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

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www.surrey-constabulary.com
Editor Robert Bartlett
938@938.me.uk

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Contents

Received recently from Bomber Command database was additional information on the crew of PC Ward's Lancaster 111 aircraft when shot down over Berlin.

Lancaster 111

PC 388 James Francis Ward
Pilot Officer (Pilot) RAFVR
Died age 24, 3 December 1943

A Member of No 619 Squadron PC Ward was killed whilst on operations with the RAF and is buried in the Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery. No 619 Squadron were based in Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire Apr 1943-Jan 1944

On the 7 January 1944 the Force received a letter from the Air Ministry confirming, "Pilot Officer Ward is missing as a result of air operations on the night 2/3 December 1943 when a Lancaster aircraft of which he was captain set out to bomb Berlin and failed to return". The authorities in a letter of the 28 August 1944 confirmed his death.

PC Ward joined the Surrey Constabulary on the 29th May 1938 being sworn in Guildford on the 3rd June. He was 19 when he joined having been born in Bishopsgate, London. His trade was motor engineer working for Mr Manchee, 37, Lynton Avenue, Bexley Heath, Kent. He was living at 48, Bowness Road, Bexley Heath.

When he joined PC Ward was described as being 5 feet 9 ¾ inches tall with a fresh complexion, brown eyes and brown hair.

Service:

4 June 1938 Dorking
20 February 1939 Dorking to Farnham
30 May 1939 Farnham to Seale
1940 Seale to Caterham
1 September 1941 joined the RAF with CC's consent.

From: Rob Davis Bomber Command Losses Database
DATE: 02-Dec-1943 / 03-Dec-1943
UNIT: 619 Squadron
AIRCRAFT: Lancaster III
RAF BASE: Woodhall Spa
TAKE-OFF AT: 16:41
SERIAL: EE170
CODES: PG: N
TARGET: Berlin
CAUSE OF LOSS: Shot down by flak

Pilot: Pilot Officer James Francis Ward RAFVR 155509 [Killed]. Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery, Germany 9 L 25

Flight Engineer: Sergeant G W Cross RAF [PoW]

Navigator: Pilot Officer Edward Thompson Hargreaves RAFVR 155583 [Killed]. Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery, Germany 9 L 22; son of Leonard and Hilda Hargreaves of Poulton-Le-Fylde Lancashire

Bomb Aimer: Sergeant John Hubert Duncan RAFVR 1459879 [Killed]. Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery, Germany 9 L 20

Wireless Operator: Sergeant James Waugh Scott RAFVR 1370641 [Killed]. Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery, Germany 9 L 21; son of George and Margaret Waugh Scott of Edinburgh

Mid-Upper Gunner: Sergeant Ronald Smithers RAFVR 1395928 [Killed]. Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery, Germany 9 L 24; son of Alfred Henry and Ellen Smithers of Homerton London.

Rear Gunner: Sergeant George William Arlett RAFVR 1288844 [Killed]. Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery, Germany 9 L 23; son of Mr. & Mrs. George William Arlett; husband of Lorna May Arlett of Craigydon Llandudno Caernarvonshire

DETAILS: Hit by flak north of Magdeburg and burst into flames. As the crew prepared to bale out, the aircraft exploded. Sgt Cross regained consciousness at 5,000 feet and landed safely despite several broken ribs. Others buried in the Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery.

No. 619 Squadron was formed at Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, on 18th April 1943, as a heavy bomber squadron equipped with Lancasters, and during the period June 1943 to April 1945, took part in many major attacks on enemy targets. No Squadron badge was authorised.

An evocative moment captured in a superb oil of a Lancaster from 44 Squadron crossing the English coast, following a raid on Germany. *Artist Robert Taylor*

On the night of the 2/3 December 1943 458 aircraft were despatched to Berlin. 40 aircraft were lost that night with 228 dead, 60 POW. "The German fighters were helped by the early identification as Berlin as the target area. Casualties mounted still further when the many aircraft, which were bombing south of Berlin, turned, left and left again as ordered after bombing, and found themselves flying back through the northern part of the Berlin Defences. **(The Berlin Raids – Middlebrook)** The British Occupation Authorities and Commission officials selected the site of Berlin 1939-45 War Cemetery jointly in 1945, soon after hostilities ceased. Graves were brought to the cemetery from the Berlin area and from eastern Germany. The great majority of those buried here, approximately 80 per cent of the total, were airmen who were lost in the air raids over Berlin and the towns in eastern Germany. The remainder were men who died as prisoners of war, some of them in the forced march into Germany from camps in Poland, in front of the advancing Russians. The cemetery contains 3,582 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 392 of them unidentified. In addition, there are 266 post war graves of men of the British Occupation Forces or their dependants, or of members of the Control Commission. (CWGC site)

Cranleigh Section

A town that is a village!

What follows is a collage of material gathered from a range of sources giving an outline of some of the people of the Surrey Constabulary with connections with Cranleigh and some of the work these officers undertook. If you have any photos of policing Cranleigh or information on the working life on the Section this will be welcome.

Henry Stemp born Cranleigh in 1831

1852 September: "On 11th September 1852 **Henry Stemp joined the Surrey Constabulary.** He only just made the minimum height requirement of 5ft 7 inches. His collar number was 62 and he was first stationed in Merrow on the eastern edge of Guildford. The Constabulary had only become operational on the 1st January 1851, twenty-one months earlier. On its establishment it comprised a chief constable, five superintendents and sixty-four constables. During Henry's time in the Constabulary, constables were required to work seven days a week and took only twelve days' leave a year. In his first year Henry was transferred in October to Byfleet, and then the Egham, in November to Bisley and in March 1853 to Millbridge, a village close to Frensham, Surrey where the young constable married Mary Hersey on the 21st May 1853.

