ before travelling home, arriving about noon. The Independent on the 22 June reported that there were over one thousand police from twelve Forces involved. The confrontation at Stonehenge began when some of the five thousand hippies present attacked the policemen who had surrounded the monument. There were eighty-five arrests, twenty later released without charge. Nine people were injured seven police and two hippies. It all cost £800,000 for the one thousand three hundred officers who were finally involved.

Officers deployed

Surrey officers were at this point



Probably Surrey Officers in the centre with West Mercia on the right – a quick briefing just prior to getting ready for a baton charge

Paul Smith: I was a PC at Woking on D Rota and doing the last of seven night shifts. It was a Monday night and had played football prior to starting the shift under the view that it was likely to be 'Q' and get away with it. The duty started at 10p.m. and at some time early on I went into the front office (no LIC or DSU then) to find the Sergeant on the hot line to HQ. For those not acquainted with the hotline, this was a red tulip shape device and never ever used.

The gist of the request was for Surrey to supply a PSU to go to Stonehenge to support a policing operation with instructions to avoid certain roads so as not to cause friction with the public. A PSU was quickly assembled from a mixture of the night turn and late turn that were still in the bar and off we went to HQ, which was the RV point. First task was to find the urn and borrow a number of maxpacks from custody. The driver that night was the late Dicky Redpath who had the task of taking us there in our Mercedes bus. These were massive vehicles, the envy of other forces but seem to remember there was some Construction and Use issues with its weight and when fully loaded, braking was entertaining

The PSU was in good spirits with the usual banter, halfway through the journey the radio instructed us to get there as soon as possible as the situation had worsened. I remember being overawed when we got there as the car park was filled with PSUs of all sorts and from a plethora of forces. It was still dark at that time and a helicopter was flying over the scene illuminating the ground and we could make out a larger crowd near the ruins. This was dramatic and never envisaged in my service.

We de-bussed in normal uniform and formed a cordon along some fence line with the crowd on the other side. It was comparatively friendly to begin with until a few bottles started to get

thrown. We stood there for a short period of time before being ordered back to the van to kit up. We must have run about 100 yards to do so, had trouble to find the carrier and when we did, it was locked and the driver not present. We broke in by sliding out a quarter light and then tried to rush to kit up. It resembled a children's party game. Officers rushed to get out of sweaty uniform in the dark and then dress into PSU kit as quickly as possible.

We went near to the monument and stood in a cordon as dawn approached. A few travellers taunted the police; one climbed up on to a nearby rock and openly smoked a cannabis joint out of reach of officers who had tried to prevent his ascent. Tensions increased, more missiles were thrown into police lines. The order was given to do a baton charge and so drew my trusty (unused) piece of wood. This started as an orderly march, then turned into a more ragged canter forcing protestors away from the monument; batons were used on those who declined. Their demeanour was varied with pockets of quite aggressive revellers among a more peaceful crowd.

This seemed to go on for ages until we reached a road and the travellers returned to a nearby encampment. We stopped to swap war stories and take a breather. Most of D Rota was present including Martin Knight, Dick Howard and Dave Katryniak. The sun was well and truly up and we slumped down in the middle of a roundabout, some officers took the opportunity for quick forty winks. By now, some early commuters were on the roads and drove past this surreal scene without taking a second look. It was thought this happened regularly.

I think we were all keen to go home now as we'd done all we wanted to do but this was not the case and were told we were to be retained to help evict the travellers from their camp. We remained there for some time until later in the day we were released back to Surrey.

This was probably my most memorable PSU deployment in all my service, probably a mixture of youth, inexperience, unpredictability of the event and its sheer size

Surrey officer on right side – not certain which year this is

Baton Charge led by Surrey and West Mercia by the Hele Stone

Robert Bartlett got to the Stones for sunrise – with a little help!

1988 June: Guildford **fraud enquiry** leading to nine arrests for a crime valued at £2,000,000.[38]

[38] Annual Report 1988

1988 June 28: Police study catalogue of violence: Surrey police have carried out a special survey to categorise the various crimes after incidents of heavy drinking. This follows several weekends of drunken violence in rural England. The research carried out over a 24-hour period from 11pm last Friday showed that 133 incidents related to drunkenness had occurred in the Surrey's nine divisions. Of these, 10 were incident of wounding and assault, twenty involved criminal damage and another 61 of public disorder. Eight involved the unlawful taking of vehicles, 17 concerned drink drive offences and only one assault on police. Sixteen were unclassified. [39]

[39] 1988 June 28: The Times