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www.surrey-constabulary.com

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Surrey Constabulary History 136



Godstone Motorway Control Room

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Godstone Traffic Centre and Control are no longer there

Photos Tony Collman





Paul Sacha. I don't know if you've seen this before. I follow a Worthing history Facebook group. My mother's family were from there.

Denis Michael Walder
Sergeant RAFVR No101 Squadron (Navigator)
Died age 26, 24 August 1943
Reigate Borough Police

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Worthing Bailiff's Son Missing From Recent Operations

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Walder, of 62, Goldsmith-road, Worthing, have just received the news that their son, Sergeant Dennis Marshall Walder, R.A.F., is missing from recent operations.

Sergeant Walder is a navigator in Bomber Command and was on his ninth operational service. He had been in a big raid over Hamburg and also in operations over Essen and Turin. Formerly a member of the Reigate Police Force, Sergeant Walder was 26 years of age and was educated at Collyer's School, Horsham.

Before he joined the Police Force Sergeant Walder worked at Messrs. Potter Bailey's, the well-known Worthing firm of grocers.

A letter was sent to his father by the Wing Commander of the station to which he was attached.

In it he said that "he was a popular member of a fine crew," and that "during the time he had been with the Squadron he had proved himself a competent navigator of aircraft and had displayed splendid courage and efficiency in the execution of his duties."

Sergeant Walder's father is the bailiff at Worthing County Court.

II

Dennis Walder served as a Sergeant RAFVR No101 Squadron. He was the son of Horace Albert and Harriett Annie Walder, of Plymouth. He was killed whilst on operations with the RAF and remembered on the Runnymede Memorial. No101 Squadron were based in Ludford Magna: June 1943 onwards, flying 363 sorties over Berlin between 1943-44 losing 25 aircraft, 133 men with 42 taken prisoner.

Missing from an operational sortie over enemy territory on the night of the 23/24 August 1943. The aircraft failed to return and there was no news. (Bomber Command data base 23 August 2022 shot down by fighter). On the 14 April 1944 the Air Ministry stated that Sgt Walder lost his life on the 24 August 1943.

From Bomber Command database 2013: Navigator: Sergeant Dennis Marshall Walder RAF (1324776) [Killed]; son of Horace Albert and Harriett Annie Walder of Plymouth. Runnymede Memorial, United Kingdom, Panel 168¹

PC Walder joined the Reigate Borough Police on the 19 April 1938 when he was 21 having been born in Midhurst on the 6 February 1917. He was described as being 6 feet 1 inches tall, fair complexion, brown hair and blue eyes. He was a single grocer's assistant living at 60 Goldsmith Road, Horsham.

Service:

15 February 1939; passed second Ambulance exam

19 April 1939 2nd Grade

3 May 1939 Commended by the CC in case of 3 young persons charged with store breaking and larceny

19 April 1940 Appointment confirmed

19 April 1940 3rd Grade

6 January 1941 Guilty of a summary offence and fined a day's pay.

19 April 1941 4th Grade

21 May 1941 Passed Police educational exam

2 March 1942 joined the RAF

19 April 1942 5th Grade

1 February 1943 Transferred to Surrey Joint Police

19 April 1943 6th Grade

From: Rob Davis Bomber Command Losses Database.

DATE: 23-Aug-1943 / 24-Aug-1943

UNIT: 101 Squadron

AIRCRAFT: Lancaster III

RAF BASE: Ludford Magna

¹ 'BOMBER COMMAND EE192'

TAKE-OFF AT: 20:31

SERIAL: EE192

CODES: SR: Y

TARGET: Berlin

CAUSE OF LOSS: Shot down by fighter

PILOT: Mahoney, John Philip, Flight Lieutenant, (129466) (killed)

CREW: Sergeant John William Lowe (flight engineer) (1497432) (killed),

Sergeant Dennis Marshall Walder (navigator) (1324776) (killed), *Pilot*

Officer Patrick Joseph Ryan (bomb aimer) (135110) (killed), Pilot Officer

Joseph Eric Woodgate (wireless operator) (155878) (killed), Sergeant

Archibald Eric Thomas Hill (mid-upper gunner) (1269266) (killed), Flying

Officer Frederick Edward Phillips (rear gunner) (136525) (killed)

DETAILS: Lost without trace; all members of the crew are remembered on the Runnymede Memorial. The 1953 edition of the Runnymede Memorial register shows P/O Phillips as belonging to 601 Squadron.

When war broke out in 1939 101 Squadron was at West Raynham flying Blenheims and it was with these that it made its first bombing attack on Germany, in July 1940. It operated by day at first but in mid-August switched to night operations, a high proportion of its attacks being directed against enemy invasion barges in the Channel and North Sea ports. In April 1941, a flight of the squadron's Blenheims was detached to Manston in Fighter Command's No 11 Group, and from there, operating with fighter escort, began a sustained attempt to close the Straits of Dover to all enemy ships during daylight. In this modest fashion, No 101 inaugurated the Channel Stop – an operation that, with enlarged resources, soon became as good as its name.

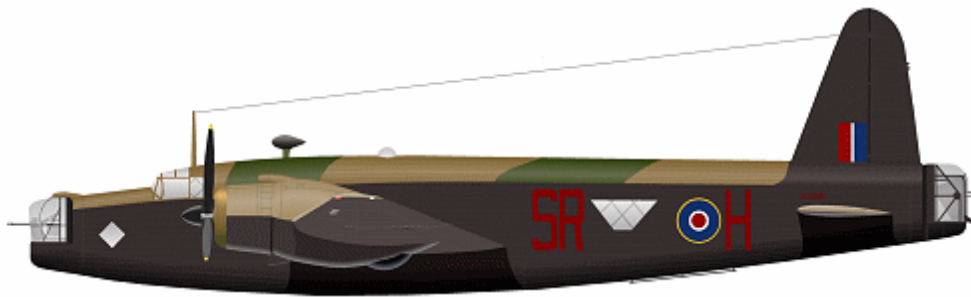
During May and June 1941, No 101 Squadron converted to Wellingtons and in September it paid its first visit to Italy and successfully bombed Turin. In May and June 1942, it took part in the celebrated 1,000-bomber raids on Cologne, Essen and Bremen; on each occasion all its aircraft returned safely. In October 1942, the squadron got its first four-engine aircraft – Lancasters – and before the year ended paid four more return visits to Turin. In the New Year it added Milan and Spezia to its Italian targets in between supporting the ever-growing offensive on German industrial targets and mine laying. On the night of 17/18th August 1943, 20 of the squadron's Lancasters took part in the epic raid on Peenemunde and, despite a lively night-fighter defence, all the aircraft got back.

23/24 August 1943² RAF Bomber Command war Diary

² <http://www.raf.mod.uk/bombercommand/aug43.html>

727 aircraft - 335 Lancasters, 251 Halifaxes, 124 Stirlings, and 17 Mosquitos - despatched to Berlin. The Mosquitos were used to mark various points on the route to Berlin in order to help keep the Main Force on the correct track. A Master Bomber was used; he was Wing Commander JE Fauquier, the Commanding Officer of 405 (Canadian) Squadron.

The raid was only partially successful. The Pathfinders were not able to identify the centre of Berlin by H₂S and marked an area in the southern outskirts of the city. The Main Force arrived late and many aircraft cut a corner and approached from the south-west instead of using the planned south-south-east approach; this resulted in more bombs falling in open country than would otherwise have been the case. The German defences - both flak and night fighters - were extremely fierce. 56 aircraft - 23 Halifaxes, 17 Lancasters, 16 Stirlings - were lost, 7.9 per cent of the heavy bomber force. This was Bomber Command's greatest loss of aircraft in one night so far in the war.



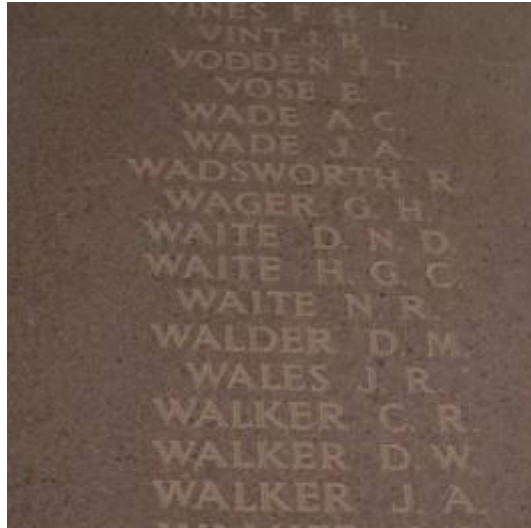
Number 101 Squadron Wellington B Mk 111

The Air Forces Memorial at Runnymede commemorates by name over 20,000 airmen who were lost in the Second World War during operations from bases in the United Kingdom and North and Western Europe, and who have no known graves. They served in Bomber, Fighter, Coastal, Transport, Flying Training and Maintenance Commands, and came from all parts of the Commonwealth. Some were from countries in continental Europe which had been overrun but whose airmen continued to fight in the ranks of the Royal Air Force. (CWGC site)



Number 101 Squadron Lancaster B Mk 111

RAF Memorial Runnymede



Runnymede Memorial

Photo taken by retired Surrey Constabulary officer June 2009

**Superintendent Frederick Pike
Metropolitan Police 1862
Surrey Constabulary 1862 - 1893**

Additional research Robert Simonson Surrey History Centre

From David B retired Metropolitan Police.

I would be grateful to hear if you have any information on a past relative of mine that joined the Surrey Constabulary from the Metropolitan Police in 1862. His name was Frederick Pike he rose through the ranks from constable to becoming a superintendent. I believe his collar number was 20 and that he joined your constabulary on March 3rd 1862.

SURREY CONSTABULARY		No. of Appointments
Examination of <i>Frederick Pike</i>		
QUESTIONS.	ANSWERS.	
Name	<i>Frederick Pike</i>	
Age	<i>28 years in April 1862</i>	
Height	<i>5 feet 9 1/2 inches</i>	
Complexion	<i>Dark</i>	
Hair	<i>Brown</i>	
Eyes	<i>Hazel</i>	
Marks	<i>Scar on right eyebrow</i>	
Figure	<i>Proportional</i>	

Surrey History centre appointments book 9152/1/2/1/1

Where Born { In the Parish of Anstey
 In or near the Town of Hendon
 In the County of Wiltshire
 Trade or Calling Laborer
 Single or Married Married
 Number of Children One
 Last Residence No 4 Ayleiffe Street, New Kent Road, Borough, London
 What Public Service Metropolitan Police, D Division
 Length of Service From June 1855 to May 1858, and from September 1858, to February 1862
 By whom last employed The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.
 And where London
 What Relatives residing in Surrey, and where None
 Date of Appointment March 3rd 1862
 Rank Third Class Constable
 No. on Collar Twenty.
 When sworn in, and where March 8th 1862, at Guildford
 Before what Magistrates George Best Esq and Edward Bray Esq
 Where stationed Woking. -

	Date.	From.	To.
Promotions.	Mar 1/63	Third Class Constable	Second Class Constable
	Mar 1/65	Second Class Constable	First Class Constable
	Mar 1/72	First Class Constable	Sergeant at 4/ per day.
	Oct 1/73	Sergeant	Inspector at £100 p a year
	Nov 1/72	Inspector	Superintendent. £150 p a year
	Jan 1/83	Superintendent at £160 p a year	Superintendent at £180 p a year
	Mar 1/88	—	—

	Date.	From.	To.
Removals.	Aug 8/62	Woking	Bunker Hill (Woking)
	Sept 15/65	Bunker Hill	Woking.
	Sept 15/65	Woking	West Horsley.
	Mar 13/72	West Horsley	Frimley.
	Sept 30/73	Frimley	Weybridge
	Oct 20/74	Weybridge	Egham
	Jan 27/82	Egham	Woking.

	Date.	Nature of Offence.	Punishment.
Punishments.	Sept 28/67	allowing a prisoner to get the worse for drink	Reprimanded.
	Nov 29/57	giving a testimonial to a Constable who had been dismissed from the Force	Two weeks suspension from duty

Date of removal from the Force Resigned, 30 April 1891, under provisions of the Police Act 1890.
 Conduct during Service Superannuated

1867 April 13: Charge against late constable: James Holden late constable Surrey Constabulary was **charged with being drunk** while engaged as a constable in the execution

of his duty. Police Sergeant Lambert³ deposed: James Holden was a constable in the Surrey Constabulary. I put him on duty with written instructions on the 1 April. He was to go to the union and then he was to go on the route mentioned on his ticket. He was sober when he left the station. He left it without leave at half past four in the afternoon and did not return until ten minutes past eight. He was then drunk. He ought to have gone off duty at half past seven. He was useless for duty. PC Pike number 20 deposed: At a quarter to one on Tuesday morning 2 April I met the defendant at Hatchlands Park Gate in a state of drunkenness. He was in uniform. I told him I would report him. I directed a brother constable to see him on the road, and that if he could not take care of himself, convey him to the station.

In answer to the bench the prisoner said he had formerly been in the army; he had a good discharge. While engaged once on picket duty a drunken soldier cut him on the head and he was consequently soon overcome by drink. He was very sorry for what had occurred. He belonged to Hepwood (?) in Surrey. He hoped the bench would overlook the offence as he had **already been locked up for three days and two nights** and the affair was a great trial to him. Deputy Chief Constable Mr Parr said the prisoner had a good discharge from the army. Chief Constable Captain Hastings said he did not wish to press the case hardly, and he was sorry to have to bring it forward; but for the sake of discipline, it was necessary to bring the case forward.

The Bench remarked on the great impropriety of such conduct by a person placed in position prisoner had held, but the bench did not wish to punish heavily. He must however, pay £1 (including 12s expenses) or go to prison for three weeks. **It appears there was no salary due to the prisoner from the police and he was locked up in default.**⁴ (£1 was about a week's pay and he had obviously no savings probably due to spending on drink.)