Henry was promoted from Constable Fourth Class to Third Class in February 1853, and in April Constable Second Class. In May 1854 they moved to Guildford where Henry was promoted to Constable First Class in May 1855. In August 1855 they moved to West Horsley. Henry was promoted to the rank of inspector and transferred to Walton-on-Thames. In March 1859 the family moved to Leatherhead where Henry spent five years of his time as inspector. The Stemp family lived in the Police Station. In March 1864 the family moved to Witley where Henry's police career came to an abrupt end when he was demoted on the 1st July 1864 to Constable Second Class for drunkenness. He resigned from the Constabulary on the 19th July 1864."[1]

Baptism: 17 April 1831, St Nicolas, Cranleigh: Emigration: 12 April 1874, to Bluff, New Zealand on "William Davie" as assisted immigrants, the cost of £72. 10s being met by the New Zealand Government Occupation: 1851 Ag Lab 1852-1864 Policeman 1864 Goods Checker (Great Western Railway); 1871 Railway Clerk; Later Porter; 1876 Railway Worker

[1] Information about career of Henry STEMP from Peter Haynes compilation entitled "The Stemp

1858 May 1: PC45 John Atkins was born at Warlingham in Surrey in 1833 moving by 1841 with his family to Jolliffe Row, Merstham. The 1851 Census has him still living there working in the nearby chalk pits as a labourer. He married in 1854 Elizabeth Harbour aged only 19 yet already a widow, her husband dying of TB the previous year.

Joining the Surrey Constabulary on 1 May 1858 John was posted to Dunsfold moving in April 1860 to Compton where five years later he was promoted sergeant, one of the first to hold that rank in the county. In 1878 the family was moved to Frimley. John could not escape what seemed to be the policeman's curse of drink receiving a reprimand for drunkenness in February 1865 a couple of months after his promotion to sergeant. Retiring from Frimley in 1881 with 23 years service and a pension which was roughly equivalent to that received as a wage by pit labourers.

After retirement he lived at Holmwood working as the Common Keeper for Holmwood Common. When his wife died in 1903 John lived alone at Holmwood moving towards the end of his life to Haslemere where he died in 1917 aged 87. He had eight children two of whom died young.

The following are reports of John Atkins activities as recorded in the Surrey Advertiser. Obviously the press did not record all he did but this does give an excellent example of the type of cases a constable would have dealt with in the early days of the Surrey Constabulary[2]

1858 November 23: Cranley (old way of spelling): **The late Inspector Glamorgan:**

Thomas Henry Glamorgan late Inspector of Police in the parish of Cranley died in London on the 25th inst. The deceased was a highly efficient police officer having had 18 years experience in such duties, nearly 8 years of which he was a member of the Surrey Constabulary. His good conduct and vigilance during that time not only gained him the approbation of his superiors, but made him alike respected by his brother officers and the public generally in the different parishes in which he had been stationed. Mr Glamorgan was appointed to the office he held at the time of his death in August 1855 he being the successor to the unfortunate Inspector Donaldson whom he succeeded at Haslemere. Mr Glamorgan had been in a feeble state of health for the past two or three months and suffered from diseases of the lungs. He was attended in the early part of his illness Mr Albert Napper surgeon of this parish but about a month ago was removed to hospital in Paddington where he expired on Monday night. The deceased was a native of Wales and was born in Balla in Caernarfonshire; his friends

[2] Taken from the research of Christopher Atkins, late Surrey Constabulary

being in very good circumstances he received the advantage of an excellent education being intended for the medical profession, but unforeseen circumstances interfered with the arrangements. He was a poet of some considerable talent and publishes some of his poems at Lymington in Hampshire and more recently at Haslemere. Many in the neighbourhood will doubtless recollect his "David and Goliath". His thread of life was loosened at the comparatively early age of 43. He leaves a widow and five young children to deplore their heavy loss.[3]

Further information on Inspector Thomas Henry Glamorgan: He does not appear in the 1841 census, however, in 1851, he was living with his wife, Eliza, and four of their children, George age 6, Thomas 4, Walter 2 and Arthur 8 months, in The Old Workhouse, Basing, then a village to the east of Basingstoke, and his occupation is given as Police Constable. Ten years later, his widow is living 'in the village' at Cranleigh, with Walter, Arthur, and a daughter Fanny Elizabeth, who was born in 1855. Eliza appears to run a soup kitchen. By 1871 all the boys had left home (They have been traced no further, even though their surname is unusual) Eliza is living in Bedlam Lane, Cranleigh and is 'charing &c'. Hers is the only death positively traced - 18 August 1903 in the infirmary of Guildford Workhouse.

Basing's parish workhouse was located on Church Lane, Old Basing, in what is now Church Lane House and was built 1835-1836

Crime was unusual in the isolated great rural area of the south of the county amongst the hills, woods and farms. The first case the loser lives in Cranley but the property was stolen at Shalford.

1865 April 15: Alleged Robbery: On Thursday three men were brought up at the Magistrate's office, Guildford on a charge of stealing a quantity of timber the property of Mr Elliott of Cranley from the Shallford wharf. They were remanded.[4]

1865 December 9: Dorking Petty Sessions: Obstructing the highway: Charles Dance of Ewhurst was charged with leaving his wagon and causing an obstruction on the road. Fined 5s and 14s expenses.[5]

1867 January 22: Guildford County Magistrates: Two young men and two boys were charged on remand with stealing ale and cakes from Cranley County School. There had been a concert and the ale and cakes had been provided for the performers but they were stolen through an open window. The Chairman remarked on the difficulty of dealing with such a case and the reluctance of the Bench to send respectable looking young people to prison. They were discharged with a warning.[6]

[3] 1858 November 23 Sussex Advertiser and Surrey Gazette
[4] 1865 April 15 Surrey Advertiser
[5] 1865 December 9 Surrey Advertiser
[6] 1867 January 22: The Sussex Express, Surrey Standard Weald of Kent Mail, Hants and County Advertiser

1899 January 10: The Retirement of Inspector Edgeler:

Inspector Turner Edgeler who has been a member of the Surrey Constabulary for 29 years five of which have been spent at Caterham has sent in his resignation. He recently lost his wife after a long and painful illness and for some time past he has not been in the best of health. We understand that if he had continued in the force he would have been promoted superintendent but he considers a rest and a change are necessary and that is the reason he is retiring.

Mr Edgeler joined the Surrey Constabulary in 1868 but retired shortly afterwards but joined again in 1871. He was successively stationed at Charlwood, Shalford, Cranleigh and Hersham, and having been promoted to the position of sergeant, and then to that of inspector he was sent in 1894 to Godalming as acting superintendent of that division, and continued as such until a superintendent who had been ill recovered his health and was reinstated. Upon this Mr Edgeler resumed his old rank of inspector and came to Caterham where he has since been stationed.

In each of the places mentioned Mr Edgeler performed his duties in a manner that won for him the commendation of the magistrates and inhabitants generally, his clever capture of the Shalford burglar, and the way he broke up some notorious gangs of fowl stealers being specifically mentioned.

