



# Surrey Constabulary History

*An in depth history of policing in Surrey*

June 2026

[www.surrey-constabulary.com](http://www.surrey-constabulary.com)

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## Surrey Constabulary History 138



The Times<sup>1</sup> 14 May 2026

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thetimes.com/article/eaf80830-e68f-41f8-91a1-936a88fe0b3c?shareToken=332800bca6ffb877ab080ba167d4a13a>

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## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary General Strike

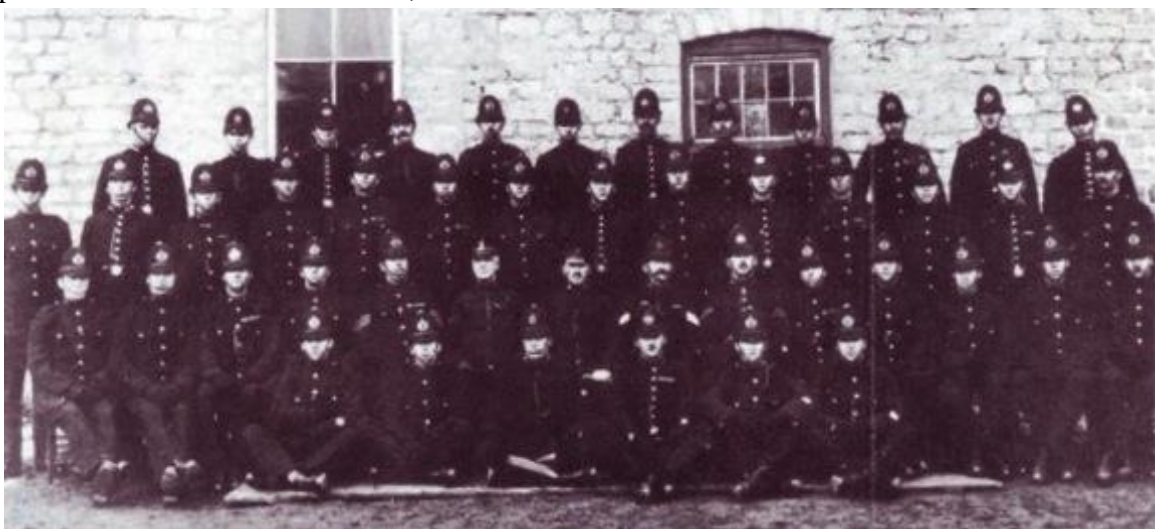
### Coal Strike Derbyshire

**1926 October:** The miners were on strike and disorder had broken out in the coalfields, with local forces unable to cope with the violence and intimidation. The call went out and reinforcements were drafted into the pit towns and villages from police forces all over the country to aid the local constables. The year was 1926. In the archives at Mount Browne in the early 1970s

were a series of letters from Inspectors Greenaway and Gower, and Sergeant Jackson addressed to the deputy chief constable reporting on mutual aid 1926 style. The duties and accommodation in many cases had a remarkable similarity to that to be experience in 1984 and 1985 by the police support units.

The Surrey Constabulary sent two inspectors, four sergeants and forty-seven constables to Derbyshire. The first men left Guildford Railway Station on 19 October 1926 as the autumn chill turned to the winter cold as these men from the soft south east made their way to the alien land of heavy industry and coal mines. A culture shock awaited these rural policemen moving from where they were respected members of the community to stand between the warring factions of the coalfield. The Surrey men were to see no “action” in their time in Derbyshire, their duties being confined to endless, regular and monotonous patrolling in the winter cold, or the even colder static protection at the pit head. Inspector Greenaway and his contingent arrived in Alfreton later that day after a long but interesting ride through what for many in those un-travelled times was new country.

The inspector in accordance with his seniority and status was given accommodation in a private house, the sergeants and constables being bedded down in the Assembly Rooms, which doubled as the courthouse. The men were issued with mattresses and blankets and they spread themselves around the building, which they were sharing with colleagues from Birmingham and Manchester. The food was both liberal in quantity and high in quality, coming from the hotel next door. Meals were taken in the Assembly Rooms in front of a good coal fire, where after the meal the policemen were able to entertain themselves with a piano and billiard table provided for their use. The role of the men on aid was to ensure that the miners who wanted to work were able to do so, and this entailed escorting them to work through the pickets and guarding the entrance to the pithead. Three shifts were worked each day to cover wind down ties: 5.15 am to 7.15 am, 1.15 pm to 4 pm, and 9.15pm – 11pm. Inspector Greenaway, one of the sergeants and fourteen constables were required to cover each of the shifts, the remainder of the men were retained on reserve.



**Some of the Surrey Contingent with members of other Forces**

The reserve duty was rotated to ensure equal distribution of the workload, to reduce the amount of time men were on duty and to relieve the monotony of being confined to the Assembly Rooms. Upon his arrival, Inspector Greenaway reported to Mount Browne “all was quiet.” The following day, the 20<sup>th</sup> October, Inspector Gower and twenty other Surrey officers arrived at Creswell near Derby. The Surrey inspector was given command of a further twenty constables and two sergeants from Birmingham and Derbyshire. These men were all billeted in the drill hall near the Bolsover colliery, being joined three hours later by four officers who had missed the train from Guildford. Creswell had a population of about six thousand nearly all mining families; the majority of menfolk were working although in the area there were three to four thousand strikers.

The town was situated on the Yorkshire border and the police were there in case the “Yorkshire Gang” who according to the inspector’s letter is “Red Hot” came to Creswell to intimidate the miners into strike action. Sergeant Jackson and nine constables were detached from the main party to a place called Clowne where they joined up with the Buckinghamshire Constabulary. This contingent was billeted in an empty police house and issued with army mattresses and blankets. There was a good supply of coal provided for the fires as it became even colder. Again, the food was excellent, with four meals a day being provided at 7.30 am, 12 pm, 5 pm and a supper at 9pm. Hours of duty at the gates were similar to the main party, 5.30-7.30 am, 1– 4 pm, and 9 – 11pm.

Once a day at 9 am there was a roll call when appointments were produced and all the men briefed on the day’s patrolling. Patrol duties were not arduous, consisting of walking the roads in and through the coalmines and more importantly safeguarding the buses taking the working miners to their jobs when shifts changed. On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> the twenty-eight men from Bucks, plus the Surreys attended a church parade in the village church. The same day Inspector Greenaway reported that everything remained quiet. He was working from 5am to midnight, covering all the shifts, although his men could take a break on the reserve, which as yet had not been deployed. Those off duty had entertainment provided in the Assembly Rooms by the Alfreton Glee party. A trip down the pit was organised for twelve men accompanied by the colliery manager. Down the shaft for two hundred and fifty yards in the cage and stooped walking for one and a half miles to the coal face. The men saw pit ponies in their underground stables and cut themselves a piece of coal as souvenirs.

Snow was falling on the surface but the inspector reported that the men remained in good health although their duties were becoming more arduous but by the 25<sup>th</sup> October miners were drifting back to work. Those still out hung around in quiet, sullen groups. Many of the miners were hungry, and two were arrested by Surrey officers PC Leigh and PC Wrenchall for larceny of pies from the butchers. The officers were on plain-clothes patrol and were passing the shop as they ran out. One was sentenced to six weeks hard labour and the other discharged. Snow continued to fall but did not settle on the low ground in the towns and villages but could be seen from Alfreton covering the Pennines in the distance. The cold weather brought with it heavy colds for the men who were given inside duties and doses of quinine which proved successful.

A problem that was beginning to be overcome by the men from the south was to understand the local accent and dialect. The locals found it difficult to understand the men from Surrey and the difficulty was certainly reciprocated. The adaptable country policemen were however, soon able to use the slang and mining jargon. The strike had been going for many months and coal was scarce in an area that should have had abundance. Demand increased as the weather deteriorated and man's ingenuity was stretched to provide a supply of coal and therefore warmth. Some people sunk small shafts in their gardens and meadows and mined coal a practice called "out-cropping". This coal was inferior quality but this did not stop a local butcher from buying a meadow of between ten and twelve acres near Alfreton for two hundred and fifty pounds and making thousands of pounds by "out-cropping". On the 30 October the Surreys were reunited briefly as they left their billets to move to a new area to relieve Wiltshire officers who had been on duty since August.

The contingent was soon split again with Inspector Greenaway and his men going to Church Gresley and Inspector Gower and the remainder to New Hall about three miles away. Inspector Gower and his men drew the short straw having been posted to the most notorious spot in the county. Accommodation and food were the exact opposite of what they had left. The men were sleeping on the floor suffering freezing winter draughts from all directions. Eventually palliasses and blankets were provided, though these were tough men, some veterans of the Great War, they became disgruntled. A major concern was the distasteful toilet facilities, a canvas screen surrounding an open ditch with a pole strung across to sit on in the snow – recognisable to any old soldier! The water closet at home down the bottom of the garden seemed luxurious from Derbyshire.

Mr Greenaway and his men fared better at their billet the Miner's Arms Public House at Church Gresley. Although this was much better accommodation than their comrades had to endure, the new billet was a come down from Alfreton. It was also a far colder place to work and live a thousand feet above sea level. The people were described by Greenaway as "much lower class" than those at Alfreton who had in the previous August rioted. The disturbance needed several hundred policemen to quell. Since then, Gresley had been quiet and the word was that the strike would soon be over. The Surreys were now the only force on aid in the area and it appeared to them that they would soon be going home.

Trouble was however festering in New Hall, not from the miners but from the Surrey policemen. They were becoming mutinous over their accommodation in the Church Army centre. Their billet was in two rooms, the sergeant and inspector having beds in one, the constables on the floor in the other, which was a room where they also ate. It was very cold in the centre and the toilet facilities remained primitive. To help improve morale the inspector's room doubled as a canteen store, under the elected management of Sergeant Stent. A large quantity of drink was purchased and resold to the men so they could have a drink as and when they required without the risk of visiting the public house. The men agitated for two rooms, less draughty ones at that, with one for sleeping and the other as a mess. Additionally, the problem over toilets needed to be resolved.

The chief constable of Derbyshire was made aware of the strength of feeling of the men at New Hall and visited the centre and spoke with Inspector Gower and PC 99 Jeffrey. The chief constable then addressed the men who gathered around him in their rooms and explained they were in the poorest part of Derbyshire where better accommodation was just not available. Men everywhere were sleeping on the floor and having just one room available to them. To help alleviate the problem, arrangements were made for the inspector to move to a private accommodation and his room became the mess. Following the chief constable's visit Mr Gower recommended that two of his contingent be returned to the Force, which they were, followed on the 22 November by the remainder of the Surrey Constabulary.

On the 19 November Inspector Greenaway telegraphed the chief constable that the remainder of his contingent would be returning the following day. There was concern that the men did not have enough money to pay their rail fair home a problem that was resolved by them staying until the 22<sup>nd</sup>, pay day! The reckoning was soon to follow as on the 24 November the chief constable of Surrey sent to Derbyshire a bill for £1334.3s.8d made up mostly of pay; for an inspector £6.2s.9d a week, a sergeant £5.7s.6d and a constable between £3.10s and £4.15s. There is little that is new.<sup>2</sup>

**CE Spriggs: Off Beat March 1977:** At Chesterfield during the 1926 strike about twenty of us were sent to the mines and six asked to go down the pit to see what it was like. Believe me it was no picnic with about four inches of coal dust on the floor kicked up by the man in front and often crawling on hands and knees we were glad to see the light of day. We were in a mess as we had no overalls. How we got clean again I will never know as there were no pit head baths.



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<sup>2</sup> Bob Bartlett: Extracted in 1973 from papers in the basement of HQ

Another postcard of a group of policemen bears the writing: "1st Battalion, old Surrey boys. The men that won the war, strike duty (coal strike), Alfreton + Church Gresley, Derbyshire, October and November 1926."<sup>3</sup>



## Letters to the Editor

OFF 54  
1927

Dear Ed,

Thank you for your letter of the 7th inst. and for the interest taken in mine, regarding the trip to Chesterfield in 1926.

