



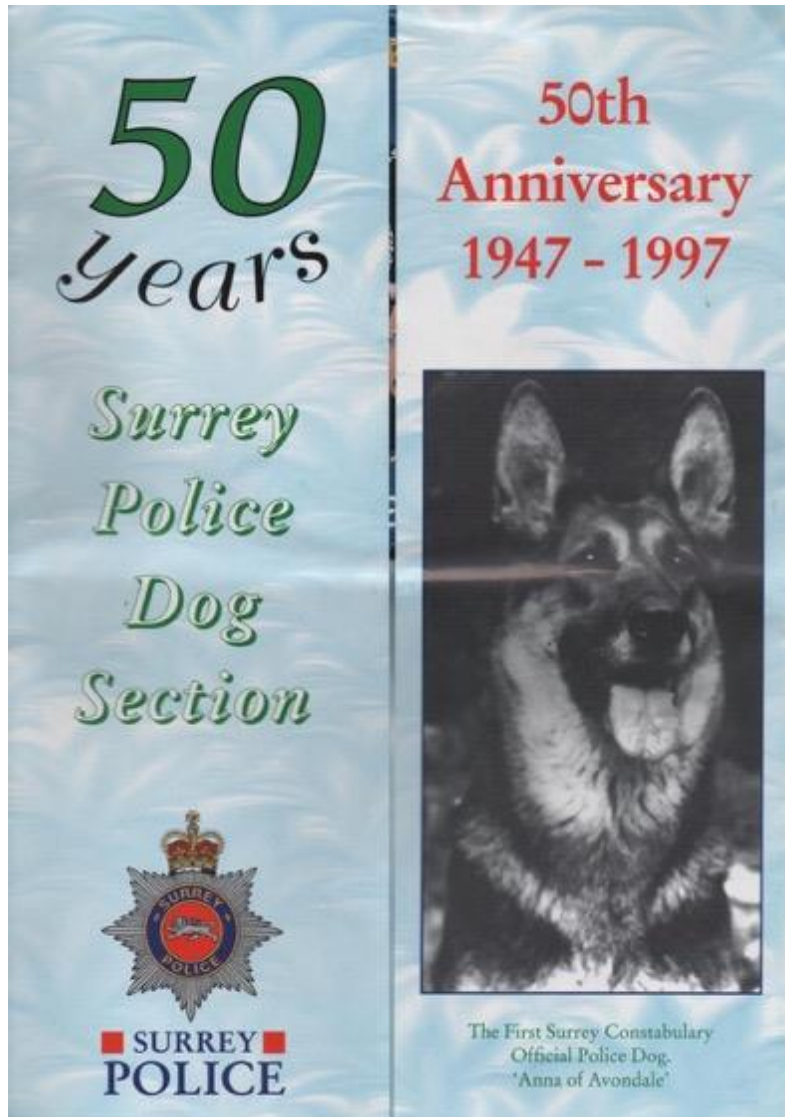
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www.surrey-constabulary.com

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Surrey Constabulary History 137



80th Anniversary 2027

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PC 267 Raymond Stanley Thompson Surrey Constabulary March 1939 Resigned February 1948 Army Commando Second World War October 1942-9 September 1945

From Tony Moore retired Metropolitan Police researching Army Commandos. Another Surrey police officer who served with the Commandos in World War 2 has been found:

Raymond Stanley THOMPSON born 7 July 1916 in Dublin, Eire.

At the time of the 1939 Register he is shown as a single police constable residing at the police station in Bridge Road, Godalming. He was one of the 3rd Intake of police officers who volunteered for the Commandos and entered the Commando Basic Training Centre on 15 October 1942. He served with 30 Commando Assault Unit throughout the remainder of World War 2 and was discharged from the military on 9 September 1945 to return to his job as a policeman. His administrative army unit was 17/21 Lancers.

Here are the details for Raymond Stanley Thompson, from appointments book (ref. 9152/1/2/1/5).

Raymond Stanley THOMPSON

Age 22 years. Date of Birth 4 July 1916 Height 5 feet 11 1/2 inches. Complexion Fresh Hair Light brown

Eyes Grey Marks Knife wound scar on back

Born in the Parish of Maddinstown in the County of Louth

Trade Harry Downey Last Residence 142 High Street, Blackburn, Lancashire

By whom last employed, and where Mr J. Gray, 142 High St, Blackburn

What relatives residing in Surrey, and where None

Previous Public Service Cadet Royal Naval College, Shotley Heath during 1937

Length of Service 6 months

Date of Appointment 19th March 1939

When sworn in, and where 20th March 1939 at Guildford

Before what Magistrates Capt E H Buckwell & Mr G. Whitehead

Where first stationed Weybridge (25.3.39)

No. on Collar 267

		To
3 July 1939	Weybridge	Godalming
16 Dec 1939	East Alving	Dorking
17 Dec 41	Dorking	Woking
15 Oct 42	Woking	H.M. Army
2nd Oct 45	Army	Milford
21 Jan 46	Milford	Woking
7 July 47	Woking	Dorking
1 Sept 47	Dorking	Oxted

Cause and Date of removal from the Force Resigned - 2nd Feb 1948

Conduct during Service Good

Date of Parchment Certificate 25 5/5/48

A 233. IR 44. 2.10.51. S.C.C. 7915

No. of Appointment **2334**

REMARKS

Passed Official Anti-Gas Course as trainee

15 Oct 42 Called up for service in H.M. Army. Re-reserved 1st July 42.

2nd Oct 45 Returned to home from Army & posted to Milford

NATURE OF OFFENCE	PUNISHMENT
1 Neglect of Duty 4(c) Falsehood 5(a)	Reprimanded Reduced 1 increment of pay for 12 months from 29 June 1941 deprived of 2 increments of pay for 12 months.
2 Discreditable Conduct - Disc Code 1	
3 absence without leave - " " 10	Reduced 3incs of pay for 12 months. (SO. 1103(136))
4 Discreditable Conduct - Discipline Code 1	
1 Neglect of duty - " " 4(c)	Reduced 3incs of pay for 12 months. (SO. 1103(136))
2 Falsehood - " " 5(a)	
Increments restored on 20th Oct. 1946	

RATEABLE DEDUCTIONS
£ 97 s. 11 d. 5 ordered
to be returned by S.J.O.
on 20th April 1946

Bombing Oxted 1940

Received via website from Laura: I'm hoping you might be able to help me. I have recently moved to Oxted and have been informed via a neighbour that on 10th November 1940 a bomb fell on a neighbouring house (Peter Avenue), with people killed. He has a photograph and has also accessed a police record of sorts, which I have copied an excerpt of below.

I have tried everything I can think of to find more information on this incident (including combing through your fascinating timeline) but it seems to be missing from every account. I am reaching out with the long shot that either you are aware of the incident or would be able to direct me to police records detailing it?

"One High Explosive Bomb. Casualties approx. number 7. Two unrecovered bodies under wreckage. Small fire put out. Local gas main damaged. Road blocked with debris."

From Robert Simonson Surrey History Centre.

Dear Laura, Robert Bartlett has shared your email enquiry with me at Surrey History Centre. Among the Surrey police records we hold are some 'day books' of the Oxted Division recording wartime incidents in the area. They are a fortunate survival, as we do not hold any similar records for any of the other Surrey police divisions. One book covers the period 28 October 1940 -4 December 1940 (ref. CC98/8/13) and this contains the details you have. The book records messages received at the Oxted division report centre. The first one on 10 November 1940 at 19.27 states '3 houses reported demolished in Peter Avenue', then at 19.35 'Gas and electricity services required at Peter Avenue. Gas urgent'.

More details were added at 22.15: 'One H.E. [high explosive bomb]. Casualties approx. number 7. Two unrecovered bodies under wreckage. Small fire put out. Coal gas main damaged. Road blocked by debris'

There are also some personal details of the casualties, and a subsequent note that ‘two houses wrecked, large number damaged’.

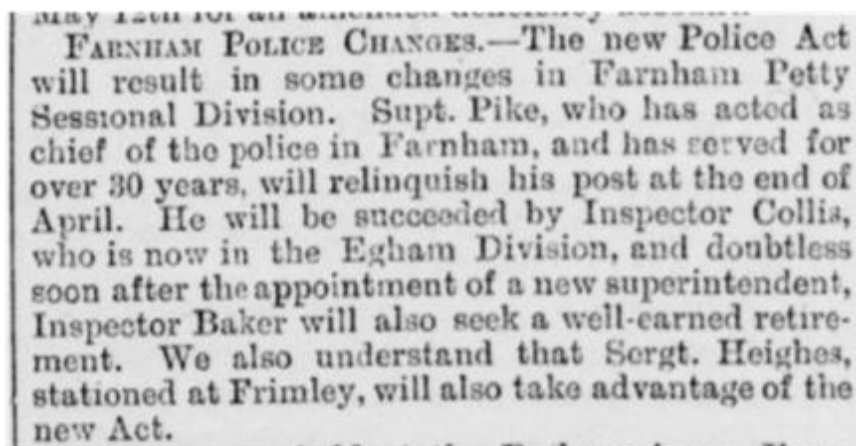
The death toll recorded is 3 women, 1 man, 1 female child, and 1 man and 2 women injured.

You would be welcome to visit us to see the records for yourself and details of our location and opening times are on our website [Visiting Surrey History Centre - Surrey County Council](#)

They are a remarkable set of records, and really show the urgency of the overall situation with messages flooding in on a busy night, from the tragic to the comical – there was an entry on a date near 10 November about someone who had received an unexploded AA shell through the roof of their cottage which was now in the kitchen!

Where did your pension come from?