Among others who publicly acknowledged his services and spoke very highly of him as a police officer may be mentioned Lord Middleton the present Lord Lieutenant of the county, the Late Mr H Yool, who was chairman of the Surrey Sessions, the Mayor of Godalming. For some time Mr Edgeler was specially told off to assist in conjunction with a detective from Scotland Yard in guarding the late Mr **Gladstone** during the Fenian scare whenever that gentleman came into the county of Surrey.

It is not generally known that a short time since, when two daring burglaries were committed at Caterham Mr Edgeler got close on the track of the burglars, who however were apprehended by the London police for another offence and sentenced to long terms of penal servitude. During the time Mr Edgeler had been in the force he has received many marks of esteem and respect in which he has been held, in the form of testimonials, consisting of purses of money, watches etc., which have in some instances been accompanied by illuminated addresses and on one occasion was awarded £5 by the Chief Constable for meritorious services. Amongst the letters of thanks he received one from Major Henniker a former commandant of the Guard's Depot in recognition of the assistance he had rendered the military police.

For a long time he was regarded as the best all-rounder cricketer in the force and in addition to distinguishing himself as a bowler and wicket keeper has on several occasions made scores approaching 100.[7]

Police Superintendent John Henry Law

John Henry Law

Police Superintendent John Henry Law armed his men with cutlasses. This helped to put at end to the rioting in Guildford [8]

Record of Service John Henry Law [9] Mr Law was born in 1818 in Northampton serving in the Metropolitan Police from May 1835 to May 1837 and the City of London Police between December 1838 and April 1841. He joined the Surrey Constabulary on the 11 February 1852 as a fourth class constable number 56 at sixteen shillings a week. He was sworn in at Hersham in the Chertsey Division.

On joining the Surrey Constabulary he was described as being 5 feet 9 ½ inches, fair complexion, brown hair with hazel eyes.

June 1 1852 4TH Class constable to 3rd Class

November 1 1852 3rd Class to 2nd Class

[7] 1899 January 10: The Surrey Mirror

[8] Picture published in 'The Guildford Guy Riots' by Gavin Morgan

[9] Guildford public library SP 351.74 Collection of Mr and Mrs A J B Green

May 1853 from Hersham to Egham
August 1 1853 2nd Class constable to 1st Class – there were no sergeants at this time
October 1855 Egham to Leatherhead
October 1855 1st class constable to inspector
March 1859 Leatherhead to Walton on Thames
October 1859 for allowing a prisoner to escape reduced from Inspector to 1st Class constable and removed at his own expense from the Chertsey to the Reigate Division
October 1859 Walton on Thames to Merstham
January 1861 1st Class constable to Inspector
February 1861 Merstham to Cranley (sic)
March 1861 Cranley to Shamley Green
October 1861 Shamley Green to Cranley (sic)
December 1861 apprehending a man for assault without having a warrant reduced from the rank of inspector to first class constable
January 1862 first class constable to inspector
June 1862 Cranley (sic) to Witley

Resigned November 30 1863 to go as Head Constable of the Guildford Borough Police with conduct during service recorded as "Very Good". Certificate given and dated December 1st 1863

1902 Henry Smith of Westcott was summoned for **stealing** and being in possession of wood valued at 25/-. PC Steel said he saw the defendant with a horse and cart loaded with several sacks containing wood alleged to have been bought from a farmer in Cranleigh. This man could not be traced whereas there had been a lot of damage done in the neighbourhood through the cutting of underwood. The defendant was found to have a long list of previous convictions and was fined £2. [10]

1912 July 4: At Godalming Henrietta Foster, Methuselah Matthews a farm labourer and James Glue also a farm labourer were remanded on a charge of **murder** of Alfred Foster the husband of the above. All four left a public house at Alfold and quarrelled on the way home to Dunsfold. Later that evening police received information that the body of Foster had been found in a pond. At the inquest Dr Leathers of Godalming said he could find no sign of death by drowning. There were bruises on the left cheek and right temple, and a star shaped fracture on the inner layer of the skull. The left lung was in a collapsed state. Death was due to these injuries. The case was adjourned for one week.[11]

[10] Terry Wooden Westcott Local History Society January 2012
[11] 1912 July 4: The Times

Bert Henley 1889-1980[12]

We had three policemen in Cranleigh one of who was in inspector. He lived next door to the old forge on the Common. A cottage has now replaced the forge. The old policeman's house was taken down and a new house built, which, which I remember was built about 1900. The first man to be taken in there was drunk in charge of a horse ad cart. He had been to Guildford market.

PC Bert Henley about 1914 with his brother "under arrest": family photo

1929 April 1: Heath Fires: Extensive damage in Surrey: For five hours on Saturday fire raged over a square mile and a half of Walton Heath. Hundreds of men, women and children including a large number of holiday makers who left their motor cars and motor cycles beat the flames with gorse and fir branches. The Reigate Fire Brigade were called but owing to the distance from the hydrant they were powerless. Heath fires were prevalent over the weekend in other parts of Surrey including Milford where a number of bungalows were endangered. In all about a thousand acres have been charred. Damage was particularly extensive at Farley near Shamley Green where besides heath and gorse, woodlands have been destroyed. At Hurtwood near

[12] Cranleigh Voices Seymour and Warrington published by Tempus 2000

Shere a wide tract of country has been spoiled while damage is very extensive at Milford and Witley. A number of fires were still burning last night and it is doubtful if they can be put out until rain comes.[13]

A policeman's life; PC Atherton 1930s[14]

When I was a PC attached to Cranleigh in the 1930s, Sergeant Field was in charge and Bob Langlish from Dunsfold, myself from Ewhurst and the Shamley Green PC worked under him. Sergeant Field and his wife lived at Cranleigh police station.

Our work was to check the farm registers. Each farmer had a register for sheep-dipping etc., and we used to have to inspect the actual operation to see that it was done properly. If a farm had foot and mouth or anything like that we had to go there and put notices up in red, to keep people away from the infected area. I got on with the farmers very well.

