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www.surrey-constabulary.com

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Surrey Constabulary History 135



**Retired Surrey Constabulary, PC1767 Peter Harris
Sergeant at Mace for Godalming Town Council
Died suddenly at home 1 February 2026**

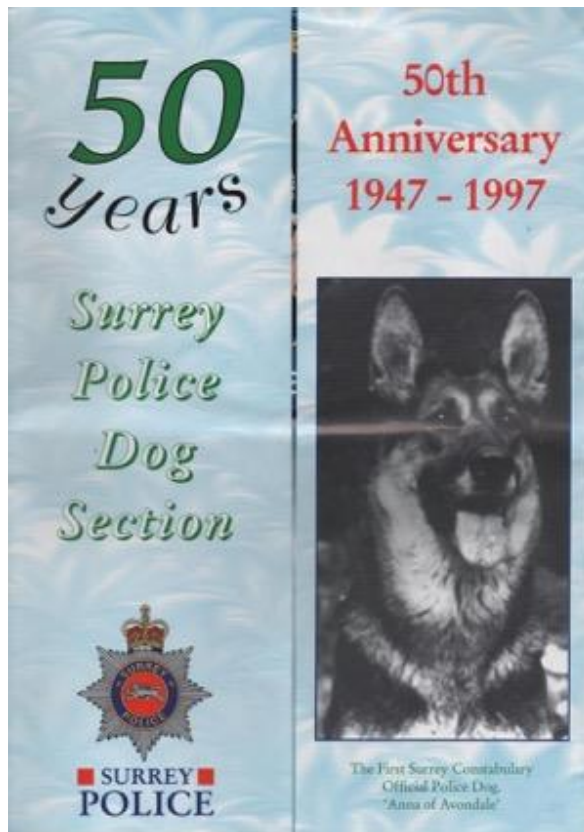
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Surrey Constabulary and Surrey Police Dog Section 1947-1997



From Tony Collman's collection February 2026



Surrey's Police Dogs

The Surrey Police Dog Section will soon reach its fiftieth anniversary, a fact that we will be celebrating at the 1997 Anna of Avondale Dog Trials at Mount Browne. The history of police dogs in Surrey however goes back far beyond 50 years. In common with most police forces in this country, Surrey had no interest in the use of dogs for police work, although their use was well established on the continent, particularly in Germany, France and Belgium by the end of the 19th century. The former docks and railway police appear to have been the first to use them in around 1907, they found them to be very successful as a deterrent to would be thieves and tramps that frequented their premises. Theft and damage was reduced considerably. The breed of dog that they preferred to use was the Airdale.

The earliest record of dogs being used in Surrey was during the First World War. A prisoner of war camp had been established at Frith Hill, Frimley, from where the inmates occasionally made escapes. The surrounding countryside was ideal cover for the escapees. To assist in searching for them, the police at Camberley had three Bloodhounds which were kennelled at Camberley police station and handled by Sergeant Kenward and his assistant PC Pink. They were used several times with some success, but their use was discontinued after the war.

We have no record of more dogs being used in Surrey until 1933 when the head of CID, Superintendent Tom Roberts, persuaded the Chief Constable to allow PC Potter, who was stationed at Ash and kept Bloodhounds which he trained as a bobby, to use them for police work. The Bloodhounds worked with PC Potter until the outbreak of the Second World War when their use was halted. During their service they proved quite successful, particularly finding clues at the scenes of

crimes, finding missing persons and recovering discarded stolen property. They were also occasionally used to assist other forces neighbouring Surrey.

After the war Superintendent Roberts renewed his interest in the use of dogs and by then we had a new Chief Constable, Mr Joseph Simpson, who needed no persuasion. He was a member of the kennel club and had a great interest in and knowledge of working dogs. He and his wife bred and worked dogs in working trials. Throughout 1947 extensive research and enquiries were carried out and it was decided that the German methods of training police dogs was the right way forward. Mr Simpson knew of a Metropolitan police officer, DC Harry Darbyshire, who had great experience and knowledge in this area.

Harry Darbyshire was offered a transfer to Surrey in the rank of Sergeant, he accepted and brought with him his own dog, Anna of Avondale. After preparation the team was ready for service and the Surrey Dog Section was officially in place on 8th February 1948.

Anna was a captured German war dog No. 1758X1, captured by a Corporal Ken Bailey, Parachute Regiment near Ashwerin, Germany in 1945. No other details were known about her but she estimated to have been born in 1938 or 39. She was a German Shepherd dog, or Abation as they were then called, and believed to be the first of the breed to have been used in any police force in this country.

Only a few weeks later Sgt Darbyshire and Anna, accompanied by the Chief Constable, attended their first assignment, a burglary at the Co-op at Hershaw where the offenders

were disturbed by a patrolling police officer who was seriously assaulted by them. Within minutes of arriving, Anna had tracked from the scene and located one of the offenders hiding under a hedge in a neighbouring street.

Anna continued in service until she died in August 1950. To this day serving dogs and handlers compete annually for a trophy named as a tribute to the first Surrey Police Dog (The Anna of Avondale Trophy).

Due to this early success, other officers were recruited and trained as dog handlers within the Surrey Constabulary. We also obtained our first Doberman Pinscher, a German import Alf Von Margaretnhof, Peter for short. He was obtained from a member of the public who found she could no longer control him. Peter was transformed into an extremely good and successful police dog and indeed became famous, there has hardly ever been a book written about the breed which does not include him.

A breeding programme, using both German Shepherds and Dobermans, was established and became very successful. Many of the dogs produced were used within the police service, not only in Surrey but throughout the country and indeed abroad.

The first kennels were at the Chief Constable's house at Huertmore near Godalming but it was soon necessary to expand and new and bigger kennels were built at Mount Browne where they are today. They were opened by the Chief Constable's wife, Mrs Simpson on 27th September 1950.

The success of our training methods and breeding programme attracted great interest from police chiefs throughout Great Britain and it was decided to open a police dog training school at the kennels and the first course coincided with the opening of the kennels.



There were four officers from other forces on this course, PS Sessford from Durham with Mount Browne Julie, PC Lawrie from Kent with Mount Browne Justice, PC Herdman from Lancashire with Mount Browne Juno and PC Jones from Buckinghamshire with Mount Browne Jenny. These dogs were all from the same litter of Dobermans.

Unlike today, when a course runs for thirteen weeks and dogs learn all their basic skills at once, the courses were split in two. The initial course was two months which the dogs and handlers would go out and improve on their skills and after about six months would return for the senior course and expand their skills. Many of the dog sections throughout Britain have their origins in Surrey. Their first handlers being trained in Surrey with Mount Browne dogs. Just a few of these were Edinburgh, Leeds, Wolverhampton, Essex, Southampton and the list goes on.

Role of the Police Dog

Police dogs can normally be classified into two groups - general purpose or specialist.

The general purpose dog is what most people would instantly recognise as the police dog, one that is used for tracking, searching for persons and property and the chasing and detaining of fleeing offenders. The most popular breed of dog by far for this role is the German Shepherd dog. They not only have the combination of size, controllable aggression, stamina and will to work but they also accept training willingly. Other breeds such as the Doberman, Rottweiler, Weimerana, Schnauzer, Labrador and Bouvier have also been tried but Surrey Police now only uses the German Shepherd.

Specialist dogs are used in the detection of controlled drugs, explosives and weapons. The type of dog used in this specialist role does not have to be of any great size or in any way aggressive. The most popular breeds are Labradors, Spaniels and Border Collies.

Sense of Smell and Hearing

The reason dogs are used in the police service is because of their amazing sense of smell and hearing. In a dog's nose the area of Olfactory Mucosa, that is the area which receives smell is 7000 sq millimetres compared to 500 sq millimetres in the human nose.

As far as hearing is concerned, in experiments carried out with a dog at the centre of a circle and with 32 hidden sources of sound at equidistant points around the circumference, dogs were able to pin-point accurately 28-30 of them. Humans in the same experiments could only pin-point 12.

Dog Section Recruits

We obtain our canine recruits either by breeding them ourselves, buying them from specialist breeders or as gifts from members of the public. Police handlers are selected from within the service.



Sergeants Darbyshire and next to him Bill Redwood with early dog handlers.

1959 Stan Wood: Bob Ling years 1959 – 1966: On Harry Darbyshire's retirement in 1959, Bob Ling was promoted to Sergeant in charge of the Dog Section. Among the handlers at the time were Bill Redwood, Fred Booker, George Wraight, Len Truss, Geoff Bloomfield, Peter Morley, Bob Twentyman and Jock Duff. There was also Alan Osment, who sometime in the early 60's was promoted to sergeant, for normal section duties at Buckland but kept his police dog. Elementary and advanced courses continued to be the only courses on offer and Bob Ling and his assistant George Wraight ran these. The Dog Section in 1962 had the following handlers:

Sergeants Bob Ling (Section and Training) and Alan Osment Buckland Section, P.Cs George Wraight (HQ and Assistant Trainer), Bill Redwood Farnham, Fred Booker Godalming, Peter Morley Guildford, Chris Proctor and Geoff Bloomfield Woking, Roy Cartwright and Jock Duff Weybridge, Len Truss Reigate, Ken Curnow Dorking.

Superintendent Frederick William Gray KPM Surrey Constabulary 1898-1934

Additional research Nicholas Panayiotou, Jenny Tuffs, Henry Pelham, Jean Pelham, Robert Symondson Surrey History Centre

Nicholas Panayiotou contacted Surrey Constabulary History via the website and has agreed the correspondence can be published in the Journal. The message resulted in Henry Pelham undertaking research into a police officer named Gray serving in 1928. His work recovered the lost history of Superintendent Frederick Gray who was awarded the King's Police Medal for distinguished service as he retired from his career in the Surrey Constabulary.

There is a little confusion caused by there being as unlikely as it may seem, two Egbert R Winsley, one Richard the other Reginald. Reginald was a gardener and Richard a publican.

Egbert Richard Winsley was a gardener at the home of one of the victims so probably the recipient of the award. Egbert Richard Winslet drops out of the story.

Nicholas Panayiotou wrote:

I am researching a presentation watch awarded to Egbert R. Winslet on November 29, 1928 by police officers from Chertsey Division.

The inscription records "Egbert R Winslet by Officers and Men of Chertsey Division, Surrey Constabulary" for "assisting police." 29-11-1928

Research was undertaken by Surrey Constabulary History volunteers who established the correct Egbert.

Egbert Reginald Winslet

b) 1875 – Epsom, Surrey d)1951 – Surrey

1881 Census – Living Epsom, Surrey

William Winslet – father – age 46 – occupation - painter

Emma Winslet- mother – age 45

Henry G Winslet – son – age 13 – scholar

Arthur Winslet – son – age 8 – scholar

Percival E Winslet – son - age 2

Egbert R Winslet – son – age 6 – scholar

1891 Census – living Epsom, Surrey

William Winslet – father – widower – age 57 – occupation painter

Kate Winslet – daughter – age 26

Arthur Winslet – son – age 18

Egbert R Winslet – son – age 15

Percy Winslet – son – age 11 – scholar

1901 Census - living Epsom, Surrey

William Winslet – father – age 68 – house painter

Egbert Winslet – son – age 25 – painter

Arthur Winslet – son – age 28 – brewer's assistant

Percival Winslet – Son – 23 – grocers assistant

Kate Winslet – daughter – age 35

Frank Winslet – grandson – age 5

1903 Epsom – Egbert **Reginald** Winslet – married Katherine Louisa Flint

1911 Census – living -25 Thames Street, Staines, Middlesex-

Egbert R Winslet – age 39 – occupation cab driver

Katherin Winslet – age 40 – wife
Reginald Winslet – age 2 – son.