As near as I can say about 20 of us were sent, by train to Chesterfield under the supervision of Inspector Gower. We were met there by a member of the local Police and taken to our billet which was a very nice club and recreation hall. Here we had a bed each and our meals, quite comfortable. The local band of Bolsover Colliery came in to practise twice weekly and there was a billiard table which we were allowed to use. There were some members of another Force there also and I remember that one of our chaps was challenged by one of them to a game. He seemed very confident he would win and our man let him get away well at first. Of course we were all interested as we knew our man was good as a rule but seemed to be getting far behind. However he gave a sly wink to us, chalked his cue and finished the game in one break in fine style.

The duty there was to rise at 4 a.m. and patrol the village to keep the peace and again in the evening for the same purpose. We had good relations with the miners all the time. The thing we were told was not to let too many

of them get together on the streets. If we saw this happening it was up to us to go over to them and, in a quiet way, ask them to break up which they always did and as far as I know there were no incidents to report. The stay at Bolsover lasted two weeks then we were moved to Clowne into another recreation room where we slept on the wood floor and, being very cold weather, it was not a good change by any means. Had two blankets each and some of us went out and bought some sheets. The washing and toilet systems were not of very good class and reminded me of the front line trenches in the 14-18 war, except for the fact I was nearer home than then. Stayed there for about another fortnight then home where my wife was so pleased to have me back and I glad to be which goes without saying.

Afraid I cannot give the dates, many have been January, I know it was cold weat r.

Yours sincerely,

C. E. Spriggs.

We thank Mr. Spriggs for his letter and have managed to unearth an old file on the Derbyshire trip and this has given us a few facts and figures:

The contingent of 50 men travelled up in four main groups, the first leaving on 19th October.

Mr. Spriggs and his group were in Derbyshire from 20th October to 11th November, and the total cost to Derbyshire for their valued assistance, in salary and expenses was £1,334.3s.8d.

Inspector A. G. Greenaway seemed to have been in overall charge of the men and he kept in regular touch with the Deputy Chief Constable, Mr. Kenward, on the progress of the trip, which included long handwritten reports, and a postcard, saying "Sir, We are moving from here tomorrow to Woodville. I will report when we get settled. I am Sir, your obedient Servant. A. Greenaway, Inspector". Part of one of the letters to Inspector Greenaway in reply from the DCC read as follows "The Chief Constable wishes me to remind you that great care should be taken to see that the men are properly looked after, and he hopes that the accommodation will be good and that you will have no difficulty in obtaining food. It may be, of course, that you will all go into private lodgings. Will you please remind the whole of the men that the credit of the Force is in their hands and that the Chief Constable hopes they will all have a safe return..."

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<sup>3</sup> Email from Rachel Empringham 24 November 2016

**1926:** During the **General Strike** members of the public used to call at the police station of the Guildford Borough Police in order to offer lifts in their private transport and there were often considerable queues of cars waiting. <sup>4</sup>

**1926 Police work during the General Strike is recognised:** The year of the General Strike saw the Times newspaper set up a National Police Fund, in response to public's gratitude for the work of the service. <sup>5</sup>

## Early Days of the Surrey Constabulary 1851

**Derek:** Whilst trawling for things to do with parish constables and prosecuting associations in Kent I found the attached from **The Maidstone Gazette, 21 January 1851**. It might be of passing interest.

**THE SURRY CONSTABULARY.**—The following appointments have taken place :—  
Mr. Biddelcombe, late Superintendent of Godalming, has been appointed by Captain Hastings as his chief officer.  
The following are the Superintendants at a salary of £85 each; Messrs. Codd, late of the Staffordshire police; Casey, ditto; Hughes, Northumberland; Hollington, Guildford; and Sergeant, late of the Essex and now of the Bath police.  
Inspectors :—Messrs. High, late sergeant to Mr. Biddelcombe; Wilson, Thorpe; Benham, Chertsey; Collins, Chobham; Bidwell, Wales; Donaldson, Dorking; and Radley, Essex.  
Fifty constables have also been appointed, and great care has been taken by Captain Hastings to secure officers from the forces in different parts of the country, as well as the metropolis. A further selection will take place on Thursday; there is no lack of candidates.  
We understand Mr. Biddelcombe will be stationed at Reigate, and will take the Dorking division. The services of this officer are too well known to need any comment; no time is at present named for the force to commence operations.

**1851 January 21 The Maidstone Gazette.** The Surrey Constabulary – the following appointments have taken place.

<sup>4</sup> Biographical note from Mr Fountain below

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.polfed.org/aboutus/69DD9AB47F534348AD5D1415843163AA.asp> 19 Jan 2010

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### **The First Superintendents and Inspectors**

The people appointed by Hastings as his superintendents and inspectors were unquestionably critical contributors to the implementation of a new police force and so firstly, were experienced police officers.

William Henry Biddlecombe the Head Constable of Godalming aged 36 was appointed to the new force as a superintendent and was number one in the appointment book.<sup>6</sup> (Defaulter's Register) In the early days he was referred to as chief superintendent a post that attracted a higher rate of pay £170, and was most likely meant to be the chief constable's deputy. However, references to the higher rank were dropped. Biddlecombe had served on the Isle of Wight and in the Hampshire Constabulary. Appointed 1 January 1851 serving until 1 May 1858 when he resigned to take the Swan Inn at Chertsey. Biddlecombe in his time in the Surrey Constabulary was to deal with some of the most horrendous crimes many involving the killing of children.

Superintendent Edward Codd on 2 January 1851 aged 36, who had been a surgeon born in British Guiana. City of London Police, as an Inspector in Staffordshire and had served in the Indian Police and in Nottinghamshire. Resigned October 1853 on appointment as Superintendent Plymouth

Superintendent Timothy Casey 36, 9 January 1851 served in Metropolitan Police Dublin and Staffordshire. Compelled to resign 18 Dec 1852

Superintendent Alfred Benjamin Hughes 9 January 1851, 35 Metropolitan Police and Alnwick resigned 16 Nov 1851 to become chief of Police Bath

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<sup>6</sup> "A Hundred Years of the Surrey Constabulary" Durrant page 5

Superintendent Philip Sargent 9 January 1851 29 served Essex and Bath. Ordered to resign 26 July 1851 owing to debt but was later appointed Superintendent in Buckinghamshire and later Lincoln

Inspector Thomas Bedwell a solicitor from the Carmarthenshire Constabulary recruited as inspector and later Superintendent at Godstone, Dorking and Godalming. Permitted to resign 8 Jan 1852 (All those moves in a year!)

Inspector Josiah Radley 33, January appointed 9 January 1851 as an Inspector. He left to become the superintendent in Derby

Inspector Charles Everett joined in 1851 as an inspector and a year later in January 1852 was appointed superintendent at Farnham being dismissed in October 1856 but later becoming head constable at Godalming and later head constable Chichester

Superintendent Charles Hollington was to join with ten years' service with the Guildford Borough Police on the 15 February 1851. He served until retirement in August 1872.

Inspector William Donaldson joined after ten years as the inspector of Dorking police on February 15 1851. He was killed on duty 29 July 1855 at Haslemere.

The five superintendents were stationed at the new headquarters in North Street, Guildford, Reigate, Dorking, Godalming and Farnham. By July 1851 Chertsey was a division and Dorking no longer one. Two Inspectors were soon appointed and stationed at Guildford and Godalming. (In February 1854 agreement from the Secretary of State led to the appointment of an 8th superintendent. <sup>7</sup>)

## **Early Days**

**Newspaper cutting sent in by a supporter of Surrey Constabulary History.**

## **Surrey Constabulary Originals - 1851**

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<sup>7</sup> GO108 February 1 1854

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

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### **The First Superintendents and Inspectors**

The original senior members of the Surrey Constabulary appointed by the first chief constable, Captain Hastings as his superintendents and inspectors were unquestionably critical to the formation of the force and were experienced police officers.

William Henry Biddlecombe the Head Constable of Godalming aged 36 was appointed to the new force as a superintendent and was number one in the appointment book.<sup>8</sup> (Defaulter's Register) In the early days he was referred to as chief superintendent a post that attracted a higher rate of pay £170, and was most likely meant to be the chief constable's deputy. However, references to the higher rank were dropped and there is no available evidence that he undertook a management role of the superintendents or acted in the chief constable's absence. Biddlecombe had served on the Isle of Wight and in the Hampshire Constabulary. Appointed 1 January 1851 serving until 1 May 1858 when he resigned to take the Swan Inn at Chertsey. Biddlecombe in his time in the Surrey Constabulary was to deal with some of the most horrendous crimes many involving the killing of children.

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Superintendent Philip Sargent 9 January 1851 29 served Essex and Bath. Ordered to resign 26 July 1851 owing to debt but was later appointed superintendent in Buckinghamshire and later Lincoln.

Inspector Thomas Bedwell a solicitor from the Carmarthenshire Constabulary recruited as inspector and later superintendent at Godstone, Dorking and Godalming. Permitted to resign 8 Jan 1852 (All those moves in a year!)

Inspector Josiah Radley 33 January appointed 9 January 1851 as an inspector. He left to become the superintendent in Derby.

Inspector Charles Everett joined in 1851 as an inspector and a year later in Jan 1852 was appointed superintendent at Farnham being dismissed in October 1856 but later becoming head constable at Godalming and later head constable Chichester.

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### PC Christopher John Kemp



**Photographs and information from Lois Terry:** “My grandfather Christopher John Kemp was a village policeman at Horley and also Cranleigh circa 1900. I have a large old photo of him in uniform, and a photo postcard of him standing guard by an early plane that landed in Cranleigh but I do not know the year but must be in the early 1900s.”



**PC Kemp at the scene of a plane forced landing at Cranleigh**

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<sup>9</sup> GO108 February 1 1854



PC Kemp's whistle

**EX-POLICEMAN'S DEATH**  
The funeral took place at Stoke New Cemetery on Monday of Mr. C. J. Kemp, of 236, Worplesdon Road, Guildford. A former policeman who celebrated his diamond wedding last year, Mr. Kemp was 88 when he died on Monday last week.  
He joined the police in Guildford in 1893 and afterwards served in Horley, Godalming, Dunsfold, Clandon, Chelsham, Dorking, Leigh and Cranleigh before his retirement in 1921.  
Mr. Kemp leaves a widow, two children and three grandchildren.  
Among the mourners were: Miss J. Kemp (daughter), Mr. C. R. Kemp (son), Mrs. M. Chart (sister-in-law), Mrs. F. Ormston (niece), Mrs. V. Yeoman (niece), Mr. and Mrs. Stemp, Mrs. Livermore, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, Insp. W. Locke (representing the Chief Constable of Surrey, Mr. H. Rutherford) and Mr. A. Mansfield (ex-Det.-Sgt. and representing Surrey Constabulary Old Comrades' Association).

Ex- Policeman's Death

The funeral took place at Stoke New cemetery on Monday of Mr C.J. Kemp of 236 Worplesdon Road, Guildford. A former policeman who celebrated his diamond wedding last year. Mr Kemp was 88 when he died on Monday last week.

He joined the police in Guildford in 1893 and afterwards served in Horley, Godalming, Dunsfold, Clandon, Chelsham, Dorking, Leigh and Cranleigh before his retirement in 1921.

Mr Kemp leaves a widow, two children and three grandchildren.

Among the mourners were: Miss J Kemp (daughter), Mr C.R. Kemp (son), Mrs M Chart (sister in law), Mrs F. Ormston (niece), Mrs Y Yeoman (niece), Mr and Mrs Stemp, Mrs Livermore, Mr and Mrs Jackson, Inspector W Locke representing the Chief Constable of Surrey, Mr H Rutherford, and Mr A Mansfield (ex-Detective. Sergeant and representing Surrey Constabulary Old Comrades Association.)



**Presented to Christopher Kemp from Headquarters Division Surrey Constabulary on Retirement**

See Surrey Constabulary History editions 27 January 2017 and 104 August 2023

**PS 195 Clifford Luff  
Surrey Constabulary  
19 October 1939**

**Tomy Moore retired Metropolitan Police historian and author.**

Herewith another World War 2 Police Commando from Surrey Constabulary, **Clifford Luff** (born 24 April 1916).