When I was courting my wife at Weybridge I used to cycle the 25 miles to visit her. Once when biking home via Newlands Corner, at eleven o'clock at night, my bicycle lamp broke lose and caught in the spoke and I went over the top. I was due to go on duty at 2am. In those days, your day off finished at midnight. If you were out after 12 o'clock you would be disciplined. I was on duty at two o'clock the same morning so I put my bike over my shoulder and carried it to Ewhurst. I arrived just in time to change into uniform. I had to walk the beat that night instead of cycling, which was Ellen's Green, Cranleigh. We had to make conference points in those days where we used to meet; my first one was at Old Oast where there was a culvert (a big wide drain and stream). I was so tired that I sat on the little white fence by the culvert. I must have fallen asleep I was so exhausted and I went backwards into the water. My helmet went way down stream and I had to run after it. I had to walk all the way home to Ewhurst to change my uniform. My next call was Cranleigh police station and I had to run. It didn't do to be late in those days. We used to do three hours in the day and five hours at night. In those five hours the sergeant would probably give you three conference points.

The other part of the job was checking aliens. We had to keep a register of them, and there were swarms of them around Cranleigh before the war, girl servants, and I had to go round once a year and see they were there and they were the right person. Then we got to know if they had moved. If the people that employed them had not notified the move they were in trouble.

[13] The Times (London, England), Monday, Apr 01, 1929
[14] Cranleigh Voices Seymour and Warrington published by Tempus 2000

We had gypsies, they were a bit of a nuisance, we just used to keep them in order, that's all. They used to drink to much but it was not a crime area at all in those days. There was only one cell in the police station, but I don't think we ever used it.

My starting wage in the police force was £2.12s6d for a 25-hour week (NOTE: This is most likely a typo and should read 52 but maybe 48 for 8 hour days 6 days a week). One went hours without sleep. You had to want the job. I had to pay 21 shillings a week for my board. When I married my pay had risen to £3.2s.6d a week.

Another of the policeman's jobs was to attend the doctor when he did his post mortems. The mortuary was at the end of Malt House Lane, a terrible place. It was so small and only lit with one gas burner. I remember one evening having to inspect a dead body, waiting for the doctor. As I turned to shut the door something heavy and cold hit me – one of the corpse's arms dropped limply from the bench, knocking me – I nearly died of fright! I left Cranleigh police in 1937 and moved the Thursley

PC Kemp on his bicycle at Cranleigh possibly 1930s

Louis Froud Quinain

1935: "In 1935 Louis Froud Quinain joined the Metropolitan Police Force for a short time, before moving to the Surrey Police Force. Also in 1935 Louis met Greta whilst she was nursing at the Henley War Memorial Hospital. Greta was to become his life long companion and in 1940 they were married at Farnham in Surrey. That year Louis took up a post at Shamley Green, near Guildford as the village constable, and he and his new bride moved to live in the Police Cottage. It was here; whilst in the Police Force that Louis pursued his love of creative writing and began writing a series of

articles and stories for the Sussex and Surrey County Magazines, then moving on to write for "Country Life" and "Countryman". From 1941 he wrote freelance for the BBC appearing as the "Man from the Country" in the Evening Melodies programme on the old Light programme, and also gave talks on country and police affairs on the Home Service, as well as reading his short stories in the Mid Morning story programme. He successfully published his first novel, "Country Beat" in 1946 which was drawn on his experiences as a policeman and followed this with "Policeman on the Green" in 1948 two years after leaving the Police Force. He also wrote paperback fiction using a pseudonym, Peter Froud. Louis' love of creative writing stayed throughout his life, he was a prolific letter writer who enjoyed being in touch with other contemporary writers and in particular had frequent exchanges of correspondence with a dear friend, the Welsh writer Rhys Davies. Much of the correspondence from Rhys to Louis was subsequently acquired during the 1990s, by the National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth, where the letters can now be seen".[15]

Policeman's daughter; Sergeant Charlie Mayes[16]

My father was Sergeant Charlie Mayes. He was the village policeman from 1938 - 1941 and we lived at Cranleigh police station. I was 11 years old when we left.

At that time police used to be moved around every two or three years. Each spring the gypsies would go to Vachery to steal daffodils and invariably Dad would catch them and confiscate the flowers and Mum and I would spend a long time bunching them up to give to the elderly rather than waste them.

There was a general shop opposite the police station next door to the coal merchants. My mother would send me to buy a bag of sugar every week in case of rationing. We ended up with far too much!

There were three cells in the police station. When air raids were on we went to the cells taking our eiderdowns with us. We spent the night there; it was the safest place as the walls were very thick.

I remember the dogfights overhead. One or two planes crashed and dad had to sieve through the wreckage to recover the bodies, which were taken to the mortuary, whilst the pilots who had bailed out were put in the cells.

When my mother died I found a petticoat she had made out of parachute silk. Parachute cord was used for all sorts of things and was very strong. Vera Wilkinson

[15] John Wright from an old school magazine
[16] Cranleigh Voices Seymour and Warrington published by Tempus 2000

Sergeant Mayes succeeded by Police Sergeant FORD. They lived in the Station on Lucks Green.

1939-1945: During the war years P.C. Medhurst lived in "Hastie Cottage" in the Ewhurst road. P.C. Walter Morris in the Alfold Road and a P.C. Hollier above the "International Store's" in the High Street.

PC Bruce and PC Bradley Guildford July 1940 with "Old Faithful" a Wolseley 18/85

Arthur Bruce: Bruce and Bradley were in the yard at the police station in Guildford unloading firearms surrendered by the public from the above vehicle when a report came in of parachutists landing at Pitch Hill, Ewhurst. Without completing the unloading they piled into the car being joined by PCs George Young and Bob Rackham. "I should point out that car drivers were issued with a .303 rifle and five rounds of live ammunition. It was cynically suggested that the four rounds were for the enemy and the fifth being for us." Arriving at Pitch Hill the only people about were road menders who were not aware of "the invasion". They were given a 12 bore doubled barrelled shotgun and a handful of cartridges each with the injunction to "do their best." The police then drove nearer to the foot of the hill prepared to "repel boarders." Bert was armed with a revolver, George armed with Bert's .303 went off in one direction, and Bob armed with a 12 bore and me with my .303. Bob was a little behind me and we had not gone far when from behind there was the report of a 12 bore followed by a surprised "@#@# that is not the safety position!" Thereafter I walked abreast of him. It was "A false alarm – good intent" – a police term passed down the years.[17]

1940 12 October: A British Blenheim developed a mechanical problem and crashed at Court Lodge Farm, **Ewhurst**. The pilot bailed out but his parachute failed to open.[18]

1941 April 16: At 0115 a Junkers 88 was shot down crashing on Thorns Flush, **Cranleigh** with all the crew killed. The same British crew then shot down a Heinkel 111, which broke up in the air over Petworth Road, **Wormley**. One of the crew was taken prisoner. [19]