1876 December 2: Egham shooting at a gentleman in Egham: Two residents of Bellevue a suburb of Egham were in dispute. One of the men approached the other at his home and fired two shots missing the target but one shot hitting another man named Challier who was passing along the road. The prisoner Edward Bentley was remanded on bail after being arrested by Inspector Pike and charged with shooting at Mr Francis Ashby attempting to do him grievous bodily harm. The defence was he merely fired the gun in order to frighten someone. He was remanded on bail on two sureties £100 and £50.⁵

1879 July 16: Suicide: Shocking Suicide in the Windsor Great Park: Inquest at the Sun Inn Egham upon the body of Ernest Nust 19, an apprentice zinc engraver from Kentish Town where he left on a bicycle to join a bean-feast dinner at the Catherine Wheel Inn. His body was later found in a copse in the woods of the Great Park and Inspector Pike attended and had the body

³ Believed George Lambert later superintendent

⁴ 1867 April 13: Surrey Advertiser

⁵ 1876 December 2: The Whitsable Times and Herne Bay Herald

removed to the Sun Inn where a PM was held. Dr Drew discovered that Nust had taken some corrosive poison, which had caused his death. ⁶

1882 January 7: West Surrey Times: Farnham: The New Superintendent: The public are aware that Mr Hibberd is about to resign the position he has so long held as Superintendent of Police for this Division, and it is understood he will be succeeded by **Mr Pike** who has more than twenty years' experience of police duties

West Surrey Times 3 January 1885

Division	Rank	Name	Address
Headquarters	Chief Constable	Captain Hastings	Guildford
Headquarters	Deputy Chief Constable	Charles W Barker	Guildford
Headquarters	Inspector	Inspector WH Bryant	Office staff Woodbridge Road
Headquarters	Sergeant	Page	Office staff

Superintendents: Mr AH Bungard Chertsey, Mr G Lambert Dorking, Mr F Pike Farnham, Mr E Redford Godstone

Inspector H Baker Hersham, Inspector H Collis, Egham Inspector JH Dennett, Albury Inspector G Manning, Holmwood

Sergeants W Alexander Ripley, C Bundy Witley, G Boon Weybridge, TF Chapman Haslemere, A Crook Chertsey, T Edgeler Cranleigh J Heighes (sic) Frimley EJ King Cobham, CA Keys Woking

1886 November 2 Surrey Mirror: The Firework Nuisance: George Downes a boy was charged with letting off fireworks in the street at Farnham on 9th inst. PC Brake saw the firework lit and it exploded. Superintendent Pike said fireworks on the street were increasing and he had numerous complaints. Fined 5s. Charles Nichols was charged with a similar offence on Hungry Hill by PC Halliday and defendant was fined 19s and costs.

1887 January 15 West Surrey Times: A Drunken double- shuffle: George Vindon a hawker charged by PC Halliday with being drunk and disorderly shouting and behaving like a madman. PC Upfold also gave evidence and Superintendent Pike said there were several previous convictions. Fined 10s or 21 days. Superintendent Pike said the defendant had not paid his last fine from Aldershot and was committed to prison – the fine was then paid!

1887 December 24: Surrey Constabulary establishment

Chief Constable Captain HC Hastings

Deputy Chief Constable Superintendent Chas. W. Barker

Office Staff: Inspector WH Bryant and Sergeant Page Headquarters Woodbridge Road, Guildford Superintendent Mr AH Bungard Chertsey

⁶ Lancaster Gazette 16 July 1879

Superintendents Mr G Lambert Dorking, F Pike Farnham, E Redford Godstone

Inspectors H Baker Chertsey, Henry Collis Egham, James Dennett Godstone Station, Henry Grey Reigate, Edwin J King Holmwood, William Woods Leatherhead

Police Sergeants W Alexander Ripley, Alfred Biddlecombe Chobham, James Brice Caterham, George Boon Weybridge, Cornelius Bundy Witley, Thomas F Chapman Haslemere, George Crooke Hersham, Turner Edgeler Cranleigh, Edwin Hackman Esher, James Heighes (sic) Frimley, Charles A Keys Woking, Henry Melmoth Godalming, Joseph Moore Guildford, William J Skinner Albury, Thomas Smith Horley, William Hatton Farnham^{7 8}

1888 January 9: Central Criminal Court: Henry Bowles aged fifty-three was indicted for, and charged on the Coroner's Inquisition with, the **wilful murder of Hannah Bowles.** Camberley

George Frederick Roumieu. I am one of the Coroners for the County of Surrey. On the 24th of September I held an inquest, which was afterwards adjourned, upon the body of Hannah Bowles. On the 24th of September the prisoner voluntarily came before me and gave evidence as a witness, and I took his evidence down in writing. This is the original deposition that correctly represents the evidence he gave.

Alfred Bracknell: I am a gardener, living at Park Street, Camberley that is in the parish of Frimley, in the county of Surrey. Dr Muller has employed me as under-gardener at Crosby Hall, Camberley. The prisoner was in the same employment over Bowles before I entered the service. I was in Dr Muller's service before Bowles came, he first came there as head-gardener two months last November. I was not twice in Dr Muller's service. It is 15 months now since I entered the service of Dr Muller, I meant 10 months when Bowles was apprehended. I knew the deceased woman Hannah Bowles, and a youth of 17, named Edward Bowles. I first knew him when the prisoner came to Dr Muller's as head-gardener, and they lived in a lodge about 100 yards from Crosby Hill. To my knowledge no other person slept in the house except the two deceased persons and the prisoner. I had been in the habit of taking my meals with them for about nine months, I took my own food and they found me in vegetables. I took two meals a day, 8 o'clock for breakfast and 1 o'clock for dinner. I had an hour after noon for the midday meal. Dr Muller also employed the youth, Edward Bowles.

The prisoner never spoke to me about his relationship with Hannah Bowles. He spoke of her as his wife and of the youth as his nephew. I did not go there on Sundays, only on the six days. Hannah Bowles was a very quiet woman. I can give you no further description of what struck me about her during the time I knew her. She had not any hasty temper at all, and I never saw her worse for drink as she used principally to drink cold tea with her meals. I don't know what she would drink when she drank anything but cold tea. I never saw her with spirits, and I never saw any liquor in the house at all. She was on very good terms with the boy, and she seemed on very good terms with the prisoner too. Edward Bowles had been in the service of Dr Muller a shorter time than his father, the prisoner; he had been there only three months. I remember the

⁷ 1887 December 24 West Surrey Times

⁸ 1887 December 24 West Surrey Times

prisoner going to London; he was away two days that was from a week to a fortnight before the death of Mrs Bowles. When he came back, he told me he was going to Rivera's nursery, to order some fruit trees; Rivera's nursery is somewhere beyond here in London. No trees came from there. I remember the day of the deaths, Thursday, 22nd September. I had my two meals there as usual; that was the daytime before Mrs Bowles died at midnight, and the boy after midnight; that was the 22nd September. I went there to breakfast and dinner. The prisoner and Edward Bowles and Mrs Bowles were there and there was nothing unusual at the breakfast to attract my attention in the manner of Edward Bowles, Mrs Bowles, or the prisoner; everything was as usual. I went into dinner at 1 o'clock.

Edward Bowles had been working with me that morning and he appeared in a very good state of health when he was working with me that morning, and the appearance of Mrs Bowles's health seemed very good; the same as usual. The vegetables we had that day at 1 o'clock were runner beans and potatoes. We all four ate from the same dish. Those were all the vegetables. I carried bread and meat with me. They had some meat besides the vegetables. I cannot remember what the meat was. After dinner I left the lodge and went about my work as usual. In the afternoon Edward Bowles was with me up till half-past 5; the time for knocking off is half-past 5. Edward Bowles was with me up till then; still in the same state of health, making no complaint at all. I don't remember in the afternoon between 1 o'clock dinner and the time of knocking off work seeing anything of Mrs Bowles at all, but at night when I left off, I stood talking at the door of the lodge, which is on a by-road. The prisoner, his wife, and Edward Bowles, were there, all four of us again. That would be 20 minutes to 6, within 10 minutes of knocking off work. I did not see any difference in the condition of mind of Mrs Bowles and Edward Bowles then to what they were at dinnertime. They seemed in good health.

I did not see either Hannah or Edward Bowles alive after that; that was the last I saw of them alive. I next saw the prisoner after this time about 20 minutes to 6 the next morning at the lodge. Mrs Deverel was there then. The prisoner came out and told me that his wife was dead and his son. He came out and asked me if I had heard what had happened, and I said yes, I had heard just before I got to the lodge; I met Mr. Evans. He told me Mrs Bowles and Ted had died; nothing more. I had no further conversation with him; he passed on, and I went to my work. I did not see him every day after that up to 8th October, when he was taken into custody. I saw him on several occasions. He slept in the big house I believe after that; that was Dr Muller's. He did not say a word to me on any occasion I saw him before he was taken into custody about the death of his wife or son. He did not speak to me on the subject. I had breakfast in the back kitchen in the big house on the morning when he asked me if I had heard, and said his wife and nephew were dead. The prisoner came up two or three times, but I think not to sit at breakfast. He was there part of the time; he went away two or three times while I was having breakfast at the big house. A day or two before the deaths Bowles came down and asked me where his son Edward was, and I told him he had gone to the w. c., and then the prisoner told me Edward had been taking pills. That is all I know about the medicine; that is all that was said. I never noticed any pillboxes when I was in the lodge; I never saw one. I have never been sent for pills to Camberley, to Mr Claypole's shop. I never fetched any medicine at all.

Cross-examined: On the morning after the death, I had breakfast at the big house, and the prisoner came in two or three times while I was having breakfast. I could not see the lodge from the room where I had breakfast. I know he went to the cottage, because he brought some plates and knives and forks up for meals. The day I had my last meals in Bowles's house I do not remember Dr Muller coming down and going back to London. I was working by myself that day. I saw Dr Muller in the grounds that day, but I don't know where he went to. He was away from Crosby Hill next morning and he came back on the following Saturday morning, I believe. The family was living in London, and it was his custom when he came down to see the prisoner and talk to him about the gardens. I don't remember anything at all of the conversation at the meals that day. In the evening we were talking about the work that had been done during the day. I have no recollection of the conversation at dinnertime. We used to dine in what they call the living room, there is only one living room; the other rooms in the lodge were two bedrooms upstairs. There was the living room and a back kitchen on the ground floor. I saw washing done there several times. Mrs Bowles washed several blankets for Mrs Muller, the doctor's wife. I went into the bedroom in which the lad slept, there was only a bed and a box in it; I went into the prisoner's bedroom on Friday evening after the death. I never went in before the death. At meals I never saw any liquor consumed but tea and water. The prisoner was an abstainer as well as his wife. In the nine I had meals with them I never heard any disagreement between Bowles and his wife, never any question as to what she did with the money. I think Bowles's wages were 23s. a week, house, coals, and vegetables. I knew Edward Bowles was Bowles's nephew, I never knew about his wife. I never heard him address her as mother or she addressed him as son. She told me she had twins before she came there, and they were dead. The lodge is about 100 yards from the house and there is one neighbour, Mrs Sharp, about 20 yards from them. She is a lady; it is a gentleman's house. Mrs Deverel is not near; she is at Camberley. The nearest cottage is about 200 yards. I know where Dr Twort lives, that is about a mile off, at Camberley. Dr Scott lives nearer, about halfway. I did not know the prisoner had consulted Dr Twort before. We sat up in chairs all the night at the big house. As a rule, I sleep in Park Street, Camberley, a mile off. The visit to London was about a fortnight before Mrs Bowles's death. There were no rose trees, but fruit trees; we plant fruit trees at the end of September, always near about that time in the autumn. I have tried some of the Camberley anti bilious pills, not lately. I bought them at Mr Claypole's. I never heard the slightest disagreement between the prisoner and his wife; he always treated the lad with affection.⁹

William Henry Twort, M.R.C.S.E., and Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh: I practise at Camberley, in Surrey. My house is half a mile or rather more from the Crosby Hill Lodge. I had seen his nephew; on one occasion he came to my surgery to consult me about a skin eruption. On Thursday, September 22nd, I was aroused after I had gone to bed, about 11 or half-past, I should say nearer half-past than 11 o'clock; it was the prisoner who called me up; he said he wanted me to come and see his wife, he was afraid she was dying; he said he thought she was in a fit; he was in a very excited state, he wished me not to delay. I got up and rode on my tricycle. I overtook the prisoner on the road, about halfway there. As we

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<http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/images.jsp?doc=188801090133> <http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/images.jsp?doc=188801090133>

went along together the prisoner said he had been given to understand his wife had heart disease by his former medical attendant, and he was not to be surprised at any time if she died suddenly. Knowing his son, I asked him how it was he did not send his son for me, as he said he had no one in the house. I thought it was his son. He said there was something the matter with him also. He said he had a pain in his back, and he was very thirsty; he had previously given him a little water, and he expressed himself as feeling better, so he left him; he thought probably he had got a bilious attack. He also told me he had tried to rouse his next-door neighbour, Mrs Sharp, but he could not make anyone hear. Then I arrived with him at the lodge; he preceded me in. Before I got in I first of all, outside, heard someone crying for help. I could hear loud cries of someone, a man's voice. As soon as I had put my tricycle on one side I went in and I found the prisoner standing over his wife in the room downstairs; she was lying down in front of the fireplace on the floor on the hearth rug, something was on the floor, with her head towards the door nearest to me. On my entering the prisoner said he thought she was dying and I walked round to look at her, and by her appearance I said I thought she was too. The woman was very pale indeed, the pupils were very dilated and fixed, her jaw was rigidly contracted; I could not move it, and she was pulse less. The only signs of life I could observe were a few muscular twitching about the muscles of the face. She was in articulo mortis, at the point of death. The prisoner then requested me to go upstairs to see his son, as he was very ill, and he could not tell what the matter with him was. The prisoner had not been upstairs before he said that; that I saw. I sent him for some whisky and brandy and went upstairs to see the boy. The woman was not actually dead before I went up. I went up, and the prisoner went out to get brandy. The boy, Edward Bowles, was calling loudly for help, for water, I think. If I remember he was calling "Water, water". He was in violent convulsions. He was in bed undressed, with only his check shirt on. The place was surrounded with his black vomit, the walls and bedclothes and floor; it was pouring copiously from his mouth. It was impossible for him to move when he was in a convulsion. His countenance was very dusky, his lips livid, his eyes were staring, and his pupils dilated. The hands were clenched, and the arms drawn across the chest in a state of flexion, and the spine was arched, and the legs and feet were also rigidly contracted; in fact, his whole muscular system was in a state of extreme tension. The prisoner had not time to return while I was noticing this; he had to go some way to get the brandy; he had to go to Major O'Sullivan. He came back before I left, before the boy was dead. The boy was perfectly conscious; his mind was intact. I asked him if he was in any pain. He knew my question; he knew the terrible position he was in; he said he should die if I could not remove the load from his chest. He said he could not get his breath.