The 1939 Register shows him as a Police Trainee residing at County Police Station, Woodbridge Road, Guildford. He attended the Commando Basic Training Centre on or about

23 July 1942 and served in 4 Commando in France and Germany. His army number was 14241748.

I have no information about the date he actually joined the Surrey Constabulary or whether he returned to the Force after the War. His war medals were sent to him in 1950 when he was residing at "Winkenhurst", Epsom Road, West Horsley, Surrey.

Would be grateful if you could provide me with key dates regarding his police service.

**Clifford LUFF**

Age 23 years. Date of Birth 24 April 1916 Height 5 feet 9 1/2 inches. Complexion Pale Hair Brown

Eyes Hazel Marks operation scar - lower rt. abdomen

Born in the Parish of Betchworth in the County of Surrey

Trade black Last Residence "Rosemary" Little Bookham

By whom last employed, and where near Andrew Weston, Builders, Bookham

What relatives residing in Surrey, and where parents at Bookham & grandmothers and  
and uncles at Bookham & Bookham

Previous Public Service none

Length of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Appointment 1st October, 1939 No. on Collar 198

When sworn in, and where 6th October 1939 at Guildford

Before what Magistrates Capt E. H. Luckwell & Mr J. H. Hecker

Where first stationed Oxley (23.11.39)

APPOINTMENTS	DATE	FROM	TO
	2.4.51	Constable	As Sergeant (30)
	1.6.51	Constable (As Sergeant)	Temporary Sergeant (40)
	27.7.51	Temporary Sergeant	Sergeant (501442)

DATE	FROM	TO
25 Nov 1939	Headquarters	Oxley
3 Mar 1941	Oxley	Headquarters
15 June 42	Headquarters	Trimley
23 July 42	Trimley	H.M. Army
1 Mar. 46	H.M. Army	Bookham
17 Feb. 47	Bookham	Headquarters
5 Aug '50		HQ Control Room (20)

Maria Audrey Elsie BROWN at home 29.8.45  
 F Gillian b 11.7.46  
 F Wendy b 12.9.49

No. of APPOINTMENT **2371**

REMARKS  
 Passed Official Anti-Gas Course  
 23 July 1942 *called up (De-reserved) to A.M. Army - Commandos*  
 1 March 1946 *Rejoined the force from 2nd Army*  
 29 June 9 5 July 1946. Sat for Examination for *Sergeant* and *Failed*  
 GAVE NOTICE OF WISH TO PAY PENSION  
 CONTRIBUTIONS AT THE *higher* RATE.  
 Sat for Examination For *Sergeant* and *passed*  
 Sat for Examination For *Sergeant* and *passed* *educationally.*  
 ACCEPTED AVERAGING FOR PENSION. *in Police duties*  
 Sat for Examination For *Inspector* and *failed* *Police Pension Regns 1949*  
 Sat for Examination For *Inspector* and *failed* *in police duties*  
 Sat for Examination For *Inspector* and *failed* *in police duties (401385)*  
 Sat for Examination For *-do-* and *-do-*  
 Pens. cons. 5% less 2<sup>d</sup> half. P.P. Regns. 1956.

*Transferred to 52288 1/6/59*

Years Approved Service \_\_\_\_\_  
 Average for last three years £ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Granted.



1940 at the gas school at Artington. Left to right: Cecil Smith, Clifford Luff, Findon, Stan Norton, Dowding, Gilmartin, Sgt Blackmore, Corney, Tom Wyeth, Rose.



**Off Beat March 1989 Sergeant's Course January 1953 back row Green, Place, Messenger, Gibbs, Aspinall, Centre Thomas, Redpath, Brake, Knapps, Young, Low Front Grunlins, Luff, CI Holland, CC Simpson, Insp Pentecost, Fredersdorff, Forehead?**

## **Advance Britannia by Alan Allport<sup>10</sup>**

When considering policing post Second World War account must be taken of the damage caused and the parlous state of the economy. The war cost Britain just under one fifth of its national wealth. This includes 1.2 billion of lost capital.

Britain accrued total external debt of 4.2 billion pounds including £1.3 billion owed to India and £500 million to Egypt. Two fifths of UK overseas business assets were gone.

Based on 2026 inflation data, £4.2 billion in 1945 is equivalent to approximately **£235 billion to £237 billion** in purchasing power today. This represents a cumulative price increase of over 5,500%, meaning prices today are roughly 56 times higher than they were in 1945.

UK importing 17 times more from USA than exporting.

In Greater London alone 116,000 houses destroyed by bombing

Page 448 Two residences out of every seven destroyed or damaged by enemy action. Virtually no construction since 1939.<sup>11</sup>

**1945 A report from the Special War Executive** for the administrative county of Surrey listed the following incidents – and as you read the numbers think everyone was an incident that

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<sup>10</sup> Page 469

<sup>11</sup> Page 448

required a police response and the figures do not include the tens of thousands of incendiary bombs and resulting fires or damage.

<b>Event</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Dorking Urban DC</b>	<b>Dorking and Horley RDC</b>
Incidents	6800	123	266
HE Bombs	13,335	267	578
Flying Bombs V1	759	19	49
Rocket Bombs V2	17		1
Persons killed	1584	25	6
Seriously wounded	3616	20	36
Slightly wounded	6243	56	101
Buildings demolished	5603	15	29
Badly damaged		65	83
Slightly damaged		1512	2484

**Comparative bombing casualties across the Surrey police forces areas – each incident required a police attendance, sometimes in numbers, followed by an investigation and detailed report<sup>12</sup>**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Killed</b>	<b>Seriously injured</b>	<b>Slightly injured</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bagshot	4	19	24	47
Caterham and Warlingham	34	15	232	281
Chertsey	19	36	48	103
Dorking UD	25	20	56	101
Dorking and Horley Rural	6	36	101	143
Egham	18	27	50	95
Farnham	0	0	2	2
Frimley and Camberley	1	1	14	16
Godalming	0	2	17	19
Godstone	25	44	169	238
Guildford Rural	13	25	65	103
Guildford Borough	5	10	63	78
Hambledon	13	51	64	128
Haslemere	1	10	12	23

<sup>12</sup> [www.tpyfdigitalarchive.org.uk/20/59/Guildford\\_At\\_War\\_2\\_The\\_Blitz\\_2b\\_V1\\_Bombs\\_\\_Doodlebugs\\_.pdf](http://www.tpyfdigitalarchive.org.uk/20/59/Guildford_At_War_2_The_Blitz_2b_V1_Bombs__Doodlebugs_.pdf)

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Killed</b>	<b>Seriously injured</b>	<b>Slightly injured</b>	<b>Total</b>
Leatherhead	11	61	77	149
Reigate	50	80	81	211
Walton and Weybridge	120	233	372	725
Woking	2	0	52	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>1499</b>	<b>2516</b>
East and west emergency area	2300	5216	8905	16421

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>High explosive</b>	<b>Flying bombs</b>	<b>Rockets</b>	<b>Buildings destroyed</b>	<b>Buildings damaged</b>
Bagshot	42	190	5	0	7	16
Caterham and Warlingham	293	879	21	0	125	268
Chertsey	100	202	4	1	21	179
Dorking UD	123	267	19	0	15	65
Dorking and Horley Rural	266	578	49	0	29	83
Egham	49	45	2	1	28	87
Farnham	13	45	0	0	7	61
Frimley and Camberley	17	87	1	0	5	1
Godalming	23	29	2	0	5	32
Godstone	684	1726	95	4	54	160
Guildford Rural	240	629	33	0	35	86
Guildford Borough	31	109	3	0	25	125
Hambledon	195	529	14	0	8	71
Haslemere	17	32	1	1	0	10
Leatherhead	91	594	16	1	71	282
Reigate	184	498	17	0	98	317
Walton and Weybridge	217	392	19	0	108	364
Woking	90	311	7	1	39	79
<b>Total</b>	<b>2675</b>	<b>7142</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>2286</b>

The Surrey County Council Special War Executive published an official report on bomb damage, covering the Surrey Constabulary area (this report cannot at present be located but extracts have been published elsewhere). The report split Surrey into two areas: Eastern which included pre 1974 boroughs now in Greater London plus Epsom and Esher, and Western covering the remainder of Surrey but excluding Spelthorne which was then in Middlesex.<sup>13</sup>

The casualty figures for Surrey as of 1945 were:

2,300 killed

5,216 seriously injured

8,905 slightly hurt

Total 16,421<sup>14</sup>

### Reigate Borough Police

**1939-1945:** The recorded incidents during World War II in the Borough of Reigate were<sup>15</sup>

Civilians Killed	50
Civilians Injured	161
Houses totally destroyed	115
Houses damaged	4189
Air Raid Alerts	893
High explosive bombs	496
Oil bombs	18
Incendiary bombs	5847
Flying bombs (Doodlebugs)	17
Parachute mines (Both Fell on Merstham)	2

**1945. Special Constabulary dinner:** In an undated and unnamed newspaper report of a Reigate Division Special Constabulary dinner a number of statistics were offered.

The dinner was held at Bridge House Restaurant, Reigate Hill. Guest of Honour was Captain CJ Sutton who had led the Specials and whose service went back to 1926 general strike, and Sir Malcolm Campbell. Colonel E Waley was in the chair. Also on the top table were Inspector Parker, Special-Inspectors Goad and Ede, ex-Inspector Green, Superintendent Beacher, Major Stacey, Inspector Atkins, Special Inspector King and Special Sergeant Sherlock. Several people were mentioned including Detective Inspector Ayres known affectionately as the Gestapo and not minding it in the least. He used to come into the canteen and no matter how tired he was would play the piano.

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<sup>13</sup> [http://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/themes/subjects/military/bomb\\_damage/bombing\\_casualties](http://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/themes/subjects/military/bomb_damage/bombing_casualties)

<sup>14</sup> Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogle Froglets Publications undated

<sup>15</sup> Kevin Austen:

<http://www.merstham.co.uk/merstham/MersthamHistory.htm#Merstham%20at%20War%20%20C3%AF%20BF%20BD%20World%20War%20II>

Superintendent Beacher gave the following statistics:

Hours worked by Specials 78,822 from September 1939 to December 1940; 100,994 hours in 1941; 85,770 1942; 120,431 1943.

Hours worked by Police Messengers: 6541 in 1941; 6690 1942, 5,239 1943

The average turnout of specials was in 44.2 in 1943. Court cases in which Specials gave evidence 21 in 1940, 46 in 1941, and 12 in 1942.

During the war in the Borough of Reigate 401 explosive bombs were dropped , 45 unexploded bombs, two parachute mines, oil incendiary bombs 18, about 4.864 incendiaries and 17 flying bombs.

**1945: Police vehicles:** The Surrey Joint police had 55 cars, 4 vans and 51 motorcycles.<sup>16</sup>

Event	County
Incidents	6800
HE Bombs	13,335
Flying Bombs V1	759
Rocket Bombs V2	17
Persons killed	1584
Seriously wounded	3616
Slightly wounded	6243
Buildings demolished	5603

**1945<sup>17</sup>: Total crime** Reigate Borough 498, detection 51.6%

Year	Total crime	Year	Total crime	Year	Total crime	Year	Total crime	Year	Total crime	Year	Total crime
1921	56	1922	56	1923	80	1924	85	1925	80	1926	114
1927	121	1928	165	1929	132	1930	131	1931	98	1932	103
1933	151	1934	235	1935	254	1936	231	1937	337	1938	330
1939	414	1940	426	1941	493	1942	434	1943	489	1944	579

1945	498										
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<sup>16</sup> CC notes 1945 on the administration of the county police during the war.

<sup>17</sup> SCC History Centre CC/98/22/8

**1945: The Women's Auxiliary Police Corps (Reigate Borough)** of eleven was reduced to four by resignations at the end of the War.<sup>18</sup>

**1945 the Reigate Borough police vehicle fleet** consisted of six vehicles including a CID car and a coroner's officer's vehicle<sup>19</sup>

**1946 Police Act:** Surrey Constabulary lost to the Metropolitan Police, Esher, Cobham, Stoke D'Abernon, and Walton on the Hill, Kingswood, Chipstead and parts of the parish of Coulsdon and Epsom and Ewell District Council. In exchange came Warlingham.