Aldershot Military Gazette 25 April 1891



The new act referred to above was the Police Act 1890 (often confused with 1891 due to its April 1 1891 commencement) was a major UK Act establishing a formal, nationwide system for police pensions, allowances, and gratuities for constables, widows, and children in England and Wales. It was repealed in 1964.

Key points regarding the Act include:

- **Purpose:** It was designed to provide mandatory pension structures for police officers in England and Wales, improving recruitment and retention.
- **Commencement:** April 1, 1891.
- **Scope:** It made comprehensive provision regarding the retirement and pensions of constables, as well as allowances for their widows and children.
- Only a system of discretionary pensions for injury had previously existed. The acts set a requirement of at least 25 years' service, reduced to 15 (England and Wales) or 20

(Scotland) years for retirement due to "infirmity of mind or body" and waived for retirement due to injury in the line of duty. They also established discretionary gratuities for retirement due to infirmity.

- They also covered widows' pensions and children's allowances for officers dying whilst still in service "from the effect of an injury received in the execution of his duty". It also instituted similar widows' and children's allowances if an officer died from any other cause whilst still in service and widows' and children's pensions and gratuities if he died less than a year after retiring due to injury, though unlike the pensions for injury these were all at the discretion of individual police forces.
- The whole act was repealed by section 64(3) of, and schedule 10 to, the Police Act 1964. The Police Act 1964 (Commencement No. 1) Order 1964 (SI 1964/873) provided that this repeal would take effect on 1 August 1964.

Rose Tinted Spectacles?

Beat Duty in the 1950/60s

Robert Bartlett

When the late Chief Superintendent David Stewart retired (late 1980s) he visited each shift as they came on duty on his last day at Guildford. He told me afterwards that, despite a considerable increase in numbers, more PCs paraded for duty when he was at Guildford in the 50's than when he retired thirty years later. (Retired Superintendent Tony Kirton)

“The policeman represents a stable element in society at a time of rapid social and economic change. The decline in religious observance, a general lowering of moral standards, a restless, turbulent age – it is against this shifting background that the policeman is expected to set an example of old-fashioned virtues.” Royal Commission 1960



PC Charlie Barham, Guildford

Britain after the Second World War

Historian David Kynaston wrote about Britain in 1945, but little was different in the 1950s and early 1960s.

No supermarkets, no teabags, no sliced bread, no frozen food, no flavoured crisps. No lager, no microwaves, no dishwashers, no Formica, no vinyl, no CDs, no computers, no mobiles, no duvets, no Pill, no trainers, no hoodies, no Starbucks. Four Indian restaurants: shops on every corner, cinemas in every high street, red telephone boxes, Lyons Corner Houses, trams, trolley buses, steam trains. Woodbines: Craven “A”, Senior Service, smoke, smog, Vapex inhalant. No launderettes, no automatic washing machines, wash day every Monday, clothes boiled in a tub, scrubbed on the draining board, rinsed in the sink, put through a mangle, hung out to dry. Central heating rare: coke boilers, water geysers, the coal fire, the hearth, the home, chilblains common. Abortion illegal: homosexual relations illegal, suicide illegal, capital punishment legal. White faces everywhere. Back to backs, narrow cobbled streets, Victorian terraces, no high rises. Arterial roads: suburban semis, the march of the pylon. Austin Sevens, Ford Eights, no seat belts, and Triumph motorcycles with sidecars. A Bakelite wireless in the home: Housewives Choice or Worker’s Playtime or ITMA on the air, televisions almost unknown, no programmes to watch, the family eating together. Milk of Magnesia: Vick Vapour Rub, Friar’s Balsam, Fynnon Salts, Eno’s, Germolene. Suits and hats: dresses and hats, cloth caps and mufflers, no leisurewear, no “teenagers”. Heavy coins, heavy shoes, heavy suitcases, heavy tweed coats, heavy leather footballs, no unbearable lightness of being. Meat rationed, tea rationed, jam rationed, eggs rationed, sweets rationed, soap rationed, clothes rationed. Make do and mend.

A land of orderly queues, hat doffing men walking on the outside, seats given up for the elderly, no swearing in front of women and children, censored books, censored films, censored plays, infinite repression of desires. Divorce for most an unthinkable social disgrace, marriage so often a lifetime sentence.

Children in the street ticked off by strangers, children in the street kept an eye on by strangers, children at home rarely consulted, children stopped being children when they left school at 14 and got a job. A land of hierarchical social assumptions: of accent and dress a giveaway to class. Expectations low and limited but anyone in or on the fringes of the middle class hoping for a “job for life” and comforted by the myth that the working class kept their coal in the bath. A pride in Britain that had stood alone: a pride even in “made in Britain”. A deep satisfaction in our own idiosyncratic, non-metric units of distance, weight, temperature, money: the bob, the tanner, the three-penny Joey. A sense of history, however nugatory the knowledge of that history. A land in which authority was respected or rather accepted? Yes, perhaps the latter, co-existing with the necessary safety valve of copious everyday grumbling. A land of domestic hobbies and domestic pets, turning the cuffs, elbow patches on jackets, sheets sides to middle. This was a deeply conservative land. ¹

¹ From “Austerity Britain 1945-1951” David Kynaston 2007

The always on duty constable

Was there ever a time when the number of available police officers was sufficient to ensure adequate cover of the designated beats that made up the Surrey Constabulary area? Possibly the nearest to that being achieved was during the formation years post 1851 but that relied on officers living within their area, with no time off and certainly no rest days or annual leave. With everyone working, to find a PC (they were always on duty) particularly in rural areas to meet an emergency was pure serendipity. Over time, using who was available, joining beats together, juggling hours of duty until the beat became anomalous. The restatement that required beats to be covered stumbled on for generations, culminating during the post second world war era of shortages and manpower crisis. The Metropolitan Police along with most other forces, were greatly concerned over forced change from covering all beats to an acceptance that staffing levels made this extent of cover an impossibility. Beat coverage gave way to patrols encompassing several beats. However, was this not always the case? Was there ever a time or even a day when all the beats were covered? Was it not ever thus that a patrol on duty, covering his beat was rarely in the right place when needed? It is recognised that in some urban areas there were always visible patrols, but this was a fraction of the whole. Given the numbers of uniform officers, what percentage were available for foot beats or patrols? It was the era when controlling abstractions became a part of police management speak even if the term was unrecognised. The Metropolitan Police undertook research in 1953 into numbers of staff and workload, recommending an acceptance that change was inevitable with recruiting never keeping pace with wastage. Monitoring where officers were deployed, what percentage were available for visible policing? The resulting confidential report was sent to the Home Secretary who was the police authority for the Metropolitan Police.

Extract from report on the employment and distribution of strength in the Metropolitan Police 1953

Part 11

The system of Policing and the employment of uniform police officers

February 1953 – Confidential

To Home Secretary Sir David Maxwell Fyfe QC

The system of urban policing.

236. Since the formation of the Metropolitan Police Force the beat i.e. an area comprising of a number of streets or roads assigned to a constable as his responsibility to work on his tour of duty, has been considered the “bedrock” of the system of policing. The first Commissioner of Police when giving evidence before a Parliamentary Committee which reported in 1833 said that the general rule was, “that a constable should be able to cover his beat in from 10-15 minutes, walking at 2 ½ miles an hour.” The beats at this time were therefore about half a mile

in length. The object was to ensure that a constable on beat duty should be within hailing distance of constables on adjoining beats, or be heard if he sprung his rattle, so that assistance should be readily available when required – a most necessary measure whilst disorder, crimes of violence and robbery in every form were as rife as they were in the early nineteenth century. (Note: The luxury of assistance or back up for the rural constable was almost non-existent.)

237. As a result of the extension of the Metropolitan Police District in 1840 and the continuous growth of London, beats were gradually lengthened, especially in the less busy parts of the Metropolis. By 1870 it was becoming increasingly difficult for the public to find a police officer, and in each Division a number of fixed points were established where a policeman could be found if wanted.

238. Up to the 1920s the majority of the constables available for ordinary street duty were still employed on beats, but a general reorganisation took place in 1930-31 in connection with the Police Telephone Box System, and then:

- a. the number of night beats (formerly twice the number of day beats) was reduced to equal the number of day beats, and completely new beats were laid down throughout the District.
- b. three types of patrols were superimposed on the beat system
 1. beat patrols – to be worked at different hours and in different directions from the beats.
 2. ordinary patrols – to cope with the conditions that arose in busy areas during particular periods when further protection was needed, and
 3. extra patrols – to utilise to the best advantage any men who were not required for other duties.
- c. the constables available for these ordinary duties were allocated broadly as follows:

beats	-	one third
beat patrols		one sixth
ordinary patrols		one sixth
extra patrols		one twelfth
reliefs (rest days, annual leave etc)		one quarter

The periods of the patrols were arranged so as to regulate the number of constables on duty according to the degree of police attention required. The beat and patrol constables could use the police telephone boxes to communicate quickly with their stations and the stations could use them to get in touch with the constables by flashing the lights on the boxes.

239. Before this there had been very little change in the organisation of the beat duty and the method of working, but the new system clearly recognised the fact that the need for police cover is greater in certain beats or parts of beats than in others.

Parliamentary Discussion

Police numbers, recruiting and retention were discussed in Parliament determining the respect that was evident for the police, in particular the beat officers during the 1950s. The police had a “good war” and the respect established carried on through the 1950s. with many veterans within their ranks. The loss of officers with 4/5 years’ service remained a significant problem for the coming generation and beyond. It has long been recognised that resignations of those with 4/5 years’ service was not unusual. By this stage officers would have undertaken the range of police activity, probably several times and they recognised what their career options were likely to be. Most will have been involved in a number of traumatic and often dangerous events from which they flourished or decided to quit whilst in front! (Trauma and counselling were rarely recognised by the police. “Have a cup of tea and get back out there!” Members of Parliament were keen to express their respect and admiration for the police in language rarely heard today.