Question He said he was not in pain?

Answer No. The convulsions did not last long. After it had passed off, I questioned him as to what he had been taking. He told me for supper he had had nothing but a little bread and jam, and he had swallowed one anti-bilious pill afterwards. I asked him if he had been eating any mushrooms or fungi. He said "No" When I took hold of his hand he went off in another violent convulsion; the slightest touch was sufficient to bring them on. A man named Evans, whom the prisoner had called up, came before the prisoner came back, with a little whisky in his pocket; he keeps a fly and drove up in a fly. He came in a cab while the prisoner was out for

the brandy. He had some whisky in a flask. I gave Edward Bowles a little of the whisky and water.

After Evans came, I went home to fetch chloroform, I knew I could do nothing for him, leaving Evans and Mrs Deverel in the house. I left the boy alive; he was getting much worse, and the convulsions were getting stronger and longer. The woman was dead when I came down. She must have died very soon after twelve; she died very soon after I was in the house, about five minutes. Before I left the house to fetch the chloroform, I had seen a pillbox on the mantelpiece in the downstairs sitting room. I had seen that before Bowles left for the brandy when I first came into the room. I picked it up and examined the inside of it very carefully; it was perfectly clean, I could find nothing in it; it was a one-dram pill box, similar to that (produced); it had the name of the chemist, Claypole, on it. I saw particularly it was perfectly clean inside. I looked for that; there was no trace of chalk, nothing.

I should think it was half an hour before I returned with the chloroform. I passed through the living room when I came back. I went up to the bedroom, and there found the boy Edward dead on the floor. When I came back the prisoner Evans and Mrs Deverel were all in the downstairs room. They told me the son was dead. I went up to have a look at him and then came downstairs and had a talk with the prisoner. I asked him if he could tell me whether they had had anything likely to cause the symptoms. He said he did not take suppers and could not tell what they had had, and did not know what they had had for supper, for he had been reading his gardening magazine and smoking; he heard them talking about taking pills, and he looked up and he saw the jam on the table; he suggested they had better not take so many pills but get some salts, as his mother had recommended him to do; he said he could not tell whether they had been taking any mushrooms or anything for supper. I asked a question that led to that; he could not tell; they had been having some lately, as they grew plentifully on the estate; he had cautioned his son not to get any.

I could not be quite certain how the prisoner spoke of the boy. I was always under the impression he was his son, now I recollect he called him his nephew, I think because he explained the reason to me for doing so at some other time, I think. He said he cautioned the young man not to get any, as he did not think he could distinguish the poisonous from the non-poisonous unless he was with him to show him. I asked him if he had been using any of Battle's vermin killer; he said "No," at that time he told me his wife had made a very peculiar remark before she died, and he could not think what induced her to do so; it was to this effect, that "If anything happens to me, Ted, I hope your poor father won't be blamed." He made that remark to me after he came back with the brandy after his wife was dead. He described the circumstances under which she made this observation. He said she made it thinking his son or Edward was in the room instead of him, and that she made the remark before he came for me, but after she was ill, when she was on the floor. That was all the conversation we had. I looked round to see if I could see anything. I must have asked him for that pillbox again on his return; he said he had got many other pillboxes like them. The pillbox had gone; he must have moved it. After I had inquired about it. I noticed it was gone.

I inquired about the pillbox when I came back, when they were dead. I inquired of the prisoner for the pillbox that I had seen on the mantelpiece. I made that inquiry because I wanted to know all I could about the pills. It was after the boy had made a statement to me about taking the pill. After I returned with the chloroform, I asked the prisoner about the pillbox; I wanted to see it again. I said I wanted to see the pillbox I saw on the mantelpiece. He had mislaid it or something; he did not know where it was. He told me he had got several more like it that he kept his garden seeds in, and he got some from a side drawer. I cannot remember now whether he said he had mislaid it. I think he said he did not know where it was. I then looked for it where it had originally been, on the mantelpiece; it was not there. The prisoner then produced some others from a drawer; he had several of them. Most of them were like that, the same size. He said he kept small garden seeds in them. He said these pillboxes were some of the same sort. As far as I can remember they were all labelled in the same way, "Claypoles Anti-bilious Pills." I did not notice that particularly. I noticed the size of the boxes.

That was all that took place on that night. Next morning, the 23rd, I went to the lodge again with another medical man, Dr Manders. I took away from the Lodge a bottle containing greengage jam with one of Crosse and Blackwell's labels on it, a tin dripping-pan containing scraps of food, a galipot containing some treacly-looking substance—those were the only traces of food I found that I could take away, and there was some uncooked meat in the larder. I took charge of those things, and afterwards handed them to the police sergeant. On the same evening I, with Dr Manders, made a post-mortem examination of the two bodies. As to Hannah Bowles the body was pale, and of course stiffened; the spine was slightly arched. She had her clothes on of course, and we could see nothing more. She was still on the floor then, and with her clothes on.

The rigor mortis well marked, stiffening well marked, pupils dilated equally; heart pale, flaccid, empty; valves healthy; right lung healthy, old adhesions; left lung somewhat congested; liver healthy; gall bladder empty; membranes of brain and brain substance healthy; fluid in both ventricles; kidneys healthy; gall stones in the gall duct. We took out the stomach and put it in a jar, and sealed it, and marked it with the name. The coroner had it afterwards. There was nothing to guide my opinion as to the cause of death upon this post-mortem, except the boy's condition; there was nothing as to the woman. There was nothing with regard to the condition of the heart and other regions to indicate the woman was addicted to drink; the liver, kidneys, and heart were all quite healthy. Nor was there anything in the condition of the heart to show she was a woman likely to die suddenly at any time. Then I went on to make a post-mortem examination of the body of the boy Edward Bowles. We went upstairs, placed the body, which was on the floor on the bed, and removed the shirt—he was placed on the floor the night before; he begged to be moved, they always do when the convulsions come on, and he was moved in my absence.

We placed him on the bed; the surface of the bedclothes and walls were all covered with a black vomit, both flexors and extensors of the feet were in a state of extreme tension: the spine was arched; the complexion was dusky; the pupils were dilated; rigor mortis was well marked; lungs healthy; heart healthy, full of blood, un-contracted; liver healthy; small intestine slightly

congested; upper part of duodenum had a rod patch on it. I could not tell what that was caused by; oblong patch of reddish-brown colour alone at the pyloric end of the stomach; kidneys healthy. I did the same thing with the stomach of the boy, sealed it up in a jar separately. There was not, so far as we went, anything in the post-mortem of the boy to indicate the cause of death. We could not tell what the patches on the duodenum and stomach were; they might have been bile stains. We did not open them; we could only see them from the outside; we could not open them because they were to be sent up for analysis.

The prisoner was not present while we were making the post-mortem on the body of the boy. We had a difficulty in getting him out of the room, but we did eventually turn him out and bolt the door; he came again several times, but could not get in. Before we commenced the post-mortem, we had difficulty in getting rid of him, we wanted to begin, as it was getting late. He wanted to stop I suppose. Before he left the room, I called Dr Menderes's attention to the boy's feet. The prisoner said that contracted sort of muscular condition of the feet was natural to him. Some observation was made in the prisoner's presence about the condition of the feet in the morning. The prisoner said he had a peculiar walk. He thought that was natural to him; that was the contorted condition of the tendons, the muscles. We did not agree to it. We said we did not think it could be explained in that way. With the other things I have mentioned we also took away some part of the sheet and some other things that contained the vomit, the sheet, the boy's shirt, and just a little off the wall. We made up that into a parcel; it was afterwards given to the police. I have since heard the result of the analysis of the stomach.

Having heard that strychnine was found in the stomach, in my opinion strychnine poisoning was the cause of the death of Hannah Bowles. I said that before the analysis nothing in the post-mortem guided one to the cause of death. I formed the opinion she died of strychnine poisoning from the condition of the boy; I first formed the opinion, I mean, that they had died from strychnine poisoning; I could not form that opinion from the woman. When I saw the boy in a state of convulsion, I could not conceive anything else that could cause it. That was what led me to ask the prisoner about it. When I asked him about Battle's vermin killer, he said he had got some. I formed the opinion when I saw the boy in these tetanic convulsions, and the boy was perfectly conscious, and then I asked the prisoner whether he had any Battle's vermin killer, he said he had not. He said about a week afterwards that he had been thinking it over, and he had been using it. The post-mortem was made on the 23rd.

I saw him about a week afterwards; he was going to church; at all events he had a Bible; it was on the Sunday week. He took a short cut and came up to me and said he had been thinking over what I said to him about using vermin killer, and he remembered he did use it for poisoning sparrows, but not at Crosby Hill. The pyloric end of the stomach is the end that leads into the small intestine, the bowel. The duodenum is the small bowel. I think that is all he said to me on the Sunday. I have not explained how it was he called the lad his nephew; that was not the same day; I think that was on the road up there that night when I was on the tricycle. He said he did that because the other men should not think he showed any partiality towards him. It was when I said, "Why did not your son come up?" he said, "He passes as my nephew." He

thought if he went as his son, they would think he would favour him; that was his explanation, and that he really was his son.

On the next day I made no search for the pillbox that had been missing the night before, or any further inquiries about it at all. The policeman had it then, I think, the policeman had a pillbox; I don't know whether it was the original one. I never saw as far as I know that particular pillbox that had been on the mantelpiece. During the 10 months they had lived there I had never visited the woman Hannah Bowles at all. I never visited the Lodge at all; the boy came down to see me.¹⁰

Frederick Pike (Superintendent of the County Constabulary). I am stationed at Farnham. I was present when this case was inquired into before the Magistrate at Farnham. I heard the witness Thomas Wager give evidence. The prisoner was present at the time he gave evidence, and he had the opportunity of cross-examining the witness. His deposition was read over to him and signed by the witness.

Cross-examined: I was present during the time Wager gave his evidence before the Magistrate. Wager gave evidence towards the end of the proceedings. A solicitor or counsel did not represent the prisoner. Mr. Wager's depositions were read over to him after all the evidence had been taken. The prisoner was present in the dock. I am quite sure the prisoner had not been removed before the witnesses were asked to sign. I saw Wager affix his signature. I was sitting near the Magistrate's Clerk's table. **(The deposition of Thomas Wager was here read as follows: —**I am a farmer, and reside at Glutton Grange, near Buxton, in the county of Derby. I knew the prisoner, Henry Bowles, in 1882, when he applied to me to come into my service as gamekeeper and general servant; I engaged him, and he came to me in March of that year. He remained in my service till 17th June in the same year; he left me to go to Buxton to see his wife; he did not return when I considered he should have done so. I paid him his wages and he left my service. He told me his wife wished to go away from Buxton; I did not know his wife I never saw her; he always spoke affectionately of her, and while the prisoner was in my service, he gave entire satisfaction; the prisoner lived under the same roof with me, and did anything I set him to do, as well as looking after game. It has always been my practice to supply my keepers with strychnine for killing vermin. I am not able to say if I supplied the prisoner with any strychnine. I produce a bill for amongst other things strychnine supplied to me in March 1882. I did not always buy the strychnine myself; I sometimes obtained it through my doctor. I probably supplied Bowles with strychnine, but, as I said, I am not able to swear that I did. I cannot say the prisoner ever asked me for strychnine. I am not able to swear the prisoner used strychnine while in my service. Poison was used for killing rats; at least the rats disappeared. (The prisoner here interposed the remark "They were trapped"). In my part of Derbyshire, it is the practice to use strychnine for killing vermin.

Mark Holdforth: (PC 76 of the Surrey Constabulary and Coroner's Officer). As Coroner's Officer on the morning of 23rd September, Friday, I went to Crosby Hill lodge on the

¹⁰ <http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/images.jsp?doc=188801090135>

information of these deaths. I saw the prisoner there about eight o'clock and I asked him if he had not two deaths in his house. He replied, "Yes." I asked him if he could account anything for it. He said, "No, I don't take any suppers myself, and I sat reading a paper. There was jam on the table they might have eaten, or they might have taken some mushrooms; and after supper they took a pill." I then went into the room and viewed the body of Hannah Bowles. The prisoner then handed me a pillbox and said, "This is what the poor things took the pills from; I will keep it." I said "No, I must take the box with me." He took that pillbox from the corner of the mantelpiece in the living room, and I opened the pillbox and saw nothing in it, but the name of Mr. Claypole on the outside. I then went into the larder, where I took a pot of jam, and then went upstairs and viewed the body of Edward Bowles. I saw something black oozing from his mouth. I took away from the cottage that morning the jam and the pillbox, nothing else. I produced the articles at the coroner's inquiry. I produced the pillbox at the coroner's inquiry. I did not take away any other pillboxes from that room except the one the prisoner showed me. I gave it to the coroner, and he tossed it down the table again and said "There is nothing in that, it is empty" I was asked for the pillbox, and I gave it up, I cannot say to whom; there were Dr Mander and the Coroner, and Dr Twort and two or three others, I have never seen it since. I distinctly remember the size of the pillbox I took away; it was the larger size of those two. I am perfectly sure the one the prisoner handed me on that morning was a box of the larger size.

Cross-examined: I gave it up to four or five gentlemen, including Dr Mander, Dr, Turner, and the coroner. The only conversation I had with the prisoner was what I have detailed, there might have been a little more. I have never given any evidence before. I informed my superior officer about the pillbox on the mantelpiece.

James Hughes: (Sergeant, Surrey Constabulary). I went on Friday, 23rd September, to Crosby Hill Lodge. I did not remove anything from the lodge on that day. On Saturday I went again and took away the contents of the stomach and six parcels altogether, which were afterwards submitted to analysis. I took nothing else away that day. On a subsequent day, Sunday, 9th October, after the prisoner was in custody, I took away five pillboxes. I found one in the writing desk and the others in the chest of drawers upstairs, in the little top drawer, loosely in the drawer, in the upper room. I searched the rest of the house thoroughly all through; those were all I found. I only took one large box and one small one away, that was all. This was the small one I took away; it has been produced and marked. This is the large one. They were both quite empty. The small one in the writing desk was full of small flower-seeds. That made six. I emptied the seeds out and placed them back in the box again. The other four were all small but one, there was only one large one. A box containing papers was taken away on the day following. Pike took this policy of insurance away on the 10th. I found that in the house among the other papers in the prisoner's writing desk. I received the keys from him and unlocked it. I found a letter from him, among other things, from a Mr. Neal, and I may mention there was a letter, and an insurance form filled up but not signed.