## **Geoff Todd – Reminisces**

The latest edition of Surrey Constabulary History bought back a number of memories.

As a cadet at Caterham I was tasked by Sgt. 105 Charlie Covington to write out the duty slips for the staff after he had drafted the weekly duty sheet. When Charlie retired the sergeant taking over the duties of preparing them cottoned on to the fact that his predecessor had had me writing them out and gave the whole task to me. The weekly duty sheet for the notice board and all the duty slips for the staff. During this time an additional four weekly rest day (ARD) was granted.

A few years on as a probationer constable while "shaking hands with doorknobs" one night duty in Caterham's shopping area I tried one door and found myself at the feet of the town vet's wife. She had just unlocked it to take their dog for a walk, having been out late!

It was Chief Constable Herman Rutherford who used green ink for his bold handwriting.

The Camberley item very much reflected my experiences of the town. The 7/3, 3/11 and 11/7 shifts were much appreciated - you could even take one of the au pairs mentioned to the cinema for an evening before rushing off for an eleven o'clock start. A few years later after finding Camberley was the odd one out Peter Matthews changed the shift pattern to that of all other stations. Traffic still changing over at 7, 3 and 11. There were, of course, some other shifts to cover particular circumstances. One which I frequently did was 9/5 covering the High Street and shopping areas when I worked J44 the area crime car. For some reason the crime car was never manned (no such duties for policewomen then) for early shift. Still one did meet some interesting people while on patrol in the town centre. I came across an illegally parked car one day. I had entered details in my pocket book and who should come hurriedly down the street but a Sandhurst Cadet. He was full of apologies promising me ("Sir") not to do so again. Having started my pocket book entry I thought I ought to complete it, even if I was only to give him a verbal warning and, perhaps advise the Academy Sergeant Major (ASM) of

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<sup>18</sup> SCC History Centre CC/98/22/8

<sup>19</sup> SCC History Centre CC/98/22/8

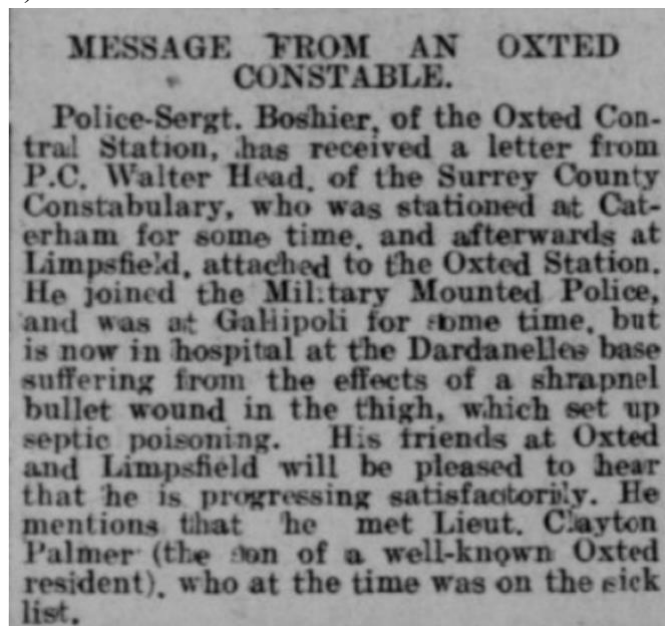
his transgression. I asked to see his driving licence which he produced. It read "Prince Michael of Kent, Coppins, Iver, Bucks". It was my turn to say "Sir". As usual the ASM was advised.

Like the writer of the item I also had tea with the then Col. Anthony Farrar-Hockley (later General Sir) a Korean war hero while dealing with his Firearm Certificate. A few years later I dealt with Col. Anthony Blashford-Snell's firearms. "Blashers", an explorer and author, started Operation Raleigh for young people.

## PC Walter Head Wounded First World War

**1916 February 1** Surrey Mirror **PC Walter Head wounded**, letter to PS Boshier

Message from an Oxted Constable. Police Sergeant Boshier of the Oxted station has received a letter from PC Walter Head of the Surrey County Constabulary who was stationed at Caterham for some time, and afterwards at Limpsfield, attached to the Oxted Station. He joined the Military Mounted Police and was at Gallipoli for some time but is now in hospital at the Dardanelles base suffering from the effects of a shrapnel bullet wound in the thigh, which set up septic poisoning. His friends at Oxted and Limpsfield will be pleased to hear that he is progressing satisfactorily. He mentions that he met Lieut. Clayton Palmer (the son of a well-known Oxted resident) who at the time was on the sick list.



MESSAGE FROM AN OXTED  
CONSTABLE.

Police-Sergt. Boshier, of the Oxted Central Station, has received a letter from P.C. Walter Head, of the Surrey County Constabulary, who was stationed at Caterham for some time, and afterwards at Limpsfield, attached to the Oxted Station. He joined the Military Mounted Police, and was at Gallipoli for some time, but is now in hospital at the Dardanelles base suffering from the effects of a shrapnel bullet wound in the thigh, which set up septic poisoning. His friends at Oxted and Limpsfield will be pleased to hear that he is progressing satisfactorily. He mentions that he met Lieut. Clayton Palmer (the son of a well-known Oxted resident), who at the time was on the sick list.

From Dee Hutchison Secretary Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey), the 2nd of Foot, was England's oldest infantry Regiment formed in 1661

## Classes of Constable

Constables joined at 4<sup>th</sup> class promoted later to other classes the First Class being equivalent to sergeant of which there were none in Surrey until 1865. The Fourth Class ceased on 30 August 1854.

Initially, there were four classes of constables with newly appointed officers starting at Class Four and moving through the classes on promotion. First Class constables were equivalent of a sergeant as it was these men who were promoted inspector. All were required to work seven days a week and granted twelve days leave a year, which had to be taken in summer as no leave was permitted during the winter.

There is no doubt that there was some form of instruction book issued soon after the formation of the force. The books were used for guidance and a means of discipline when officers failed to comply. The system of General Orders began on 30 January 1851 and in those early orders is a reference to an Instruction Book.

Chief Constable Hastings had to start from scratch to develop, recruit and organise a police force, which was built on the principles of fairness and no nonsense. Being a soldier with no police experience he was reliant on his first senior officers to develop a police force that was acceptable to the county elite and local people who had to pay for the service. The template was the Metropolitan Police and other by now established constabularies with numerous models to follow. Compliance with guidance from the Home Office was vital to be seen as efficient and therefore qualify for the government grant, which reduced payments from parish ratepayers.

The Guildford Borough Police, which was incorporated within the new Surrey Constabulary, had an establishment of just a few constables and a superintendent.<sup>20</sup> As each constabulary constable had a beat of about nine and a half square miles, horses were required for supervision mostly for the use of the superintendent and occasionally the inspector.

### Advertising for uniform and equipment

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

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

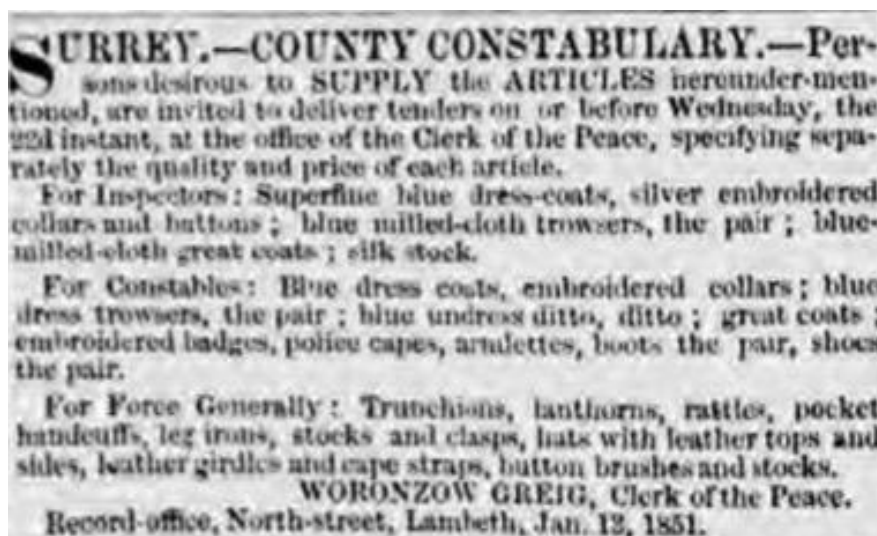
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<sup>20</sup> <http://st-caths-web.co.uk/?p=11643>

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

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

WORONZOW GREIG Clerk of the Peace, Record-office, North-street, Lambeth Jan 13 1851<sup>21</sup>



**SURREY.—COUNTY CONSTABULARY.—**Persons desirous to SUPPLY the ARTICLES hereunder-mentioned, are invited to deliver tenders on or before Wednesday, the 22d instant, at the office of the Clerk of the Peace, specifying separately the quality and price of each article.

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

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

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

WORONZOW GREIG, Clerk of the Peace.  
Record-office, North-street, Lambeth, Jan. 13, 1851.

**Surrey County Constabulary:** To livery stable keepers, Job Masters and others. SIX strong Horses about 15 ½ hands high, and fit for saddle or draught, with saddles for same are proposed to be taken upon job for the purposes of the above mention force and kept by and at the expense the said Force in different parts of the county; it is also intended to hire upon job for the like purpose, SIX new and substantial Whitechapel Carts with harness for the same. Persons desirous of supplying the above mentioned articles upon job, are invited to deliver tenders on or before Wednesday the 22 instant at the office of the Clerk of the Peace hereunder mentioned specifying the price of each article for six, and also for twelve months. WORONZOW GREIG Clerk of the Peace, Record-office, North-street, Lambeth Jan 13 1851<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Morning Chronicle 15 January 1851

<sup>22</sup> Morning Chronicle 15 January 1851

**SURREY.—COUNTY CONSTABULARY.—To** Livery Stable-keepers, Job-masters, and others.—SIX strong active HORSES, about 15½ hands high, and fit for saddle or draught, with saddles for the same, are proposed to be taken upon job for the purposes of the above-mentioned Force, and kept by and at the expense of the said Force in different parts of the county; it is also intended to hire upon job for the like purpose, Six new and substantial Whitechapel Carts, with Harness for the same.—Persons desirous of supplying the above-mentioned articles upon job, are invited to deliver tenders on or before Wednesday, the 22d instant, at the office of the Clerk of the Peace hereunder mentioned, specifying the price of each article for six, and also for twelve months.  
**WORONZOW GREIG, Clerk of the Peace.**  
 Record-office, North-street, Lambeth, Jan. 13, 1851.

### Horses and carts needed for the new Surrey Constabulary

## 1850 October 18: Crime in Southern England – Extract <sup>23</sup>

In the county of Surrey, the house of a clergymen is entered in the night by a party of masked burglars and the reverend gentlemen himself is shot to death in his bedroom. Everyone asks what there is to prevent it and everybody answers “Nothing”. If there be any part of the country in which life and property might be supposed to be tolerably safe, it is the county of Surrey. Surrey is a very civilised county. It is a county not of mud huts but of substantial mansions, elegant villas and fine park-like grounds. It is very genteel, nay, a very fashionable county. It is full of well-to-do people. It is convenient – so accessible that the bankers and merchants of the city pitch their tents in the county of Surrey and yet seem to be only at their counting house doors.

There is a great deal of wealth in Surrey. There are probably more men of condition in it, more men of a certain worldly standing- men who revel in purple and fine linen, in chariots and in horses, and fare sumptuously every day than in any county in Great Britain. Yet somehow or other, strange as it may appear, these wealthy and enlightened Surrey gentlemen seem, in all that relates to the protection of life and property to be living in a state of primitive barbarism. It required the murder of a country clergyman to reveal the astounding fact to the world. It is not the state of the police is bad – it is that there is no police at all. There is a (parish) constable perhaps, in every parish; and when you have named this important functionary you have named all that there is to protect the lives and property of the inhabitants from murder and robbery in the night.