Hansard 6 May 1954 Metropolitan Police²

3.41 p.m. **Mr. Ede South Shields.** I am certain that we have to make conditions in the police force such that women will be prepared to agree to their husbands remaining members of the force and a young woman will be prepared to marry a man who intends to remain in the police force. Almost worse than failure to recruit in adequate numbers is the wastage that occurs among men with four or five years' service, when they are just beginning to be really efficient constables and to understand the job. The large amount of night duty is one thing that makes the occupation unpopular with wives. Another is the fact that in a great part of the Metropolitan area the police have to be on duty when the rest of the community is enjoying itself. They have to see that the enjoyment is carried on within such reasonable limits as not to incommode others. When one reads of the number of vehicles that go out from London on high days and holidays, it is obvious that especially heavy duties fall on the police on days when the rest of us are inclined to think in terms of something other than work.

Mr. Henry Brook. I am certain that the general feeling of all London and Greater London Members of Parliament is one of respect for and deep pride in this dependable and magnificent force. We all have occasion to criticise individual decisions and actions; that is the part which Parliament should play. But the Metropolitan Police force, from the newest constable to the Commissioner himself, can feel that it has the House of Commons behind it, and a House of Commons which is anxious to improve the conditions under which its members are called upon to serve. I join with the right hon. Gentleman in expressing my satisfaction that a member of the force has been promoted to its highest office, and I wish the new Commissioner the very greatest success in discharging the heavy responsibilities which he has assumed.

Despite the fact that this report is so many months out of date, I want to pick out one or two points arising from it. I should like the Home Secretary to give us an up-to-date statement on recruitment and the present extent of the shortage. It must be of the greatest concern to the House of Commons that the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police should report to

² HC Deb 06 May 1954 vol 527 cc586-645

Parliament that the position "—as to recruitment—" continues to be very grave. The Commissioner, giving the figures, which are startling to me, says that whereas in 1932 87.6 per cent, of the men required for beat and patrol duty were available, the percentage available last year was only 44.6. Last year an advertising campaign was initiated in order to try to bring in recruits. May we hear what effects that campaign has had, whether it is intended to carry it on or repeat it at future intervals, and whether the special efforts of 1953 have taught us any lessons in the best methods of attracting recruits and avoiding wastage? I entirely agree with the right hon. Gentleman about the tragic effect of men who have become efficient police officers resigning prematurely because their wives do not want them to remain in the force.

I understand that the Commissioner's point concerning the inadequacy of the extra pay granted for serving in the London area has now been mitigated. Up to recently, strange as it may seem, the additional cost of living for a policeman in London, as compared with the rest of the country, was deemed to be only £10 per annum. As my London colleagues know, that is a small proportion of the additional London weighting granted to local government officers, teachers and others in recognition of the fact that it costs far more to live in London, as every woman knows, than in most other parts of the country. I understand that this has now been doubled and is now £20 per annum, but even so, I find myself asking whether that goes far enough to rectify the difference.

Mr. Harris. There cannot be any hon. Member who does not wish to do all that he possibly can to improve the conditions of the police in so far as they affect in any way the question of recruitment and the present shortage of the Metropolitan Police. I suppose we must be something like 20 per cent, short in the number of recruits that we need for the Metropolitan Police. I join with my hon. Friend the Member for Hampstead (Mr. H. Brooke) in asking for an early statement regarding recruitment so that we may know the position up to date.

If in any force such as this we happen unhappily to be short in manpower, we should deploy that force to the best of our ability. One would not wish to say any word of criticism against the police, because we all know what an excellent job they do, but many of us feel very strongly when, after hearing of severe attacks of violence, particularly upon elderly people and others, we see police cars tucked away in turnings solely with the intention of trying to catch someone who is doing an extra five miles an hour on a road where there may be no trouble whatever.

My hon. friend the Member for Hampstead said that over the last 20 years, instead of 80 per cent, of the police force being kept on beat and patrol to safeguard the public from attacks and violence, which disturb and depress us all, the percentage has dropped today by over half.

Mr. H Brooke. That was not exactly what I said. I said that, whereas in 1939 87 per cent, of the men required for beat and patrol duty were available, the percentage available for that duty has now fallen to 44.

There is a strong feeling, which as a ratepayer in the Metropolitan Police area I share, that £100,000, a figure which was fixed in 1909, is hardly adequate as a recompense to the

Metropolitan Police Fund for the services which it performs today in this respect. I hope that the right hon. and learned Gentleman will seek the approval of the Treasury to increase the sum so that more adequate monetary recognition may be given.

I note that the Home Secretary, in submitting these Estimates, does not expect any very great increase in the number of policemen during the coming year. I notice that the estimated figure for 1953–54 was £8,385,000, and that for the coming year it is a mere £15,000 more. We cannot get very many police officers for £15,000. Anything that can be done to increase the membership of the Metropolitan Police force with suitable constables will receive the steady support of all Members of the House. We are faced with a most vicious circle. To improve the intake into the force there should be improved conditions, but we cannot improve the conditions until we get more men. We have been going round in that vicious circle for 10 or more years. The right hon. and learned Gentleman will have to find some way inside the administration to deal with the matter.

I am certain that we have to make conditions in the police force such that women will be prepared to agree to their husbands remaining members of the force and a young woman will be prepared to marry a man who intends to remain in the police force. Almost worse than failure to recruit in adequate numbers is the wastage that occurs among men with four or five years' service, when they are just beginning to be really efficient constables and to understand the job. The large amount of night duty is one thing that makes the occupation unpopular with wives. Another is the fact that in a great part of the Metropolitan area the police have to be on duty when the rest of the community is enjoying itself. They have to see that the enjoyment is carried on within such reasonable limits as not to incommode others. When one reads of the number of vehicles that go out from London on high days and holidays, it is obvious that specially heavy duties fall on the police on days when the rest of us are inclined to think in terms of something other than work.

My experience from talking with police officers has been that housing is a very considerable problem with them. I wish that local housing authorities would be prepared to help in this either by the sale of houses or by agreeing to erect a house for a police officer in a housing estate. I very much dislike housing 10 or a dozen policemen together in a terrace. That involves all the domestic problems that arise when, say, one of the men gets into some small disciplinary trouble. When his wife sees the other ladies talking, she is quite certain that they are talking about him and her. I came across that more than once in some parts of the country where an unfortunate incident of that kind had occurred.

We want to assure ourselves more and more that the police officer shall live the life of an ordinary citizen, that he shall be accepted by the rest of the community as an ordinary citizen and not as a person who dwells apart from and outside their problems. I hope that housing will continue to be regarded by the force as a matter of importance.

We must realise that our police forces, including the Metropolitan Police, depend for the maintenance of law and order upon the good relationships which have been built up over a

century and a quarter between the ordinary citizen and the police officer. If we can maintain that spirit we shall remain the most law-abiding country in the world.

Those figures show the high position we occupy in this respect. In 125 years, our standard of civilisation has increased out of all proportion, under the care and with the encouragement of an unarmed police force, but that should not lessen our determination to support this force and to maintain in our people the same high regard for law and order which has steadily increased during those 125 years.

I hope that the right hon. and learned Gentleman will be able to do what I admit I found it impossible to do—to give these men such an increase in numbers as will enable them to discharge, in the spirit I have just indicated, the duties, that fall upon them. I am quite certain that if we can get that necessary increase in establishment, the prevention of crime—which, after all, is the first duty of a police officer—will be made much easier, and its detection, when it has been committed, capable of being more completely tackled. When we cannot prevent crime, it is essential, if we are to maintain our standard, that detection should be reasonably certain and that the temptation to the criminally inclined to chance their arm should be very much lessened.

4.14 p.m. **Mr. Henry Brooke.** I am certain that the general feeling of all London and Greater London Members of Parliament is one of respect for and deep pride in this dependable and magnificent force. We all have occasion to criticise individual decisions and actions; that is the part which Parliament should play. But the Metropolitan Police force, from the newest constable to the Commissioner himself, can feel that it has the House of Commons behind it, and a House of Commons which is anxious to improve the conditions under which its members are called upon to serve. I join with the right hon. Gentleman in expressing my satisfaction that a member of the force has been promoted to its highest office, and I wish the new Commissioner the very greatest success in discharging the heavy responsibilities which he has assumed.

Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police should report to Parliament that the position "— as to recruitment—" continues to be very grave. The Commissioner, giving the figures, which are startling to me, says that whereas in 1932 87.6 per cent, of the men required for beat and patrol duty were available, the percentage available last year was only 44.6. Last year an advertising campaign was initiated in order to try to bring in recruits. May we hear what effects that campaign has had, whether it is intended to carry it on or repeat it at future intervals, and whether the special efforts of 1953 have taught us any lessons in the best methods of attracting recruits and avoiding wastage? I entirely agree with the right hon. Gentleman about the tragic effect of men who have become efficient police officers resigning prematurely because their wives do not want them to remain in the force.

The estimated establishment for the women police has been raised from 388 to 458, but at the date of these last figures that are available to us the number actually in service was not more than 388. Has it been possible to fill the gap, to make good the full number of the new

establishment, or have we not risen yet to that figure? My impression is that up to now it has been definitely harder to get into the women police than for a man to get into the force, and that the conditions for enrolment as women police in London have been very stringent. If there is any difficulty about recruitment, I hope it will be made quite certain that no well-qualified young woman will be excluded merely because of the lack of some intellectual attainment which it has been thought desirable to demand but which is not a real necessity in the duties that fall to the women police.