1921 Census – living Egham, Surrey

Egbert Winslet – age 46 – Widower – **occupation gardener**

Reginald Harry – son – age 13

Elsie Curtis – visitor – age 23

Egbert's employer – Mr Notley – independent ass gentleman

1924 at Egham Egbert **Reginald** Winslet – widower – age 44 – married Elsie Curtis age 27.

Occupation shown as gardener.

1939 Register – living Egham

Egbert Winslet – age 65 – occupation – **gardener private**

Elsie Winslet – wife – age 44

Electoral Register

1908 – Egbert Reginald Winslet – The Harrow, Maidenhead

1914 – Egbert Reginald Winslet – 25 Thames Street, Staines – A cottage in Messrs
Fitzwater's Yard.

1938 – Egbert Reginald Winslet – Harvest Road, Egham

1938 – Elsie Winslet (Wife) – Harvest Road, Egham

1938 – Reginald Harry Winslet (son) – Harvest Road Egham

1933 – 1938 – Egbert, Elsie and Reginald Winslet lived Harvest Road

1944 – 1952 – Egbert Winslet lived in Chertsey.

Egbert Reginald Winslet died 1951

Nicholas Panayiotou, this is what I have found via chat gpt, the story of Egbert R. Winsley.

The "assistance" mentioned on the watch refers to a high-profile criminal capture. In October 1928, Winsley played a pivotal role in the pursuit and capture of a dangerous individual involved in a local crime spree. The Chertsey police were so impressed by his bravery and initiative that the officers of the division personally subscribed to buy him the Bravingtons "Renown" silver watch as set out below.

Newspaper Coverage

The event was reported in the Surrey Herald and the Surrey Advertiser in early December 1928.

- The Headline: "Chertsey Presentation to Mr. E. R. Winsley" or "Police Gratitude for Civilian Help."

- The Ceremony: The presentation took place at Chertsey police station on November 29, 1928.



PLUCKY GARDENER. Reward from Police for Helping Inspector in Desperate Fight.

Egbert Winslet, gardener to Mrs. Keogh, of Englefield Green, received from the officers and men of the Chertsey police division to-day a silver watch in recognition of his action in coming to the help of Inspector Gray, who was engaged in a desperate fight for a quarter of an hour in Mrs. Keogh's drawing-room with a criminal he was trying to arrest.

The criminal, who victimised a number of bereaved relatives in Surrey, tried to victimise Mrs. Keogh. He has since been sent to penal servitude.

Evening Standard 30 November 1928

It is most likely that following newspaper reports cover the crimes and arrest of the violent prisoner who fought Inspector Gray.

ALLEGED FALSE PRETENCES.

"BATMAN" AND LIEUTENANT WHO WAS KILLED.

At Chertsey on Friday, Walter Brackley (37), appeared on a charge of having obtained by false pretences the sum of £4 from Mrs. V. M. Keogh, of Chertsey, on August 11th.

Mrs. Keogh, who was a widow, gave evidence that the accused called on her and said that he was Sergt. Cuthbertson, D.C.M., and that he was batman in France to the late Lieut. A. C. Northey, who was killed in the war and was the son of Mrs. H. Alice Northey, of Clanricarde-gardens, Tunbridge Wells, and brother of Mrs. Keogh. He said he was with Lieutenant Northey when he died, and that he carved a cross for him.

The accused told Mrs. Keogh that he was out of work, but could obtain a position as a waiter at Lyons' if he could provide himself with a dress suit, and she gave him £4. On a second visit to Mrs. Keogh, Brackley was arrested by a detective after a struggle.

The accused was remanded.

Kent and Sussex Courier on 24th August 1928

LOCAL LADY'S DEAD SON.

NAME USED FOR ALLEGED FALSE PRETENCES.

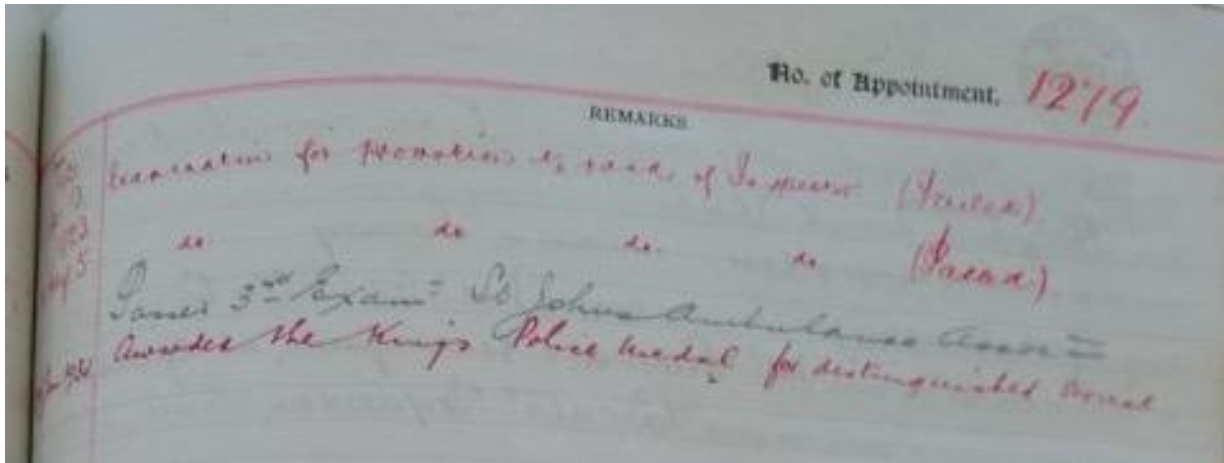
Alleged to have obtained money from various people by claiming that he had been batman to their relations who fell in the Great War, Walter H. Brackley (37) was remanded for a week at Chertsey on Thursday week. He had previously been twice remanded on charges of obtaining £4 by false pretences from Mrs. V. M. Keogh, of Larkshill, Englfield Green, on August 11th, and with attempting to obtain £2 15s. by false pretences from Mrs. Keogh on August 16th. At a previous hearing it was stated that he had told Mrs. Keogh that he was Sergeant Cuthbertson, D.C.M., and had been batman to Mrs. Keogh's brother, the late Lieut. A. C. Northey, son of Mrs. Alice H. Northey, of Clanricarde-gardens, Tunbridge Wells, and was with him when he died. He obtained £4 from her with which to buy a dress suit for a waiter's job at Lyons'.

On Thursday week there was a further charge of obtaining £10 by false pretences from Margaret Street on August 3rd. The prosecutrix stated that she lived at Caterham, and was the widow of Second-Lieutenant E. E. Street, of the 22nd Manchester Regiment. Prisoner told her he was Sergeant Cuthbertson, and was her husband's sergeant in France, being with him in his last moments. He said he was out of work and could obtain a job at a Lyons' restaurant, but the only thing that hindered him was that he had to procure a dress suit, which he could not well afford. Witness offered him £10, and after demurring to taking it he accepted it gratefully. A day or two later he telephoned to her that he had obtained the job and would write her a letter.

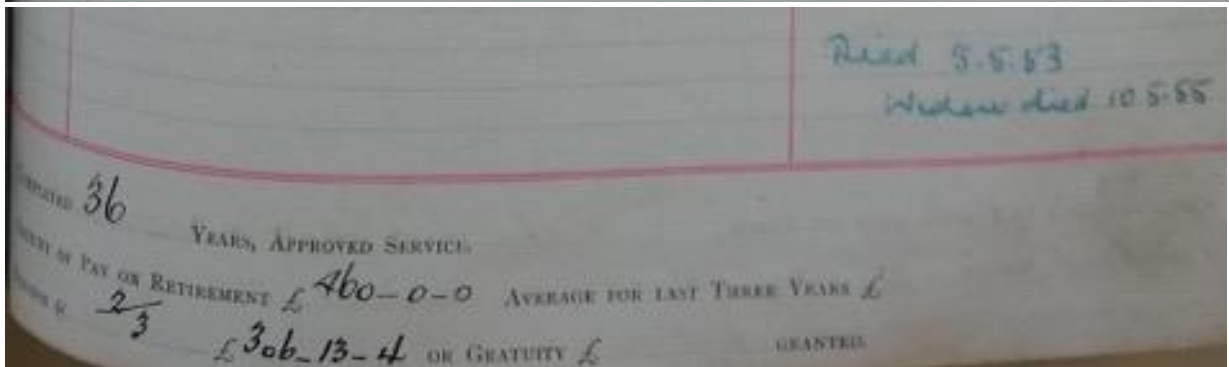
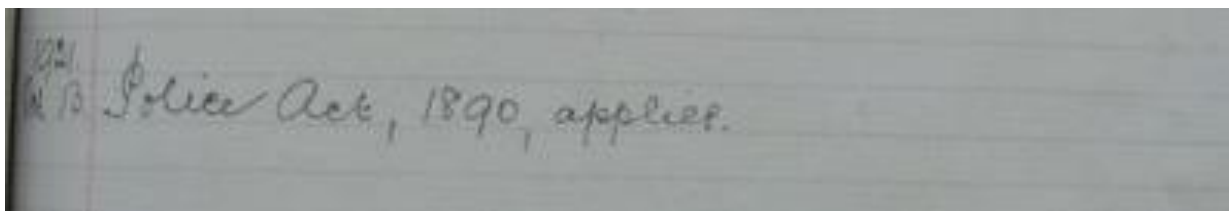
Inspector Gray said that at 10.30 a.m. that morning, August 30th, he had cautioned and charged prisoner at Chertsey Police Station. He replied: "That's all right."

Prisoner had previously asked for a remand on the other charges and his request was granted.

Kent and Sussex Courier 7th September 1928



Surrey History Centre register ref. 9152/1/2/1/



**Wedding at Farnham
Surrey Advertiser 7 February 1903**

On Monday afternoon Miss Nellie Foot, daughter of Mr. Fred Foot of West- street was married at the parish church to Mr. Frederick William Gray a constable of the Surrey Constabulary, until lately stationed at Wrecclesham, and formerly in the service of Prince Christian and in the Prince Consort's Carpentry School at Old Windsor. The Rector officiated. The bride was given away by her father, was prettily attired, and was attended by two little bridesmaids. She was for some time a teacher in the National School and many of the scholars attended and threw confetti in the path of the bridal party as they left the church. A reception was afterwards held at the Lion and Lamb Hotel, and later in the day the newly married pair left for their future home at Brookwood. There were numerous wedding presents.

Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser 12 June 1915: Inspector Gray the victim of the attack by Walter Brackley, joined the Surrey Constabulary in 1898 as a constable serving at Frimley, Hindhead, Wrecclesham, Bramley and at Mickleham where he remained for 11 ½ years.

In June 1915 PC Frederick W Gray was awarded a certificate for his commitment to the care of "Dumb animals."

Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser 12 June 1915

KINDNESS TO ANIMALS.

CONSTABLE'S SERVICES RECOGNISED.

At the Dorking Petty Sessions on Saturday, P.C. Frederick W. Gray, of Mickleham, was presented with a certificate by the Dumb Friends' League for services rendered to that Society. The presentation was made by the Chairman of the Bench (Mr. A. C. Powell) on behalf of the Society, as P.C. Gray could not attend the meeting of the Society in London on the date fixed for the presentation of the awards.