Of course in all such cases the cry is for an active police. People evoke the aid of an efficient protective force, as though a well organised, well equipped constabulary army were a thing to be had by asking for it. If they had to nothing else for it there would be no difficulty in the way. But they unfortunately have to *pay* for it and that they do not like at all. Protective forces are very expensive things. There is nothing more costly indeed, than the elaborate machinery, which we are compelled perpetually to keep at work for the detection and punishment of crime.

<sup>23</sup> 1850 October 18 Liverpool Mercury

The country is ground down by taxation that thieves may be caught and felons supported. Nothing costs us so much as crime. Everyone is willing to acknowledge this in word; but from few does it receive practical recognition. The fact is that there is no police at all. The County of Surrey is one of those districts of England, which either will not or cannot afford to support a local constabulary. After this who can wonder at the commission of crime in the district? <sup>24</sup>

### **The Rural Police Committee of Surrey Quarter Sessions – Reigate**

The Rural Police Committee of Surrey Quarter Sessions meeting at Reigate was arranged on the 25 October 1850 shortly after the late melancholy murder of the Rev. Mr. Hollest at Frimley, a village at the extremity of the western division of the county, which is without the protection of a constable. Evidence was taken from Superintendent Biddlecombe and the Chief Constable of Hampshire. Biddlecombe covered an area of 28,940 acres with a population of ten thousand one hundred and twenty-six with only one felony in his district over the last twelve months, stealing faggots to the value of sixpence. However, he had been sent for to deal with twelve burglaries in surrounding districts in the last six months. There had been no cases of felony in Godalming itself during the last five years. Considering how long it would take to establish it is worthy to note at this date he put in a bid for plain-clothes officers as detectives.<sup>25</sup> It should be remembered that at Surrey Quarter Sessions, Reigate on a Wednesday in April 1840, the committee appointed to enquire into the expediency of applying the provisions of the Rural Police Act unto those portions of Surrey that are not comprised within the Metropolitan Police District made a report to the court. The report stated that the committee had held meetings upon the important subject referred to them and had made considerable progress in the inquiry but having ascertained that there is a Bill at present before Parliament (The County Police Act 1840) they decided to make no report at this time. <sup>26</sup>

### **Newington Causeway Meeting 2 December 1850**

On Monday 2 December 1850 a special meeting of magistrates of the county of Surrey took place in the Sessions House, Newington-causeway for the purpose of hearing the report of the committee appointed at the last quarter sessions to ascertain the best means of extending the police force to that portion of the county beyond the limits of the Metropolitan Police District. The committee was arranged shortly after the murder of the Rev Hollest at Frimley a village at the extremity of the west division of the county, which is nominally without the protection of a constable.<sup>27</sup>

The following magistrates formed the committee: Lord Lovaine, The Hon Locke King MP, Sir R Fredericks Bart., Sir WGH Jolliffe Bart., MP, Thomas Alcock MP, H Drummond Esquire MP. WJ Evelyn Esq., MP, Thomas Puckle, GP Nicholson, E Penrhyn, ER Adams, R Austin, C

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<sup>24</sup> Caledonian Mercury Thursday October 10 1850

<sup>25</sup> "A Hundred Years of the Surrey Constabulary" Durrant page 4

<sup>26</sup> The Champion and Weekly Herald 12 April 1840

<sup>27</sup> Morning Post December 4 1850 Wednesday

Barclay, George Best, J Briscoe, Colonel Chaloner, Baron de Tessier, H Gosse, RW Halsey, JE Johnson, William Nottidge Esqrs., Colonel Leake and the Rev JC Wynter<sup>28</sup>

“The committee think it their duty to represent to the court that they are unanimous in considering that in those portions of the county of Surrey which is situate without the limits of the Metropolitan Police District, the ordinary officers appointed for preserving the police are not sufficient for the preservation of the peace and for the protection of the inhabitants and for the security of property within such portion of the county; and that it is expedient that measures should be immediately adopted to remedy an evil of so serious a nature.

Taking this view, the committee, in pursuing its investigation with which they have been charged by the court find there are two methods already provided by the legislature for the protection of the lives and properties of the inhabitants of rural districts-

First: By the establishment of a rural police under the acts of 2 and 3 vic., cap 93, and 3 and 4 Vic, cap 88.

Second: By taking advantage of statute 5 and 6 Vic cap 109 which regulates the appointment and payment of parish constables

The provisions of the Metropolitan Police Act might also be extended to this part of the county not now under its control. This however could not be done without the assistance of the Legislature. Of these plans the first mentioned has appeared to be the best and most desirable in all respects

In considering the best method of introducing the rural constabulary into this county the committee have had to contend with the difficulty occasioned by the peculiar position in which the county is placed in consequence of the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Police force extending over so important a portion of it in respect of population and wealth; and that difficulty has been much increased by the circumstance of the boundary of the Metropolitan Police District not being coincident with the boundaries of the petty sessional divisions but including portions out of some of such divisions.

The committee therefore recommend the court to introduce into that portion of the county, which is without the limits of the Metropolitan Police District a county constabulary under the provisions of the 3 and 4 Vic c.88 s29.<sup>29</sup>

The next step was to consider how the rural part of the county might be apportioned into divisions each containing no less than twenty six thousand inhabitants as required by statute in the most convenient manner with reference to population, wealth, geographical position and the general efficiency of the police force. In order to determine this point and to obtain correct views of the numbers and expense of the force required as well as its distribution and the best method of employment, the committee have examined persons both in the upper and lower classes of those engaged in the duties of the police in other counties as well as Surrey and have

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<sup>28</sup> 1850 December 4<sup>th</sup> The Morning Post

<sup>29</sup> 1850 December 3: Morning Chronicle Tuesday

also been in communication with the Metropolitan Police Commissioners. They have likewise caused tables to be drawn up exhibiting the extent, population, value and assessment of the county rate of the several parishes.

After bestowing the best consideration upon the subject, the committee have come to the conclusion that the rural portion of this county which contains 96 parishes and plans separately assessed to the county rate should be formed into three police divisions and that such be called Chertsey, Dorking and Godalming divisions. The committee further propose that the Chief Constable should reside at Dorking, which is the most central point of the three divisions. They propose that the various lock-up houses be repaired and that the station houses &c. be erected the estimate cost of which would not exceed £3000, which could be raised upon the security of the police rate and repaid with interest in twenty yearly instalments.

By statute 2 and 3 Vic., cap 03, the force must not exceed one individual for every thousand inhabitants, according to the last census, the population of certain boroughs and towns being deducted.

The following is the proposed number of constables and their salaries:

Chief Constable £300 per annum with £100 for horses, travelling expenses &c  
Chief superintendent £170  
Five superintendents £450 (£90 per man)  
Eight inspectors £483.12s (£60 per man)  
70 constables £3463.4s; allowance for clothing &c., £1227 11s  
Making an annual sum of £6284 7s to be levied on those divisions by a rate of three pence in the pound which will produce £6377 11s 9d. Against that expenditure the following savings will be effected by the force.  
The conveyance of prisoners £240  
The salaries of several inspectors of weights and measures whose duties may be informed by the rural police £380  
Superintendents of lock up houses £80  
Payments to constables at Coroner's inquests £74  
Parish, special and private constables at least £1800

Making altogether £2574.

A great saving may also be effected from diminution in the number of trampers and vagrants who infest the county and consequently in the amount of contributions levied by them on the charitable; a result which would immediately ensure if the Poor Law unions within the proposed rural division adopt the urgent recommendation of the committee and appoint the police to act as assistant relieving officers in such cases. The success of this measure has been fully established in Essex, and a very large amount of saving has been effected.

Therefore if from the total expenditure of £6284.7s be deducted the ascertained amount of savings namely £2574 there remains a balance of £3,710 7s, which will be so much further reduced after the proposed police force have for a short time in operation, that the expense of maintaining them will it is believed, be little felt by the rural portion of the county; while the committee are convinced that the security afforded to life and property will amply repay the expenditure incurred, and that their recommendation when carried into effect will prove the utmost advantage to all classes of the community.” Signed by authority of the committee  
Lovaine, Chairman

Lord Lovaine: -----In moving that the report be adopted, said that it was quite time they had an efficient rural police to protect the lives and property of the inhabitants of the remote villages of the county. Most of the crimes were committed by tramps and vagrants and were concocted in the beer-houses in these secluded places. He observed in the report a saving of £1800 on parish constables but he knew it would be £400 more as many parishes sent no return.

Mr T Alcock MP: --- he did not like Dorking as it would have been fairer to choose Reigate, which was of more importance in a public point of view being in proximity to the junction of the Brighton, Dover, Ramsgate and other important railway stations. Reigate ought to be the headquarters of the divisions as it was the chief place in eastern part of Surrey and all the others were in the western division. He proposed that as an amendment that Reigate be substituted for Dorking. The Hon Locke King JP supported this amendment but Lord Lovaine said the members were on the committee when Dorking was chosen when it was resolved to be one of the districts. They had considered Guildford but thought Dorking much better. Sir W Jolliffe thought Reigate preferable to Dorking. Mr Alcock said it was his sole object to see Reigate the residence of the Chief Constable not Dorking.

Sir W Jolliffe spoke of only six horses being recommended to deal with all the duties of the force. They could not perform it. There would be removing prisoners and other duties besides their being wanted by the superintendents. In a very short time prisoners for hard labour in the county would be removed to a new house of correction at Wandsworth. Look at that distance from some places. Someone said, “There is the railway.” Sir W Jolliffe: Then there will be no saving. Some of the constables will eight or ten miles apart and the inspectors who visit them must require horses constantly.

Sir R Fredericks Bart., thought it a heavy tax on the ratepayers who had not been asked who should pay the rate. The tenant farmer would be the man and it would be a great hardship on him as the great landlord would hardly pay anything

Mr Alcock: ----- There were a number of secluded villages about there unprotected and he should not like a repetition of the Frimley murder.

The report without amendment was carried and forwarded to Sir George Grey the Home Secretary.

On the motion of Lord Lovaine the report was adopted and the election of the chief constable was to take place on the first day of the Epiphany Sessions.”<sup>30 31</sup>

### **Approval for 1 January 1851**

On December 7th the clerk of the peace intimated to the bench that he had received a communication from the Secretary of State of the Home Department relative to the proposed extension of the Surrey rural police which was resolved upon on Monday last at a special meeting of the magistrates. The learned gentlemen said that according to the provisions of the Act of Parliament he had forwarded the resolution signed by the magistrates on Tuesday last for Sir George Grey’s approval. This has been agreed and the magistrates will appoint the police on the 1<sup>st</sup> January next.<sup>32</sup>

### **Establishment of Surrey Rural Police**

This interesting cutting establishes why the rural police did not take over responsibility for the whole county of Surrey. To do so would require an Act of Parliament but the expedient way was to use the Parish Constables Act. It should be noted that the agreement as set out was not fully complied with as headquarters was established in Guildford. This decision was to have a detrimental consequence once the Guildford Borough Police was re-formed and the Surrey Constabulary HQ in Woodbridge Road was about 100 yards from the borough police HQ in North Street in the centre of the town.<sup>33</sup>

December 31 1850 the press report that at the Surrey Quarter Sessions yesterday the rural police committee submitted their report relative to the appointment of a Chief Constable and the headquarters of the force. Captain Hastings H.E.I.C.S.<sup>34</sup>, was recommended as a fit person for the duty; and after some discussion amongst the magistrates it appeared that the adoption of the report was carried by a majority of two, the numbers being 20 and 18. Captain Hastings was accordingly elected.<sup>35</sup>

A further press report of proceeding dated December 31 1850 under the following headings:  
**Selecting the new Chief Constable: Surrey Quarter Sessions The Frimley Murder and late Burglaries in Surrey - Extension of the Police Force** <sup>36</sup>

Tuesday being the first day of the Epiphany Sessions, an extraordinary number of magistrates assembled for the purpose of electing the Chief Constable to govern the New Rural Police

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<sup>30</sup> 1850 3 December: The Times

<sup>31</sup> 1850 December 4<sup>th</sup> The Morning Post

<sup>32</sup> 1850 7 December Morning Chronicle Saturday

<sup>33</sup> 1850 7 December Reading Mercury

<sup>34</sup> HEICS may refer to: Honourable East India Company Service

<sup>35</sup> 1851 January 1: Morning Post Wednesday

<sup>36</sup> The South Eastern Gazette 7 January 1851

Force about to be established in the county without the metropolitan district, and to transfer the county business; Thomas Puckle, Esq., in the chair.