6.20 p.m. **The Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister for Welsh Affairs (Sir David Maxwell Fyfe)**. In fairness to other forces, although we are not discussing them this evening, I wish to say that the extent of other forms of assistance to them has decreased with the development of the criminal investigation departments in these other forces. The provincial police, if I may so call them, do not, in fact, call in Scotland Yard today with the unanimity which writers of detective stories always depict. In 1953, they asked for help in seven cases, and there was the same modest total in 1952, so that on that side there has been a decrease in what one may call the general service which the Metropolitan Police force has - given to other forces.

I now come to the question of recruiting. It was mentioned by the right hon. Gentleman and almost every other speaker. There is one thing which I want to tell the right hon. Gentleman. I do not know whether, strictly speaking, the Home Office comes out of it well or badly, but it is a fact that our estimate for last year of £8,385,000—the right hon. Gentleman will remember that it has been increased to £8,400,000 for the present year—was to cover 800 recruits which we hoped to have but did not get. Therefore, the estimate will still cover 800 recruits, and we are going out to try to get those recruits. I think that that reassures the right hon. Gentleman, although I must admit that I failed to get the recruits last year. However, we are still in the market for recruits; we are not sitting down under the present position.

Might I say what that position is with complete frankness to the Committee, because it is most important that we should know it, and I want all the help I can get? The authorised male establishment of the Metropolitan Police on 31st March 1953, just over a year ago, was 19,647, and the actual male strength was 15,979. On 31st March this year the authorised establishment had risen to 19,698—that was as a result of certain adjustments in the higher ranks—and the actual male strength had fallen by 80 to 15,899.

During the calendar year 1953, 1,033 men were recruited and 1,172 left the force, a net loss of 139. That was—this is really the point that the right hon. Gentleman made demonstrated in results—the result of a steady fall in recruiting which had begun in the autumn of 1952 and carried on well into the summer of 1953. It was from February, 1953, onwards that wastage exceeded intake.

The recent picture is somewhat more encouraging. During the first three months of 1954 the intake was 350 and the wastage 278, a net gain of 72. As the right hon. Gentleman pointed out, that was after the new rise in remuneration had come into effect. The right hon. Gentleman was

quite right in his picture. We got the increase after the rise in remuneration came into effect; that continued for some time and then the figures proceeded to decline.

I want the Committee to understand that this is not for want of action on our part. Everyone who has spoken has agreed that there is no easy solution to the problem. I should like to point out what we have done about improving the conditions of service. It is essential to improve the conditions of service, to instil a pride of service, and to ensure further facilities for welfare and recreation.

What have we done? At the beginning of this year there was an increase in the starting pay of constables to bring them up to the scale of £445 per year to £550 per year, and an increase in the London allowance for constables and sergeants from £10 to £20 per year. That was the result of agreement in the new negotiating body, the Police Council for Great Britain, which is now charged with the duty of considering questions of pay and other conditions of service. I emphasise that it was the result of agreement.

Since the war a number of other measures have been taken which have cumulatively improved the conditions of service. During the right hon. Gentleman's time there were two pay increases. In addition to that, these other improvements have taken place. Overtime, detective duty, boot allowances and rent allowances have been increased; the discipline regulations have been overhauled to ensure that they command the confidence of all ranks; annual leave has been increased; the uniform has been improved; and the setting up of the Police College, to which the right hon. Gentleman and I both attach great importance, has provided for the higher training of those likely to qualify for appointment to inspector and higher posts.

I will deal with housing separately, but these are general matters which really do implement the further recommendations of the Oaksey Report. A matter to which some reference was made by the hon. Lady the Member for Holborn and St. Pancras, South (Mrs. L. Jeger), concerns the police cadets, whose establishment has recently been increased to 500. It is hoped that a great many of them will return to the force when they have done their military service.

I have kept housing separate because it is such an important matter. The position is that, up to 31st March of this year, 3,380 married quarters were available in the Metropolitan Police district. A further 575 were under construction, and another 750 in the planning stage. Since the war, 2,180 married quarters, which is virtually twice as many again as were available pre-war, have been provided, and this is a notable achievement. I have given the figures for the period for which the right hon. Gentleman opposite was responsible as well as for that relating to myself, because he and I will never fight about our individual contributions but are glad to think that something is being done about the problem.

Plans are going forward to raise the total to 5,000, which will represent about one-third of the strength of the force, and the Receiver hopes they will be completed by March, 1956. To put it in another way, 840 police officers moved into new married quarters in the 12 months ended 30th April. There is still a considerable waiting list, but an effort commensurate with the size

of the problem is being put forth. Consideration will be given this summer to the question whether 5,000 is still the appropriate figure at which to aim.

First of all, the strength has increased from 335 on 31st March, 1951, to 468 on 31st March, 1954. We set our target in May, 1951, at an establishment of 338, which was put up by September, 1953, to 524. We are still aiming at an increase. Policewomen are now attached to 106 stations, one in each sub-division and, as the right hon. Gentleman said, there has been a remarkable increase in the variety and coverage of their work. I agree with him that we are grateful to those who were prepared to do the original work of the policewomen. There are 48 women on the C.I.D. establishment and 36 at present in post. Women on the beat are allowed, like the men, to carry through inquiries into the cases that have come their way.

It is only fair to the police to bring out my next point. A number of police is naturally engaged on this work. During 1953, the Metropolitan Police dealt with offences of obstruction and breaches of parking regulations by oral warning and written caution before they came to summoning. I think the Committee will be glad to hear that the police on foot issued 181,093 oral warnings and 21,535 written cautions and issued only 24,000 summonses. The traffic patrols gave 48,760 oral warnings and 842 written cautions and took out only 1,082 summonses.

I am anxious not to infringe on the other part of today's work. I would tell the hon. Member for Tottenham that we are very much alive to not using the police for office and other work that can be done by somebody else. Had I more time I would no doubt be able to interest him in telling him of replacements and releases of police officers to do the work which, as he suggested, is more properly theirs. That has been going on, and since the working party that we recently had on this matter further progress has been made.

1950s in the Surrey Constabulary area

In January 2010 the chief constable of Surrey sought to replicate what it was like to police the county in the late 1950s. Using intelligent deduction, speculation, supported by a range of former police officers in the county, the figure of 342 officers out of a Surrey Constabulary establishment 705, were dedicated to foot or cycle patrol divided between eight divisions – just under 50%. It must be born in mind that the figures are based on establishment and at this time nationally the police were operating 14% below that level with the Home Counties carrying significant vacancies. This could indicate that the true operational strength was about 600 or so, but that can be no more than speculation.

A significant number of officers were dedicated to rural or section stations with CID numbers being very low by today's standards and Traffic (Roads Policing) officers in proportion high. (Traffic crews were more Area/Crime Car than dedicated Traffic officers. They were very visible at all manner of serious events). It is likely that on the single station divisions, (Guildford, Woking) about six officers would be available for foot/cycle patrol on each main

shift and those with two sub divisions, three officers each shift at both stations with possibly two more on rural patrol. There were also “cover shifts” when officers were available based around 10-6pm and 6-2 am. However, one officer recalls his section of three policed Woking for their eight hours on a regular basis. These officers would be supported by a sub-divisional area car (sometimes divisional) a motorcyclist a Traffic car and Traffic motorcyclists along with local supervisors for most divisional areas. No one could say the workloads or administrative burden can be compared with modern times although there was plenty for the 1959 foot patrol to do. Assignments were more time consuming because of poor communications, lack of transport and an expectation that all tasks no matter how minor would receive careful attention from the police.

The Surrey Constabulary in 1959 undertook foot and cycle patrol in a way that would have been recognised by the Victorian constable. Recorded crime numbers and road accidents were escalating along with the growth in traffic, impacting upon the Force and the deployment of resources. A great deal of the serious crime was committed by criminals living outside of the county even though the Force had a considerable reputation amongst south London villains in particular, for intensive stop checks. It is known that not going to Surrey was discussed in prison!

High visibility policing was ensured through experience. High profile beats such as town centres were a priority, school crossing patrols when the public was out in numbers, village constables well known to the community who visited every farm regularly for firearms enquiries and diseases of animals’ enforcement. In towns officers working the same beats became known to the public. Standing for ten minutes every hour by phone boxes and interacting with the community (they would not have called it that!). Visiting residential areas to check unoccupied houses whilst owners were on holiday. Undertaking enquiries, mostly traffic related, allowed the enhancing of contacts and local knowledge. There was a longer working week and much less annual leave with not a great deal of general or specialist training with a less and not so complicated paperwork for the patrols. Officers always wore helmets and were immediately obvious.

The 1962 report of the Royal Commission commented on the inadequacy of police pay in 1959. It was also recorded that by 1960 the maximum police pay for a constable was 5% below the national average and on the minimum scale 30%. Critchley (page 252) wrote: “And much had by now gone wrong, in consequence, with police strength, recruitment, and even, it seemed at times, morale with many officers dissatisfied with their lot. The war against crime was not being won.”

Nationally, recruiting was brisk as many officers resigned or transferred although the numbers coming from National Service meant the often-petty discipline was not too arduous or off-putting, particularly as the fierce discipline of previous years was moderating and unacceptable to many particularly following the War. To be a sergeant was normally to have served for fifteen or so years and an inspector twenty years plus.