Cross-examined: Two of the pillboxes were upstairs in the drawers; I produce those. The one in the writing desk was downstairs; the others were upstairs in the bedroom in two little top drawers. The only one I found downstairs in the living room was the one I found in the writing

desk. I did not bring the others away. The prisoner was in custody, and his keys were taken from him; he pointed out to me, which were the keys of the desk. There was an insurance paper not filled up in the desk on behalf of Edward Bowles. By the court: I found this letter in the desk of which the prisoner gave me the key, containing the enclosure, which it now contains. (This letter was dated 12th January 1887, and was addressed to Hannah Bowles by Mr. Neal, saying he would have sent a proposal form for her son, but that he did not know her address; that he enclosed one in this letter, and that if she would get her son to sign it and return it he would send on his policy. Enclosed there was a proposal to ensure the life of Edward Bowles for £20 at 2d a week, all filled up, with the answers filled up in the handwriting of the person who wrote the letter, and complete except for Edward Bowles' signature.)

Frederick Pike (Re-examined). I am superintendent of the Surrey Constabulary stationed at Farnham. I apprehended the prisoner on 8th October at Camberley at 1 p.m. that was after the inquest had been completed. I charged him on suspicion of having caused the death of his wife and son at Camberley on 22nd September. I duly cautioned him that anything that he might say might be used in evidence against him. He replied, "I am afraid that she has laid hands on my poor boy." He was then taken before the Magistrate and remanded. The hearing before the Magistrate was adjourned from time to time. The prisoner on different occasions before the Magistrate handed in these written statements, which were affixed to the depositions. That was after different witnesses had given evidence.

Cross-examined: I am superintendent at Farnham and the prisoner was under my charge in the county gaol. I did not refuse to allow him to write or receive letters from his solicitor. I did not keep back letters; he had writing materials and wrote what he pleased; no restriction at all was placed on him. I did not keep the letters till he left my charge as letters were delivered as they came; I delivered them to him at the time. The evidence given by the prisoner before the Coroner was here read.

Henry Bowles on oath says: "I am a gardener, living at Crosby Hill, Camberley. I identify the bodies viewed by the Jury as those of Hannah Bowles, my wife, 42 years of age, and Edward Bowles, my son, 17¾ years. On Thursday evening, 22nd September 1887, at 9.30, they sat down to supper, apparently in good health. I did not have supper with them, as I never eat supper. I cannot say exactly what they had for supper; there was greengage jam and bread. I drank some tea and condensed milk. There was a tin in the oven found there on Friday; there was nothing but fat in it. My wife cleared the supper away and about half an hour afterwards my wife was sitting on a chair at the corner of the table. Without any warning she fell on to my legs. I laid her on the floor; my son had gone to bed. Before my son went to bed, he took one pill; my wife took two pills. In a few minutes after my wife fainted; she recovered consciousness. I asked her if she had any pain and she said "Yes, across my head." I went upstairs and got a pillow. She did not complain of any other pain; she was not sick. I heard my son call for water. I went upstairs to him and found him in bed. He had been upstairs about a quarter of an hour. He complained of a pain between the shoulders and across the chest; he was very thirsty; he drank the tea. I went downstairs again; I found my wife no better. I went for Dr Twort and when I returned, I found my wife sinking. She had not been sick. I heard my son

shouting for water. I found he had been very sick; I hardly know what I did. My wife said, "If anything happens, Ted, don't let the poor father be blamed" My son was not in the room then, I was. This was said during the early stage of the illness. I had some of the jam about a fortnight ago. To the best of my knowledge poison has not been brought into my house. In this house there are poisons belonging to Dr Muller; my wife had access to this house. The jam was in a glass bottle. We have mushrooms nearly every day. They grow in this place. My son was at work on Thursday, hoeing the asparagus beds; mushrooms and fungi grow on the beds. I had several times warned my son not to take anything into the house until I had seen it. He did not show me any on Thursday. I examined the asparagus bed on Friday and found places where mushrooms or fungi had been gathered recently."

The following statement handed to the police by the prisoner. On 24th November, was read: "1881 Lognor Wood, where strychnine was given her. During the time I and my wife lived at Lognor Wood my wife fetched milk from a farm close to the wood, or within 150 yards, held by a Mr. Charles worth, and frequently he would press her to stop to tea, and my wife complained of the rats coming to our house, where they had made large holes under the house, and he said I will give you some strychnine, that is what I use. He also gave her a small box of pills, which my wife showed to me, but I begged of her to throw them in the fire, and I warned her against using any poison in our place, as I had been to a good deal of expense of buying eggs of choice fowls, called the Derbyshire Redcaps, and also I had a valuable mastiff dog that I took out of a night, the property of Sir John Harper Crewe, when I suspected poachers about, and which I would not have had anything happen to it for a large sum, as the dog was not my own. In the wintertime, I think it was February, one evening Mr. Charlesworth asked my wife to tell me to go down in the morning to the farm, as he wanted me to shoot a cat, which was a nuisance to them by getting into the dairy. I went down about 10.30 in the forenoon, and Mr. Charlesworth told me he was not very well; he was upstairs. I told her I would call next morning, and I returned home, and about two hours afterwards heard he was laying dead, and which quite upset me. I went in and told my wife; she made this remark, that she was sure he had poisoned himself, as he was always full of drink, and his wife led him a terrible life, and Mrs Charlesworth showing my wife her legs which were bruised by him. He was buried three or four days afterwards and there had been no doctor, no inquiry whatever. He was put out of the way as quietly as you would bury a dog; that is what I witnessed of the affair. My wife declared that Mr Charlesworth had a large bottle of strychnine, from which he gave her some; this is from my own wife's mouth. I did not witness it myself, as I was not there.

Henry Bowles: The case was remanded without any evidence being given. This statement was given before any evidence was given.

The following statement, given to the police by the prisoner, was read: "1885 While at Wanstead Park Gate, in the service of Colonel Steel, R. E., and where my wife undertook to do the laundry work, and during that time frequently used poisons, and on one occasion when I went to post some letters in Leytonstone, which may be half a mile, my wife asked me to get a bottle of cough mixture and some bottles of vermin killer, as the mice would not eat what she had put down for the mice. I did so; but I do not remember whether it was one or two; my name

was entered in a book. My wife not being able to get through with the work, we left there in August of the same year. In November of the same year, we were living in the service of Mr. John Cross, agent to Lord Wantage, of Lockinge Park, in Berkshire, near Wantage. One Saturday night my oldest son, Harry, who had been in trouble and had cost me a good deal of money and trouble, came to our house after dark, not knowing where else to go, as I was the only friend he had. My wife put herself in such a rage, and declared if he did not go from there, she would poison him. Fearing my wife, in her temper, might do something to my poor boy, I pleaded with him, and advised him to go and enlist for a soldier, and I promised if he would do so, and keep from the drink and retrieve his character, that I would buy him off in three- or four-years' time, and he took my advice and did so, and left on Monday morning. I went part of the way to Didcot Station and gave him 3s.6d in his pocket to pay his fare to Reading where he enlisted in the Royal Berkshire Regiment, and are now lying at Templemore, in Ireland, since February 1886, when we left Mr. Cross. I have never heard mention any poison, and she has been on better terms with me. She has always had all my wages to lay out ever since she first lived with me, and also always paid the men. I never interfered in the least about house affairs, nor were there any place locked but she had the keys; nor had I the slightest knowledge of any poisons being in the house.

Henry Bowles. "Henry Bowles and wife and furniture removed from Lognor Wood, where I had filled the situation as gamekeeper to Sir John Harper Crewe, in April 1882; lived at Buxton till about the first Monday in June of that year. Mr. Wager engaged me at that time to go to his house, which is about five miles from Buxton, to do his garden and to watch some hill ground where there were rabbits, and remained five weeks in his service, for which he paid me £1. After receiving only £1 I went and got my coat, and walked to Lognor, which was market day, and where Mr. Wager was gone.

"I Henry Bowles, declining to do any more for him at such pay. During the time I was in Mr. Wager's employ I had never seen any poison of any description, nor was ever asked to use any. Remained at Buxton till 11th July 1882, when I, Henry Bowles, and my wife, went to Berkley, in Gloucestershire, and took charge of house and gardens belonging to John Swayne Pearce, Esq., of 13, Craven Hill, Bayswater London, and where I lived till 14th August 1884. Moses Wheeldon, of Lognor, farmer and watcher for Mr. Wager, of Glutton, during the time I was living at Lognor Wood had frequently brought me beaks of magpies and crows, for which I was paid for by Mr. William Turner, the head keeper for Sir John Harper Crewe, as part of my wages, and I gave Moses Wheeldon a couple of rabbits in return on one occasion. I asked Moses Wheeldon how he got hold of the crows, as I know they were difficult to trap, and he told me Mr. Wager supplied him with strychnine to poison them with. I never received any poison from Wheeldon, or any other man. He had at different times come to my house, and in my absence, but don't know if he gave my wife any. Moses Wheeldon's farm was on my beat on one side of the River Dove, and Mr. Wager's ground on the other side opposite, and Wheeldon looked after both sides, which he had done years before I went there, for which I used to give him rabbits by order of Mr. Turner, the head keeper, and all the vermin he could poison he would bring to me, and I gave him rabbits in return, as I was paid for vermin as part of my wages.

About March 13th or 14th, and a day or two before I left Lognor Wood, I saw Mr. Bradley, bank manager of Buxton, who asked me if I would accept the post as river watcher on the River Dove, as he and the farmers were going to form an association for the preservation of the trout and other fish in Dove, as I had broken up a notorious gang of poachers, having at one time three of the same poachers in Stafford Gaol at one time, and eight days after the ringleader came out I took him between 5 and 6 o'clock on Sunday morning, and stealing both rabbits and traps, he got two months, and that dispersed them, and that is why Mr. Wager also was anxious to engage me, but I never asked him for employment as he stated at the inquest. I never spoke to Mr. Wager in my life till the Saturday night in the week the Derby is run for at Epsom, when I was asked into the Cheshire Cheese Inn, Buxton, when Mr. Smedley, who drives a 'bus from Lognor to Buxton, past Mr. Wager's, told me that Wager was at the Eagle Hotel and particularly wanted to see me. I went, and he asked me if I would come, as the poachers were taking all his rabbits. I promised I would be there on Monday morning following. I went to Wager's, and remained there, doing anything, for a month, thinking in the meanwhile they would settle about the river, but it came to nothing. On Tuesday, Lognor market day, I asked Wager to pay me. He gave me a sovereign and went to market. I afterwards put the pony in the trap for Mr. Wager to go, and then I got my coat and went to market too, as I had had no engagement with Wager. I did not intend to stop with him, and we never had a word more.

During the time I, Henry Bowles, and my wife lived at Buxton my wife went to the Shakespeare Hotel cooking, and where she drank heavily and coming home at night at 11 o'clock and later the worse for drink, and I threatened her that if she continued getting in that state, I would sell the furniture and separate from her, when she would swear, she would poison me first. That made me accept Mr. Wager's offer to go and do his garden and watch his ground, hearing that Moses Wheeldon had left him, and also, I thought if I could only earn half a loaf it would occupy my time and also my mind while at Mr. Wager's. My wife came there in such a mad state of mind, and accused me of corresponding with some other woman, and declared she would poison me and go and murder this said woman, who it was I never knew. It so upset me that I left off work and walked a little way back with her and pleaded with her not to say such rash things and pledge my word I would not part from her if she would let the drink alone. A short time after that I got the situation in Gloucestershire. After being there a short time, she led me a dreadful time of it, what with her temper and the drink. I declared I would leave her, for which she threatened to poison me on several occasions for bringing her to such a dirty hole, and there she poisoned a favourite old dog of my master's, which I thought at the time was done at the hotel by Sharpness Station, which is just below the grounds, and where the dog frequently went, and I reported the same to my master in London, but after that my wife was taken ill, and the doctor treated her for heart disease. We left, and while in London we were speaking of the place we had left, and then she told me that she had laid some bread and butter in the larder sprinkled with poison to kill the mice and forgot to pick it up in the morning. The dog went in and ate it, and in a few minutes after the dog was what I thought first in a fit, but died at once, and I buried it, and reported the same to J. Swayne Pearce, Esq., my master at the time."

The prisoner made the following statement before the Magistrate: "On 22nd September I lived with my wife and son at the lodge at Crosby Hill. Dr Muller came from London that day and was with me about the grounds planning out work for the future, and he left there about a quarter past 4. He left by a pad gate at the lower end of the grounds, a most unusual thing, he had never done so before. I let him out. I went back about my work to the greenhouse till I saw that it was leaving-off time for the men. I went to the kitchen garden to see what had been done and pulled a handful of radishes for tea. I went down to the lodge where I lived and bid the witness Bracknell 'Good night. 'My wife took the radishes and washed them for tea. When I got in my wife asked me where Dr Muller was, as she said she had not seen him pass out of the lodge entrance. She then asked me if Dr Muller had paid me any money, which was owing to her from Mrs Muller for washing three-dozen blankets in the spring. I said 'No'. She then used an epithet and a wicked word and swore by oath that she would never do another hour's work there again. I told her I had no wish for her to work, it was all her own voluntary act, and I assured her that Mrs Muller would pay her when she came down. I also told her that she ought not to be pressed for a little money, for that she had 33s a week to keep house, with no rent, coals, or vegetables to buy. With that she flew in a passion and declared my boy did not pay enough (he was paying so much a week), and he should leave; and I told the boy to ask Bracknell to get lodgings at Camberley next day. She flew in such a rage and swore she would not stop there. I told her she could pay her way as well as any one if she left the brandy alone. She swore at my boy then for telling me he fetched it. This was during teatime, and I got up and walked out.