The Clerk of the Peace read the report of the Rural Police Committee, which specified that they had received the Secretary of State's sanction to the establishment of a rural police force, and that they had examined a number of candidates for the office of Chief Constable, and after mature consideration they had come to the determination of proposing to the court, H.C. Hasting, Esq., H.E.I.C.S., as a fit and proper person to fill the important situation; that he should find sureties in the sum of £1000 as a guarantee that he should perform his duty. The committee had also considered the question relative to the headquarters and had come to the determination that Guildford should be the place instead of Godalming, being in a more central position, and that Reigate should be the station for a superintendent instead of Dorking as mentioned in the former report. The committee also suggested that a two-penny rate be made in these districts to support the new police.

Lord Lovaine proposed that the report of the committee be received and adopted.

Lord Lovelace said he would say a few words in explaining his opinion respecting the report of the committee. He admitted that the person who was recommended was a trustworthy gentleman, and of the highest respectability; but let them recollect that this subject was brought forward to apply a remedy for the evils which have for so long a time existed in the more remote parts of the county, such as the melancholy occurrence, the Frimley murder, which was recently perpetrated, and several desperate burglaries; and the ratepayers being called upon to pay extra rates, that ought to consider the subject well, and appoint an efficient person to govern the police and prevent such crimes being committed. He doubted whether Captain Hastings would not have to learn his duty, which ought not to be the case, when everything will be done by the orders of the superior officer. They (the magistrates) were responsible to the ratepayers, and ought to select a fit and proper person.

Sir R. Frederick, although a member of the committee, disproved of their report, as they gave no reason for recommending Captain Hastings more than any other candidate. There were many others more capable of performing the duty than he was.

The Rev. T. Thurlow thought they were bound to receive the party proposed and selected by the committee as it was left in their hands. He certainly would support them, and second Lord Lovain's motion.

Mr Penrhyn said, it was usual in such cases to recommend three or four candidates to the court, but as the committee had full power to select the party, they had no alternative but to adopt their report.

Mr Kemble said he proposed that the committee should recommend one as they were enabled to examine into the testimonials of the party with more care than the whole court. If the committee had been unfortunate in selecting an objectionable party, they could not help it; therefore he would not give an opinion on their choice. He could only say, that, being the party

who had the honour of submitting that resolution at the last meeting, he felt compelled to support their nomination.

Colonel Challoner said the committee had no power to return more than one name. It must have been a lapsus linguae<sup>37</sup> on the Hon. Bart. (Sir R. Frederick). (“No, No!” and laughter.) He thought it was and he hoped it would be the last time the committee would be allowed to select one person.

After a lengthy discussion, between Colonel Leek, S. Nicholson, C. Barclay, Lord Lovaine, and A.B. Barclay, esq., the resolution was put, when 20 hands were held up in favour of the adoption of the report, and 18 against.

Captain Hastings was accordingly elected Chief Constable of Surrey.

## **Surrey Constabulary became operational**

### **1851 February “Rural Police enter Dorking**

“The new rural police made their entrée into this town on Tuesday morning last, 12 in number, including the chief superintendent. They all seemed to be young men. They are to be drafted to the different neighbouring villages, with the exception of two, and the superintendent, who are to remain at Dorking. We sincerely hope that the new police will have as little to do, except perambulating the town, as our last respected police officer, Mr. Donaldson, who has lived amongst us upwards of 12 years, and to his credit be it stated, not a single robbery has been committed in the town during his sojourn; and he has left here much to the regret of the inhabitants”<sup>38</sup>

On the 1 January 1851 the Surrey Constabulary became operational with an establishment of seventy police officers, five superintendents and two inspectors to police a population of 108,792. The first chief constable, Captain Hastings, was aged thirty-eight years having been to Eton and in the Army. He was the son of a Colonel and was to be chief constable of the Surrey Constabulary from 1851-1899. The appointment continued the common practice for the chief constable of a county to be of a similar class as the magistrates with whom he could mix as an equal and be influenced by friendship and acquaintance.<sup>39</sup> Good social connections with the cachet of military service were the norm and followed by Surrey.

The new chief constable had a major task. He was to form, house and equip a police force and provide a management, supervisory structure within a few weeks. H.C. Hasting, Esq., H.E.I.C.S., letters which probably are a reference to the Honourable East India Company

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<sup>37</sup> From Latin lapsus linguae, literally a slip or fault of the tongue

<sup>38</sup> “The Surrey Standard” February 1851 photocopy of a note from Chris Atkins June 2010

<sup>39</sup> A History of Police in England and Wales TA Critchley 1967 page 141

Service where he served in the 55 Bengal Native Infantry. There is no certainty that he was a captain as The Times reported that,

“The office of Superintendent of the Surrey police has been conferred on Mr Henry Cadogan Hastings, late lieutenant in the 55 Bengal Native Infantry.<sup>40</sup>Hastings’ appointment was a close-run thing with twenty in his favour and eighteen against. It is not clear what the new chief constable had in his favour beyond Eton and a father who was a senior army officer.

Help was close at hand with the very experienced Biddlecombe from Godalming, Hollington, Guildford Borough Police and Inspector Donaldson the chief officer at Dorking for 12 years. None of the men were used to managing significant numbers, more twos and threes but the force was to have a ratio of supervisor to men of about seven to one! However, they were very experienced investigators and would have understood the requirements of policing and the required relationships with councillors and magistrates. Hollington and Donaldson had served in the Metropolitan Police and Biddlecombe on the Isle of Wight and in Hampshire before moving to the market towns of Surrey. Other superintendents and inspectors were recruited in January, Biddlecombe on the 1<sup>st</sup> and styled as chief superintendent a title that was possibly soon dropped, another on the 2<sup>nd</sup> a former surgeon who on appointment as a superintendent was an inspector in Staffordshire. On the 9<sup>th</sup> four more superintendents were appointed with Hollington on the 15 February, which was probably the date of the merger of Guildford Borough Police and the Surrey Constabulary. The same day Donaldson joined from Dorking Police. The number of senior recruits must have been possible because of early advertising probably in December 1850 but no trace has so far been found.

About 50% of the first recruits had previous police experience varying from Indian Police, Irish Constabulary, City of London, Metropolitan Police, Staffordshire, Plymouth, Bath, Essex Hampshire and several others. Some were from Guildford Police, Godalming Borough, Farnham and Dorking. Additionally, there were a number of paid constables from Shamley Green, Chertsey, Chobham, Windlesham, Thorpe, Nutfield and Shere.<sup>41</sup> Three of the first seven, all superintendents or inspectors transferred on promotion from other forces of whom later two were compelled to resign. When Biddlecombe left to take The Swan at Chertsey in 1858, none of the original senior ranks remained serving in the Surrey Constabulary. The turnover of senior people must have compounded the constant rounds of discipline leading to so many of the constables being reduced in Class or dismissed.

Hasting’s first promotion from inspector to superintendent did not go well as Thomas Bedwell was dismissed after 8 months in the rank.<sup>42</sup> Two inspectors were also dismissed in the first 16 months.

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<sup>40</sup> 1851 January 13: The Times

<sup>41</sup> CC98/4/1

<sup>42</sup> GO 77 May 1, 1852

## Dismissal and discipline in the early days of the Surrey Constabulary

The following numbers are taken from a range of general orders but unfortunately the recording has no constant parameters.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Dismissed</b>	<b>Disciplined not dismissed</b>	<b>Previous Reports</b>
1851 January to May 31	8 including an inspector	14	
1851 June 1 – April 30 1852	4 required to resign including a superintendent, 9 including an inspector dismissed	29	22
May 1 1852 – December 31 1853	23	17	24
1854	7	23	10
1855	7 including a superintendent	10	9
1856	16 including a superintendent	17	
1857	13		
1858 January – February 17	4		

Between January 1851 and April 1852, four men were required to resign including a superintendent and 17 dismissed, including an inspector, with a further 43 disciplined. From May 1852 to December 1853 23 were dismissed and 17 disciplined those men having already accumulated 24 disciplinary offences.

In addition to dismissals from June to December 1852, 12 men were disciplined with 12 previous discipline reports against these men. From January to December 1853 17 men were disciplined including PC Allen Mason who was to be badly beaten and die of his injuries. These men had 12 previous discipline reports against them.<sup>43</sup>

During 1854 seven men were dismissed and 23 disciplined, these men having a total of 10 previous discipline reports against them.<sup>44</sup>

1855 saw seven dismissals including Superintendent Fletcher, and 10 discipline cases where the men had a total of nine previous reports.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> GO 106 December 31 1853

<sup>44</sup> GO177 January 1 1855

<sup>45</sup> GO126 January 1 1856

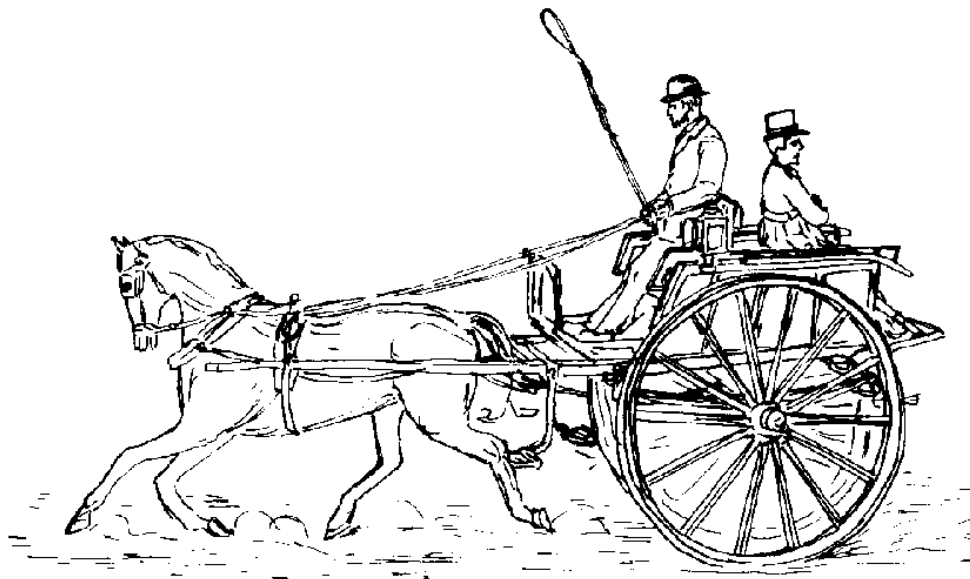
From the 1 January 1856 to February 17, 1858, there were 33 dismissals of which 22 were drunkenness or frequenting public houses when on duty. One of those dismissed in 1856 was Superintendent Everett.<sup>46</sup>

In under seven years, 91 men were dismissed to be replaced by a range of recruits some with experience others straight off the farmer's field!

The following GO to that listing all the dismissals from the Surrey Constabulary in April 1858, was a reference to PC Edwin Grant convicted by the magistrates for having left the Constabulary without giving proper notice. He was sentenced to fourteen days imprisonment with hard labour in the House of Correction at Wandsworth.<sup>47</sup>

The number of General Orders were fading with GO 140 dated May the 5<sup>th</sup> 1858 the next GO141 did not appear until October 25, 1858, a five month gap. Was the chief constable on sick leave?

Tenders were sent out for uniform on the 13 January 1851 and on the same day for horses and 6 Whitechapel Carts. There was either a very swift response and selection of the contractor together with very early delivery or the men were operating in their best suits!