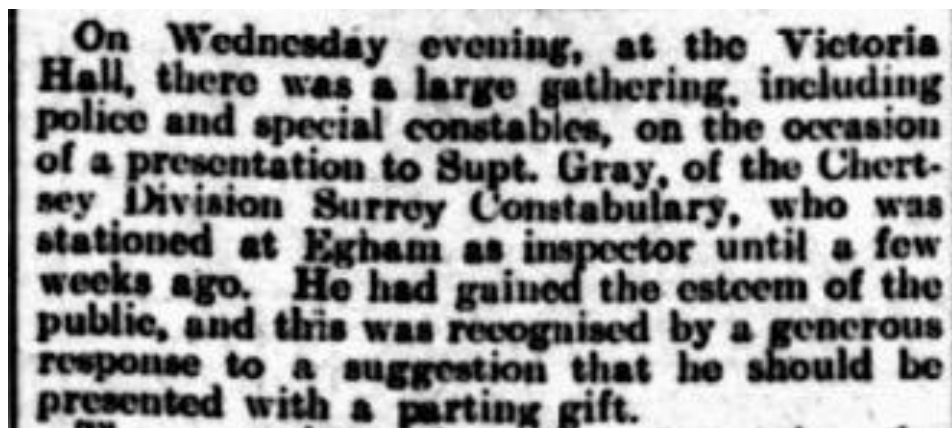
The certificate, which was in a beautiful oak frame, contained the following inscription:—"This certificate is awarded by Our Dumb Friends' League, a society for the encouragement of kindness to animals, to Police-Constable Frederick W. Gray, Surrey Constabulary, in recognition of services rendered on many occasions to save horses from ill-treatment."

Woking from acting sergeant to substantive sergeant, Chertsey as sergeant and inspector then Godalming one year as inspector 1923 followed by Egham for five years from 1924. Chertsey five years as superintendent 1929 awarded KPM 1 January 1934. Retired December 19 1934.

1925 July 20: Accident to Lord Cheylesmore: Motorcar collision near Egham: Lord Cheylesmore, chairman of the National Rifle Association was seriously injured late last evening when returning after the close of the Bisley meeting. Within two miles of his home at Cooper's Hill Park, Egham his car crashed into a telegraph pole and his left arm and left leg were fractured. He also received injuries to his head. His son was driving the car and a butler was also in the car. A passing motorist went to Egham police station from where Inspector Gray immediately despatched Sergeant Brown and picked up Dr Bird and followed. They found Lord Cheylesmore still seated in the shattered car. A passing motor van was stopped and the Lord taken to the hospital in Englefield Green He did not lose consciousness throughout his ordeal. The King and Queen caused sympathetic enquiries to be made.¹

21 September 1929 Surrey Advertiser: Inspector Gray's Promotion: Inspector Gray of the Surrey Constabulary has been stationed at Egham four years has been promoted to superintendent and will take charge of the Chertsey Division in October on retirement of Superintendent Daws. Inspector Gray who has seen between 20 and 30 years service is a popular officer and has gained the confidence of the authorities and public in a marked degree. He is to be succeeded by Inspector Minter of Cranleigh.

1929 23 November Surrey Advertiser: Presentation to Superintendent and Mrs Gray. Gifts of a gold watch and cheque. Officer's tribute to the Special Constabulary.



On Wednesday evening, at the Victoria Hall, there was a large gathering, including police and special constables, on the occasion of a presentation to Supt. Gray, of the Chertsey Division Surrey Constabulary, who was stationed at Egham as inspector until a few weeks ago. He had gained the esteem of the public, and this was recognised by a generous response to a suggestion that he should be presented with a parting gift.

¹ The Times Monday, Jul 20, 1925

The committee formed to organise the testimonial had Mr. R. V. Menzies as hon. secretary. It was decided that the testimonial should comprise a gold watch and illuminated address for Supt. Gray and a cheque, with which to purchase jewellery, for Mrs. Gray. The superintendent's initials were inscribed on the watch, together with the words: "Presented to Supt. F. W. Gray by Egham residents as an appreciation of his services as Inspector of the Surrey County Constabulary, October, 1929." The wording of the address referred to Supt. Gray's "tact, ability and courtesy," and expressed good wishes for his and Mrs. Gray's continued good health, happiness and prosperity. The names of 100 subscribers followed.

Mr. H. Weller, J.P., presided at the gathering, and among those present were Sir John Cameron, Deputy Chief Constable Kenward, Rear-Admiral B. U. Colclough (treasurer of the fund), Dr. A. G. Wilkinson, Supt. Boshier (Woking), Inspector Gower (Chertsey), a number of police and special constables, and Messrs. R. V. Menzies, G. Cameron Black, J.P. (chairman of the Chertsey Rural District Council), H. R. H. Smith (clerk to the Egham Urban Council), A. L. Pound, F. E. Larkin, E. Feltham, W. Bungard and Bennett.

The Chairman said they had met to show the esteem, respect, and affection in which the people of Egham held Superintendent Gray. He referred to a number of letters, expressing appreciation of the Superintendent's work, including letters from Sir William Barber and the matron of the Egham Cottage Hospital, and afterwards paid a tribute to Mrs. Gray.

Sir John Cameron said it was an undoubted fact that **Superintendent Gray** had gained the esteem of everyone in the district. It was with feelings of deep regret that they saw the chapter closed of very happy associations between that district and **Superintendent Gray**.—**Sir John** then handed the watch and address to **Superintendent Gray**, and the cheque to **Mrs. Gray**.

Deputy Chief Constable Kenward said it was good of them to make the presentations, because it showed that the police had good friends.

Mr. F. E. Laekin, on behalf of the tradesmen of the town, thanked the **Superintendent** for his kindness in looking after their interests, and referred to the direction and supervision of the traffic in the narrow parts of **Egham** and during **Ascot** races.

Mr. A. L. Pound thanked the chairman, and also referred in kindly terms to **Superintendent Gray**.

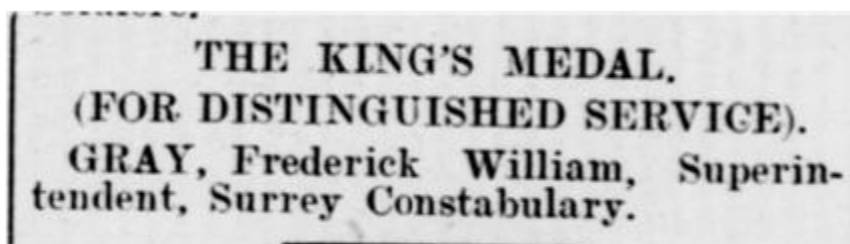
An excellent musical programme was carried out by **Messrs. Stokes, Crosswell, Riley, Joe Cox and P.C. Wiggins**.

The Funeral of PC Herrett KPM for Gallantry

Captain M. L. Sant, Chief Constable, and over 120 officers and men of the Surrey Constabulary attended the funeral at Elstead yesterday (Friday) afternoon. All the divisions in the county were represented and among the officers were Superintendents W.R. Lucas, (Farnham), A. Dawes (Chertsey), **Inspectors Gray (Egham)**, Evans (Woking) Dibley (Hersham) Pickard (Farnham) and Rendell (Caterham). There were also present large a number of special constables from Bagshot and other districts, a contingent of men from the Hants Constabulary, and members of the Bagshot Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade. The bearers from the Bagshot section of the Chertsey Division were Sergeant Holloway, PCs Bright, Newman, O'Donnell, Tarrott, and Wood. Mrs Holloway, wife of Sergeant Holloway represented the wives of officers and men of the Bagshot Division. Windlesham Urban Council were represented by Mr. H. W. Penford, a member and Mr Cyril Gray, surveyor. Two Guardsmen represented the Grenadier Guards. -----
---. The police and representatives of other bodies lined the pathway to the church and the Venerable J. G. S. Syme (rector) conducted the service.

1931 January 10: Early yesterday a party of Surrey police officers some carrying spades set out on an extensive search of the vicinity of Virginia Water and of parts of Windsor Great Park for clues to the disappearance seventeen months ago of Winifred Parrant then aged eighteen. This was the sixth day of the search, which so far has produced two outstanding finds, a woman's hat and an attaché case. The girl went missing on August 13, 1929, and an extensive search was undertaken then without result. The search was re-activated following information from a soldier who had been stationed in the area. A conference was held in Guildford attended by Deputy Chief Constable Kenward and Inspector Head of Esher, which resulted in a search of Clock Case Plantation. The deputy chief constable and **Superintendent Gray of Chertsey** and seven constables left Chertsey police station early in motorcars. The policemen were wearing workmen's clothes in order to avoid attracting attention. ² ³ **1931 January 12:** The missing person was traced alive and well, married and living in London. ⁴

1933 June 22: Alleged attack on a woman: Attempted charge: Jack Francis Haines 33, a factory worker of Rose Bank, St Paul's Road, Egham Hythe was charged yesterday at Chertsey with the attempted murder of Mrs Mabel Rosina Smith at her home at Avenue Road, Egham Hythe on June 17. Inspector Head said that at 12.30 am yesterday he saw Haines at Staines Police Station and after cautioning him, charged him with attempting to murder Mrs Smith Haines replied, "I have nothing to say." Later at Chertsey police station Superintendent Gray charged Haines and he made no reply. **Superintendent Gray** asked for a remand for sufficient time to enable him to communicate with the Director of Public Prosecutions. Haines was remanded for seven days, and magistrates granted his application for legal aid.⁵



Surrey Mirror 5 January 1934

1934 February Court Circular: Superintendent Gray, Surrey Constabulary King's Police Medal.⁶

² 1931 January 10: The Scotsman

³ The Times Saturday, Jan 10, 1931

⁴ 1931 January 12: The Scotsman

⁵ The Times Thursday, Jun 22, 1933

⁶ The Times Wednesday, Feb 28, 1934

HOLDER OF KING'S MEDAL

Supt. Gray holds the King's police medal for distinguished service, this award being made in the honours list on January 1st this year, and shortly afterwards he was presented with the medal by the King at a levee at Buckingham Palace.

On joining the police force Supt. Gray was stationed at Frimley, and later was at Hindhead, Wrecclesham and Bramley. He was transferred to Mickleham, where he remained for 11½ years. He next moved to Woking as acting-sergeant, and while there was made sergeant, and went to Chertsey with that rank. He was promoted inspector during his service at Chertsey, and took over duty at Godalming. After about a year at Godalming he served nearly five years at Egham, before going to Chertsey five years ago.

Supt. Gray has been an efficient and popular officer.

Surrey Advertiser December 1934

THIRTY-SIX YEARS WITH COUNTY POLICE

As stated last week, Supt. F. W. Gray, who has been in charge of the Chertsey Division of the Surrey Constabulary for the last five years, is retiring on December 19th. He will be succeeded by Det.-Inspector Curry, from county headquarters, Guildford.

Supt. Gray has had an honourable career in the Surrey County Constabulary for 36 years, having joined as a constable in 1898. Prior to that he had lived in Windsor Park, his father being an official in the park. Supt. Gray went to the Park School, and was in the choir of the church in the park, which was frequently attended by Royalty. He was also a member of the Windsor Park Company of the Royal Berks Volunteers, and served under the present chairman of the Chertsey Bench, Mr. J. H. W. Pilcher, who was the captain of the company for many years.