My son followed me. I was always in the habit of working till dark, and my son went to set some traps for rabbits, and he came to me by the greenhouses. I locked up all the buildings and returned to the lodge. I pulled off my boots, and got my writing desk, and was busy examining some lists that Dr Muller had given me that day. My boy sat down by the table and was looking at some of my papers for some time. My wife did not speak to me. She was of most violent temper and has remained like that sometimes for two days. My boy, to amuse her, got the cards out, as she would tell his fortune sometimes; but she threw the cards down on that occasion and would not make herself agreeable. About half past 9 she asked my son if he wanted any supper; they were both in the habit of eating suppers, but did not ask me, as I never eat suppers. I have not eaten suppers for 10 years, as a rule. After supper my wife got a box of pills from somewhere. I don't know where she had them and told my son that he ought to take a pill, as he had pimples breaking out on his face. My boy laughed, and asked for more jam, as they did not taste very well. After that my boy went to bed. My wife remained downstairs, but they have been in the habit of going to bed both at one and the same time. I sat there busy at my papers and smoking my pipe. I remember once filling my pipe and looking at her. It was an unusual thing for her to sit down, after supper she would always go to bed. She looked very pale, and I thought it was her temper. As near as I can tell, it was about half an hour from the time they had taken the pills she fell from the chair on to my legs. I thought it was a fainting fit. I got some water and sprinkled her face and moistened her lips, and in a few minutes, she spoke to me, and asked me to bathe her temples with vinegar, for her head was in great pain. While bathing her head my son called and said 'Father, bring me a little water. 'I took up to him a jug of tea and milk, such as I was drinking myself. I said, 'What makes you thirsty?' and I told him

his poor mother had just fainted downstairs. I got hold of his head and raised him from the pillow, and I held the jug while he drank from it. I asked him if he had any pain. He told me he had pain betwixt the shoulders and had tightness at the chest. I asked him if he thought it was the pills he had taken. He said he thought it was.

I persuaded him not to take more pills, but to get some salts from Camberley when he went again. He lay back on the pillow, and said he thought he should soon be better. I went down to my wife, when I asked her if I should lift her into my armchair, she said 'No, but get me a pillow from upstairs to lay my head on. 'She kept on asking me to bathe her temples, which she said were in great pain and finding she did not recover I asked her if there was any brandy in the pantry, where there should have been some by rights. I could not find any. I took a small jug and ran as hard as I could to our neighbour, Mrs Sharp, but I could not make anyone hear. I then returned and asked my wife if I should go for a doctor; she said 'No, I shall be all right presently. 'I kept on bathing her temples, and finding she got no better I ran to Camberley as hard as I could for the doctor, and also called up a woman, Mrs Deverel, who she had always expressed a wish should come to her if anything happened to her; I also called Mr. Evans, cab proprietor, to fetch this woman, and bring her up in a cab, as I was compelled to get home as soon as I could after calling the doctor, as my wife and son were alone.

Going up the road the doctor overtook me on his tricycle, and we went to the house and found my wife lying in the same position that I left her and appearing to be nearly dead. I spoke to her but could get no answer. My son was shouting upstairs for water. I took some water up and gave him to drink. He was completely smothered with a black vomit or dark vomit; bedclothes and walls were equally smothered, and it looked very much like ketchup or porter. I asked him if he had been eating mushrooms, and he said no, he had been eating jam, and I remained with him, as he was so strong, fighting and tearing about, poor fellow and Mrs Deverel remained with my wife. I frequently gave him water with a little drop of whisky in it, which the doctor sent me to Mr. Sullivan's for, and which I brought because I could not get brandy. Dr Twort and Mr. Evans were in the room at the time. Dr Twort shortly left to fetch something for him, but he struggled and died before the doctor came back. My wife never vomited anything, nor scarcely moved until she fell down. The doctor went away, and Evans, the woman, and myself remained in the house. It was she (Mrs Deverel) that cleared the room up, and I remained at the house until the doctor came in the next day. They took the keys of the lodge, and after that I remained up at the big house up at Crosby Hill, where the inquest was held on Saturday."

Guilty death

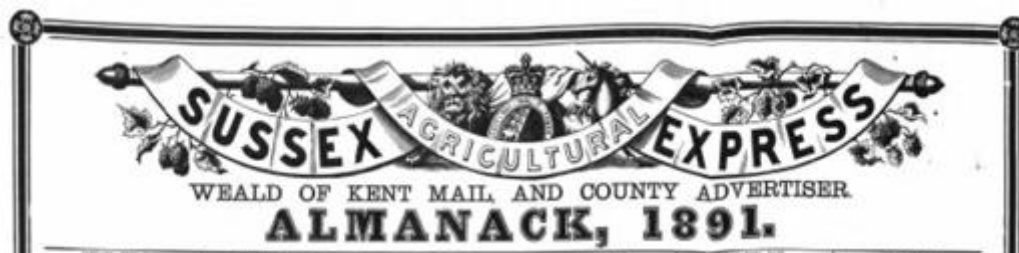
1890 April 5 Surrey Advertiser: Assault on Police: Upper Hale: James Ford a tailor at Farnham Special Sessions was charged with assaulting Hannah Brockhurst by kicking her at Upper Hale on 28 March and with being drunk and assaulting PC Halliday. The case involving Mrs Brockhurst was withdrawn. PC Halliday was called to the house where the defendant was making terrible threats, so he was arrested, became violent and kicked the officer twice in the pit of the stomach. Mr Cook a Metropolitan Police pensioner came to the assistance of PC Halliday. The prisoner was taken in a cart to Farnham police station. The defendant received two black eyes and a cut to his chin caused said PC Halliday, the defendant running into a cherry tree and not because he had struck him. Mrs Brockhurst said the defendant was badly

used by the policeman who gave the defendant two black eyes and Mr Cook kicked him. In answer to a question from Superintendent Pike Mrs Brockhurst agreed that she had signed the charge sheet at the police station. Fined £6 and 18s costs or two months in default. Mrs Brockhurst paid £3 and said she would pay the balance in the evening.

1890 May 19: Attempted murder at Farnham: On Saturday morning a woman named McLean the wife of a tailor living in the Bourne, Farnham, attempted to murder one of her children aged about three years by cutting its throat. The woman has been very despondent lately. Superintendent Pike of the local police was passing at the time of the occurrence and at once took the woman into custody. The child is not expected to live.¹¹

1891 January 10: At the Surrey Sessions: Francis Stirling Lancelot 21 a labourer was charged on bail, with **indecently assaulting Charlotte Marden aged over 70 in Churt.** Marden went to the post office where she saw the accused who she had known for 14 years. As she was returning home, she was indecently assaulted in Duttons Hollow Cottage. A struggle took place, and the assailants face was scratched. Police were informed and traced the defendant's footmarks from his boots where the assault took place and in Duttons Hollow. However, in evidence the father of the accused produced his own boots, which had a similar pattern and he walked frequently in Duttons Hollow whereas a naturalist and author he enhanced his knowledge. The case was dismissed and the learned counsel for the defence commented severely upon the manner Superintendent Pike and PC Stevens had given evidence.¹²

Sussex Agriculture Express 27 December 1891



Chief Constable Captain Henry Cadogan Hastings Guildford

Deputy Chief Constable Superintendent CW Barker Guildford

Inspector and Chief Clerk WH Bryant, Guildford

Superintendents

Chertsey A H Bungard: Dorking, G Lambert: Farnham, Frederick Pike: Godstone, Edwin Redford.

Inspectors

¹¹ The Yorkshire Herald, and The York Herald (York, England), Monday, May 19, 1890

¹² 1891 January 10: The Surrey Mirror and General County Advertiser



PC John Bartlett standing behind the chief superintendent Course 179 Sandgate 1961



Chelmsford Driving Course John Bartlett Surrey Constabulary 4th from left rear rank



Sergeant's Course 1979/1980



Dorking 1978 Bob Heaten, Brian Silver, Tony Jerney, Richard Poulton, Tim Blake, Ken Langridge, Peter Durston, Front: Brian Roberts, Alf Hay, David Eades, Roy Wakefield, Peter Wickens.

“Endured until Pension?”¹³

Every man will not make a good constable¹⁴

Robert Bartlett

For a recruit into the Surrey Constabulary in January 1851 it was an adventure, a time when a new police force was moulded. There was no guarantee of success or that the newly appointed “leadership team” would coalesce around their new chief constable and be able to meet the challenge. Even the chief constable was a stranger to policing and was only just given the role by 18 votes to 20! The 1840s was a time of agricultural depression, the “Hungry Forties” but also a time when revolutionary forms of transport and communications were being developed in time to have a significant impact upon policing in Surrey.

In 1851 the county was ready for a more professional and coordinated way of policing, though as always, paying for it was a contentious matter. The Morning Herald in December 1850 established the concerns of the residents of Surrey, considering one solution, recruiting from the army:

A little while ago the insecurity of life and property in some parts of England was a matter discussed with the liveliest interest by the public and commented on with

¹³ A quote from “Policing Victorian Community” Carolyn Steadman page 81

¹⁴ The Morning Herald (London) 13 December 1850

emphatic earnestness by the press. In some of the southern counties there was something very much like a panic invading our thresholds. A grim shadow of personified burglary darkened our doors. Householders in rural districts, alarmed and astounded by the frequency of the outrages committed around them, closed their doors, and guarded their premises with tenfold vigilance, and still laid their heads on their pillows with a disturbing sense of insecurity within them, and woke with mingled feelings of gratitude and astonishment that they had not been robbed and murdered in the night.

As to the efficiency of the new constabulary body, it is a mere commonplace to say that it will mainly depend on the judicious selection of the components of the force. Every man will not make a good constable; but every man out of employ thinks he will. Judging by the performance of ordinary village constables under the present system and the nature and extent of their capabilities, it is not strange that a very low estimate both of what it is necessary for a constable to do, and what is necessary for a constable to be, should be formulated by the commonality at large. The immense number of incapable men will offer themselves for this service is as certain as incapacity itself; but we have sufficient faith in the judgement and discretion of the Surrey magistrates to believe the members of the new police force will not be hastily chosen.

There was then, a vehement outcry against the inefficiency of the rural police, and a loud clamour for immediate remedial measures for the protection of the lives and properties of dwellers in the country.¹⁵

Given the agreement that a Surrey Constabulary was necessary, how was the force established and who was selected and what restraints and guidance were placed on the new recruits to Surrey? One immediate hurdle to recruiting for the new forces was the Metropolitan Police who were in January 1851 about to recruit to police the Great Exhibition and were seeking 13 inspectors, 52 sergeants and 1031 constables.¹⁶ Considerable competition!¹⁷

A significant proportion of the recruits were transferees from other forces, from roles as full-time parish constables or from one of the micro police forces within the county. All five superintendents and first seven inspectors were experienced officers. Of the first 100 recruits 44 had previous police experience at differing levels. There were no sergeants in the Surrey Constabulary until 1865.

Previous police experience brought to the county came from the Indian Police, Irish Constabulary, Dublin, City of London, Metropolitan Police, Staffordshire, Plymouth, Bath, Essex, Kent, Hampshire and other forces. A handful from Guildford and Godalming Borough,

¹⁵ The Morning Herald (London) 13 December 1850

¹⁶ "Rowan and Mayne" Tony Moore page 284

¹⁷ Of the first 100, 13 were or had served in the Metropolitan Police; SCC History Centre CC98/4/1

Farnham town and Dorking town. Additionally, there were full time paid constables from Shamley Green, Chertsey, Chobham, Windlesham, Thorpe, Nutfield and Shere.¹⁸

The chief constable was to be paid £300 per annum with £100 for horses, travelling expenses. Chief Superintendent Biddlecombe was to be paid £170, with five superintendents each earning £85. There was a budget for eight inspectors paid a total of £483.12s about £60. Seventy constable's salaries totalled £3463.4s plus the cost of uniform and equipment £1227 11s.

On the 21 January 1851 the South Eastern Gazette reports:¹⁹

Mr Biddlecombe, late superintendent Godalming, has been appointed by Captain Hastings as his chief officer. The following are the Superintendents at a salary of £85 each; Messrs Codd, late Staffordshire Police; Casey late Staffordshire Police; Hughes; Northumberland; Hollington; Guildford; and Sergeant (sic: should read Sargent) late of Essex and now of the Bath Police.

Inspectors; Messrs High, late sergeant, Mr Biddlecombe; Wilson, Thorpe; Benham, Chertsey; Collins, Chobham; Bidwell, Wales; Donaldson, Dorking and Radley, Essex.

Fifty constables have been appointed and great care has been taken by Captain Hastings to secure officers from the forces in different parts of the country as well as the metropolis. A further selection will take place on Thursday; there is no lack of candidates.

Captain Hastings had intentions to recruit a type of man, but his plan had soon to be adjusted:

- Men who had already served in a county police force²⁰
- Men from HM Forces²¹
- Parish and borough constables²²

The men had to be honest, sober, under 30²³ and at least 5 feet 7 inches; with no apparent minimum age as one appointed constable was aged 14 and another 15.²⁴ ²⁵ The principle established by Peel that the police was to be a “lower-deck” organisation, led in the counties and cities by men of a suitable class able to mix socially with the magistrates. Aspirational officers could seek chief officer rank within boroughs. The principle of recruiting from the working man, military and serving police officers, brought with it the horrors of overindulgence of alcohol. The working man consumed a great deal of alcohol and those who joined the police were no different. It was a curse that ruined many lives. Issues around sobriety when recruiting

¹⁸ Defaulters register SCC History Centre CC98/4/1

¹⁹ 1851 South Eastern Gazette 21st January

²⁰ Brought in urban officers

²¹ Only six former servicemen joined in the first hundred

²² Most locally employed constables soon resigned or were dismissed from the Surrey Constabulary

²³ 41 of the first 100 recruits were over 30

²⁴ A Hundred Years of the Surrey Constabulary by Superintendent Durrant 1951

²⁵ Possibly because it was difficult to get clerks – early cadets!

is not obviously addressed, giving doubts about the effectiveness of the recruiting process, the taking of references, local enquires as to suitability. Who interviewed and approved recruits is unclear, but as the chief constable micro-managed everything it is hard to believe he delegated any hiring or firing. Recruiting was to become a continuing chore following so many resignations and dismissals.

Recruits took an oath before a magistrate and were never an employee or servant of the Police Authority, but a local citizen appointed under the Crown, answerable to his chief constable and the law. Professional and upper classes would have been treated warily and with caution, the police then as now spending much time working among small sections of frequently disadvantaged communities. Controlling behaviour, enforcing licensing laws, bringing discipline to the streets was not always welcome and was frequently met with violence aggravated by drink. Two Surrey officers, Donaldson and Mason were to be killed in the 1850s by beating and many other officers suffered from violent assaults. Officers were frequently on their own, reliant on the community to come to their assistance if under threat. A rural policeman walked a fine line between being feared and respected, the latter likely to achieve support from “locals” when in a tight corner.