Nationally police numbers increased by 10,000 between 1949-1959; totalling 70,000 officers in 1959 or one police officer for every 598 persons, although in London there were fewer officers than before the War. (Critchley page 264)

1959 Surrey 1 police officer for every 721 persons or 138 per 100,000

1959 Nationally: 1 police officer for 598 persons or 167 per 100,000

2009 Nationally: 1 police officer for 393 persons or 254 per 100,000

During the period 1949-1959 40,000 probationers were appointed. In 1959 2000 officers left the service, 93% during their first ten years in the Job, half of whom were probationers. This left the police 14% under strength nationally. Shortages were particularly acute in London, the Home Counties, West Midlands and the industrial north – where some 50% of the population lived. Policemen were always expensive and in 1959 there were as always competing demands. However, in an interim report of the Royal Commission officers on maximum pay scale were to be awarded the equivalent of a 40% pay rise. During the year before the Commission’s report a net total of 500 men were lost to the service. In the following two and a half years there was a net gain of 7,000.

The Royal Commission making the case for a substantial rise in pay reported: “The police are expected to know more than was necessary twenty, even ten years ago; the public expect them to achieve higher standards in the application of their knowledge; their duties have increased; and they are required to discharge these duties in circumstances which are probably as difficult as at any time since the police were first established during the last century” (Critchley page 277)

1959 Surrey Constabulary Deployment Estimates

Constable establishment 1959	705 constables	
Estimated abstractions from foot patrol	358 constables	
Foot Patrol availability in 1959 after abstractions	347 constables	
Rural Sections	Possibly 126 officers on rural section stations some would work 10-6am or 6-2am but the highest number would have been between 8am -12mn	At least: Frimley, Bagshot, Ash, Frensham, Hindhead, Haslemere, Cranleigh, Horsley, Shere, Ripley, Brookwood, Wentworth, Egham, Bookham, Holmwood, Merstham, Horley, Salfords, Warlingham, Lingfield, Caterham on the Hill Numbers varied from about 6 to as many as twelve so a guesstimate of 6 per section for 21 sections =126
Allocation to Divisions for foot/ cycle patrol	Total of 347 on foot patrol divided between 8 divisions = 43 constables a division for foot/cycle patrol including rural.	Officers worked an 88-hour fortnight and about 14 -21 days annual leave. Time off was taken in lieu of overtime with units claimed for overtime in excess of

<p>The pool for patrol and anything else that needed doing. Many were probationary constables</p> <p>Available resources for most divisions included several foot/cycle patrols, rural officers, area car, motorcycle, Traffic car and motorcycle and a dog handler. In addition, there were supervisors including rural sergeants, and CID would respond if necessary. It was not unusual in the early 1960s for Control to move units to where they were needed, and this was probably so in the 1950s.</p>	<p>43 on four shifts leaving 10.75 per shift before abstractions</p> <p>Abstractions: Of this 10.75, 2 would have been rural, say 1 on annual leave and 1 probationer either in force training or on refresher or final course. A gaoler at court or in the police station if busy, court commitments, prisoner escort will reduce the number further.</p> <p>This would leave most shifts at single police station divisions 6 constables or where there are two sub-divisions 3 constables for foot patrol. Then someone goes sick!</p>	<p>45 minutes. This reduced staffing even more.</p> <p>Guildford and Woking having one divisional station and no sub divisions would average 16.5 constables a shift and where there are sub divisions 50% of this figure</p> <p>A typical shift at Redhill would be Sergeant, Station Officer, and town beat man maybe one or two cycling the outskirts plus a 9-5 or 10-6 who would cover the town for the meal-break of the town officer then cover the Station Officer for his break.</p> <p>One officer recalls working Woking with three on a shift and the sergeant going off duty at midnight</p>
<p>Civilian Staff</p>	<p>Civilians 1959: Authorised 181 – Actual 153</p>	

Police leadership always understood the critical need for prevention of which an integral part was police visibility. Foot patrols were vital to policing from which local knowledge was acquired allowing for being in the right place at the right time. Police visibility enhanced prevention which was the fundamental mission of the police who have always depended on public co-operation and approval. Utilising visibility to prevent crime and disorder, rather than solely reacting to it.

Was there more visible policing in the 1950/1960s? A longer working week, one day off, then a 44-hour week, more annual leave, increased professionalism required more training with more abstractions reducing officer availability. Court commitments and probationer training were a significant cost to the working day of a sub-division. Many officers “hung around” the courts as evidence was required in person, serving a copy of a statement in advance was not yet an option.³ Some off nights, late turn, training or taken from routine patrolling. There for hours then a moment when needed before off home to come on duty later. Loads of units of overtime. The double whammy – away from patrol earning units to take off when on patrol! The growth of specialist teams, Traffic, drugs, dogs, burglary, forensic, use of radio, telephone, teleprinter by dedicated communications staff. There was only one place from where most of the new roles could be filled!

Visibility was further enhanced with most officers wearing an instantly recognisable helmet (to be in public without a cap or helmet was to risk falling out with the sergeant!) Local crime enquiries were thorough and involved speaking to a lot of people who would then be aware of

³ Section 9 of the Criminal Justice Act 1967 allows written witness statements to be admitted as evidence in criminal proceedings without the witness attending court. This legislation saved vast amount of police time as officers no longer needed to attend court for most of their prosecutions.

police activity. Traffic point duty and parking enforcement. Undertaking point duty and school crossing patrols meant local police officers met many parents and children. Foot patrols in high streets/town centres was a priority as were unoccupied house visits in residential areas. Standing for ten minutes in the hour by a phone box during which some paperwork was undertaken meeting the public which allowed an exchange of views about all manner of policing issues. Paperwork for patrol officers was not complex; a great deal went into registers or required completion of a proforma. However, beat officers dealt with road accidents, sudden deaths, arrests and numerous enquiries for other police forces – “Please allow and officer to call upon” often via teleprinter, frequently headed “PAOCA”. Firearms renewals or grant, summonses to be served, warrants to be negotiated. Late in the day and overnight complete vehicles seen at night forms along with details of stop checks of people on foot or in cars or on motorcycles

The large number of men attached to rural stations usually living where they worked, undertaking police work when off duty (or by his wife) and with huge amounts of local knowledge. Many issues were resolved without a pencil being drawn! Mostly on a bicycle though some on scooters or motorcycles. Most officers lived in the towns where they worked and travelled to work in uniform by cycle or on foot. Many were known off duty as police officers.

Most divisions had two main stations i.e. Dorking and Leatherhead, Reigate had Redhill and Horley, Oxted had Caterham, Farnham was joined with Camberley; Northern Division Addlestone, Weybridge, Walton, Egham, the pool of officers was dissipated across subdivisions and rural sections along with other abstractions. Woking and Guildford seemed to have more officers available, but this may be a consequence of there being no sub divisions and officers parading together.

The use of split shifts and cover shifts of 9-5, 10-6pm, 4-12mn and 6-2am made more staff visible. These shifts were used to ensure additional staffing to meet public order demands where off duty military personnel concentrated such as in Guildford town. Split shifts were frequent, i.e., a gap between two lots of four hours. This meant no meal break and you were working for the full eight and not seven and a quarter hours. Officers paraded for duty a quarter of an hour before their shift then off out for the start of the duty. Common shifts, 9-1, 6-10, 6-2 in the morning, 10-2am, 1-9, and 8-4 am; start at 6, 2, 10, or on Traffic 7,3,11 to ensure cover. All combinations often with no pattern with one rest day per week and one additional rest day per fortnight. Some divisions there was no rest day pattern – officers did as they were told! CID frequently worked twelve hours a day or longer; 9am – 10pm, when on days or 9am - 10pm if on late!

In the rural areas the focus on diseases of animal’s legislation and firearms licensing ensured that all farmers and slaughterhouses were visited and got to know their local officers. All officers not on probation were designated Diseases of Animals Inspectors.

Officers could not normally go sick without a sickness certificate from a doctor. If reporting over the telephone with an ailment the officer had to speak with someone very sympathetic, otherwise they would say take time off from your units.

All crime reports known as SC1 were submitted regardless of the seriousness of the offence. Most were seen by the chief constable who would frequently make comments in green ink – hopefully “Good work” or “Well Done.”

1959 crime nationally 675,000 a rise of 8% on 1958 – police had never been so hard pressed. Detection rate dropping but police numbers had not kept up with the demands of crime and growth in traffic. The following for Surrey gives an indication of the rising levels of reported crime:

Crime Statistics Comparison:

	Crimes	Breaks
1958	8,339	1,945
1959	9,150	1,926
1962	11,035	2,519
1964	13,488	3,481

Nationally growth of crime outstripped police numbers. In 1959 there were more police than ever before in peacetime, many not fully trained due to the large number of probationers, 10,000 more police than in 1940. Half of those leaving nationally were probationers but the remainder who quit were fully trained, imposing a critical handicap on a service already 14% under strength. The loss of any trained officer represented a cost to a strained budget.

Total strength 1959, 70,000 or one police officer for every 598 persons although there was a much poorer ratio in Surrey.

Civilians 1949-1959, 3881- 8082 (By 1975 risen to 20,000) – many policemen were released for patrol duties in consequence. Surrey had a carpenter and painter decorator on the strength as police constables. A sure indication of poor funding.

Many competing demands on the country’s resources in 1959 and policing was not a high spending priority. The condition of policing in the late 50s led to the Royal Commission 1960.

Probationary Constables: One officer at least, spent his first two weeks as a police officer in the 1950s living at Mount Browne and working in the vegetable garden before going to training school. “The mode of transport on division in the late 50s early 60’s depended on your posting. In a town, particularly its centre, eight hours of foot patrol was the norm. On a rural area or in the outer areas of a town then the pedal cycle was the means of propulsion. Personal radios did not exist and the only contact with the police station was via the public telephone system or via a co-operative member of the public’s telephone usually from shop/business premises. The patrolling officer could only be contacted by the police station once an hour whilst making a ‘conference point’. The officer’s duty sheet provided a set of conference points to be made

each hour. Normally this was a telephone box (TK) but sometimes a private house or business premises. The point would be referred to as K then a number indicating the telephone box in question e.g. K21 or by the name of the premises, e.g. 'Rose Cottage'. The officer was expected to remain at the point for ten minutes, normally five before and five after the hour. If an officer was needed to attend an incident then it had to wait until telephone contact could be made. A traffic car or the divisional wireless car usually dealt with any urgent matter. If neither was available it was not unknown for the station officer to 'shut up shop' and attend in any vehicle that could be found".