Surrey Advertiser 15 December 1934

1934 December 28: Lynn Advertiser: Detective Inspector Curry of the HQ Division of the Surrey Constabulary, Guildford will succeed **Superintendent G Gray**, Chertsey who retires on December 29. Detective Inspector Curry is the son of Mr. Alfred Curry and the late Mrs Curry of New Houghton. His family have lived in the Houghton District for many years.

No. 6 Police Training Centre Sandgate Folkstone Kent (later No. 6 DPTC)⁷

Dr. Peter Kennison⁸

As a collector of police memorabilia and having recently acquired my father's police pictures I am keen to find out more about the Training Establishment that he attended at Sandgate Kent in 1952. Of special interest to me was seeing my father's end of course class photograph which



is shown below.

Researching the details of the early origins, use and development of the site interesting facts and events are revealed.

These include some historical facts and details of a few fascinating events and some informative newspaper articles.

No. 6 Police Training

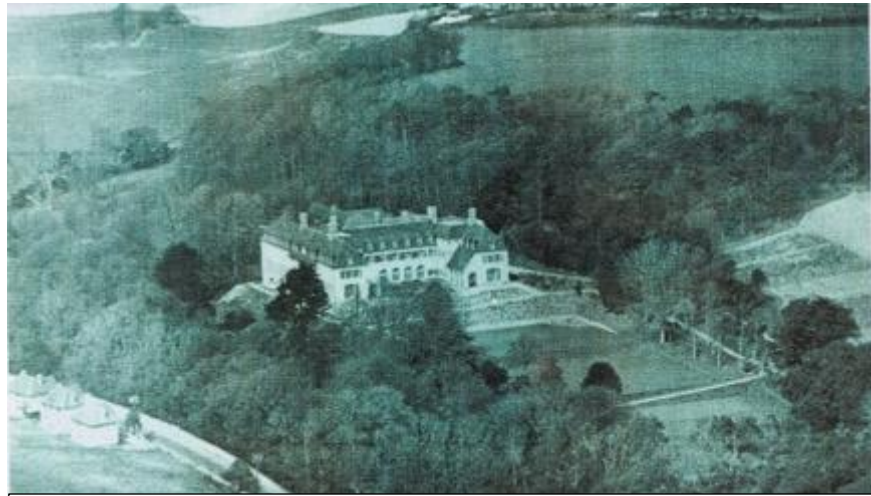
Centre was situated south west of Folkstone harbour and half way to Hythe beach the picture above shows the south aspect of the training establishment. Today a futuristic building occupies the site owned by the Saga Group insurance and called Enbrook Park CT20 3SE situated above St. Pauls Church and below the Martello Tower facing the sea⁹.

⁷ <https://british-police-history.uk/f/kent-county-cadet-to-constable>

⁸ Son of the late Frank Kennison Surrey Constabulary, served as inspector in MP before retirement

⁹ Google maps accessed 8th January 2026

The site was originally built on land called Enbrook Park which was part of what constituted a portion of Coolinge Farm with its lush green arable pastures. The farm had Celtic origins and over several centuries it devolved into a significant agricultural estate located in the Sandgate and Cheriton areas of Folkestone, Kent. On site the estate was primarily known for its preserved historic buildings and the schools that eventually occupied its lands¹⁰. In 1806 the 27 acres of land was bought by John



An ariel photograph of the Training Centre taken in the

Bligh, 4th Earl of Darnley, who intended to use it as a coastal retreat for him and his family. The estate and buildings passed through various members of the Darnley family since that time and was sold in 1919 becoming part of a charitable Trust.

By the Mid-1850s the renowned Gothic Revival architect Samuel Sanders Teulon (1812–1873) was commissioned by the Darnley family to build a house on the estate. However, he was known for his distinctive and individualistic approach, characterized by a notable use of polychrome brickwork and elaborate architectural planning. He has often been described as a "rogue" architect for his original, rather than strictly doctrinal, interpretation of the Gothic style. Teulon designed and oversaw the building of Enbrook House on the property using ragstone quarried from the estate. For more than 100 years the estate remained in the ownership of the Darnley family.

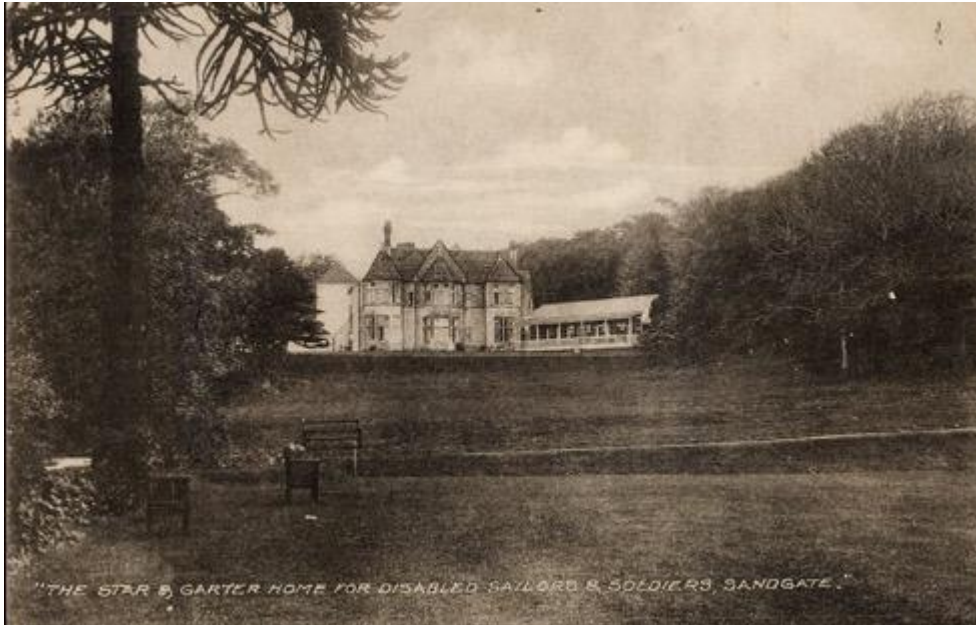
“The High Victorian Movement in Architecture, Stefan Mehtesius commented on the construction stating;

“A remarkable instance of cottage features being engrafted upon a small country house is S. S. Teulon's Enbrook (Kent) of 1853. There are no parapets or stone-framed gables, the roof is allowed to project over the walls the many gables are hipped. Enbrook may be compared to Pugin's own house 'The Grange at Ramsgate (see projecting bay windows, but Teulon abandoned the heavy barge boarding of the gable in favour of neater contours p.53”.¹¹

¹⁰https://www.google.com/search?q=what+was+Coolinge+farm+Sandgate+Kent&gs_l=... accessed on 21st December 2025

¹¹ <https://archive.sandgatesociety.com/uploads/document/5cfe39420c097.pdf>

The granddaughter of Lord Darnley the countess of Chichester inherited the property and the house became known as Chichester House, being rebuilt in the Cape Dutch style. Like many



of the great families of the nation during WW1 the house became a convalescent home for wounded soldiers and sailors. See picture at left)¹² In 1919 the Enbrook House estate was purchased

by for the Red Cross for a charitable Trust - the Royal Star and Garter Home (Richmond)¹³ who used as a seaside retreat for the wounded the ex-soldiers and sailors. These patients remained there pending rebuilding of the Star and Garter hospital at Richmond in 1924 and once these were complete the occupants returned to London. The empty building allowed for restructuring and repairs to be made and the same year Enbrook House was entirely redesigned and rebuilt by Sir Edwin Cooper FRIBA who retained Teulons imposing East Wall and many others architectural features.

In 1941 the centre was again requisitioned, this time by the Ministry of Works for use by the National Fire Service. Later in 1946 the site was handed back to the Royal Star & Garter Home (known as Enbrook House) and the Sandgate Star and Garter branch leased it to the Home Office for national police training purposes. Opened by Home Secretary Sir Frank Soskice July 1947 as No. 6 District Police Training Centre for constable's recruit training the Home Secretary would on occasions become the Reviewing Officer at Passing out parades.

By the late 1940s and early 1950s, England and Wales initially used 8 National Police Training Centres (also known later as District Training Centres) for basic recruit training. However, a revision of teaching methods, policy and systems was needed given the vast numbers of demobbed armed forces men returning from the front. Recruiting methods and training was remodelled nationally using a more professional approach not only for recruits but for instructors and staff as-well.

¹² <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/folkestone/news/the-hidden-gem-park-loved-by-locals-that-now-faces-an-uncert-282010/> accessed 13th January 2026

¹³ <https://archive.sandgatesociety.com/18> accessed on 9th January 2026

Key locations like Bruche (North West) which opened in 1946¹⁴ Bridgend (South Wales), and Eynsham Hall (Oxfordshire), alongside the prestigious Police College at Ryton on Dunsmore for senior ranks, creating a structured, district-based system to manage large post-war recruit numbers, with evolving curricula moving beyond technical skills to broader education. After the 2nd World War, a re-organisation of police training at all levels saw the introduction



Entrance gate to the Training centre

of a number of regional training schools. The List of Training Centres were;

No. 1 District Police Training Centre, Bruche, Warrington, Lancashire

No. 2 Plawsworth, Yorkshire Easingwold (Plawsworth took all of the students for this district. Plawsworth was a hutted centre and adjacent to an NCB open cast mine which was being extended. It was replaced by Newby Wiske)

No. 3 Pannal Ash, Harrogate, Yorkshire

No. 4 Ryton on Dunsmore

No. 5 Eynsham Hall, Nr. Witney, Oxfordshire

No. 6 District Police Training Centre, Sandgate Road, Sandgate, Nr. Folkstone, Kent. Leased by Ministry of Works for Home Office. Opened in 1946 and transferred to the Police as No. 6 Training Centre. It closed in 1975 and transferred its resources to the nearby Grosvenor Hall.

No. 7 Eastwood Park, Falfield, Gloucestershire

¹⁴ Randles, M. G. (2006) Bruche A Collection of Memories. Birkenhead, Wirrall, Country wise Limited.

No. 8 District Police Training Centre, Bridgend, Glamorgan



SE No. 92.