There were four classes of constables paid at differing rates, with newly appointed officers starting at class four and moving through the classes on promotion and frequently down again through discipline. Except for the inspectors and superintendents no one joined above third-class constable. All were required to work seven days a week and granted twelve days leave a year, which had to be taken in summer as no leave was permitted during the winter. It was not until 1852 that an Instruction Book was provided for each man to give guidance on policing matters, although the system of General Orders began on 30 January 1851²⁶. The first order related to the taking of leave.

General Orders has many entries detailing constables rising through the classes from four to first, many going up and down as they commit disciplinary offences. A reduction in class was a meaningful punishment as it meant a reduction in pay, and sometimes accompanied by a house move paid for by the constable. A first-class constable was the equivalent of a sergeant and men were promoted inspector from this class.

There was no shortage of recruits although as always, the pay was poor, seventeen shillings a week, and the conditions harsh. Of the first 100 men appointed only 12 served long enough to receive a pension including two ill-health pensions. Seventeen of this hundred were dismissed with four more required to resign in the first 13 months of the life of the Surrey Constabulary.

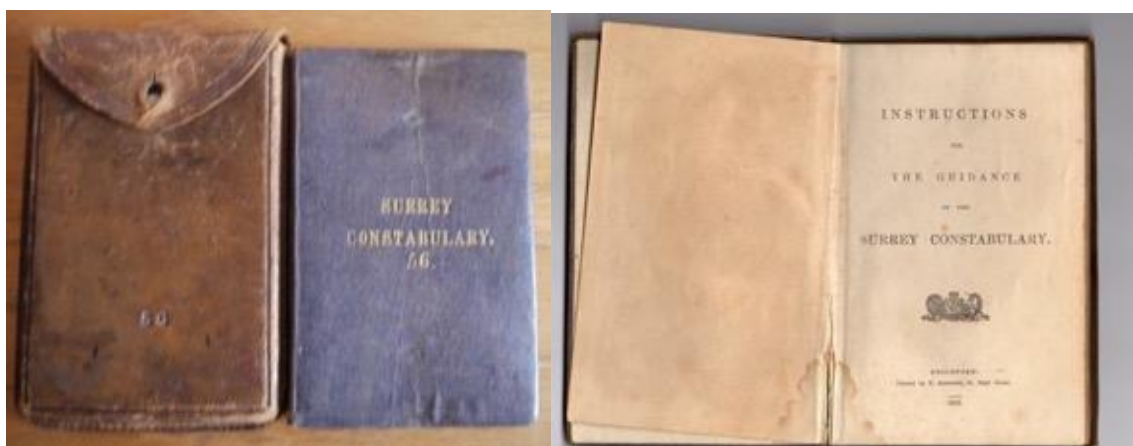
Newly appointed senior officers were the core of the new constabulary, with a responsibility for training recruits including the chief constable! There does not appear to have been any formal training though the instruction book of 1852 was the basis for all activity, but no copy

²⁶ The Metropolitan Police established GOs from formation in 1829

of this booklet seems to have survived. (There are copies of the 1862 and 1882 versions and given the slow pace of change little will be different between the volumes)

The superintendents were soon in post, which indicates an advert was out in December before Hastings was appointed on 1 January, and some may well have been selected by the magistrates but there is nothing to indicate this. The men would have needed to resign from their existing forces and move to Surrey probably in days not weeks, yet most were appointed early in January.²⁷ Whatever was involved happened quickly as senior men were in post by 9 January.

Initially, to bring about the new force, there was a significant reliance on the experience of the superintendents and inspectors who were the link to the constables, the work force. Bringing together a disparate number of men, ensuring some form of instruction, and briefing as to their role and the activity of policing. The writing of the conditions of service and general orders guiding the running of the force, the specifications for uniforms and the limited equipment there was, horses, carts, buildings, housing, stabling, relationships with magistrates and the courts all probably managed under the very tight control of Captain Hastings.



Instruction Book 1862²⁸

The wording of the Instruction Book of 1862 is recognisable, is explicit and appears a straight lift from the Metropolitan Police Instruction Book, under heading “Primary Objects of an Efficient Police,” particularly the paragraph on prevention of crime to which every effort is to be directed. “Cut and paste” is not a new phenomenon. The following are extracts from the 1862 Instruction Book which give an understanding of what was trying to be achieved and frequently, how:

The following instructions for the Surrey Constabulary, are not to be understood as containing rules of conduct applicable to every variety of circumstances that may occur in the performance of their duty; much must necessarily be left to the intelligence and discretion of individuals, and according to the degree in which they show themselves

²⁷ January 1, 1851, in the Morning Post Wednesday: “At the Surrey Quarter Sessions yesterday the rural police committee recommended Captain Hastings for the post of chief constable carried by a majority of two, the numbers being 20 and 18.

²⁸ In possession of Shane Burrows

possessed of these qualities, and to their zeal, activity, and judgment on all occasions, will be their claim to future promotion and reward.

Every constable must readily and punctually obey the orders of his superiors; if they appear to him improper, he may complain to the chief constable, through his superintendent, who will pay due attention to him. Any refusal to perform the commands of his superiors, or negligence in doing so, will not be suffered. It should be understood at the outset, that the principal object to be attained is *the prevention of crime*. (Note the Metropolitan Police instruction used the term *primary object*)

(Much of what follows has come from the 1829 instructions to the Metropolitan Police)

To this end, every effort of the constabulary is to be directed. The security of persons and property, the preservation of the public tranquillity, and all the other objects of a well-regulated police force will thus be better effected, than by the detection and punishment of the offender after he has succeeded in committing the crime. This should be constantly kept in mind by every member of the force, as a guide for his own conduct. Constables should endeavour to distinguish themselves by such vigilance, and activity, as may render it extremely difficult for anyone to commit a crime within that portion of the district under their charge.

Conditions of Service

The way of life and ways of working of the constable are unambiguously established within the conditions of service originated by the chief constable. It was what he believed at that time, to be the best for the Surrey Constabulary though liable to change at his discretion. Again, the following, which has been edited, was no doubt based on rules in place elsewhere.

- Each man shall devote the whole of his time to the service of the Surrey Constabulary, and conform to all the rules and regulations of the Service
- He shall serve and reside wherever he is directed, and not receive a lodger without the sanction of the Chief Constable; neither shall he, if living in a police station, or lock-up, keep any description of animal without permission.
- He shall promptly obey all orders, which he may receive from those in authority over him, and his demeanour must always be respectful towards them.
- Not receive for his own use, money from any person, without the permission of the Chief Constable.
- On entering, furnish himself with two pairs of white gloves, two pairs of boots, suit of plain clothes: a notebook.
- His pay, (increased from 1851) at the rate of twenty-two shillings and nine pence per week, shall commence from the day on which he is sworn in.
- At all times appear in his uniform, unless when otherwise directed
- Receive pay monthly when a deduction of 2.5 per cent towards Superannuation Fund

- If absent from his duty, in consequence of ill-health, or on leave, the Chief Constable will exercise his pleasure as to stopping any portion of his pay during such absence.
- He is not to carry on any trade, nor will his wife be allowed to keep a shop.
- Not quit without giving one calendar month's notice. A sum not exceeding ten shillings deducted from pay due for the purpose of having his uniform altered for his successor.
- Not belong to any political or secret society.
- Every man dismissed or resigns shall deliver up at the Chief Constable's office, every article of dress, and all appointments, which have been supplied, to him.
- Each person is liable to immediate dismissal for unfitness, negligence, or misconduct, and such dismissal renders him ineligible for appointment in any other Constabulary.
- The Chief Constable may also dismiss officers without assigning any reason.

More detail was set down as to what the responsibilities were of the constable working mostly rural beats. Remember he was isolated from his colleagues and left to his own devices something that police management (i.e., military) found difficult. How do you tightly regulate the workforce when they work most of the time without close supervision and expected to use common sense and discretion? It takes a certain type of man, strong of will and a flexible mind, not always the sort who bends to military style discipline!

The constable on first arrival at his station, wait upon the magistrates residing within his district, and take every pains to inform himself of all bad characters residing in the neighbourhood.

When he goes on duty, he will take care to be at the appointed place, (if not before) precisely at the prescribed hour and he will be held responsible for the security of life and property within his beat, for the preservation of the peace, and general good order during the time he is on duty.

Never appear out of uniform, except when on leave or by the direction of the chief constable, or superintendent, in cases where disguise may be considered necessary in the execution of a particular duty. Not refuse to show his number or tell it when asked.

When walking the streets, he must not shoulder past any person. In towns, he should keep on the outward side of the footpath during the day and next to the houses at night.

He is strictly cautioned against idle conversation referring to the Service, and he must not whilst on duty, enter conversation with anyone, except on matters solely relating to his duty. Insolence or incivility will not be overlooked, and improper language is on no pretence to be used by the constable.

He is not to associate or hold any communication with men who have been dismissed the Service.

He is to treat every Magistrate with attention and respect and be civil to persons of every rank and class. As it is of the greatest importance that each man should be respected by the magistrates and people, he will be extremely cautious in his demeanour, and by sober, orderly, and regular habits, respectful attention to every person, and ready zeal to execute the lawful orders and commands of the magistrates, endeavour to obtain the approbation of all classes.

He must take care that persons giving information be duly protected, and strict secrecy observed with respect to them.

He will caution persons against assembling or loitering at the corners, or other places in the streets, to the inconvenience or annoyance of the public.

Children found wandering abroad, unable to give an account of their residence, are to be taken to the nearest station, and authority procured from the overseer of the parish, or relieving officer for their admittance into the workhouse.

If the constable observes anything in the roads or streets likely to produce danger or public inconvenience, he must report it to his superintendent.

He must remember that there is no qualification more indispensable in a constable than command of temper.

He must when his usual hours of patrol are over, return to his own quarters, and unless called out to perform service (the nature of which must be reported by him), he is expected to be found there until the hour of his again going on duty arrives.

When a constable resides in a police station, he must not leave it without permission of the officer in charge; and when allowed to do so, must always report his return.

On no account to absent himself from his detachment, on private affairs, without permission of the chief constable, or superintendent: when desirous of obtaining leave to do so, application must be made in writing, specifying the day and hour of departure, as well as of return. Leave will not be granted to any constable who has served less than twelve months in the force, or during the winter months, viz: from November 1st to March 1st, except under urgent circumstances. Constables returning from leave of absence must always report themselves to the superintendent of the division.

When the constable has occasion to visit Guildford, whether on public or private business, he must report himself to the chief constable's office immediately on arrival.

As far as practicable, the duties on Sundays and other days appointed for public worship will be arranged to enable every constable to attend divine service.

When the constable is unable to perform his duty in consequence of sickness, a medical certificate must be forwarded to his superintendent. Before return to duty, another certificate is to be given to the superintendent, certifying that the constable has sufficiently recovered from such illness.

Journals

Management may not be present and able to constantly regulate activity and so the men have to record all they get up to later, to be reviewed and no doubt questioned. The keeping of journals or timesheets was a process from early days until modern times including the logging of conference points and supervisory visits until the coming of the personal radio made such activities unnecessary. Every constable was supplied with a journal, which was to be kept perfectly clean, and carefully filled in daily. A long list of instructions follows on how it is to be completed and supervised.

This was seen as an important document only to be inspected by a “Superior Officer belonging to the Force” and no one else without permission of the chief constable.

Alterations were to be made by drawing the pen through the word to be expunged; no other erasures can be allowed.²⁹ Conferences with senior people or other colleagues were to be entered and should he miss a point, he must report to his Superintendent immediately.

The constable must, when practicable, attend Divine Service at least once every Sunday and if not, an entry to be made on the timesheet.

A record kept of when his detachment is visited by a superior officer, why conferences were omitted, the names of farmers and others called upon, and any complaints made by them together with every remarkable occurrence. To be forwarded to the Superintendent every Monday, and the constable does not deliver it himself, he must always enclose it in an envelope, properly addressed.

How to act in cases of larceny

The aim was to prevent crime but by 1851 police forces had long learnt that detection went with the role and there was much to learn. Much of what was contained within the instructions for dealing with crime would no doubt have been passed on to non-police recruits by the more experienced. There is every probability, when the inspector and sometimes superintendent on meeting constables at conference points, would discuss how crime or other incidents were best dealt with. Discussions around recent crimes and incidents and how colleagues had responded. This was the opportunity to seek help and guidance and for the more senior people to get to understand the abilities and aptitudes of their constables.

²⁹ Still practice in the 1960s – the pneumonic No Elbows was used the E being for no erasures- change was slow!

The IB has clear guidance on what a constable is to do when confronted with crime. Most crime was referred to as robbery and when reported the constable was to go immediately to the scene, undertake enquiries, and seek any suspects and ascertaining if any strangers have been in the neighbourhood.³⁰

Following a burglary, the constable was told to make a judgement whether the thief appears to have been familiar with the premises. Was the crime “an inside job”? Had an entry been effected at once, or had ineffectual attempts to gain entry been made. Examine the ground under windows and around the house for footmarks. If found, to be measured, examined, securely covered with boards to preserve them. When comparing footmarks, “not to place the boot or shoe over the footmark which has been discovered as he may thereby injure or efface the mark, but by the side of it. This should be done with the boots or shoes of both feet and when practicable in the presence of a witness.”³¹

Examination to be made in fields and lanes around the scene with the view of ascertaining the direction taken by the thieves both in coming to and going from the house. “The constable will then inquire at all the public and beer houses in the neighbourhood as to what persons have called or have been lodging there; and having made a note of all these particulars he will send a messenger to inform his superior officer thereof whilst he himself continues his enquiries on the spot.” Where there is a likelihood of catching up with the suspect the constable was permitted to hire a horse or other conveyance to pursue them. Nine robberies out of ten the thieves live in the neighbourhood.³²

Rural crime frequently involved not just poaching but the theft and killing of fowls and sheep. Officers were advised to discover footmarks in the surrounding fields and gaps. Where a sheep has been slaughtered in the field, and the carcass skinned and carried off, the thieves almost invariably live close by. The constable was told to set a watch on the houses of the suspected persons to detect any attempt to bring home the meat at night.

The messenger dispatched to the superintendent with the information of a robbery should be directed to inform all constables stationed on the road, as it is desirable that the intelligence should be spread as widely and as speedily as possible.

In case of fire, the constable to give immediate alarm and as soon as possible send information to his superintendent. To be useful and endeavour to keep the space near the fire clear. Special attention must be directed at such times to the thieves and pickpockets who are usually in the crowd.³³

There was military style drill to be taught including how and who to salute. The army influence was there but had some value in deportment, moving numbers in squads and care of uniform.