1944 April 12: On duty at Godalming Police Station on 12th April 1944, PC Gunning and TPS Storr were attempting to control a male prisoner who was in possession of a "Mills" hand grenade. The prisoner had attempted to pull the pin and the two police officers had reason to believe he had, but they closed on him, secured the grenade and Gunning replaced the pin. Both were commended by the chief constable in the first class for their bravery and devotion to duty, qualities the pair would continue to demonstrate. A native of Westbury, Gloucester Brian Gunning had been a sales representative for Baker & Co in Bristol. He was first stationed in Dorking, later moving to Mayford, Cranleigh, and Esher on to Godalming in January 1941. Edward Storr was born in the parish of Worplesdon, Surrey and lived and worked with his father on Lawford's Farm near Guildford. Storr joined Surrey Constabulary on 9th September 1928, beginning his long service in Woking. Whilst in Leatherhead, PC Storr became temporary sergeant, prompted no doubt by his commendation from the chief constable for his endeavour in preventing a prisoner's escape from custody. He had a long and violent struggle with the prisoner, an armed soldier, who threatened to

[17] Arthur Bruce wrote to Off Beat in January 1980
[18] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[19] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated

shoot him[20]. By 1942, Sgt Storr arrived in Godalming and became paired with PC Gunning.[21]

1944 August 27: Cranleigh infant school was hit by a V1 flying bomb and demolished. Fortunately this occurred early on a Sunday morning, and the school was empty. The only casualty was the Rector, who was in his garden not far away and was injured

1944 September 7: A **Canadian** was charged following an attack on September 7 1944 of a lone heavily pregnant young married woman.[22] Private Horace R Gordon aged 28 a Canadian Soldier was committed for trial on a **charge of murdering by stabbing,** Dorothy May **Hillman** an eighteen year old married woman of less than a year, at Bramley. The victim who lived with her family in Palmer's Cross, Bramley left home with her dog and walked towards the Leathern Bottle. The accused was seen to cycle near her. Later two airmen found the victim crawling along covered in blood. She had eleven stab wounds to her body and had crawled one hundred yards before being found.

A field service cap was found by the scene owned by Gordon. He said he had come across the woman after she had been attacked and tried to help her and said he left her to go to Cranleigh police to report what he had seen but took the wrong road and went to Hascombe. Detective Sergeant Storr and Detective Constable Gunning on patrol in a car at Hascombe stopped Gordon (he was described as coloured which would have eased identification in public places at that time) and found stains on his clothing. He said he had cut his hand and wiped it on his clothes. He had a khaki handkerchief with what appeared to be bloodstains on it. He had an open knife and packets of chewing gum, chocolate wrapping paper and cigarettes. At the scene of the attack was found chewing gum wrappings and papers from chocolate that could be linked to the suspect. When interviewed and charged Gordon did not deny being at the scene and that he had spoken to the woman who told him she had been attacked. He gave her a piece of chewing gum. He tried to wipe some of the blood off with grass and then his 'kerchief. [23]

Mrs Hillman lived to give birth to a still born child two days after the attack, make a clear statement of what happened to her and identified Gordon, before dying on the 22 September. At Surrey Assizes Gordon was found guilty at Surrey Assizes Kingston before Mr Justice Humphries, and sentenced to death. Gordon was Jamaican and had a wife and family there

[20] Edward Storr Police Service Record, *Defaulters Book 1911-1931*, pg1964, Surrey Police Museum (later known as Storr Service Record).
[21] Luke Franklin Journal Police History Society January 2011
[22] The Surrey Advertiser and County Times 28 October 1944
[23] The Surrey Advertiser and County Times 28 October 1944

1944 September: Aeroplane crash: On a night in September 1944 a Mitchell bomber of Number 180 Squadron, lost power during take off crashing near Dunsfold village[24]. Gunning and Storr were quickly on the scene and extricated members of the RAF from the crashed Mitchell bomber. Gunning and Storr showed no regard for their own lives as the ground was littered with burning debris and the bomber's fuel tanks still full. Gunning was later commended by the chief constable for bravery, determination, devotion to duty and initiative displayed at Dunsfold that night.

By 1945, this feat of bravery had come to the notice of King George V who ordered the names of the two officers to be publicized in the London Gazette of 26th June 1945 as having been commended for brave conduct[25]. PC Gunning also received praise from the Air Ministry, the Home Secretary, and the then Prime Minister Winston Churchill himself[26].

After the war, PC Gunning passed his sergeants course as well as further courses to end his career as Superintendent based in Dorking. [27]

1944 September 14: PC Albert Edwin Enticknap awarded **King's Police Medal for Gallantry** tackled and overpowered an armed housebreaker who had pointed a revolver at him.

Albert Edwin Enticknap was born in 1912, in Hascombe in Surrey. He joined the Surrey Constabulary on the 19th of May 1936. He was sworn in on the 29th of May 1936 at Guildford Magistrates Court and allocated collar number 171. His previous trade was a farm worker employed by his father at Crab Tree Farm in Dunsfold, Surrey.

1944 September 8: Dunsfold Believed RAF aircraft that had been on a bombing raid over Normandy when a bomb got hung up in the bomb bay and exploded on landing killing all the crew.[28]

Cranleigh School pupil: From the Internet: That Autumn I went to Cranleigh School The Germans were bombing London, and sometimes they dropped bombs quite near the school. We could hear them whistling as they came down. There would be a huge bang and once or twice some windows were broken. During the day, if there was an air raid warning, all the school had to go and sit in air raid shelters built on the school grounds. I used to hope for an air raid warning if I hadn't done my prep. We were expected to spend one afternoon a week digging and working growing vegetables on a part of the school grounds. Later, when I was older, I became part of the school

[24] Paul. M. McCue, Dunsfold: Surrey's Most Secret Airfield, page166, (Walton, 1991).
[25] Gunning Service Record, page 2092. 5th Supplement to The London Gazette 22nd June 1945, page 3335, (HMSO, 1945).
[26] Air Ministry Letter 25th June 1945, Surrey Police Museum, Home Office Letter 25th June 1945, Surrey Police Museum, Kings Order signed by Winston Churchill, Surrey Police Museum.
[27] Luke Franklin Journal Police History Society January 2011
[28] Email from Robin Cooper Dorking 26 April 2016 to Robert Bartlett

section of the Home Guard. This was rather exciting as we had to practice firing guns, including a very primitive anti-tank gun which fired a bomb and was supposed to bounce along the ground and hit the underneath of the tank – some hope! Just before I left to join the Navy in 1944, the Germans started sending VI bombers to attack London. These were flying bombs and they would often pass right over the school. As they were coming over at all kinds of time, it was impossible to spend all the time in shelters and do no work. So the oldest boys took it in turns to stand on the roof of the school and press a hooter if a 'Buzz Bomb' looked as though it might hit us. We felt very important.