Also, when on beat duties officers checked chemist's dangerous drugs registers and visited registered aliens at their accommodation address. This was undertaken every year possibly six-monthly checks on aliens. These were opportunities for police to have contact with the public without enmity.

Other key features of a beat constables' lot, happy or not in the late 1950s early 60s!

All shifts started with a briefing parade where officers produced their appointments, i.e. handcuffs, truncheon, pocketbook.

Each officer had to have his own bicycle for which he received an allowance, for making points at telephone kiosks often some miles from his station.

Possibly between six and ten officers were on each shift at Guildford.

There was always a sergeant on duty often a patrol and station sergeant. (Although in the 1950s there were times when there were no supervisors readily available.)

Officers worked a forty-four-hour week; split shifts were becoming rare other than in rural areas and there was one paid rest day each month. Other overtime except Bank Holidays (paid at double time) was taken as time off in lieu.

Paid weekly by cheque, which came by post. Pay was about £6 a week and nearly all of the Guildford officers tramped around to the tobacconists in North Street to get the cheques cashed.

Surrey Constabulary Lack of Manpower

The lack of numbers was evident in Surrey, remembered in messages to the Surrey Constabulary History Journal over the last 20 years.

1951 Tony May: In 1951 after being posted to Guildford from training school at Sandgate I discovered that Guildford was divided into eight beats with Number One Beat being the High Street, which was sacrosanct. The only time a probationer was allowed there was during the night meal break from 2-2.45am. As we met and passed under the Guildhall clock the magic words "All correct" were passed. Number Two Beat was Woodbridge Road and London Road, Three and Four Beats were Farnham Road and Onslow Village, Five and Six, Bellfields and Stoughton and Seven and Eight were Mellow and Burpham. Quite often beats were doubled

up and I can remember sometimes there were perhaps only two or three Probationers on nights plus the experienced PCs on One Beat and acting as station officer.

1952: Ted Wild: Caterham and Reigate: I joined the Surrey Constabulary in 1952 and started off in Caterham soon moving to a police house in Reigate. In Reigate we worked mainly the 6-2 2-10 and 10-6 shifts and the town beat had to be covered 24/7. There was no going for a meal break unless you were relieved. The outer beats could be split duties something like 10am to 2pm followed later that day by 10pm to 2am was not unusual. Reigate town had a pillar system for communication and a police box in which you could sit in the Old Town Hall in the centre of town.

Oxted Division, Caterham sub division. Divided into Valley Section, Caterham on the Hill and Warlingham. Duties were on foot and bicycle and the shifts were mainly a week about of 10 to 6am, 2 to 10pm and 6 to 2pm and very occasionally a seat in the local crime car. Duties always started at the police station at the appointed hour with a briefing with our section sergeant who was always available. There would only be about two constables reporting for duty. There was only one inspector who mainly worked the day shift and was available at other times. The Valley Section had a variety of shops which kept the duty officers busy for the morning or afternoon, on foot in the town, after that he would be on his bike checking property and doing general patrols checking suspicious vehicles and people. Once again the great majority of the time was spent on the beat with only a few minutes making up the 'stop' register and noting suspicious vehicles. Late duties and nights although starting at the police station, would often finish with a ten minute point at a TK near to the officer's home. Probationer training was undertaken at Reigate each month with a further two, two-week courses at Shorncliffe Camp near Folkstone. This were redundant army barrack room accommodation where in the 1960s the KOSB were stationed complete with a bagpipe for reveille.

Most of the county had opportunities to be involved with Lingfield Races several times a year, however the local division had a very good share of the duties. This was rest day overtime for payment. (Similarly regular stock car racing at Tongham was a source of paid overtime for Ash section.)

Caterham. "I joined the Job in 1957, did three months initial training at Sandgate, as one of the largest single intakes into the Surrey Constabulary at that time. Sadly, very few of made it to retirement, an awful lot packed up in probation period or towards mid service. When we came out of Sandgate, we had a week's 'familiarisation' course, to show us how to write reports the Surrey Constabulary way, and to familiarise us with the local forms, SC 101 etc, then on to our postings. Being a Caterham boy, surprisingly I was sent to Caterham, where they gave me Whyteleafe as my patch, as they thought away from people I might know. We had a training day once a month at Reigate when training staff came from Mount Browne. We travelled there by bus. After a year on probation officers undertook a number of attachments Traffic, CID, before returning to Sandgate for two weeks course. The sergeant's law exam could not be taken until five years' service had been completed and there was also a requirement to pass an 'Education' exam, which could be taken anytime. This consisted of maths, English, geography. There was also a current affairs paper, where officers were asked about various government

officials. It was a great relief to many people when it was abolished! Officers were advised to read the Daily Telegraph when preparing for this exam.”

“Points to be made, at telephone boxes at Caterham were all by name, i.e. Whyteleafe post office, Kenley Aerodrome etc., and were written out on a time sheet by the night duty station officers, once a week. You had the top sheet, which you submitted at the end of the week, and a long strip carbon copy to keep in your pocket book so you knew where you had to be. When a house became available, my wife and I moved to Woking, in November 1959 where points were all numbers, i.e. K1, outside the police station, K2 at the bottom of the hill on the Guildford Road, towards Guildford etc.

A sergeant was in charge at Warlingham with a number of PCs. The sergeant used his private vehicle for supervisory purposes and I can't remember there being a police vehicle allocated to his section other than a motor bike.

I can recall Diseases of Animals movement records being handled by the officers at Warlingham, Woldingham and Chaldon and the occasional Foot and Mouth and Anthrax outbreaks.

When I transferred from Caterham to **Camberley** the standard shift start times altered from 0600, 1400 and 2200 to 0700, 1500 and 2300. I think that F (Farnham) Division was the only territorial division to work these shifts. I must say I preferred the later start to shifts. We also had a three-day long weekend (Sat-Mon) every four weeks. RD, RD then seven nights RD seven late, RD RD seven early followed by a RD. Eventually with extra rest days off rather than paid it became a four-day weekend with the Friday off as well. One could be granted units off to compensate for unpaid overtime, time and a half or time and a third depending the type of day (ordinary or RD) being worked. If you were involved in force sport (representing the force additional time off was granted. Some superintendents would grant time off for divisional sport as well. Likewise for first aid and lifesaving competitions duty time would be allowed.”

Leatherhead officers worked a six week roster: 2200 to 0600 followed by 1400 to 2200 followed by 0600 to 1400, followed by 1600 to 2359 followed by 0800 to 1600 followed by a week of ‘cover’ one shift of each 2200 to 0600, 1400 to 2200, 0600 to 1400, 1600 to 2400 and the 0800 to 1600. This was followed by a long weekend to recover with three rest days per fortnight.

A retired officer wrote about his early service. “I was on uniform beat duties (foot and cycle) most of this early period, occasionally acting as crew of the divisional car (Tilly short for utility vehicle). On moving to Leatherhead into digs I was on the sub-divisional car quite a lot. On nights, I remember well we would have an inspector until 10pm or midnight, a sergeant 10-6, PC in office, one beat PC in Leatherhead Town, and one out of town in the "industrial area" (Kingston Road). There was always one PC at Ashted, and if enough a PC at Bookham. Additionally, two on the car, a motorcycle on until midnight, and sometimes another car (single officer) until 12 or 2 in the morning. And this was the norm! Always saw

last train in at night and if possible first out in morning.” (This was also a task undertaken at Dorking in the mid 1960s and resulted in arrests.)

Godalming. A probationer constable’s memories - September 1957 a time when there were many ex-servicemen joining who had seen service in Korea, Malaya, Aden and Cyprus. Many had been Regulars as well as those serving for two years National Service. They joined and accepted a disciplined and respected police service, having had discipline installed into them in service life. Normally four PCs paraded in front of a sergeant. Local events and recent crime details were read out and you noted any relevant information in your pocket book. This lasted about fifteen minutes and you were out onto your respective beat. Occasionally supplementary shifts were introduced depending on local conditions and available staff. These were 8am-4pm and 10am 6pm to deal with mostly traffic problems. There was a 6pm-2am shift to deal with public order problems, mostly Friday and Saturday nights. The shift pattern was on a four-week cycle, with an eighty-eight hour fortnight and you worked one of the rest days for pay. The training received in those days was thirteen weeks at the training school (Sandgate) and then two sessions of two weeks in the following two years at the training school with one day a month training day at HQ or Reigate. Each month you were given a subject to discuss from the syllabus. This was called Discussion on Prepared Agenda (DPA). Outside Godalming town there were the rural officers based in local police offices at Cranleigh, Shere, Haslemere, Hindhead and Milford many working from their police house in the village such as Hascombe, Shamley Green.

Foot patrol and pedal cycle duties in Godalming. An officer wrote he had to make points at various TK, the only method of communication, checking unoccupied houses, paper enquiries for other police areas, investigating minor crime etc. Shift pattern at the time involved quick change over, 10-6am, 2-10pm and 6-2pm. I was usually given foot patrol duties in the town or cycle duties. Duties during the day usually involved traffic control in the High Street. Godalming High Street not being very wide had to put up with parked delivery vehicles usually outside the International Stores, police spending hours directing traffic around these parked vehicles. If the town PC was needed urgently, the station PC would ring one of the shops and get them to send somebody out to find you so you could answer the phone.