³⁰ Page 33 of 1862 instruction Book

³¹ Page 33 of 1862 instruction Book

³² Page 34 1862 Instruction Book

³³ Page 35 1862 Instruction Book –Copy from urban force? Pickpocketing unlikely an issue in rural Surrey

It was probably not just foot drill and saluting. There is evidence of the issue of sabres during disorder and no doubt there were drills to be learnt. When gathered for drill it is most unlikely that the local superintendent did not take the opportunity to give instruction and guidance on policing issues. Such gatherings in Surrey continued until the 1970s, known as Divisional Parades.

Operationally the superintendent and inspector ranks had personal responsibility for the investigation of all serious crime and incidents such as fires. Senior men on the division would deal with crime such as murder, infanticide, concealment of birth and serious acts of violence. Biddlecombe was to deal with a number of suspicious deaths including one at Esher when six children were killed by their mother. Constables dealt with crime, made arrests for public order, deserters and dealt with diseases of animals both prevention and outbreaks. During the early months of 1851 whilst the constabulary was forming, and postings being made across the county there remained the prosecution and conviction of the Isaacs' gang and dealing with some of their crimes still being committed until the whole gang was rolled up.

The chief constable required that he be notified of serious matters, which meant for most of the county this was by letter, then a lot faster than it is today with several collections and deliveries a day. An early General Order from the chief constable:

1851 January 31: GO 6: Superintendents on receiving information of a robbery or any other serious offence having been committed are required immediately to communicate the same with the chief constable.³⁴

A range of crime and activity was addressed in its first year, what follows is heavily edited but sheds light on the nature of policing and the police response:

1851 25th February. Sussex Advertiser - Guildford Petty Sessions - Reuben Smith was charged with having on 15th February, kept open his beer shop at Compton, after the hour of 10 o'clock.

1851 February 1 stealing an ewe sheep a man sentenced to ten years transportation³⁵

1851 February 1: GO 8: First commendation PC James Walker for the way he conducted himself in a felony case. Promoted to second class but March 1852 was reduced again for drunkenness and resigned.³⁶

1851 About February: First murder charges brought by the Constabulary against John Keene aged 22 and Jane Keene aged 25 charged with the murder of Charles Broomer aged three years in Albury.

³⁴ Surrey Constabulary General Orders Book 1 1851-. The term robbery a generic term for crime

³⁵ Superintendent Durrant First 100 Years 1851-1951 Page 12

³⁶ Surrey Constabulary General Orders Book 1 1851-

1851 February 8: Sheep Stealing: On Saturday night ewe sheep was stolen from a field in Weybridge. Captain Hastings despatched from Shalford on Tuesday Inspectors Wilson and Benham arriving late in the afternoon of Tuesday. After examining the spot where the sheep had been slaughtered and discovering the entrails and a pair of fine lambs taken from the ewe left behind, they closely inspected the supposed route of the predators suspicions fell upon the notorious character Joseph Bidwell of Newhaw.

On the officers going to Bidwell's house found him in bed and parts of a shoulder of cooked mutton and parts of a breast were on the table. On being questioned as to the possession of the mutton he responded that was his business! He was taken before a magistrate at Byfleet and remanded to the house of correction at Kingston. Great credit is due to Wilson and Benham and their success in the present case argues well for the future efficiency of the newly organised police.³⁷

1851 April 29: GO 35: County horses are not being cared for and were not to be ridden at a greater speed than 6mph.³⁸

1851 May 6 Sussex Advertiser: Guildford Police Court, a lad of fourteen charged with stealing three brass terrets (loops or rings on a horse's harness pad for the driving reins to pass through) and one brass buckle. Inspector Radley stated on the evening of 26th inst., he apprehended the prisoner who told him he had taken the brass terrets - sentenced to seven days hard labour.

1851 May 13 Superintendent Codd Guildford Police Court regarding two cases of drunk and disorderly. ³⁹

1851 May 13: Sussex Advertiser Guildford Police Court: Labourer charged with assaulting PC George Lemon who said that between one and two o'clock on Tuesday morning, he saw police constable William Earl, struggling with James Loe Scotman, in the gutter in front of the Town-Hall. He went to the assistance of this brother officer, when the prisoner struck him a violent blow across his head with the hurdle stake produced, a most formidable looking weapon. His hat was broken in two (the hat was produced), he felt rather staggered but on recovering himself, he looked around and saw the defendant drop the hurdle stake. The defendant ran across the road into the crowd but was brought him back and taken into custody. Committed to hard labour for two months.

1851 May 17: George Pink aged eleven stole a piece of "oaken wood" value two pence and was sentenced to seven days hard labour and ordered to privately whipped once.⁴⁰

³⁷ February 8, 1851: Windsor and Eton Express; Berks, Bucks and Middlesex Journal and West Surrey Gazette

³⁸ Surrey Constabulary General Orders Book 1 1851-

³⁹ 1851 13th May Sussex Advertiser

⁴⁰ Durant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 13

1851 May 18: at Godstone a thirteen-year-old boy was whipped for stealing a faggot and at the same court a boy aged fifteen was sentenced to two months hard labour for stealing a quantity of wood.⁴¹

1851 August 28: For trespassing in search of game three men were charged and committed for trial where they were sentenced to six months hard labour.⁴²

1851 September 21: Police Office Guildford: suspicion of having committed a felony. First arrested for drunk and disorderly then searched and found to be in possession of a considerable amount of money in silver. His account not deemed satisfactory he was remanded till Saturday next after being fined 5s for being drunk.⁴³

When the Surrey Constabulary was formed it took responsibility for policing the rural parts of the county including incorporating the Guildford Borough Police. However, it seems as if the Watch Committee for the Borough retained an element of control.

1851 October 21: Tuesday: Attempted burglary Addlestone: Collier 25 and Tovey 25, were indicted for attempting to break into the house of Sarah Willis 72, who lived alone in Addlestone. Saturday night she went to bed and after about three hours she heard breaking glass. She up and went to the window where she saw some faces. One of the men called out "Give us some money or it will be the worse for you." They started to force the door, so she put a piece of iron against it to prevent them breaking it open. She noticed a knife coming through the shutter and took up a candlestick and pushed against it to stop it coming any further.

Walter Ayling one of the Surrey Police said he watched the prisoners from a beer-shop. He followed them and hid in an outhouse and saw them trying to break open the door. They then broke several panes of glass so the old lady told them to go round, and she would give them some money. The police officer followed them, but they ran away but he captured Tovey whom he took to Collier's house. While standing there, Collier came home and having sent for the superintendent they were both taken to the police station.

Superintendent Biddlecombe of the Surrey police said he examined the old lady's house afterwards and found the back door broken very much as if the thieves intended to force the lock back by wrenching it off the bottom board. The verdict of Guilty was returned. A former conviction against Tovey having been proved he was sentenced to 10 years transportation and the other prisoner to 12 months hard labour

Making a reference to the murder of the reverend Hollest at Frimley, the chairman told the prisoners that had it not been for the courageous old lady they would have entered

⁴¹ Durant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 12

⁴² Durant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 12

⁴³ 1851 September 21: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette

her house and might have succeeded in committing a crime similar to that in another part of the county for which two men suffered recently.⁴⁴

1851 October 28: Sussex Advertiser: Guildford Police Court John Thompson, a cadger brought up in custody on a charge of felony and committed for trial at borough sessions.

1851 Guy Riots: A large-scale disturbance between the Guys and police occurred at the bottom of the High Street near the Mount where heavy fighting took place with casualties on both sides forcing the police to withdraw to the county police station in Woodbridge Road.⁴⁵

1851 2 December Sussex Advertiser: On Friday night last about 10 o'clock our active and vigilant Superintendent Radley was near the Railway Station when he observed a man, evidently a stranger to town, looking about him as if undecided which way he should go. He answered the description of a wanted person in the Police Gazette for a burglary at Walton on Thames. Superintendent made an instantaneous change in his dress, to avoid suspicion and followed the man up the Portsmouth Road before returning to the Wheatsheaf.

The superintendent followed him and accosted him and said he must see what he had about him. The man was searched and taken from his pocket was a large centre bit, in common use among burglars. He also found a very large life preserver, certainly the largest and most formidable weapon he had seen. On searching his bundle, skeleton keys were found as well as other articles, making up along with those previously found, the complete stock in trade of a finished 'cracksman.'

The man was arrested man and gave the name Alfred Garnet, and said he was a journeyman harness maker. On Saturday he was brought before the Police Office charged with being in possession of skeleton keys and housebreaking implements without reasonable excuse and a long list of articles found on him was produced. He was then remanded until the following Monday. The magistrates expressing the opinion that very great credit was due to Superintendent Radley for his conduct on this occasion.

1851 December 10: Harry Percival age twenty-eight a labourer stole a handkerchief and eight pence three farthings and was transported for ten years.⁴⁶

1851 December 16: Guildford Borough Police Court: Henry Lloyd was brought up in custody having had in his possession a quantity of counterfeit coin purporting to be shillings and sixpences with intent to utter the same. Superintendent Radley in evidence said he suspected parcels containing bad money had frequently been sent to the Swan

⁴⁴ 1851 21 October: Daily News

⁴⁵ They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary

⁴⁶ Durant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 12

beer house in Swan Lane where the prisoner was lodging. Radley went on Monday night the 8th to the railways station watching several trains arrive from London. By the 7 o'clock train a parcel arrived directed to "Joseph Mills, Swan, Swan Lane, Guildford." He opened the parcel and found the coin he then produced. It was wrapped in a piece of rag and consisted of 80 pieces purporting to be shillings and eight pieces purporting to sixpences. He packed the parcel up again in the same manner as it was before and caused the delivery to be delayed until Tuesday morning at 10am by the porter. He was in a position the following morning to see the parcel delivered to Mrs Seebrook the landlady. The prisoner was outside washing himself and after the porter left, he took the parcel upstairs, coming down again in six or seven minutes and the superintendent arrested and searched him finding the coins wrapped in rag in his trouser pocket. The prisoner was remanded until Monday⁴⁷

1851 December 16: Magistrate's Clerk's Office: December 12 Ockham: James Wells a labourer from Ockham was brought up in custody by PC Murtell having been charged with threatening to take the life of his wife Martha who is in a far state of pregnancy, because she refused to take drugs to induce an abortion. The prisoner was severely reprimanded by the magistrates who ordered him to find two sureties in £20 each to keep the peace for 12 months. The required security not being forthcoming he was sent to prison for two months.⁴⁸

1851 Detection rate: There was not a great deal of crime but those prosecuted had an excellent chance of acquittal, in fact an even chance, possibly because of poor investigation and case preparation by untrained and inexperienced police officers. The large number of arrests in proportion to the recorded crime is further evidence. Interviewing and investigating had to be taught but mainly constables arrested suspects to take them to the superintendent for further investigation. In the past people were detained by the constable and taken before the local magistrate who undertook direction of the enquiry.

This interesting case from early 1852, details the decision making of the superintendent and the shortage of men he had to deploy, giving details of where they were stationed.

1852 13th February Evening Mail – At Surrey Quarter Sessions on 11th February, Superintendent Codd was a witness to a Prize Fight on Burstow Common. The defendants were all found guilty.

Edward Codd, Superintendent for Reigate district, stated on 2nd December with Inspector Benham and a constable went to Burstow Common, about five miles from Reigate arriving at 2 o'clock. There were about 300 persons and men were fighting in a circular ring formed by ropes. He got into the ring and asked them to desist in the Queen's name, but they continued fighting. The bystanders then rushed into the ring

⁴⁷ 1851 December 16: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette

⁴⁸ 1851 December 16: The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette

flourishing sticks and then fists so he thought it prudent as there were only three of them to retreat.

Codd had only nine men and an inspector in the Reigate District, and he was the only mounted one. His nine men were in different places some ten miles from Burstow Common. At Reigate he had one man and an inspector as this was the head station. He was himself stationed at Redhill. His district extended for nine or ten miles and the next man might be a mile and a half off.

Police Stations and Housing

The new Surrey Constabulary adopted existing police stations at Bagshot, Chertsey, Dorking and Farnham which passed to the county and new stations were built at Egham, Godstone, Guildford, Haslemere, Hersham, Leatherhead, Reigate and at Chertsey.

Police officers in the county were provided with housing in both town and villages. Officers were to be deployed covering each of the 96 parishes though initially there were not enough men to achieve this aspiration. It is likely that first superintendents, appointed to each of the divisions were tasked to find accommodation in the towns and villages for the married men with single men probably to be in the town in or very near the police stations. A rural PC was part of a team – him and his wife!

Initially superintendents were stationed at police stations in Reigate, Dorking, Godalming, Farnham and Headquarters which covered Guildford, Godalming, Haslemere and Cranleigh. In Guildford there were three constables and a superintendent upon amalgamation. Dorking Superintendent Donaldson and two constables. Godalming numbered the same and Farnham and other parishes had full time locally paid constables. Each division was by Home Office instructions not to have less than a population of 26,000.

Uniform

The Clerk of the Peace who had the task of implementing the magistrates wished advertised for uniform contractors:

Surrey County Constabulary: Persons desirous to SUPPLY the ARTICLES hereunder mentioned are invited to deliver tenders on or before Wednesday the 22^d instant, at the office of the Clerk of the Peace, specifying separately the quality and price of each article.

For Inspectors: Superfine blue dress coats, silver embroidered collars and buttons; blue milled cloth trousers, the pair; blue –milled cloth great coats; silk stock.

For Constables: Blue dress coats, embroidered collars; blue dress trousers the pair; blue undress ditto, ditto, great coats; embroidered badges; police capes; armlettes (stripped duty bands), boots, the pair, shoes the pair.

For Force Generally: Truncheons, lanthorns, rattles, pocket handcuffs, leg irons, stocks and clasps, hats with leather tops and sides, leather girdles and cape straps, button brushes and stocks

WORONZOW GREIG Clerk of the Peace, Record-office, North-street, Lambeth Jan 13 1851.⁴⁹

The uniform was based on the Metropolitan Police, consisting of a swallowtail coat of dark blue cloth, a well-glazed “stove pipe” top hat with white duck trousers in the summer and blue serge in the winter. Issued oil skin cape, truncheon, handcuffs, rattle.