No. 6 DISTRICT POLICE TRAINING CENTRE.
1952

Photo: T. E. I
62 ANERLEY I
Photo: 575

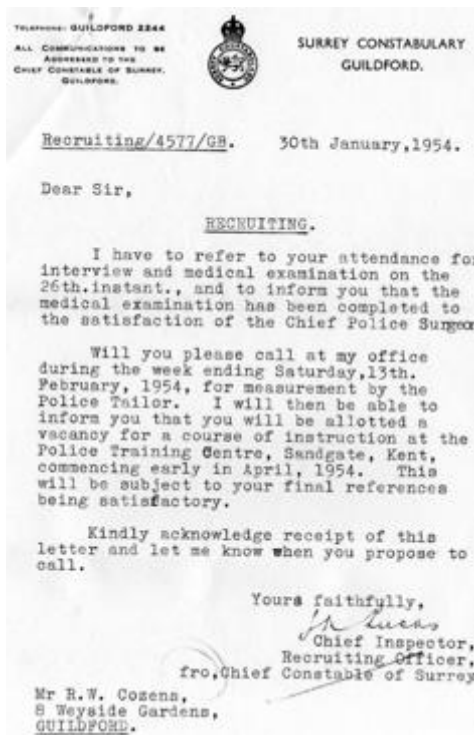
R. Gibson, <i>Kent.</i>	G. H. Keen, <i>Berkshire.</i>	B. Halfenden, <i>East Sussex.</i>	L. Barwell, <i>East Sussex.</i>	E. Stoner, <i>East Sussex.</i>	M. Clarke, <i>Hampshire.</i>	A. E. Roots, <i>Kent.</i>			
T. H. R. Wakefield, <i>Surrey.</i>	A. S. Mace, <i>Surrey.</i>	B. W. Fry, <i>Portsmouth.</i>	C. Barton, <i>Portsmouth.</i>	D. S. Harding, <i>Surrey.</i>	E. Bedson, <i>Berkshire.</i>	R. A. Britten, <i>Hampshire.</i>	S. R. Smith, <i>Kent.</i>		
F. C. H. Berryman, <i>Surrey.</i>	A. P. Keene, <i>Hampshire.</i>	T. Cottam, <i>Kent.</i>	R. Godden, <i>Hampshire.</i>	D. Stepany, <i>Eastbourne.</i>	K. Whitehead, <i>Berkshire.</i>	W. J. Attrill, <i>Hampshire.</i>	D. J. L. Huckle, <i>Kent.</i>	L. W. Fletcher, <i>Berkshire.</i>	
A. L. Baxter, <i>Portsmouth.</i>	F. E. Kennison, <i>Surrey.</i>	G. B. Legge, <i>Bournemouth.</i>	L. R. Rhimes, <i>Surrey.</i>	D. H. Sivyer, <i>West Sussex.</i>	E. A. Thomson, <i>Kent.</i>	S. J. Copas, <i>Surrey.</i>	R. M. White, <i>Hampshire.</i>	E. L. Austin, <i>Hampshire.</i>	S. R. Armstrong, <i>Portsmouth.</i>
Mott, W. A. Pack, <i>Surrey.</i>	Sgt. A. Milton, <i>Kent.</i>	Sgt. R. Harris, <i>Hampshire.</i>	Supt. H. C. Price, <i>Metropolitan.</i>	Ch. Supt. R. Roberts, <i>West Riding.</i>	M.B.E. Insp. L. H. Gurney, <i>Kent.</i>	Sgt. N. Taylor, <i>West Sussex.</i>	R. J. Hindry, <i>Kent.</i>	J. S. Downs, <i>West Sussex.</i>	S. P. ... <i>Portsmouth.</i>

Joining the Police. A potential recruit applied to join the police and submitted their application to the relevant Chief Constable of the force they wished to join. Following an interview and a medical check the successful applicant was allotted a day at headquarters to be fitted for a uniform which was worn for the duration of training. A date set to attend the Training centre was later sent to the applicant for commencement of training (See Surrey Constabulary Letter below).

The History of the training centre

The No. 6 District Police Training Centre taught recruits from towns and counties in South east England commencing after WW2 for recruits (and later cadets) from the counties of Kent, Surrey, Berkshire, East Sussex, West Sussex, Hampshire, Hastings, Portsmouth, Brighton Bournemouth, Reading, and Eastbourne. This was a residential recruit training centre which formed part of the students 2-year probation. The centre was initially housed in the Star & Garter building however later, during the 1960s and 70s, it also utilized the Enbrook House

building as well. The building housed a large canteen/cafeteria area, class rooms and dormitories.



Classes consisted of 35/40 recruits and trainees who underwent an intensive 13-week course covering such matters as Police Studies, street duty including criminal law, and marching drills. Drill was about deportment, uniform, working as part of a team. Discipline, about pride in being a police officer.

There was an emphasis of physical fitness and particularly foot drill, and self-defence.

The course started with learning the history of policing¹⁵ with law and procedure being taught in classroom settings. Practical training for officers including law, investigations, and emergency response, used modern methods with role-playing techniques. Included was studying police law enforcement, criminal law, police procedure. A mock court introduced the students to the preparation and presentation of evidence and the testing of trainees in the practicalities of giving evidence

effectively in court.

Recruits were taught the basics of first aid as prescribed by the St. Johns Ambulance. Throughout their service police officers were required to be holders of a current first aid certificate or similar. Later Civil Defence was added to the curriculum where the first line of defence in time of nuclear war was the thin blue line. Tear gas training formed part of this as well.¹⁶

Role playing was relied on to teach how the student police officer was to respond to traffic matters, accident or an arrest for shop lifting. What steps to take at the scene of a crime or what to do when a dead body is discovered. This helped them understand some of the situations, they might find themselves on the streets. Students were expected to learn by rote especially Acts of Parliament and



¹⁵ <https://british-police-history.uk/f/kent-county-cadet-to-constable> accessed on 22nd December 2026

¹⁶ <https://british-police-history.uk/f/kent-county-cadet-to-constable> accessed on 22nd December 2026

essential paragraphs from the Instruction Book (IB) for the Metropolitan Police and Constabularies used Student Lesson Notes.

Recruits were required to pass 3 exams at the junior, intermediate and senior stages of their training. Failing these tests could potentially lead to an appearance in the office of the chief instructor or immediate dismissal from the force. Laziness was not tolerated.

Physical fitness and officer safety training: Recruit training needed to be tough and demanding. The recruits were initially tested on their levels of fitness in the gym and later out on the track and field. Being fit and strong was the central part of officer safety where learning self-defence tactics and holds was a vital part for officers' ability to defend themselves in any confrontational situation. Learning about officer safety and how to correctly search prisoners and suspects could help save a life.

Students were encouraged to join teams at the training centre as it was important to engender a sense of competition in football, rugby, hockey and cricket endearing a rivalry and competitive spirit.

Trainees were given swimming lessons, with a notable and challenging part of the training



taking place in the cold, open-air swimming baths (called Marina pool) located under the Lees in Folkestone. A canvas-covered truck would transport trainees to the pool. Trainees participated in drills, which also included getting dressed quickly after swimming lessons. Once able to swim a course of Lifesaving was undertaken with instructors teaching water safety and rescue methods as laid down by the Royal Life Saving Society.

Sudden death at the swimming lesson.

However sadly on a cold March Day in 1964 during one swimming lesson an emergency occurred where the class had to put their learned skills into practice. Having completed their class tests the 47-year-old Kent police instructor Sergeant Jack Howard collapsed. Immediately two class members rushed forward to his assistance, rendering mouth to mouth however their efforts proved in vain as he was already dead. Howard a strong swimmer had already taken a dip in the sea prior to the tests. A petty officer during the 2nd World War with the Royal Navy he joined the Metropolitan Police in 1947 but returned to his native town Dover a year later where he served for 14 years. He left a wife however their two sons had been killed in the Blitz.¹⁷

Teaching Staff and Centre Changes

¹⁷ Tonbridge Free Press - Friday 06 March 1964

There were other notable events during the life of the Training School and included changes in staff, promotions, significant events and accidents. Many personalities passed through the gates of the Training School including for example in 1948 after 27 years' in the police service Chief Inspector R. Crighton, Deputy Commandant of the No. 6 Police Training Centre, Sandgate, Folkestone, resigned to take up an appointment in South Africa.¹⁸

“In August 1952 there was a passing-out parade at Sandgate of course 67 at No 6 District Police Training College where the Inspecting Officer was the Chief Constable Portsmouth City Mr A C West OBE accompanied Commandant Chief Superintendent R Roberts MBE (West Riding). In charge of the Parade was Superintendent H C Price (Metropolitan) who was Deputy Commandant. The Commandant congratulated the top student- PC Chapman (Hampshire) for obtaining highest aggregate marks on the course. Mr West also stated that it was commendable that thirty-one awards from the Royal Life Saving Society had been obtained by the class and that every man could swim and had qualified for First Aid”.¹⁹

Central (Home Office) teaching methods ensure that all forces have a consistent standard of skills, knowledge, and ethical understanding required to protect the public, prevent crime, and provide a fair and effective service. Training other instructors called Student Instructors was the responsibility of central (or National) training and this took place at Sandgate. Local training was performed by officers from forces within the recruit catchment areas.



No. 6 Centre Dining Hall and stage which was severely damaged by fire in 1968

Recruit course 92 took place in 1952 and the Teaching and supervisory staff consisted of PS A. Milton (Kent), PS R. Harris (Hampshire), Superintendent H. C. Price (Metropolitan), Chief Superintendent R. Roberts MBE (West Riding), Inspector L. H. Gurney (Kent), and course instructor was PS N. Taylor (West Sussex).

In 1954 the teaching staff of Recruit Class 118 consisted of Chief Superintendent Pentecost (Surrey), Inspector Milton (Kent), Sergeant B. P. Mason. (Hampshire), Superintendent D. L. Brown (Kent), Sergeant Marchbank (West Sussex), and Sergeant R. V. Wallace (Kent).²⁰

¹⁸ Evening News (London) - Thursday 25 November 1948

¹⁹ Folkestone, Hythe, Sandgate & Cheriton Herald - Saturday 02 August 1952

²⁰ Police Memorabilia Collectors Club www.pmcc-club.co.uk accessed 30th December 2025

In 1956 there was a change of leadership when Superintendent Gaskain became the commandant of No. 6²¹ until in 1958 the deputy commandant was Superintendent Donald Leslie Brown who later became the chief constable of Hastings.

By 1961 the teaching staff now included Sergeant A. Milton (Kent) Sergeant R Harris (Hampshire) Inspector L Gurney (Kent) Sergeant N Taylor (West Sussex) Superintendent H. C. Price (Metropolitan) and Chief Superintendent R. Roberts MBE (West Riding).

A class of potential student instructors (sergeants) also took place at Sandgate entitled No. 21 between 6th March and 15th April 1961. The Student Instructors Course were drawn from Central Training were Ps A. Burkett (Bournemouth) WPs R. A. Pothercary (Surrey), Superintendent Dowell (Kent) Chief Superintendent McDougall (Metropolitan), Inspector Riddick (Kent and PS Moore (Portsmouth). John Stone who retired from the Surrey Constabulary and who died recently was one of those thousands of names who entered Sandgate in 1961. He said,



Sandgate Centre corridor to class

“I joined in December 1961 and did my training at Sandgate with Punchy Wallace the physical training instructor and Will Squires the drill sergeant. Our class instructor was Sergeant Hill (Kent) and Commandant Frank Brown”.²²

²¹ Penrith Observer - Tuesday 07 October 1958

²² p3 Surrey Constabulary History 133 edited by Robert Bartlett.



Eynsham Hall No. 5 Police District Training school near Witney Oxfordshire.

Recruit class 181 A3 Class took place between 25th September and 22nd December 1961 with PS W. Squires, Drill Instructor (Kent) and PS Wallace (Kent) Superintendent D. G. Vorley (West Sussex), Chief Superintendent F. A. Brown (Portsmouth), Inspector J. Cummings (Eastbourne) and J. M. Packham (Surrey).

Recruit Class 186 took place between 7th May and the 3rd August 1962. Their instructors were PS W. Squires Drill (Kent) PS R. V. Wallace (Kent), Superintendent D. G. Vorley (West Sussex), Chief Superintendent F. A. Brown (Portsmouth) Inspector A. F. Robinson (Eastbourne) and PS J. E. Dean Hampshire and IOW.