Guildford. “I was allowed to live at my home in Stoughton less than two miles from the town. Normal practise was for new recruits to be posted to either a section house or to lodgings, which were found for him/her. It was a requirement that you had a pedal cycle and I cycled daily to Guildford police station to commence duty. Anything you came across en-route you dealt with, i.e. RTA's, found property, lost dogs etc. There was no asking for assistance as telephones kiosks were few and far between. Having lived in Guildford all my life I was recognised by many people. It did not have many disadvantages. Police in those days were treated in most cases with respect and there was no abuse when off duty.”

In Guildford, High Street and North Street had to be patrolled at all times. A tradition handed down from the Guildford Borough days; Tunsgate to Ram Corner was patrolled by a senior constable twenty-four hours a day. This was gradually eased during the late 1950's. It was necessary that officers were able to recognise the local mayor, magistrates, and councillors

and show them respect. Generally, the first four hours of a shift dealt with traffic and making sure there were no jams. Traffic duty at the railway station, Quarry Street and North Street was a must, and police were in the centre of the road and directed traffic to ensure it flowed properly. After four hours it was meal break and the remainder of your shift dealt with other enquiries, statements and unoccupied houses. Contact from supervisors could only be made hourly at a telephone kiosk at the prescribed time. If very urgent it was more by luck than judgement the station officer rang a shopkeeper to see if there was a policeman nearby.

Walton on Thames. On transferring from the Metropolitan Police, I found that Surrey officers were far more serious in their approach to ALL beat matters. Supervision by sergeants, inspectors and above was something to be respected. At Walton on Thames, each relief had five constables, a sergeant with one inspector in charge of the station. One of the constables was station officer. We made points at the telephone kiosk close to where we lived and were very often met by the sergeant or inspector to ensure we were on time. Pocket books were religiously signed whenever you were met. Points were allocated within the area of your beat, usually at telephone kiosks and occasionally at private houses where there were no kiosks. Again, you never knew whether a senior officer would be meeting you there. It was a serious offence to miss one of these points without just cause, often ending with a visit to the chief superintendent's office. Early turn at Walton always started with checking the speedometers of traffic cars. We had a set three tenths of a mile in Seven Hills Road, a constable at each end one with a clean handkerchief to start and the other at the finish with a stopwatch. Notes had to be made in our pocket books as traffic officers had to give this evidence that their speedometers had been checked. Apart from being contacted on a point and given an incident to attend, beat work was yours to carry out in the best interests of the public. There was no getting away early off duty as you were nearly always at the station typing out any reports or being visited by the sergeant on your last point. School crossings, unoccupied houses, sudden deaths and domestic disputes were the extent of a beat officer, plus the reporting of persons for traffic offences. Regardless of the above, life was what you made of it and I still say it was the best time of my police service. (I was later CID, Scenes of Crime and Crime Prevention Officer)"

Woking. "When I went to Woking the station officer was PC Roland Neal. We were at school together. He took me and introduced me to Sergeant Cliff Leason, who greeted me well, and shook hands with me. I was amazed, never having the privilege before with a Sergeant. Being an ex-serviceman, I still regarded sergeants as God's right hand. I was put to work on a section of three. They would not let one of the men work in the office, so it was two of us who shared station office duties. That was it – just three. At night it was one in the office, one out on the town, and that was Woking's cover in those days. The late turn sergeant went off duty at midnight, and we were left to our own devices, except for the sole traffic car that dropped in sometime during the night and sometimes took their meal break with us. We also used to work a system of quick changeovers, that is to say you worked night duty say on Monday night, then a late turn on Tuesday, followed by an early on Wednesday. Then you had a rest day on Thursday. The system was worked so that you did not have a night duty before a rest day as there was much resentment at having a rest day after a night duty."

Camberley Town. Four of us had been sent to Camberley because there was friction between the local lads and United States Navy sailors based at FASRON 200 (Blackbushe just over the border in Hampshire). The Americans had the money and threw parties for the local girls and the local lads weren't getting a look in! There was of course the complication of lots of soldiers from the many military establishments in the district. To help counter this US Naval Authorities ran a shore patrol Thursday until Sunday each week. They would turn up at Camberley nick mid-evening in a massive American car. I stand at six feet tall and out of this car would emerge two MPs at least six inches taller than me and certainly twice as broad. My "carers" for the evening had arrived. They cared in many ways - the steaks in their mess were delicious and if there was a melee going on in a coffee bar, pub or in the Agincourt dance hall I was as safe as houses. Many a skull or backside was at the receiving end of their long nightsticks. The prisoners usually came quietly. There were other military to deal with as well at the Staff College and the Royal Military Academy. Many of the officers on the staff at the Royal Military Academy and College or students at the latter had led illustrious careers of which I had read. I could be tasked to inspect the firearms certificates of a member of the Glorious Gloucester Regiment or of a former POW escapee. Better still many had au pairs working for them ... enough said. There were also the Royal Military Academy officer cadets. They were at most times kept under close rein. However occasionally, especially at end of term or courses matters could get out of hand. RMA staff did not suffer this lightly and a young gentleman getting on the wrong side of the law would be in real trouble.

One reason for joining the police if you were married was the fact that you would **qualify for a police house**. Some, mostly rural ones, were detached with an office attached. Others were in groups of two, three or four, perhaps in a village where a rural section operated. They had an office and a sometimes a secure room or cell(s) for prisoners. Others were just purchased on developments, etc. The force's traffic centres, like HQ had many houses. Godstone, Burpham, Spital Heath (Dorking) and Chertsey come to mind.

Farnham 1959 "I was a town foot beat PC at Farnham and lived in a village police house some five miles from the station. I was well known in the village and often dealt with enquiries when off duty. My duties were 6-2, 2-10 and 10-6 consisting of patrolling the town dealing with parking/obstruction by vehicles, assisting in free flow of traffic around delivery vehicles, formal traffic control in the town centre on Saturday mornings (waving arms about in the middle of the three-way junction), inserting details of offenders in pocket book, attending court, at night checking all shop premises for security, stopping and checking vehicles or, if not possible, completing 'vehicle seen at night forms', if early turn on Monday attending the market and witnessing the slaughter of pigs at the rear of the adjacent butchers' shop."

The reason for being in the market was to issue movement licences to the buyers who had to keep the animals isolated for twenty-eight days. The stupidity of the system was that the animals were not identified - the licence would simply say, for example, six pigs (not even the breed). The copy of the licence would then be sent on to the police of the area where the animals were being kept and the local Diseases of Animals inspector (local PC) would then have to check that they were kept isolated for the twenty-eight days and endorse the copy licence accordingly. At Leatherhead I had done this and our local pig owner (who couldn't read or

write) would simply show me six pigs. Obviously they could be any six. A licence could be issued for immediate slaughter, hence the butcher's shop visit

Guildford 1961. Peter May: When I started at Guildford in October 1961 there was a Hillman Husky (J35) which covered shouts and also motorcyclist(s). Beats were numbered one to seven; six and seven were the outer areas of North-East (Bellfields etc) and East (Merrow) and these were the property of the longer serving officers (e.g., Sid Warren who lived at Bellfields; and 'Drobney' Oliver Merrow). Beat 1 was the High Street and we younger ones used to wish for that beat because the attraction of standing in the High Street when all the shops closed at 5.30pm was much sought after. Beat 2 was North Street and around the bottom of the town. Friary Street at that time was a two-way traffic road! On Friday/Saturday day shifts you got it in the neck for allowing cars to park behind the market stalls but didn't need to say anything when a certain sergeant called at the back of the stalls for his vegetables on his way home! I think 3 beat was the area between the town and the By-Pass; 4 beat was Onslow Village and a nice bit about that was after the last telephone kiosk point at the Onslow Village shops on a summer 2 – 10pm shift, you could free-wheel all the way down into the town. Lastly, I believe 5 beat was the area to the south of the town covering Shalford. Around this time the force was on a six-week rota. Due to manpower problems we went to a four-week rota and the Chief Constable, Herman Rutherford, promised we would go back to the six-week system as soon as possible! One of the spare weeks was a traffic duty/parking 9-5pm or 8-4pm week, which included manning the pedestrian crossing at the railway approach for traffic point duty. Probationers were taken to these sites in the dead of night during night's weeks to be trained and given traffic control instruction by Sergeant George Cooper. (You had to stand on a particular manhole to get it right.

There is a rosy glow

There is a predisposition to look back with a rosy glow to the days when we were young, fit and full of enthusiasm for life. Working in what was at times an exciting and respected Job though boxed in by what could be tedious beat work especially on nights. It was what the probationary constable made of it, with self-generated behaviours, most getting stuck in and kept busy. There was always a lot to learn. If it did not suit, and for many it did not, they quietly left usually with the attraction of a larger salary! Many transferred to the Metropolitan Police for the higher pay or to other forces where housing was cheaper. Shift work dominated and was an exacting way of life leading to a closed circle of friends and acquaintances. There was a concentration "on mates" and social life including a great deal of sport was confined within the Job. Officers resigning was just a part of the life. Some never settled to the demands of the hours and nature of the work. Young men dealing with all the sadness and horrors of police life. Pay was always an issue usually below that of a skilled worker and that was not enough for the harshness of the role. But men continued to join in the 1950s and 60s from all backgrounds, some with ambition others seeking a village police house and content with the rural life. Everyone different. It was during this period that increasing numbers of bright and able policewomen joined with many working within specialist departments, CID and later

Traffic. However, policing remained dominated by the men until the late 1970s numbers of women officers increased dramatically.

For all its problems as a Job and way of life, to be a young policeman in a force such as the Surrey Constabulary was special where friends were made for life.