Cranleigh: Early one Sunday morning I awoke to the most unusual noise not at all like any aircraft I had heard before. Suddenly it stopped and was soon followed by an explosion. The first flying bomb to hit Cranleigh had landed in the Rookery, a small wood between the railway line and Knowle Park. A couple of weeks later another one landed on Jubilee Field at Cranleigh School. My home was in the middle of Parkgate Cottages near the crossroads. The first doodlebug damaged our back bedroom windows. A week or so later we were getting ready to have our tea when the siren went. Very soon we heard a doodlebug approaching. Its engine cut out and we could hear it whooshing through the air. We scrambled into the cupboard under the stairs just as it hit the gasholder near the bottom of our garden. There was one fatality in this incident: Mrs Ede, the wife of Jack Ede, the gasworks foreman. They lived in a cottage next to the gasholder. She went outside and was hit by a part of the gasholder.

Cranleigh St Nicolas Parish Church: The parish church of St Nicolas stands in the village of Cranleigh and was built in the early 12th Century and its font also dates from this time. In 1944, during the Second World War, a bomb hit the church destroying the church room and infant school, leaving only three of its fourteen stained glass windows intact. The church also has a 12th century carving known as the Cheshire Cat which some believe to have been Lewis Carroll's inspiration for his famous Alice in Wonderland character.

1944 October 6: RAF Dunsfold: Two **Mitchell** aircraft collided on night take-off and the crews were all killed.[29]

1944 Inspector Lionel Norman Head and PC Brian Gunning were **commended** after facing the greatest danger, rescued some of the crew from a blazing **RAF bomber**, which had crashed at **Dunsfold**.

1964

Cranleigh Section. J. Div. Godalming 1964 The section also covered, Dunsfold, Shamley Green, Ewhurst, Ellens Green, Wonersh, Baynards and Wallis Wood.

[29] Email from Robin Cooper Dorking 26 April 2016 to Robert Bartlett

Inspector Tom Berry. (Lived in The Station)
Sgt. Norman Woodsford. P.S.45 (Avenue Road)
Jim Gill. (Rowland Road.)
Pete Nash. (Mead Road)
Mick Becket. M/C. (Shamley Green)
Doug Holt. M/C. (Dunsfold)
Steve Davis. (Ewhurst)
Vic Copus. (Alfold)

Cranleigh Office 1965

2012

Tom Berry centre in 1957 Later to be Inspector at Cranleigh

Mick Becket. M/C. (Shamley Green)

Vic Copus who retired from Alfold on the Section

PC James Gill retired from the force on the 31st August having served 25 years.

He was with the Royal Military Police from 1935 to 1950 and then joined the Surrey Constabulary. He has served at Woking, Godalming, Cranleigh and returned to Godalming in

1975 Off Beat

Ray Elliot at Cranleigh in 1966

Police Sergeant Clive Stanbury Plane crash Dunsfold in 1976 when stationed at Guildford. Clive came to Cranleigh in the mid 1960s spent some time at Guildford before returning as an inspector

1973 Rural Sergeant at Cranleigh A small town that had to be referred to in the presence of locals as a village, bordering Sussex, in the centre of a large rural area that included parts of the Surrey Hills. This was a very wealthy area; oozing wealth in fact, with several famous people living on the section that stretched from Ewhurst in the east and Dunsfold in the west. To the north we covered up to Shamley Green just to the south of Guildford and to the south there was the boundary with Sussex. Ten or twelve miles from the inspector stationed at Godalming, the sub-divisional station who made weekly visits, unless they were trying to escape the office or get their mileage claims up. Neither of the Godalming inspectors at that time wanted any hassle and prepared to let us get on with the work.

There was one other sergeant Mick Horne who lived on the section; a good man. There were twelve PCs, a DC, traffic warden and a part-time cleaner. There were also two cars, still the round Morris 1000. Later we were to lose one of the cars, when someone decreed that the PCs would patrol on their bikes at all times. How many miles is it from Ewhurst to Dunsfold? Did they have personal radios that worked? Common sense was not allowed to prevail, and so the supervisors lost their wheels for much of the time in an attempt to let the patrols do what needed to be done.

We had an old police station which had a house attached to it. The house was incorporated into the office, which gave us plenty of space. There were a couple of cells that had not been used as such for years and were used as a store, and as an office for the CID officer.

Personal radios would only work in the High Street at Cranleigh, if in direct line from Guildford from where they were operated. There was an additional problem with this in that we worked to Godalming and not Guildford. There was always something to be done but it was a style of policing that has gone forever.[30]

CRANLEIGH
Station View

Photos by Ken Williat

PC Michael Clarke (left) and PC Victor Copus chat to some young lady hair stylists outside their Salon in Cranleigh. All in the line of duty of course!

PC Michael Clarke has been at Cranleigh for six months. He was previously at Guildford for 7½ years. He is married, lives in Cranleigh, and his wife Dorothy works as a Bookeeper in H. Samuels' the jewellers. As a hobby Michael enjoys pistol shooting for the force and he belongs to Ewhurst Pistol Club. He also enjoys golf, swimming and shares an interest of home decorating with his wife. Michael tells us that Dorothy is a keen and excellent cook.

PC Victor Copus is the Alfold village PC. He has been stationed there for 17 years and has also worked at Bagshot, Egham and Reigate. He is married with three sons and one daughter. The eldest boy (22) is married and works as an engineer for Rank Xerox, the 18 year old is an apprentice electrician for Hawker Siddeley at Dunsfold and the youngest son is an apprentice mechanic. Their daughter is still at school. Victor's wife Daphne works locally in the mornings and during her spare time helps with the local youth club. She also assists with football Club activities and other village functions. Victor is the Chairman of the local football Club—he played up until last year and also used to run for the County. Victor joined the force in 1949 having served in the Navy between 1942 and 1946.