In 1963 Police Superintendent Dennis Parkin, DSO (South Yorkshire) who had lived for many years in Kent was appointed Commandant of No. 6 D.P.T.C., Sandgate, Folkestone having been promoted from inspector to chief superintendent within a year.²³

Class A2 of Recruit course 234 began in June 1968 and lasted until September. Their instructors were PS W. P. Squires (Kent) the drill Instructor and PS R. Wallace (Kent) Superintendent Morris (Kent) Chief Superintendent McDougall (Kent) Inspector Bowerman and PS Cotton.

The centre catches fire. In September 1968 the centre caught fire and 70 police cadets who were training at the centre at the time fought a blaze at the No. 6 police training centre at Sandgate Folkestone. The cadets formed a human bucket chain to fight the blaze until the arrival of the fire brigade. Later three appliances tackled the blaze which severely damaged the dining hall and stage area on the ground floor of the three-storey building.²⁴



The south lawns

²³ South Yorkshire Times and Mexborough & Swinton Times - Saturday 23 November 1963

²⁴ Kentish Express - Friday 13 September 1968

Recruit students had to ensure their uniforms and helmets were looked after at all times and free from fluff and dirt. Badges on helmets were highly polished with boots buffed and trousers ironed. It was important the recruits needed to have respect for the uniform they wore.

Officers were required to take a final examination to prove an acceptable level of suitability to continue their 2-year probation – the remainder of which was undertaken back in their forces and initially with a parent or tutor constable, on the streets.

In June 1962 the reviewing officer was Sir Joseph Simpson Metropolitan Police Commissioner (and former chief constable of the Surrey Constabulary) who said,

“...that the recruits had successfully completed a 13-week course of training that has given them a grounding in police law and practice, first-aid, lifesaving and swimming, self-defence, drill, physical education and Civil Defence”.²⁵

Among guests who watched the parade and inspection by Sir Joseph, were Mr. Hermon Rutherford, chief constable of Surrey and chairman of the Chief Constables' Committee, representatives of many police authority committees in the Southern Counties, and the Mayor of Folkestone, Cr. Wilfred Lawrence.²⁶



Sir Joseph continued with suggesting that the Sandgate Centre's 16 years of existence since 1962, the training of police constables and more than 6,530 cadets have been through the course. Not only were recruits taught at Sandgate but police cadets were too. Between them they have gained 6,062 St. John Ambulance Association awards, and 4,714 Royal Life Saving Society honours. And 712 non-swimmers have been taught to swim.²⁷

When not studying for the next day's test, they would be found washing their clothes, ironing their shirts and trousers or writing home to loved ones. Postcards of the Centre were available on sale at Sandgate produced by Lambert Weston

and son of Folkestone. These postcards could be purchased at the centre and were written home to wives, partners and relatives keen to hear how the recruits were getting on. Personal hygiene

²⁵ Kentish Express - Friday 29 June 1962

²⁶ Kentish Express - Friday 29 June 1962

²⁷ Kentish Express - Friday 29 June 1962

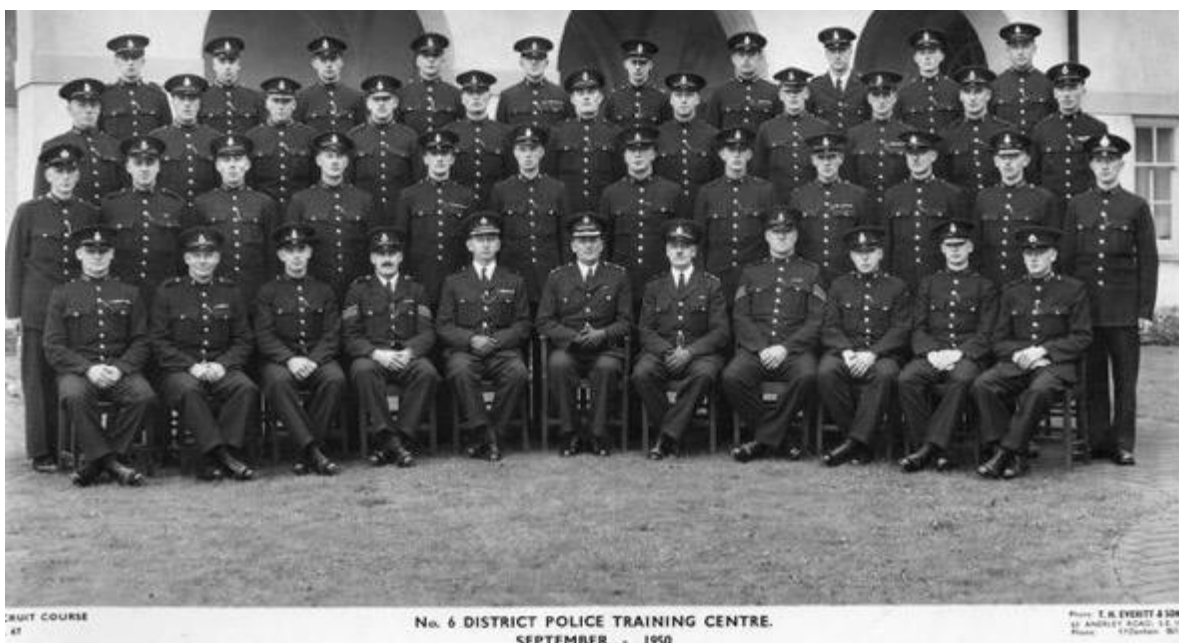
was also an important factor and the instructors would teach the students about keeping clean and avoid infection.

In the picture above left Assistant Chief Constable Ted Post from the Surrey Constabulary is the Reviewing officer and he would have given these successful students valuable words of advice to aid them in their careers.

Once a student had passed their final examination there was a passing out parade to which all the recruits looked forward to especially the course party in the evening. The Reviewing Officer police would examine and review and inspect the ranks of the successful candidates. Mothers, Fathers and other family members were invited to the parade to watch their sons (and later their daughters) qualify to the rank of constable. The reviewing officer also witnessed the students perform a complicated drill display which as one Senior officer noted “Their marching skills would be of credit to any Regiment of Guards”. Also present were the local and national newspapers who took pictures and reported on the events of the day. One such passing out parade was reported in June 1965 when the Home Secretary Sir Frank Soskice visited the centre to inspect the 74 trainees passing out who had completed their 3-month course and salute the march pass. The PT display and drill demonstration were also viewed by the senior officer. The press said,

“The officers from Kent and other South Eastern counties, would be returning 'to their respective forces to go on the beat”. The highlight was an “air sea rescue” specially suggested for Sir Frank to demonstrate raw co-operation that exists between the police “and the air sea rescue services”.

1950 Unnamed Recruit class pictures wear flat caps rather than helmets



In the lecture to the recruits Sir Frank offered words of advice suggesting that a policeman had to have many qualities.

‘You will need tact, a sense of humour and a deep understanding of human frailties.’ The junior band of the 'Royal Marines from Deal were ‘also on parade and they played a new march called “The ‘Blue Light”, which was specially written for the college by ' Capt. Peter Sumner. A helicopter from RAF. Manston hovered over the police college and winched up the police officer “in difficulties”. Then the helicopter landed in an adjoining field where an ambulance was waiting to take the “patient” to hospital. Sir Frank said he was very impressed with what he had seen.

He told the officers,

"You all belong to the greatest police force in the world. You have chosen a career which will be hard and strenuous and you won't receive many thanks. But it is an honourable career and one which will enable you to render inestimable service to your fellow citizens.²⁸

The passing out parade of Recruit Course 226 was worthy of special recognition given that it was the 21st Anniversary Parade at Sandgate on Friday 16th June 1967. The Reviewing Officer was the Rt Hon. Lord Cornwallis KBE MC Lord Lieutenant of Kent. Situated not far from Sandgate was the Royal Marines School of Music at Deal. A band would be supplied for passing out parades to supply music for the ceremony and occasionally for the events e.g. an evening dance. The Commandant at the time was Chief Superintendent G. S. McDougall (Kent) assisted by Deputy Commandant Superintendent C. Dowell (Kent). The Home Office supplied the Secretary and Chief Instructor namely Mr. G.S. Spackman and Chief Instructor J. B. Norris (Durham). Four Inspectors and 18 sergeants drawn from the recruiting area made up the rest of the teaching staff. Some 59 recruits assed out on that day.

The Order of Events started with the Parade Assemblies under the supervision of the Deputy Commandant. This was followed by an Inspection and march past. Next was a drill display organised by the drill sergeant W. P. Squires (Kent). R. V. Wallace (Kent) was responsible for the Physical Training (PT) Demonstration. Next the Band of the Royal Marines School of Music gave a recital by kind permission of Colonel N. S. E. Maude (Commandant). A display by the police dogs and handlers of the Kent County Constabulary (By kind permission of the Chief Constable of Kent R. D. Lemon). An address to the students came next by Lord Cornwallis (Lord Lieutenant of Kent) followed by a reply by F. J. Parsons JP Chairman of the District Police Authority Committee. Tea was served later on the terrace.²⁹

The local newspapers further reported;

“A comprehensive programme of arena events has been arranged commencing with a pass-out parade of recruits and inspection by the Chief Constable of Hampshire. This will be followed by displays of physical training, foot drill, and a display by the Hampshire Constabulary Band. The arena events will be concluded by a display by Kent police dogs Police transportation, communication, major incidents and many other

²⁸ Chatham, Rochester and Brompton Observer - Friday 25 June 1965

²⁹ Correspondence leaflet published for the 21st Anniversary 1967 by F. J. Parsons (Kent Newspapers) Folkstone.

facets of police work will be featured within the centre, including closed circuit television and the reproduction of photographs within patrol cars”.³⁰

In 1972 the Police Training Establishment was open for the first time to the general public not just the guests of the recruits passing out. This was a community safety exercise to open the doors and showcase the modern achievements currently taking place in policing.

A year later the District Training Centre was closed and eventually relocated to Grosvenor Hall, Kennington in Ashford previously a Metropolitan Police Phase 2 Cadet Training Centre. The Ashford Police Training Centre took over as the Training school for cadets and recruits and operated from 1973 until 2006, when it became a youth activity centre.

In 1977 Inter-City Tours Ltd (SAGA) purchased the 27-acre estate for around £200,000. The old Star and Garter Buildings, were demolished in 1996 and replaced by the SAGA Holiday Insurance Group's offices and pavilion complex was built in 2001.

The picture below shows the Saga Building and Pavillion on a promontory overlooking the sea at Sandgate.³¹ It wasn't until March 2025 that SAGA moved into their new premises which now formed their Headquarters.

Today, parts of the area are still recognized as a valuable local recreation space whose green space is used free through which the public may wander.