**A Whitechapel Cart – the Surrey Constabulary hired six in 1851**

### **Recruiting**

Once the go-ahead was received seventy men had to be found quickly, recruited, uniformed and at the very least briefed by their experienced superintendents and inspectors. It must have

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<sup>46</sup> GO 137 March 1 1858

<sup>47</sup> GO 138 April 10 1858

been a rush, which may be why so many of the early recruits were to be dismissed for a range of disciplinary measures. Given Hastings wish to become involved in every detail of the new force there is little doubt he would have been involved in interviewing applicants. Of the first 60 recruits 27 had previous police experience and 33 did not.<sup>48</sup> The superintendents were soon in post, which probably means an advert was out in December before Hastings was appointed and may well have been selected by the magistrates. The men would have needed to resign from their existing forces and move to Surrey probably in days not weeks. This was certainly the time for the ambitious prepared to move counties and boroughs where, as the police expanded, opportunities were legion.

The military influence it could be argued was not the most suited leadership style. The hierarchy, the discipline, the stifling of initiative and drive by ex-soldier chief constables insisting on fixed beats with regular conference points missed on fear of dismissal. The discretion and capability of the constable was destroyed by too many oppressive rules and regulations enforced by too many supervisors who probably went in fear of their jobs if they did not enforce the letter of the rules. There certainly seems to have been a blame culture and the loss of so many men must have led to constant vacancies and the employment of untrained inexperienced men with few experienced role models. The influence may have dictated the name of the enrolment register where every man is listed in differing levels of detail often after he had resigned. The register was known as the Defaulter's book, which has a military ring!

#### **Surrey Constabulary Defaulter's (enrolment) Register <sup>49</sup>**

First 100 entries – more data is available but had to be reduced to fit onto the page. Often the data was not recorded especially if there was an early resignation or dismissal.

No	Age	Height	Place of birth	Date joined	Previous Occupation	Resigned	Dismissed	Length of service
1	36	5'10"	Isle of Wight	9 January 1851	Police	1 May 1858		8 years
2	36	6'	Staffs	9 January 1851	Police also surgeon	31 Oct 1853	Promotion Plymouth	2 years 9 months
3	36	5'10"	Staffs	9 January 1851	Police	18 Dec 1852	Compelled to resign	2yrs
4	35	5'8"	Northumberland	9 January 1851	Police	16 Nov 1851	Chief Bath	10 months
5	29	5'10"		9 January 1851	Police	26 July 1851	Order to resign	6 months
6	33	5'11"		9 January 1851	Police	8 Jan 1852		1 year
7	33	5'10"		9 January 1851	Police	Resigned	Supt Derby	
8	29	5'7 ½"	Braintree	9 January 1851	Police		14 Oct 1856 Supt	5yrs 10 mths
9	30	6'1"		9 January 1851	Police		25 July 1851	6 months

<sup>48</sup> Surrey County Archive 9152/1/2/1/1

<sup>49</sup> Surrey County Archive 9152/1/2/1/1

No	Age	Height	Place of birth	Date joined	Previous Occupation	Resigned	Dismissed	Length of service
10	30	5'9"	Epping	9 January 1851	Labourer		11 Sept 1855	5 years
11	29	5'10 ½"	Halstead, Essex	9 January 1851	Police		1871	20 years
12	27	5'8 ½"	Edinburgh	9 January 1851	Police	May 1854		3yrs 5 months
13	36	6'	Guildford	9 January 1851	Corn dealer	Died 13 March 1852 typhus		13 months
14	21	5'9"	Isle of Wight	9 January 1851	Tailor	13 May 1853		2yrs 4 months
15	22	5'9 ½"	London	13 January 1851		8 May 1854		2yrs 4 months
16	24	5'9"	Halsted Essex	13 January 1851	Police	July 7 1852		18 months
17	37	5'9"	Isle of Wight	13 January 1851	Mason	13 February 1851		1 month
18	29	5'8"	Egham	13 January 1851	Labourer	Nov 17 1851		10 months
19	24	5'11"	Emsworth	13 January 1851	Miller	April 1 1854		3yrs 3 months
20	30	5'11"	Crondall	13 January 1851	Police	5 April 1856 joined railway police		5yrs 3 months
21	22	5'10 ½"	Godalming	13 January 1851	Railway worker		11 June 1851	6 months
22	37	5'9 1/2"	Kingsclere	13 January 1851	Relieving Officer	Jan 31 1865	Told to resign	14 years
23	29	5'8 ¼"	Cornwall	13 January 1851	Police	5 Feb 1856	Permitted to resign	5 years
24	21	6'1"	Haverill	13 January 1851	Labourer	25 Nov 1853		3 years
25	23	5'9"	Dunsfold	Jan 17 1851			Jan 17 1851 Dismissed before sworn in	1 day
26	25	5'8"	Isle of Wight	13 January 1851	Coach painter	14 March 1857		6 years
27	28	5'7"	Guildford	13 January 1851	Labourer		Jan 22 1851	9 days Sworn in that day
28	38	5'9"	Tillingham Essex	13 January 1851	Police		17 May 1855	4 years
29	27	5'10"			Labourer	30 June 1851	Permitted to resign	6 months
30	29	5'10"	Suffolk		Police		11 May 1852	16 months
31	20	5'7 ¾"	Godalming	13 January 1851	Labourer	30 June 1851		6 months
32	32	5'11"		13 January 1851			8 Feb 1851	1 months
33	33	5'10"	Guildford	13 January 1851	Tailor		29 Jan 1856	5 years
34	26	5'10"	Hascombe	13 January 1851	Farm labourer	5 Feb 1852		12 months
35	32	5'10"		13 January 1851	Carpenter	13 Feb 1851		1 months

No	Age	Height	Place of birth	Date joined	Previous Occupation	Resigned	Dismissed	Length of service
36	28	5'7 ½		13 January 1851		18 Jan 1852	Permitted to resign	1 year
37	37	5' 8 ½		13 January 1851	Police	11 April 1851		3 months
38	31	5'8"	Chichester	13 January 1851	Army	Pension 19 Oct 1876		25 years
39	40	5'7 ½		13 January 1851	Paid Constable	16 April 1861	Permitted to resign	3 months
40	35	5'8 ½	Brighton	13 January 1851	Army		16 Oct 1852	1 year 10mths
41	30	5'9	Marlborough	13 January 1851	Police	Pension 24 April 1872		21 years
42			No other information	13 January 1851		1 May 1851		4 months
43	27	5'9 ½		13 January 1851	Windsor Borough Police	6 April 1852	After discipline	1 yr 3 months
44	40 Abt	5'8	Lincs	13 January 1851	Paid constable	31 May 1861	Called on to resign	10 yrs 4 months
45	36	5'8 ½	Dorchester	14 January 1851	Police	10 Jan 1852		1 year
46	21	5'7	Farnham	16 January 1851	Rope maker	12 Jan 1861		10 years
47	31	5'8	Kingston	16 January 1851	Police		7 Aug 1851	8 months
48	20	6'	Tilford	16 January 1851	Labourer	10 July 1851		6 months
49	34	5'8 ¾	Godalming	16 January 1851	Police	12 Sept 1853		1 yr 9 months
50	29	5'8 ¾	East Clandon	16 January 1851	Coachman	12 Feb 1851		1 month
51	40	5'9	Camberwell	26 January 1851	Soldier	26 Jan 1863		12 years
52	25	5'8	Worcester	January 1851	Royal Marine		15 Feb 1854	3 years
53	26	5'10	Woolavington	16 January 1851	Labourer		13 May 1853	2 years 4 months
54	32	5'9	Alton	16 January 1851	Labourer	Pension 1 April 1876		25 years
55	24	5'8 ¾	Godalming	16 January 1851	Railway labourer		21 Jan 1852	1 year
56	34	5'7	Cranley (sic)	16 January 1851	Miller		12 Feb 1851	1 month
57	21	5'7"	Guildford	16 January 1851	Labourer	23 May 1851		5 months
58	22	5'10	Alton	16 January 1851	Butcher	13 Nov 1852		1 yr 10 months
59	26	5'8 ½	Amersham	16 January 1851	Police		8 July 1853	2 yr 6 months
60	29	5'9 ½		16 January 1851		9 Aug 1851		7 months
61	34	5'8	London	17 January 1851		2 April 1851		2 months
62	25	5'9	Ash	17 January 1851	Labourer	6 Nov 1852		1 yr 10 months
63	38	5'8 ½	Portsea	17 January 1851	Grocer	Pension 31 March 1867		16 years

No	Age	Height	Place of birth	Date joined	Previous Occupation	Resigned	Dismissed	Length of service
64	39	5' 7 ½		18 January 1851	Paid Constable	10 Feb 1851		1 month
65	32	5'9 1/2	Glastonbury	18 January 1851	Police	Pension 30.9.73		22 years
66	33	5'9 ½		18 January 1851	Paid Constable		5 Aug 1852	1 yr 7 months
67	28	5'7	Godalming	22 January 1851	Labourer		29 May 1852	1 yr 3 months
68	32	5'8 ½	Chelmsford	23 January 1851	Police	16 June 1863 ill health		10 yrs 5 months
69	24	5' 9 ½		28 January 1851		31 March 1851		2 months
70	23	5'11		30 January 1851	Farmer	21 Oct 1858	Called on to resign	7 yrs 9 months
71	29	5'8	Windsor	1 February 1851	Paid Constable		30 April 1852	13 months
72	32	5'10	Chobham	1 February 1851	Paid constable		1 May 1851	3 months
73	42	5'10		1 February 1851	Police	6 March 1851		1 month
74	34	5'10	Norfolk	1 February 1851	Police	31 March 1853	Supt Bucks	2 years 1 months
75			No other information	1 February 1851		28 Feb 1851		1 month
76	39	5'10 ½	Winslow	1 February 1851	Paid constable		17 Nov 1854	3 yrs 10 months
77	27	5'10	Brentwood	3 February 1851	Police	30 April 1851		2 months
78	31	6'	Ireland	2 February 1851	Police		25 Feb 1851	3 weeks
79	36	5'10 ½	Ireland	11 February 1851	Police	Pension 1 April 1874		23 years
80	37	5'10		15 February 1851	Paid Constable		28 Feb 1851	2 weeks
81	39	5'10 ½	Clackmannon	15 February 1851	Sup constable Dorking Police	Killed on duty 29 July 1855		4 years 6 months
82	38	5'10	Highgate	15 February 1851	Supt Guildford Borough Police	Pension 31 Aug 1872		21 years
83	34	6'	London	17 February 1851	Guildford Borough Police		16 Sept 1852	1 yr 8 months
84	32	5'7 ½	Farnham	17 February 1851	Paid Constable		21 Aug 1851	6 months
85	29	5'7 ¾	Cheam	17 February 1851	Police		6 Nov 1852	1 year 10 months
86	20	5'10"	West Clandon	17 February 1851	Guildford Borough Police	Pension 31 March 1888		37 years
87	30	5'7 ½	Farnham	19 February 1851	Butcher		4 March 1853	2 years
88	26	5' 7 ½	London	22 February 1851	Paid Constable		3 Aug 1852	1 year 7 months
89	30	5'8	Sussex	2 March 1851	2 weeks Hants	Ill health 31 July 1873		22 years
90	23	5'10 1/2	Caithness	4 March 1851	Police	16 Aug 1853	Emigrated	1 year 5 months

No	Age	Height	Place of birth	Date joined	Previous Occupation	Resigned	Dismissed	Length of service
91	31	5'8 ½	Portsmouth	7 March 1851	Marine		17 Aug 1852	1 year 5 months
92	20	5' 11	Chichester	11 March 1851	Shoemaker	Pension 1 Jan 1890 as Supt		39 years
93	20	5" 10	Lowestoft	14 March 1851	Rope maker	Died 19 July 1868		17 years
94	25	6"	Ireland	20 March 1851	Irish Police	28 Jan 1852		10 months
95	31	6'	Colchester	21 March 1851	Police/Famer	6 Jan 1859	Cowardice	7 yrs 10 months
96	37	5'8 1/2	Eccles	29 March 1851	Godalming Police	Pension 30 Sept 1867		16 years
97	32	5'10"	London	7 April 1851	Railway employee		31 May 1851	1 months
98	29	5 9 1/2	Sussex	10 April 1851	Draper	30 April 1854	Permitted to resign	3 years
99	23	5'7"		19 April 1851	Labourer		31 March 1852	1 year
100	28	5'10	Llandovery	3 May 1851	Police	15 Sept 1854		3 yrs 4 months

The Hungry 1840s drove many from the land to the police who recruited many of the constables from the unskilled working class but from the start they were expected to behave and have the appearance and behaviour of skilled men of the respectable class.<sup>50</sup> The new chief constable had to recruit a mix of former police officers and those with little or no experience.