The equipment and uniform varied little. In 1864 the helmet replaced the top hat, the whistle for the rattle in about 1884. The rattle was frequently carried in the breast pocket over the heart to protect against knife attacks. In several recorded incidents the life of a Peeler was saved when the rattle deflected a blade.⁵⁰

Recruiting the constables

Of the first 100 recruits, the originals, 23 were born in Surrey and 20 of the recruits were living in the county when they joined. The change of life from a skilled artisan or agricultural labourer must have been incredibly demanding.

Several men had been either full time parish constables in numerous parishes across the county or members of the micro police forces some finding the discipline and restrictive roles of working withing a command structure difficult, and the many were soon to resign or be dismissed. Resignation and dismissal were a continual drain on time and resources as recruitment was a constant necessity.

First 100 Resigned etc.

Resigned	Pension including ill health	Dismissed	Died
Resigned 54 of which ordered/permitted to resign 11	12	35 reality 46 if ordered/permitted included	3 (one beaten to death)

⁴⁹ Morning Chronicle 15 January 1851

⁵⁰ Quoted in The Victorian Policeman by Simon Dell A Shire Book 2004 page 21

The men with previous experience as paid constables in the county or from the Metropolitan Police or other constabularies were vital to establishing an effective police service. The chief constable with no experience was reliant on his superintendents, and between them they replicated the model of policing made popular by Commissioner Rowan. It is what they knew.

The concept of policing at the beginning was simple. The Metropolitan Police were to replace Watch and Ward by patrolling and prevention. That is why the police officers remained attached to the central London magistrates' courts, there were no detectives, the Thames Police and Bow Street Horse Patrols remained in existence. The responsibility for dealing with crime was perceived to remain the responsibility of the magistrates who employed their own police. By the time the Surrey Constabulary was formed these, and many other disputed issues, had been resolved. Policing the day to day was not the responsibility of magistrates and the Home Office could not dictate operational responses. The new chief constable was answerable to the police committee of magistrates sitting at quarter sessions also responsible for dealing with crimes and taking prisoners before the magistrates.

Working as a rural policeman in 1850s

The population of the county of Surrey to be policed by the Surrey Constabulary in 1851 was 108,792. A great deal of reliance was placed on a small book of guidance issued to each officer and carried in a leather pouch on his belt. With this, a pocketbook, truncheon, a rattle and lamp officers walked twenty miles a day, often in the dark, and it was very dark. Split shifts, little sleep, mud in the winter dust in the summer walking the country lanes and roads that were little more than modern bridleways rutted by carriages and carts, torn up by horses' hooves. Clothing that was possibly the best to be bought but by modern standards not fit for purpose.

Social isolation. Living in the community but never a part of it – treated by most with respect but always kept at a distance.

These were tough, strong, fit men, brave and stoical and in as time went on in most cases reliable, being a central figure in the rural community alongside the vicar and doctor with whom they would have worked and knew well but in no way treated by them as an equal.

Police officers were provided with a cottage where they had to stay when off duty unable to leave without permission. Wives trying to keep the children quiet when husband trying to sleep and when not at work or sleeping, life in the garden to provide food to supplement pay.

Police pay was slightly above the level of an unskilled agricultural labourer for which he worked seven days a week for 10-12 hours usually in two shifts the longer up to seven hours at night. In time there were 10 days leave a year once the officer had been in post 12 months. This was the only time to visit family but with no money to go away as normally this was

without pay such visits were few!⁵¹ In 1893 the number of days leave was extended from 10 to 14 – that is 42 years without a change.⁵²

There were frequent house moves so the officer did not become too familiar with his locals – leading to touting for references from vicars to the chief constable to be allowed to stay a practice guaranteed to upset the chief constable. Although postings were frequent for most some officers seemed to remain in their rural area for many years possibly as a direct result of the influence of some landowner! Moves always seemed to mean the new house and garden was not up to the standard of the one left leading to a great deal of cleaning and gardening!

For all ranks, every activity was covered by a general order or regulation, every breach threatens the loss of your job and home. They walked a daily tightrope avoiding discipline, trying to avoid a move to a new division or beat and resulting house move particularly at own expense as part of a punishment posting.

Not allowed to vote until 1887 in Parliamentary elections and 1893 local elections

The Village Constable

The village constable was in an uneasy position in the community for while he was notionally the equal protector of all citizens' rights and property, he was seen by many as the representative of the landowner. George Sturt wrote about The Bourne, in Surrey:

There is probably no lonelier man in the parish than the constable. One hears him mentioned in the same accents of grudging caution which the villagers use in speaking of unfriendly property-owners, as though he belonged to that alien caste.

The cottagers feel they themselves are the people whom he has stationed in the valley to watch.” The conviction that there was one law for the rich and another for the poor was deeply ingrained.

The village policeman rarely had to deal with serious crime although rape and murder were not unknown, they were more likely to have to cope with poachers, fowl stealing, a fight in the pub, neighbourly disputes, with the occasional petty theft.

Ricks were fired by arsonists or by itinerants with a grudge and animal maiming was not uncommon. The Victorian version of anti-social behaviour was ever present with drunken louts letting animals from fields, the breaking of fences or even the pulling down of dry walls. “Beer, that filthy beer is the root of the evil”.⁵³

⁵¹ A History of Police in England and Wales TA Critchley 1967 page 151

⁵² A History of Police in England and Wales TA Critchley 1967 page 166

⁵³ “Victorian Village Life” Albion 1993 Neil Phillip page 112

Pensions

A police officer was one of the first working class occupations to have some sort of pension.⁵⁴ From 1829 -1890 there was no absolute entitlement to a pension at the minimum age of 60 the award being at the discretion of the police authority whether to pay and what amount ⁵⁵ An Act of 1840 had obliged justices to maintain a superannuation fund supported by 6d a week stoppages and other sources such as fines.

Probably most recruits hoped eventually to qualify for a pension but only a small proportion outside London succeeded in doing so. Even when a man had served long enough and had reached the minimum pensionable age, justices in the county or the watch committee in the Boroughs (who had to obtain the permission of the town council) still retained complete discretion whether to grant a pension, and to determine the amount, subject to a fixed maximum.

Surrey Constabulary Superannuation Fund

The Fund (for pensions) was maintained not by the county treasurer but under the control and discretion of the chief constable. In addition to the 6d a week stoppage from pay it was added to by a range of sources including rewards and discipline fines.^{56 57}

In 1851 General Order 42 clearly establishes the independence of the Superannuation Fund.

The Chief Constable directs that in all cases where half the fine is awarded to the informant, and that informant is a police constable, Superintendents will request the Magistrates Clerk to hand that amount over to them, instead of paying it to the County Treasurer with other monies, as the moiety.⁵⁸

Another source of revenue for the Fund was established in 1853

“--- as new clothing for the year 1853 will shortly be served out to them, they will become entitled to that which was supplied to them in the year 1851 upon payment of the sum of four shillings each, and next year to that for the year 1852 upon payment of the sum of two shillings and six pence and so on in future years. The amount accruing from this source will be paid into the Superannuation Fund.” ⁵⁹

⁵⁴ “The Great British Bobby” Clive Emsley Page 6

⁵⁵ A History of Police in England and Wales TA Critchley 1967 page 168

⁵⁶ “Policing Rural Surrey” Robert Bartlett www.surrey-constabulary.com page 322

⁵⁷ Defaulters Register SCC Archives Woking

⁵⁸ Each of two parts into which a thing is or can be divided

⁵⁹ 1853, March 8, Surrey Constabulary General Order 94

There may have been a pension fund, but it was not set up to pay an annuity to the widow of an officer killed on duty, as was Inspector Donaldson in 1855. A public subscription was begun on behalf of the inspector's family, and later a petition was sent to the Home Secretary asking that his widow might receive a pension. Lord Lovaine, chairman of the police committee made a request for a pension for Mrs Donaldson's but was unsuccessful. It took a year and a county court order taken out by Mrs Donaldson to release any benefit from the subscriptions of £200 (£16,037.22 today) held by the trustees at Haslemere.

(The National Archives calculate in 2017 that in 1851 £200 could buy 13 horses or 37 cows or a 1000 days' pay of a skilled tradesman. ⁶⁰)

The loss of PC Mason from injuries sustained whilst making an arrest, left Mrs Ann Mason a widow in need of urgent help to care for her three children, Ann, aged 8, Allan 7, and Agnes one year. The Quarter Sessions had the power to grant her up to two thirds (£35) of Allan's annual pay and the chief constable at the Epiphany sitting on 7th January 1860 proposed that they did so. He added that Police Constable Mason had six years' service, and "died in consequence of injuries he had received in the performance of his duties in July" (1859). "He had been very steady while in the force and had left a widow." With commendable swiftness, less than a month after Allan's funeral, Mrs Mason was given £35 as a grant. It was not a pension because widows' pensions for officers killed on duty would not be introduced for another thirty years.

Additional contributions to the Superannuation Fund are not obvious from this order of 1858: "--- having ascertained that it is the practice in some counties where rewards are allowed to the Constabulary for the apprehension of deserters etc. the chief constable resolved to constitute a fund for the reward of good conduct, the support of the Library, and for other such purposes as may benefit the Force generally, and to pay into such fund the half of all rewards received in future by the Constabulary".⁶¹ Over the decades pensions improved to the point where police pensions were seen as desirable, the envy of many.

How did the police move about?

Walking was the main means for moving around! Each division had a horse mostly for the use of the superintendent or inspector and several horse-drawn carts were available for tasks such as prisoner transport. The main road system in Surrey is very ancient with roads from London to the west country (A30) to Portsmouth and Southampton (A31), the Roman Road to Chichester (A29), to Sussex (A22, A23, A24) and cross the county through the middle now the A25 and M25. Many of these roads were at times very dangerous to travel on given the likelihood of robbery and murder especially on the heaths of the north and west of the county.

Using the train was a revolution for travelling by criminals and police who travelled to investigate crime, go to court with or without a prisoner, collect prisoners from elsewhere in

⁶⁰ <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency-converter/#currency-result>

⁶¹ 25 October, Surrey Constabulary General Order 141

the county or country, wherever the villain was arrested. Police on aid, mostly Metropolitan Police, between forces used the train.

The 1840s saw 'railway mania'. By 1851 6,800 miles of track had been laid. Soon it was possible to travel from London to Bristol in hours rather than days at speeds of around 60 mph. One of the early steam railway lines ran from London to Southampton and was opened by the London and South Western Railway Company in 1838. Its route took it through Surrey and stations were opened in Esher, Walton-on-Thames, Weybridge, and Woking. The company continued to expand its rail network, and in 1859 a line was opened to Godalming. Other early train stations were built at Chertsey in 1866, Ockley in 1867, and at Bookham in the 1880s.

On 5th May 1845 Guildford received its first railway, when it was joined to the London-Southampton line at Woking Junction. Guildford remained a "terminus" station for over 5 years, until 15th October 1849 when the line from Reading to Redhill opened. On the same day, the Guildford line was also extended south to Godalming (LSWR). This line was further extended south on 1st January 1859, when trains first ran all the way down to Portsmouth. It is known that members of the Isaacs' gang travelled by train to come together or to travel to London no doubt to sell stolen property.

Horsham was joined by rail shortly after Guildford, on 14th February 1848, when a line was built from Three Bridges to London. It became a junction on 10th October 1859, when the line from Petworth via Pulborough joined there. On 16th September 1861 another line joined just south of Horsham, from Shoreham. The Leatherhead to Dorking Line was the London Brighton and South Coast extended south to join up at Horsham on 1st May 1867.

If rail travel shrank the country, the telegraph crushed it. The spread of railways stimulated communication, and Rowland Hill's standardisation of postal charges in 1839 saw a boom in mail services. But this was nothing compared to the revolution of the telegraph which opened in the 1840s and soon went stratospheric. Within ten years exchanging telegrams had become part of everyday life.⁶²

Though the telegraph was well established before the formation of the Surrey Constabulary and was in use in the constabularies certainly in January 1851 when a message was transmitted from probably Guildford to Tunbridge Wells, about a member of the Isaacs Gang.⁶³ In London at this time telegraph links were established from the site of the Great Exhibition to Scotland Yard, 4, Whitehall Place.⁶⁴ Reference is made to the use of the telegraph by a journalist in Dorking in 1853⁶⁵ and in 1855 it was said that it was cheaper and more efficient for police at Woking to deal by telegraph with Scotland Yard than it was with local town machinery!⁶⁶ The

⁶² http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/victorians/speed_01.shtml

⁶³ 1851 25 January: The Northern Star Saturday

⁶⁴ "Rowan and Mayne" page 285

⁶⁵ 1853 Sept 15: Dorking, The Standard

⁶⁶ 1855 February 17: Letter London Daily News

murder of a draper named Ovenden at Nutfield in 1857 involved notification of the case to Scotland Yard by telegraph. ⁶⁷

It was not until 1898 that the Surrey Constabulary declared its intention to install telephones, writing to the Commissioner proposing that Egham be linked to the Metropolitan Police at Staines. The Metropolitan Police would not cover the greater part of the cost and so the proposal did not go ahead. (Later implemented with Surrey able to access the Metropolitan Police internal telephone system.) ⁶⁸

Policing has never been easy though in some parts of the country a soft option was referred to as a “Bobby’s Job”! ⁶⁹ The original officers appointed in the Surrey Constabulary were faced with a range of challenges associated with the formation of a new organisation, though many of the practices and procedures had been established elsewhere, particularly in the Metropolitan Police. It must have been a difficult if not fraught time working together, getting to know individuals’ capabilities, strengths, weaknesses, working out the best way, appropriate police buildings, homes for families recruiting and handling new accounts and ledgers. The speed in recruiting, equipping, and deploying in weeks was amazing particularly when the lack of communications other than face to face or letter is acknowledged. They managed and managed well as there was soon an effective police organisation covering the county day and night, dealing with all manner of crimes and situations.

It worked! Scrutiny never ceased. Money was forever in short supply! The workload increased as did police numbers evolving into what was thought by many of the Surrey Constabulary in modern times to be more than a job but The Job! A way of life. A family force.

The more you learn of these men the greater is the respect!

⁶⁷ 1857 16 February: The Times

⁶⁸ “From Rattle to Radio” John Bunker page 104

⁶⁹ A Bobby's job: A safe job, a "soft" duty. Meant usually by way of a reflection on the comparatively "safe" duties of a military policeman in wartime. https://thegreatwar.miraheze.org/wiki/Bobby%27s_job