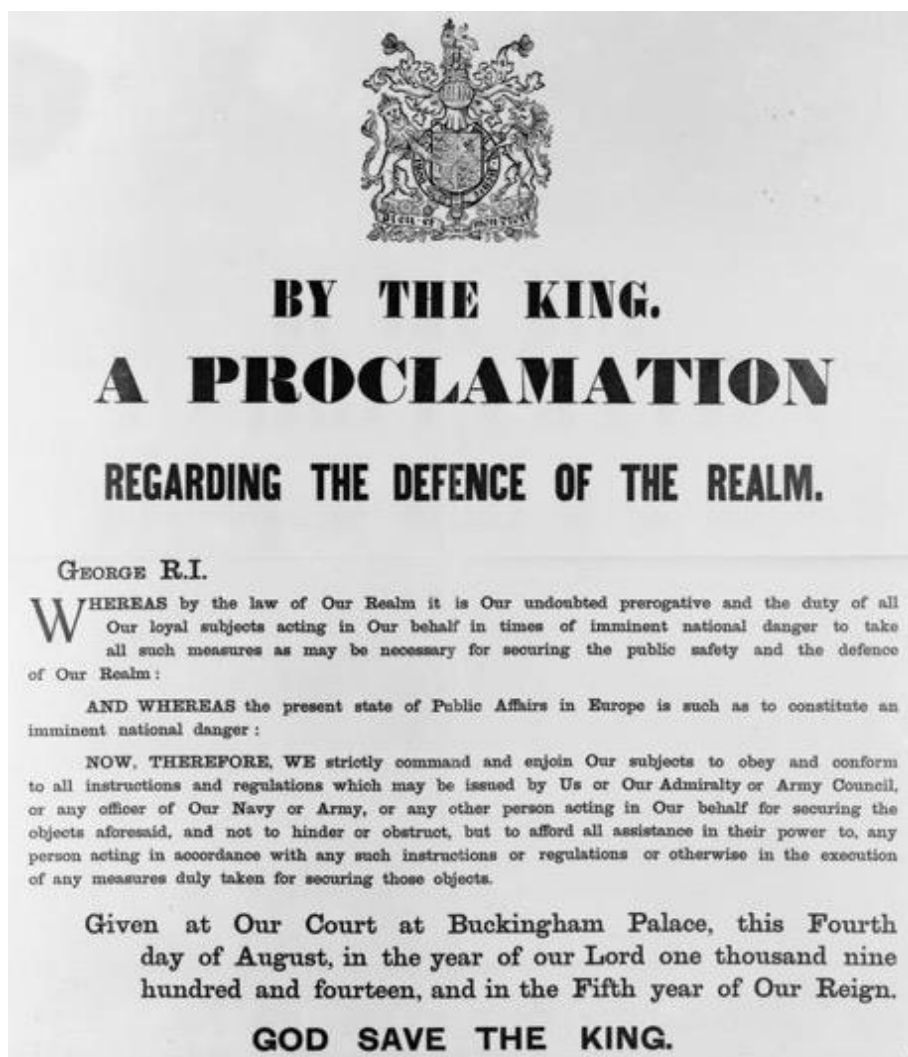


³⁰ Sheerness Times Guardian - Friday 25 August 1972

³¹ Courtesy of Hopkins Architects <https://www.hopkins.co.uk/projects/workplace/saga-group-headquarters/>

Policing – A Reserved Occupation

Robert Bartlett



In World War II, the British police was classified as a reserved occupation, meaning officers were generally exempt or forbidden from military service so they could maintain security of the home front. This status was codified in the Schedule of Reserved Occupations, which prioritized "essential services" over military conscription. As during the First World War there was constant conflict of interest between the chief constable and the military who were keen to enlist as many police officers as they could. Forget the TV or Agatha Christie versions of pre-war police officers. They were the cream of the working class, able practical men, stoic, brave, most were born leaders.

When war was declared in 1939, nationally, nearly 3,000 policemen were on the military reserve and liable for immediate recall to the colours. This was a problem previously experienced during the Boer War when 1500 police were called up. Again, in the First World War the Metropolitan Police alone lost 1,032 from a strength of just over 22,000 and in the

provinces 2,728 were called to the colours from a total strength of 33,416. Another developing issue at the outbreak of war, 25% of the police were under 25 years of age and therefore liable to general call up.³² In November 1939 the call up of Reserves began for those under 35 leaving a policing gap to be filled by auxiliaries. A further threat came when former skilled artisans serving in the police were directed away from the police to work in shipyards and mines.³³

The Police and Firemen (War Service) Act 1939³⁴ which begat The Police and Firemen (Employment) Order June 1940 (S.R. & O. 1940 No. 81), decreed that these occupations were reserved, members were not to be enlisted in the armed forces. No retirement or resignations were permitted. In the spring of 1941 officers were encouraged to apply for air crew in the RAF and Fleet Air Arm, the Metropolitan Police alone providing 800 men. The Metropolitan Police was about a third of the national police force and so overall it was likely that 2,400 fit and active officers were lost, many never to return given the very high casualty rate of air crew.³⁵ Others were allocated roles within fighting units of the Army and the Royal Navy.³⁶

A significant number were allowed to join the Army Commandos with one complete Commando under Lord Lovat formed of police officers – how the lamps would have swung! Lord Lovat wrote, “Losses at Dieppe were replaced by a fine entry of former police officers who were to win many Commandos’ respects for the high quality of men enlisted.” There is further evidence from one of the most highly regarded Commando officers of the war Brigadier John Durnford-Slater DSO and Bar. In his book *Commando* he writes of the losses at Dieppe during the raid and replacements arriving. “By this time the Commando depot at Achnacarry, Scotland was a very live place under the direction of Colonel Charles Vaughan, a tough guardsman. Charles at once set about the task of providing the necessary officers and men to bring us up to strength. He was in a particularly good position to do this, as he had just finished training a batch of 600 volunteers from the police.”

A substantial number of police officers were men of significant calibre, but part of an organisation that did not allow, recognise or reward talent, demanding 15 years’ service before being a sergeant with any leadership responsibilities. Wartime armed forces recognised the abilities of these men who were allowed to “blossom” in positions of responsibility. Durnford-Slater, “This intake of police was perfect Commando material. The men were big, strong and intelligent and had all their police discipline and training behind them. They were real volunteers keen for the contest. I had 120 of them posted to No 3 Commando. This was the best single intake we ever received, and every man was a potential leader; many of course were later commissioned, and others exerted a fine influence as senior NCOs.”³⁷ It is easy to understand the government’s constant wish to recruit more men from the police into the armed forces.

³² The Gentlemen at War Policing Britain 1939-1945 Roy Ingleton 1994 page 27

³³ The Gentlemen at War Policing Britain 1939-1945 Roy Ingleton 1994 page 28

³⁴ The History of Police in England and Wales Critchley page 225

³⁵ The Gentlemen at War Policing Britain 1939-1945 Roy Ingleton 1994 page 27

³⁶ Ingleton page 28

³⁷ *Commando. Memoirs of a fighting Commando in World War Two* Durnford-Slater page 109

The threat of invasion was reduced by 1942 allowing a further 7,000 officers to be released from the policing the Home Front. Eventually all those under 30, 35 for auxiliaries, were de-reserved. A further relaxation on recruiting police took place in September 1944 when 8,000 police officers and 16,000 auxiliaries left to fill the gaps following the invasion of France and the planned enhancement of resources to fight in the Far East.³⁸

For those left to police the Home Front, (not a soft option) were often older men, less robust, helped by war reserves and special constables inexperienced and many unsuitable for the armed forces. This does not mean they were not good and at times effective people, but the application, training and experience of the younger men was lost to the military. It was hard work and often dangerous to be in the towns and cities as well in rural areas where the men were very much on their own. Danger did not just come from the skies, but from the multitude of British and Allied troops living life on the edge, the demon drink, driving and just living in the darkened world of the blackout.

Age Limits. The age of "reservation" changed as the war continued. Initially, many younger officers and reservists (those with prior military experience) were released to the Armed Forces in 1939, only to be recalled to police duties some later returned to the military by 1942. It seems that a fit young police officer working a beat, was aware that at any time he may be called to serve in the armed forces, then possibly released back to the police to be recalled again into the military. Unpredictable!

Wartime Police Roles expanded far beyond peacetime law enforcement to include:

Enforcing blackouts, sounding air-raid sirens, and assisting in casualty rescue.

Maintaining public order with strict enforcement of liquor licensing laws. Working with local military senior officers and military police to maintain discipline and firm control when away from camp. Detaining soldiers who were absent from their units, monitoring "enemy aliens" and protecting key infrastructure from sabotage.

Handling ration fraud, combating black market trading, and assisting in the recovery of escaped prisoners of war. Investigating spy scares.

A great deal of Home Office led secret planning was undertaken from 1938 and upon the outbreak of war, this ensured that a force such as the Surrey Constabulary was well prepared though it is likely the sheer volume of regulations appalled all those charged with implementing them.³⁹

To meet this mass of regulation early in 1939 the Home Office directed that policing numbers were to be expanded to meet the demands of war. It would not be possible to have a full complement of regular officers so there was to be a mixture of range and capability of uniformed police. A police force was to be constituted of several parts though answerable through the normal command and control structures of the various forces.

³⁸ The Gentlemen at War Policing Britain 1939-1945 Roy Ingleton 1994 page 30

³⁹ Durrant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 58

So, who policed the United Kingdom during the 1939-1945 war? There was the need to fill the gap left by officers who re-joined the military. Local police commanders had a variety of volunteers, part time or full-time constables to supplement a core of regular police officers. As the war progressed the auxiliary constables took on many of the duties of the regulars, but public sentiment was expressed in a music hall song from the first great war, “ you can’t trust a special like an old-time copper when you can’t find your way home.” The core of regular officers of 57,000 men after the 3,000 men with reserve obligations left, added about 35,000 additional, full-time auxiliaries giving a total number of police officers of varying experience and capability by 1942 of 90,000. There had never been so many “police” officers.⁴⁰

First Police Reserve: Established before the First World War the First Reserve made up of former police officers and it was planned, army personnel who would be trained and equipped and like the Territorial Army called up if necessary. This idea did not come to fruition as it was argued that untrained former soldiers did not have a great deal to offer the police. Some police pensioners expressed a willingness to participate and were paid a retainer, underwent training sessions and many were deployed successfully during the First World War.⁴¹

The First Police Reserve was largely mothballed between the wars though some forces activated the reserve during the Munich crisis with the involvement of ex-soldiers quietly dropped! In 1938 there were 10,000 officers in the reserve.⁴²

In April 1939, following a directive from the Secretary of State, Surrey County Council was authorised to re-establish a first Police Reserve of 130 men for the county.⁴³ The force was to be equipped in the same manner as the regular constabulary. Also, to be established was a special constabulary force of 1,515 men, with 500 earmarked for full or near full time duty in the event of war. A Police War Reserve of 500 men was further to be established, mainly from the existing number of special constables.

War Reserve Police: Full-time, paid temporary officers (17,000 by 1944) who often wore Brodie helmets (Tin Helmet) and were sometimes armed with rifles.

Women’s Auxiliary Police Corps (WAPC) was established in August 1939 as a wartime volunteer force for women aged 18–55, designed to support police duties during the war. Carried out a restricted range of duties which included driving and maintenance of vehicles, clerical, telephone, radio and canteen work. Many were later attested as constables.⁴⁴ By March 1942 the 226 policewomen employed at the outbreak of war rose to 2,800 regulars and auxiliaries. By the end of the war there were there were 3,700 and in addition there were over 400 regular policewomen.⁴⁵

Regular Police Officers Reservation Age 18+. Under the 1939 Schedule of Reserved Occupations, regular police officers were "reserved" starting from the age of 18. Any man

⁴⁰ The History of Police in England and Wales Critchley page 225

⁴¹ The Gentlemen at War Policing Britain 1939-1945 Roy Ingleton 1994 page 32

⁴² The History of Police in England and Wales Critchley page 224

⁴³ Surrey County Council, Committee Reports, 1939, pp.1384-1388

⁴⁴ The History of Police in England and Wales Critchley page 225

⁴⁵ The History of Police in England and Wales Critchley page 226

already serving as a regular police officer was generally prohibited from being conscripted into the Armed Forces regardless of his age.