Mrs. Frances Buckman has been cleaning and tidying up at C for two years two hours per day. She lives in Cranleigh husband Eric and daughter Sharon aged four. Eric is a self-e window cleaner and works locally. Frances was born in Kent in Sussex, they were married nine years ago. In 1968 they Australia—Mr. Buckman's brother lives there and they decided a working holiday—and stayed two and a half years. Frances w an office there and her husband in the Sugar Mills. They bo tennis and swimming and are teaching Sharon to swim. Franc keen on knitting and dressmaking.

[30] Robert Bartlett

PCs Holt and Coppard at the bottom
Off Beat 1976 – page missing unfortunately

1970s Shamley Green with PC90 Dixon of Cranleigh at the front

Mick Horn a long term sergeant at Cranleigh in retirement

Police Sergeant Bartlett at Cranleigh 1973-1976 with Mick Horne. Time when section members attended terrorist attacks, plane crashes and murder

1991 RTA A281 at Cranleigh

1994

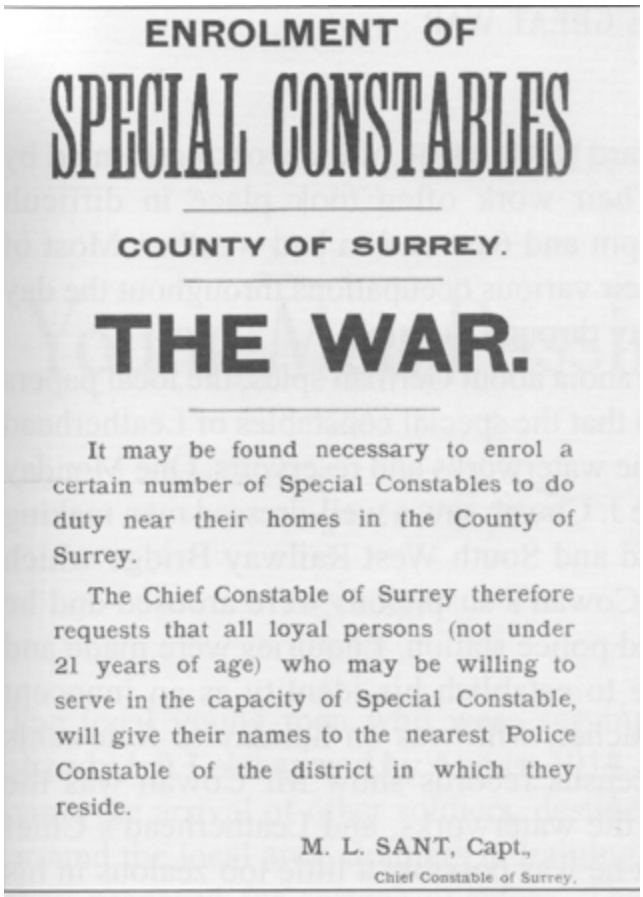
Surrey Constabulary Cap Badges

Tony Collman: I recently acquired an unusual Surrey Constabulary cap badge. I have never seen one before or known of its existence. It is a queen's crown, silver plated, senior Officers cap badge. I have only ever seen chrome versions of this cap badge.

Above are pictures of the Chrome version and the Silver plated version.

Tony Collman: I have sent you two pictures of different Surrey Constabulary Sports Association blazer badges. They Surrey Constabulary insignia are still relevant.

First World War Surrey Special Constabulary



ENROLMENT OF

SPECIAL CONSTABLES

COUNTY OF SURREY.

THE WAR.

It may be found necessary to enrol a certain number of Special Constables to do duty near their homes in the County of Surrey.

The Chief Constable of Surrey therefore requests that all loyal persons (not under 21 years of age) who may be willing to serve in the capacity of Special Constable, will give their names to the nearest Police Constable of the district in which they reside.

M. L. SANT, Capt.,
Chief Constable of Surrey.

Recruitment poster for Special Constables in Surrey.

From Tony Collman's Collection

From Tony Collman's Collection

1914-18: The outbreak of war caused considerable additional work for the police, with leave and rest days initially cancelled. At the request of the military authorities, police in the county had found some fifty eight thousand billets for soldiers with one hundred and fifty thousand by the end of the winter. Often the soldiers did not arrive and all the work was in vain. Two hundred and fifty aliens had been registered, starting from scratch. A large number of men were called to the colours from the Force three receiving high awards for bravery, Walter Tuppen, a Distinguished Conduct Medal second only to a Victoria Cross, and Thomas Runnegar and Henry Brand Military Medals. Sixteen men were wounded, three of who were permanently incapacitated and fifteen killed. (To be added those from the Boroughs)[31] Surrey was an unrestricted area and many refugees came from London, mainly from the East End, mostly aliens, many undesirable. They arrived in train loads getting off where they thought desirable and then had to be housed and rationed with schools and like buildings taken into service. Invasion through Surrey from the south or east was anticipated and arrangements made to deal with the receipt and passing of inhabitants, cattle, implements etc., and also arrange for the evacuation of the county itself. Four thousand Special Constables were raised to help with any evacuation; these numbers were an addition to those undertaking normal duties.[32] Special Constables were detailed to keep order in the villages and also along selected refugee routes. The rendezvous for all cattle was Richmond Park. On the first day of the war the chief constable realised that no provision had been made by the military for guarding their line of communications, the railway, from Aldershot to Dover. A posse of armed civilians was organised by the police to continuously guard vulnerable points. This was kept up for two months until relieved by Territorial soldiers. The important powder works at Chilworth were guarded by two unarmed police officers until all danger of sabotage was over, when the police were relieved by the Home Defence Corps armed to the teeth. [33] Harry Douglas Feasey later a sergeant was awarded the

[31] Durrant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 46
[32] Durrant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 46
[33] Durrant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 47

Distinguished Conduct Medal before joining the Surrey Constabulary after war service in 1919.[34]

1914 August 4: Nine men from the Guildford Borough were **called to the colours** as reservists leading to shortages. The 17 men of the Fire Brigade were sworn in as special constables and lamps, whistles and handcuffs were obtained for their use; 12 Specials were being paid five shillings a day. The strength of the force with Specials was 36 but there were additional duties associated with the mobilisation. The Chief Constable reported that "150 local gentlemen had rendered excellent service as Town Guards" but most wished to be relieved of their duties by the end of the month. Officers engaged on "point duty" (was this vulnerable points as opposed to traffic points) were armed with pistols. Police lost the use of the drill hall for their training and purchased an ambulance for £14 2 6d for use by the police. Large numbers of soldiers were billeted in the town. [35]