1993

The first year of Surrey Police

1993 early in the year: A man reported his wife missing from their home in Wrecclesham. A widespread search was undertaken and later that date a partly burnt body of a woman was found in Alice Holt Forest. This was the missing woman and at the PM it was revealed that she had died from severe blows to the head. The scene of the crime was in the bedroom of her home and so the husband was arrested and eventually convicted at the Central Criminal Court.⁴ **1993 January 5: Husband of forest victim held:** The husband of a woman whose badly beaten body was found in a woodland car park was charged last night with her murder. The body of Angela Stewart 25 was found on a Sunday about three miles from her home by a couple walking in Abbots Wood, Alice Holt Forest. Police said Mrs Stewart had died from head injuries and her body doused in fuel and set alight.⁵

1993: Hugh Landon Effingham: One bright sunny morning in West Horsley, when the Ford Orion patrol car, unlike the previous Ford Escort, started first time. (This was because it was fitted with manual choke rather than the Ford economy auto choke, which frequently required a screwdriver inserted in the slide to prevent flooding).

I left the Police Office and drove out of Mount Pleasant and made my way on to the A246 at the Window Box Roundabout, otherwise known as the Bell & Colvill roundabout. This was because the original name of the garage changed when it became 'Corporate' to give your business an 'Image'. It was around this time that 'Surrey Constabulary' became 'Surrey Police' and every sign and all the stationery was changed to a more 'Corporate Image'. There is probably an audit trail somewhere but each sign outside each Police Office cost around £2000. However, the I soon realised that every organisation has its problems.

As I turned on to the A246 I saw a large amount of litter on both sides of the road extending for at least 100 yards. It appeared familiar and so I stopped to see why. I discovered it consisted of that morning's case papers for Dorking Magistrates Court. Apparently as a cost cutting exercise the Surrey Magistrates decided to use a motorcycle courier service to deliver their court papers. Dorking Court got them a bit late that morning.⁶

⁴ Annual Report 1993

⁵ The Times 5 January 1993

⁶ Email from Hugh Landon to Robert Bartlett 3 March 2018

1993 March: A nine-year-old boy was walking to a jumble sale in Guildford when he was abducted and assaulted. A man was arrested in Durham and sentenced to six years in prison.⁷

1993 Early: Addlestone Division: **Three police officers were injured** while arresting four burglars. One was beaten on the back of the head with an iron bar; a second had his ear bitten and the third a woman officer was punched in the face. All four were arrested and one received a four-year sentence.⁸

1993 April: Following an armed robbery at Caterham the offenders were arrested but they were no longer in possession of the weapon. A newly trained weapons retrieval dog found the weapon and the stolen property. During the year the weapons dogs carried out twelve more searches finding three weapons. Drugs search dogs had eighty-five positive finds.⁹

1993 June: A joint air support unit was formed involving Surrey and the Metropolitan Police from a southern operating base at Redhill.¹⁰

1993 June: A man was sent to prison for six years following conviction for a series of sexual offences against young boys who were in his care when he was a residential social worker.¹¹

1993 July: The naked body of a man was discovered on waste ground at a refuse site in Merstham. The body was identified as a 37-year-old who had been reported missing from Upper Norwood. After initial enquiries by Surrey the enquiry was passed to the Metropolitan Police.¹² **1993 July 31: Murder probe:** Police are investigating a possible murder after the badly decomposed body of a man was discovered on open ground at Redhill.¹³

1993 July: A care counsellor employed by the YMCA was **stabbed to death** on a welfare visit. A woman was charged in connection with the death¹⁴ Nick Stanley a housing counsellor was trying to mediate in a dispute between a man and a woman. Mr Stanley was stabbed through the heart and was later discovered dying on the landing of the flats. A man and a woman were immediately arrested and later a 25-year-old woman was charged with murder.¹⁵

1993 September: The Force had many notable successes when dealing with New Age Travellers, fox hunting, gypsies, biker gangs and rave parties. At the beginning of the summer Dorking Police were informed that a party for some 25,000 people was being planned but

⁷ Annual Report 1993

⁸ Annual Report 1992

⁹ Annual Report 1993

¹⁰ Annual Report 1993

¹¹ Annual Report 1993

¹² Annual Report 1993

¹³ The Times Saturday, July 31, 1993

¹⁴ Annual Report 1993

¹⁵ The Times 17 July 1993 The Times 19 July 1993

through good intelligence and policing the party was disrupted although a small event did take place in September¹⁶

1993 September 9: Officer banned: A Superintendent from Caterham was banned from driving by Epsom magistrates and fined £285 for drink driving. He will lose his job.¹⁷

1993 September 22: Manslaughter: A man who killed his wife with a hammer when she ignored his last-ditch attempt to save their marriage was cleared of murder yesterday. A 36-year-old man from Byfleet was sentenced to six years for manslaughter.¹⁸

1993: Autumn flooding

1993 Drug Squad: Egham in a joint operation with Customs resulted in the arrest of four people in possession of 550kg of cannabis with a street value of more than £2 million

1993 October: Ram raids: Generally committed by criminals in high powered stolen cars with drivers often prepared to drive dangerously at high speed to avoid arrest. A joint operation was established with Thames Valley Police. Intelligence and surveillance led to two teams of criminals and by October they had been arrested and there was a considerable reduction in this type of offence.

1993: Arson: A packaging firm at Wrecclesham was subject of an arson attack and £100,000 worth of stock destroyed. A further arson occurred at Cranleigh when a barn and agricultural equipment was destroyed. Two boys went to a farm at Bramshot Chase set a fire and 2000 bales of straw were destroyed. There was also a barn fire at Brook when about £50,000 worth of damage was caused. Two boys admitted starting the fire accidentally!¹⁹

1993: A man saw two men run from a building society. He followed them and took the number of their vehicle, and they were arrested for **robbery**.²⁰

1993: Police dog Tao undertaking a search of premise in South London on behalf of the Surrey Drug Squad uncovered **£250,000 of drug money**.

1993 September 22: A man who killed his wife with a hammer when she ignored his last-ditch attempt to save their marriage was cleared of murder yesterday. Martin Gilles 35, was found guilty of manslaughter and sent to prison for six years.²¹

¹⁶ Annual Report 1993

¹⁷ The Times 9 September 1993

¹⁸ The Times 22 September 1993

¹⁹ Annual Report 1993

²⁰ Annual Report 1993

²¹ 199322 September: The Times

1993 October: Shooting Green Lane Camp at Outwood on the Caterham Division when a man received injuries to his face and an arm. Two men were arrested and one was charged with attempted murder the other with affray. Both were also charged with having no licence for a shotgun.

1993 October: A car belonging to a **missing person** was found abandoned on Hankley Common a large area of heath land. A search using fifty officers and dogs was arranged however, within five minutes of the helicopter's arrival the body of the missing person was found.²²

1993 October 21: Robbery M25: MM from Wentworth was ambushed and robbed while in her car on the M25 slip road. Surrey police last night issued artists impressions of the two men they believed attacked Mrs M who was held at gunpoint and robbed of jewels worth £71,000 and her £55,000 Mercedes.²³

1993 November: 25,000 people attended **Brockham bonfire**, but the event was peaceful with only a few minor incidents mainly caused by young drunks.

1993 December: Shortly before Christmas during a period of **IRA activity** on the mainland, the search team were deployed to Brookwood Railway Station following a coded call from the IRA. A search was undertaken under the direction of Inspector Clive Barham and Peter Griffiths. Two devices were found and destroyed by the Army. Both devices were viable and capable of causing considerable injury and damage. Detective Superintendent John Stewardson led the subsequent enquiry.²⁴

1993 December: A22 Blindley Heath a **tanker fully laden** with petrol left the road when the driver tried to avoid an accident with another vehicle. The tanker had to have its load transhipped, which was difficult via the valves as they were on the side of the vehicle, which was inaccessible because of the accident. The load had therefore to be pumped off from the top of the tanker. This all caused considerable delay and was not without danger.²⁵

1993: The **Operational Search team** undertook fewer searches due to the reduction in military events. However, searches were undertaken of venues for Royal and VIP visits, military band concerts.

1993: Second World War bomb discovered at Walton

1993: Firearms Support Team deployed on thirty-six occasions during the year²⁶

²²Annual Report 1993

²³ 1993 October 21: The Times

²⁴ Annual Report 1993

²⁵ Annual Report 1993

²⁶Annual Report 1993

1993 December 15: Anti-terrorist squad officers were last night investigating a **small IRA bomb** which exploded on a railway line in Surrey, causing delays for thousands of passengers travelling to and from London. The device was the first attack on the British mainland since the disclosure of contacts between the Government and the Provisional leadership. The last mainland attack was on 30 October, when a small bomb exploded in a square in Kensington, west London.

Yesterday's bomb exploded shortly before 3am on the line between Woking and West Byfleet stations in Surrey, creating a crater one foot deep, and damaging one rail. It was discovered later in the morning by BR staff and after a maintenance train had travelled over the crater without incident.²⁷

1993 December 23: Risk of prosecution deters all but a few: PC Len Martin aged 39, who joined Surrey police 11 years ago stopped the car on the A3 near Guildford at 1030pm in the week before Christmas, as it was going faster than 70mph and did not have a local number plate. He quickly established the driver was sober and, after the contents of his car were checked, he was sent on his way. "There is no point breathalysing someone if you do not suspect them, although during the Christmas campaign we test everyone if there is an accident." It was Monday night and PC Martin and PC Roger Chamberlain 39, were on their first shift of the Christmas anti-drink-driving campaign that began across the country on Sunday and will last until the New Year.²⁸

²⁷ 1993 December 15: Independent

²⁸ 1993 December 23: The Times