Police War Reserve (PWR) recruitment age: 30+. For those joining the Police War Reserve a temporary, paid force created to bolster numbers, men typically accepted if they were over the age of 30 at the time of registration. This ensured that the PWR did not drain the pool of younger men needed for active military combat. Formed with a view to serve whole time as temporary constables in time of war. In 1944 there were 17,000 war reserve constables. The rank was dissolved on 31 December 1948, causing 686 officers to be discharged from service, and the remainder being recruited for service as a regular or special constable.

Special Constables: Age Requirement over 40 or in a reserved occupation. Special Constables were typically older men who volunteered for part-time police duty. Some wartime volunteers were full time and paid whilst others were generally part time and unpaid. Tens of thousands were enrolled.

Police Auxiliary Messenger Service (PAMS). Age Range 14 to 18 whose purpose was to free up adult officers from administrative and courier tasks. Boys were recruited as messengers to deliver communications during air raids. In the years leading up to the Second World War there was a concern at the future loss of young officers to the armed forces and so a number of young men were recruited as civilian clerks. These lads in uniform, were to act as messengers both inside the police station and outside either on foot or by the ubiquitous bicycle. Once war broke out the existence of these lads was generally recognised with the formation of the Police Auxiliary Messenger Service. These became the boy clerks and eventually police cadets. Nationally at least five members were killed in air raids.

Summary of 1939 Police Reservist Status

Role	Reservation Age	Status
Regular Police	18	Fully reserved from military call-up
Police War Reserve	30	Reserved only if over age 30
Special Constables	40+	Volunteers not eligible for military service
Auxiliary Messengers	14–18	Below the age of conscription

Note: These thresholds were tightened as the war progressed. By 1941, the age of reservation for many occupations was raised, and many younger officers who were initially reserved were eventually released to the military.

1943 December 31

Authorised regular establishment of Surrey Constabulary 663

396 actual

208 in the armed services, 28 Royal Navy or Royal Marines, 119 Army, 61 RAF.

Commissions had been awarded to 32.

Some were reported killed and others missing. All those serving in the military have allowances to make their pay up to police rates if their military pay currently fell below. Well over a hundred men returned to the Surrey Constabulary from the fighting services in 1945-46.

Guildford Borough Police was 63 strong in 1939 with 7 recalled to the armed forces in December. ⁴⁶ By 1940 January, ten members of the Guildford Borough Police were serving in the armed forces. ⁴⁷

1943 Reigate Borough Police 20 of about 40 officers were serving in the armed forces. ⁴⁸ 1943 the establishment Special Constabulary Reigate Borough 147, who were to perform 120,431.5 hours duty during the war. ⁴⁹ An average of 44.2 Special Constables turned out on 87 air raid warnings. The Special Constabulary Mobile Section was reduced by the War from 24 to 9 cars but there was a car on duty every evening from 7pm at both Reigate and Redhill. The motorcyclists were reduced to four but every evening there was always one on duty. ⁵⁰

Nationally

Military call on police manpower

Call up of police officers 1939 with reservist obligations	3,000
Police then became a reserve occupation until late 1941	
Younger police officers called up by November 1942	7,000
Police officers September 1944	8,000
Auxiliary police officers September 1944 ⁵¹	16,000

Police Officers serving in armed forces February 1944

⁴⁶ They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary

⁴⁷ They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary

⁴⁸ SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police

⁴⁹ SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police

⁵⁰ SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police

⁵¹ The Gentlemen at War Policing Britain 1939-1945 Roy Ingleton 1994 page 30

Total serving	15,000
Naval ratings	2,400
Naval officers	800
RAF air crew	2,000
RAF commissioned	1,000
Army	9,000

Classification nationally of serving police officers May 1944

Pre-war total police establishment	63,388
Regular policemen with less than 30 years' service	38,739
Regular policewomen	416
Regular policemen with full service for pension	2,717
First Police Reserve: consisting of men generally police pensioners who undertake to serve as temporary constables	2,061
Police War Reserve undertake to serve whole time as temporary constables in time of war.	14,412
Full time special constables though most served part time and unpaid.	732
Women's Auxiliary Police Service	3,702
Total	62,779 ⁵²

Approximate number nationally of fatal police casualties Home Front by role

Regular Police	Special Constable	War Reserve	Reserve	Police Nurse and Telephonist	Police Auxiliary Messenger
205	135	127	14	2	5

Reigate Borough Police 1939. The 1939 mix of manpower on the strength of the Reigate Borough Police is an example of the impact the war was having on police work. One of the major issues being the loss of experience, reduced effectiveness of those who should have retired, and lack of training and experience of the auxiliaries.

⁵² The Gentlemen at War Policing Britain 1939-1945 Roy Ingleton 1994 page 30

Chief constable,
2 inspectors, 11 sergeants, 47 constables
First Police Reserve 7, 6 were retired Reigate Borough officers and one from East Sussex
Constabulary.⁵³

War Reserve of 9, one a special constable.

The authorised establishment became,
Chief constable, chief inspector
2 inspectors, 11 sergeants, 45 constables.
Special Constabulary had a chief, 1 chief inspector, 5 inspectors
21 sergeants, 125 constables.⁵⁴

The chief constable of the Surrey Constabulary was appointed county controller for Civil
Defence and Air Raid Precautions.⁵⁵ E Department Surrey Constabulary to co-ordinate and
manage all aspects of the force response to the war.

The strength of the Surrey Constabulary 1939

Chief constable
9 superintendents including deputy chief constable, 24 inspectors
61 sergeants, 426 constables making a total of 521.
Police War Reserve numbered 115 full time
First Police Reserve 41 full time
Special Constabulary part time 1,463.⁵⁶

On the 1 September 1939 Surrey Constabulary Police War Reserve and First Police Reserve
were immediately called to duty and a significant call for help was made for the part time
Special Constabulary. Huge resources initially went into manning vulnerable points and
detention of “doubtful” aliens. ⁵⁷

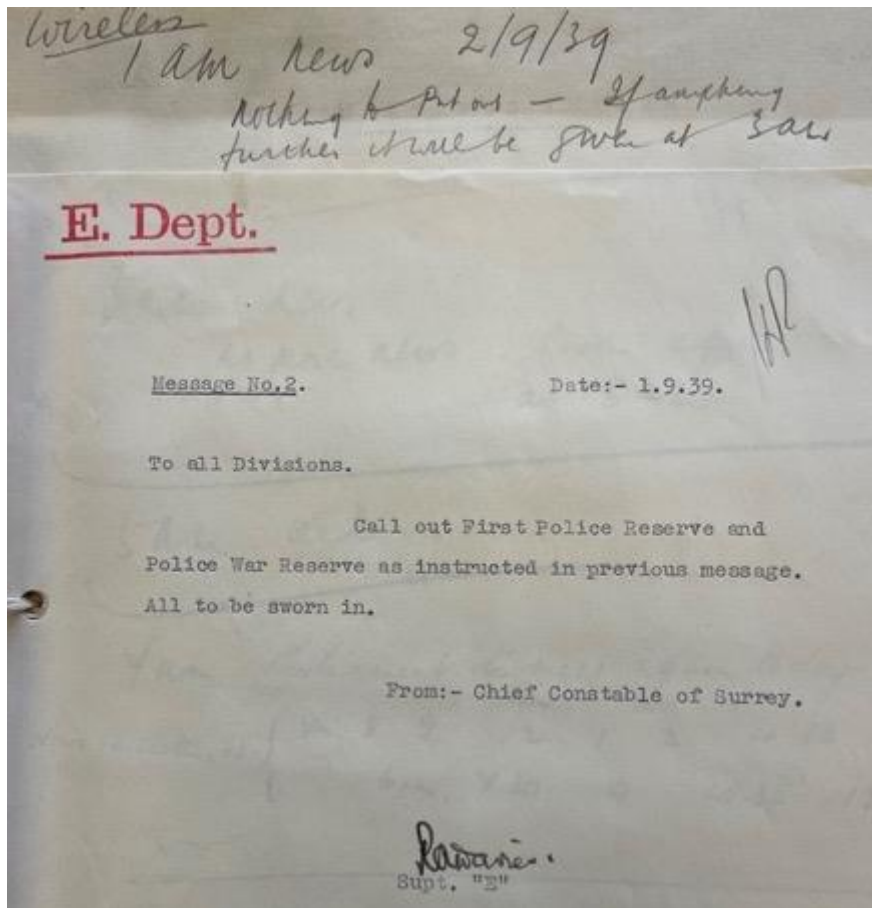
⁵³ SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police

⁵⁴ 1939 Annual Report Reigate Borough Police by the Chief Constable William Beacher CC/98/22/4

⁵⁵ Durrant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 59

⁵⁶ CC notes 1945 on the administration of the county police during the war.

⁵⁷ CC notes 1945 on the administration of the county police during the war.



In 1942 on 1 July all regular constables of up to 25 years of age and all Police War Reserve under thirty were de-reserved and their call up followed gradually. One hundred regulars and 14 Police War Reserves were called to the Colours from the Surrey Constabulary in addition officers from Reigate Borough and Guildford Borough Police joined up.⁵⁸

December 1942 establishment of the Surrey Constabulary

Regulars 383

Police War Reserve 500

First Police Reserve 43

Special Constabulary 1353

Woman's Auxiliary Police Corps 57.⁵⁹

From 1942, special constables were required to work a minimum of twelve hours a week, consisting of four hours of patrol duty and eight hours of 'standby' duty; these hours were amended regularly and shortened as the war drew to an end.

October 1943 establishment of the Surrey Constabulary

⁵⁸ CC notes 1945 on the administration of the county police during the war.

⁵⁹ CC notes 1945 on the administration of the county police during the war.

Home Office decided police numbers could be reduced and for the Surrey Constabulary this meant wholetime establishment of 930.

31 December 1943 the actual establishment was

Regular 396

Police War Reserve 468

First Police Reserve 35

Woman's Auxiliary Police Corps 90.⁶⁰

	1919 20 May	1919 16 Sept	1939	1942 Dec	1943 Dec	1943 Surrey Joint Police
CC	1	1	1			1
DCC			1(Supt)			1
Supt	8	8	8			
Insp	12	12	24			
Sgt	31	31	61			
PC	252	306	426			
Total regular police	304	358	521	383	396	
War Reserve			115	500	468	
First Police Reserve			41 full time	43	35	
Special Constabulary			1,463 ⁶¹	1353	1631	
Woman's Auxiliary Police Corps				57 ⁶²	90 ⁶³	

HM Inspector of Constabulary for 1940/45 Police Personnel

Year	Regular Police	War Reserve and full time Special	First Police Reserve	Police-women	Total
1940	57,012	25,220	5,725	282	88,239
1941	55,868	29,719	6,782	325	92,694
1942	49,735	27,706	5,374	340	83,155
1943	44,430	35,350	4,655	346	74,781

⁶⁰ CC notes 1945 on the administration of the county police during the war.

⁶¹ CC notes 1945 on the administration of the county police during the war.

⁶² CC notes 1945 on the administration of the county police during the war.

⁶³ CC notes 1945 on the administration of the county police during the war.

1944	43,026	17,527	2,568	385	63,506
1945	46,623	12,951	1,646	415	61,638



Ubiquitous Brodie helmet