Except for the inspectors and superintendents who were already police officers of experience in other forces no one joined above third-class constable. There was no shortage of recruits although as always, the pay was poor, seventeen shillings a week, and the conditions harsh. Of the first 98 men appointed only 12 served long enough to receive a pension including two ill-health pensions; three died one being beaten to death. A further 17 were dismissed with four more required to resign in the first 13 months of the life of the Surrey Constabulary.

There was no formal training for the non-former police recruit and much must have been down to the experience of the superintendents and inspectors who would ensure there was some form of instruction and briefing as to the role and activity of policing.

General Orders are full of entries of men rising up the Class from Four to First, many going up and down as they commit disciplinary offences when a reduction in Class was a meaningful punishment particularly when accompanied by a move paid for by the constable. A rise through the Class for a constable was an accolade to the workingman eventually seeking the role of sergeant and later inspector. It was also possible to transfer police forces for promotion.<sup>51</sup>

<sup>50</sup> "Policing Victorian Community" Carolyn Steadman Page 70

<sup>51</sup> "Policing Victorian Community" Carolyn Steadman

At the time of formation there were police stations at Bagshot, Chertsey, Dorking and Farnham which passed to the county and new stations were built at Egham, Godstone, Guildford, Haslemere, Hersham, Leatherhead, Reigate and at Chertsey where the original one was found to be unhealthy.<sup>52</sup>

Captain Hastings decided to recruit initially from:

Men who had already served in a county police force

Men from HM Forces

The parish and borough constables

These criteria were followed with about 50% of the 100 originals having served in other police forces including paid constables from Surrey parishes and the small market town constables. Their survival rate of the Surrey constables in the new Constabulary was very low but the more senior people, Biddlecombe, Hollington and Donaldson served for some years. Only six former servicemen joined in the first hundred.

The men had to be honest, sober, under 30 (41 of the first 100 recruits were over 30) and at least 5 feet 7 inches; there was according to Durant in his history, no minimum age as one appointed constable was aged 14 and another 15<sup>53</sup>. (Probably because it was difficult to get clerks – early cadets!) The point about sobriety was missed and one is drawn to wonder about the recruiting process, the taking of references, local enquires as to suitability. Who interviewed the recruits? Recruiting was to become a constant task with so many dismissals.

Recruits to the police took an oath before the local magistrate and were never an employee or servant of the Police Authority but a local citizen appointed under the Crown, answerable to his chief constable and the courts.

The borough chief constable such as in Guildford and later Reigate were considered socially inferior to a county chief constable and were more likely to have come up through the ranks as Peel had intended. Borough chiefs lacked the independence of his county equivalent as he was under comprehensive control of the Watch Committee. Hollington the senior man in the Guildford Borough Police for about 10 years after service in the Metropolitan Police was to join the Surrey Constabulary as a subordinate to the man with the social connections and therefore was given the role of chief constable.

This register holds detail of the recruits to the Surrey Constabulary from day one. It is written in different hands and entries were not always completed fully and in some cases where resignation or dismissal was swift there is little detail, which tends to show the register was completed retrospectively. This is THE hallowed document of the early days of the Surrey Constabulary and there does not appear to have been any detailed, accurate research of the entries as a whole. It is the province mostly of the family historian.

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<sup>52</sup> “A Hundred Years of the Surrey Constabulary” Durrant page 7

<sup>53</sup> “A Hundred Years of the Surrey Constabulary” Durrant page 5 They do not appear in the first 100

The Surrey Archive Centre holds the defaulters or staff appointment register from 1851-1953; there is then a gap between May 1953 and October 1956. The information in a fully completed entry of the defaulter's register includes, name, age, physical description, where born, previous trade or calling, number of children, last residence, previous public service, by whom last employed, what relatives residing in Surrey, date of appointment, rank and where stationed. The register also provides details of promotions, removals and punishments and date of removal from force and conduct during service.

**Records of the first 100 recruits to the Surrey Constabulary in 1851 but many entries are incomplete**

<b>Surrey born where given</b>	<b>When joined living in Surrey</b>
23	20

In the list of the first 100 recruits, Metropolitan Police, Essex, Staffordshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight feature prominently as previous forces with the relevant counties where given:

<b>Born County</b>	<b>Number of officers</b>	<b>County living when joined</b>	<b>Number of officers</b>
Surrey	23	Surrey	20
London	8	London	7
Hampshire	8	Essex	7
Essex	8	Kent	2
Sussex	5	Staffordshire	2
Isle of Wight	4	Somerset	2
Staffordshire	2	Staffordshire	2
Somerset	2	Carmarthenshire	1
Norfolk	2	Hampshire	1
Cheshire	2	Whitehaven	1
Ireland	2	Isle of Wight	1
Scotland	2	Berkshire	1
Northumberland	1	Lancashire	1
Cornwall	1	Worcestershire	1
Suffolk	1		
Wiltshire	1		
Lincolnshire	1		
Dorset	1		
Worcestershire	1		
Buckinghamshire	1		
Berkshire	1		
Carmarthenshire	1		

**Out of 100: Previous occupation where given**

Police including paid police in Surrey 44	Draper
Labourer 15	Carpenter
Soldier/marine 6	Corn dealer
Tailor 2	Rope maker
Miller 2	Coachman
Railway worker 2	Butcher
Farmer 2	Grocer
Coach painter	Relieving officer
Shoemaker	
Mason	

**First 100 Resigned etc.**

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

**Previous police service  
Age joined/ Months service in Surrey**

<b>Age when joined Surrey Constabulary</b>	<b>Length of service in the Surrey Constabulary in months</b>
20	6, 6, 444, 468, 240, 369, 204 (died)
21	28, 36, 240, 5,
22	28, 6, 34,
23	1 day, 93, 17, 12
24	18, 39, 12, 2,
25	72, 36, 34, 10,
26	6, 28, 30, 19,
27	41, 27, 2,
28	9 days, 12, 27, 40
29	6, 70, 240, 10, 60, 16, 1, 7, 13, 22, 36,
30	6, 63, 252, 24, 264,
31	1, 372, 8, 3 weeks, 94,
32	300, 264, 125, 3, 6, 1
33	19,
34	35, 33, 1, 2, 25, 20,
35	10, 36
36	1, 96, 33, 24, 13 died, 12, 276,

Age when joined Surrey Constabulary	Length of service in the Surrey Constabulary in months
37	168, 3, 2 weeks, 192,
38	48, 192, 456,
39	1, 46, 54 (died)
40	3, 248, 144
42	1

#### Previous police service before Surrey Constabulary

Age when joined	Previous police service before Surrey Constabulary	Service in Surrey in months
23	Metropolitan Police	1 day
37	Paid Constable in Surrey	2 weeks
31	Staffordshire	3 weeks
39	Paid Constable in Surrey	1
42	Metropolitan Police	1
24	Kent	2
27	Essex	2
37	Metropolitan Police	3
32	Paid Constable in Surrey	3
40	Paid Constable in Surrey	3
29	Essex Bath, Bucks, Lincs	6
30	Essex	6
27	Metropolitan Police	6
32	Paid Constable in Surrey	6
31	Metropolitan Police	8
35	Metropolitan Police then chief Bath post Surrey	10
25	Ireland City of London	10
33	Carmarthenshire, Llandilo	12
36	Essex	12
29	Paid Constable in Surrey	13
27	Windsor Borough	15
29	Suffolk East and West	16
23	Edinburgh, Glasgow City of London	17
24	Essex	18
33	Paid Constable in Surrey	19
26	Paid Constable in Surrey	19
34	Guildford Borough Police	20
34	Lancashire	21
36	Metropolitan Dublin and Staffs	24
32	Metropolitan Police	25

<b>Age when joined</b>	<b>Previous police service before Surrey Constabulary</b>	<b>Service in Surrey in months</b>
21	Hants	28
22	Metropolitan Police	28
30	Hants	29
36	India, City of London, Nottinghamshire, Staffs	33
29	Metropolitan Police	34
28	Carmarthenshire, Llandovery	40
27	Essex Metropolitan Police	41
39	Paid Constable in Surrey	46
38	Essex, Metropolitan Police, Whitehaven	48
39	Dorking Borough Police – killed at Haslemere	54
29	Metropolitan Police	60
30	Essex	60
29	Essex	70
23	Kent	93
31	Essex	94
36	Hants, Godalming Borough Police	96
40	Paid Constable in Surrey	124
32	Essex	125
37	Godalming Borough Police	192
29	Essex	240
30	Metropolitan Police	252
38	Metropolitan Police, Guildford Borough	252
30	Hants	264
32	Birmingham Worcestershire	264
36	Irish Constabulary	276
20	Guildford Borough Police	444

### **Regional Comparison**

The experience in other counties when recruiting and retaining was not dissimilar to that of the Surrey Constabulary. Carolyn Steadman’s figures cover a number of forces.

After years of experience of recruiting in 1875 Hertfordshire chief constable reported that his officers were made up of “Some farm bailiffs, some shoemakers, some labourers, some of all sorts, we have soldier /pensioners, all sorts” The chief constable thought the agricultural labourer made the best policeman though rules on literacy denied many the opportunities to serve.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> “Policing Victorian Community” Carolyn Steadman page 70

Between 1856-1880 in Buckinghamshire and Staffordshire, 50% of all recruits were agricultural labourers <sup>55</sup> (Was that because most of the working population in a rural county were agricultural labourers?) However, in Surrey agricultural labourers made up about 16% of the initial recruits.

Married men made up 63-85% of recruits across the south east which is not surprising as rural police officers needed wives who often acted when their husband were out or were used to search female prisoners and probably to feed prisoners!

The median discharge rate from all south of England forces between 1866-1880 fell from 15% to 8%, losses had been nearly double that for 20 years. <sup>56</sup>

The work force was more stable in non-industrial areas and higher in Boroughs (Work available?) <sup>57</sup>

Men resigning as opposed to being sacked increased from 50% to 70% of turnover mid 1860s to 1880. Dismissal in southern counties 43% in 1866 and 27% 1880 as discipline became more proportionate.

Those reaching pension age by 1880 remained very small with a 16% annual turnover; if they stayed for five years there was some hope of them staying longer<sup>58</sup> chief constable 1874 “– but the vast proportion of men change within the year or first few months”<sup>59</sup>

Being born in a county or neighbouring county was the most consistent factor in staying in the police. Chief constables also looked for physical strength and literacy. Home Office rules demanded literacy. All police work demanded certain proficiency in reading and writing, but particularly in writing. Some forces employed a schoolmaster.<sup>60</sup>

By 1880 turnover of staff was reducing in Surrey at 6%, however, other forces continued high and expensive loss of staff with West Sussex 20%, Hants 15% and East Sussex 10%.<sup>61</sup> Chief Constable Hastings management must have become more enlightened after some 30 years’ experience!

Though recruitment at times was driven by unemployment, agricultural depression and the ending of a war there were those seeking personal development. Most found it a very hard life and many would soon leave or be sacked some “endured until pension.”<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> “Policing Victorian Community” Carolyn Steadman page 70

<sup>56</sup> “Policing Victorian Community” Carolyn Steadman page 92

<sup>57</sup> “Policing Victorian Community” Carolyn Steadman page 92

<sup>58</sup> “Policing Victorian Community” Carolyn Steadman page 92

<sup>59</sup> “Policing Victorian Community” Carolyn Steadman page 92

<sup>60</sup> “Policing Victorian Community” Carolyn Steadman page 92

<sup>61</sup> “Policing Victorian Community” Carolyn Steadman page 92

<sup>62</sup> “Policing Victorian Community” Carolyn Steadman page 81