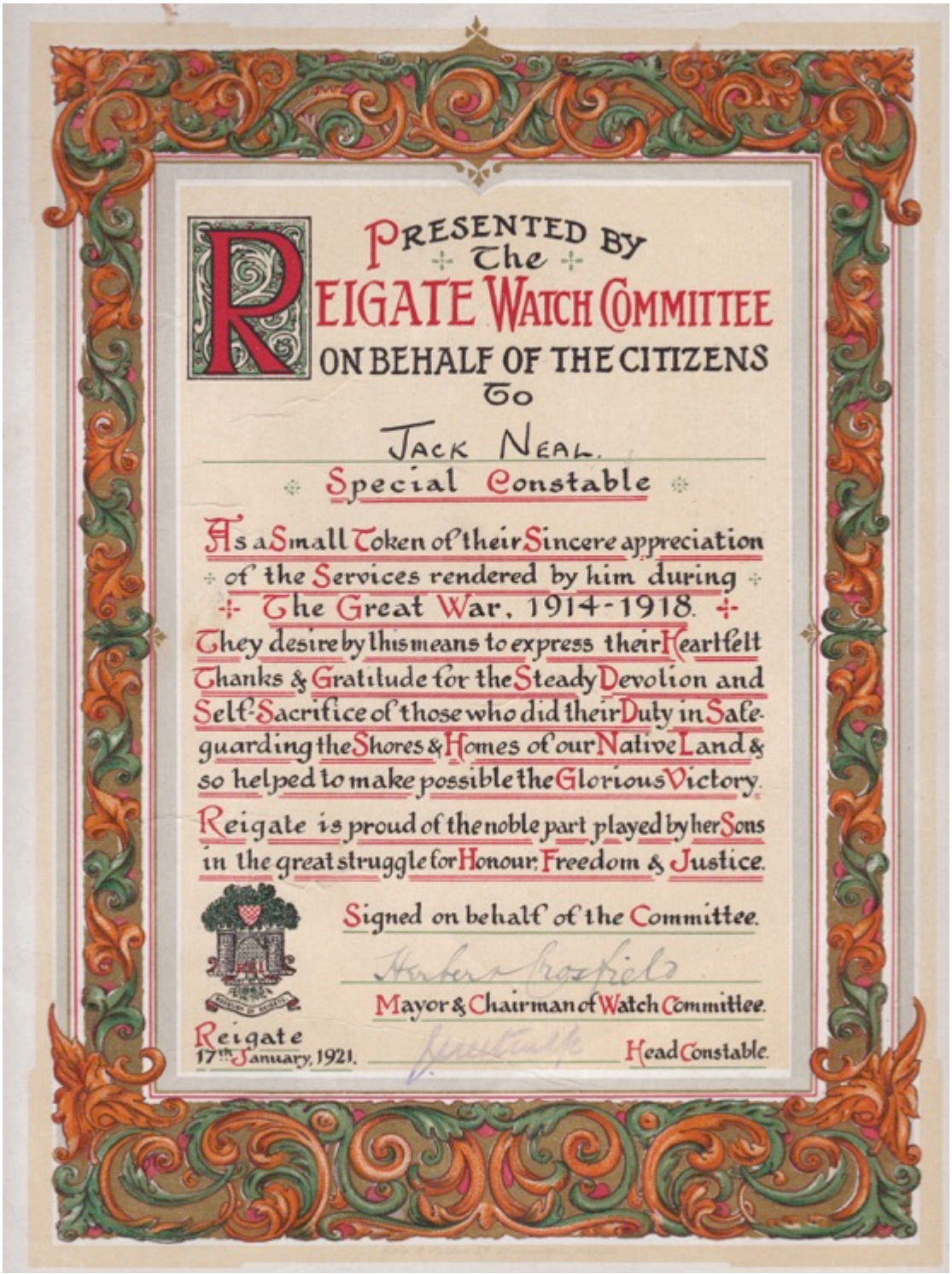
1914: On the outbreak of war there were two thousand **Special Constables** in the county. During the war some four thousand nine hundred and eighty seven were sworn in

1915 Guildford Special Constabulary 47 section leaders and 228 special constables [36]

1918 Reigate Borough Police: Tony: Below is a lovely Reigate Borough Police scroll. The scroll is 340mm high x 248mm wide - Printed area is 278mm High x 204mm Wide. Neil recently bought it from EBay along with a badge. This is a rare if not unique document.

Neil says: "Both myself and my father are keen on local history I have been working a Roll of Honour for Redhill, Reigate and Merstham during the First World War for a few years and have been collecting WW1 medals awarded to locals who served (This is in addition to already collecting to The Queen's Regiment although there is a lot of crossover) The Neal family consisted of four brothers, Jack being the youngest, the other three all served in Army during the war. Jack appeared before the Military Tribunals saying that with three Brothers already serving there was no one left to look after his widowed mother, so he was granted exemption on the condition that he became a Special Constable."

[34] Off Beat April 1982
[35] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[36] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary



1919 about – report from Chief Constable on learning points from **policing** the **First World War:** The major points are: Surrey was an unrestricted area and being close to the Metropolis received an influx of refugees at times of anticipated air raids. These refugees were for the most part from the east of London and mainly consisted of aliens many of whom were undesirable characters. They arrived in trainloads and got off where they liked causing considerable difficulties and annoyance in the districts where "they dumped themselves". Housing had to be found for them without warning

“but the feeding capacities in view of rationing and the scarcity of food were much taxed and special arrangements had to be made with the rationing authorities.” Occasionally all the schools and like buildings had to be used to house undesirable refugees an in any future war preparations should be made beforehand to deal with it. One suggestion was that railway companies should be prohibited from bringing refugees down without consultation with authorities of the districts to which they bring them. Locations outside London suitable for receiving refugees should be agreed beforehand and they should not be taken to any other place. It was accepted that this would not deal with those that arrived by motorcar of which there were many.

Surrey was in the danger zone and on any invasion route and arrangements had to be made to deal with the receipt and passing on of inhabitants, cattle, implements etc. from Sussex but also to arrange for the evacuation of the county itself. In order to carry out these duties a force of four thousand Special Constables was raised in addition to those on ordinary duty. These Special Constables were earmarked for defence of the realm duties only and did no other work of a police nature. ------- The main requisite was to collect all persons, cattle, material etc., and move them by routes other than the main roads so as to leave the latter free for military use. --------- In villages Special Constables were detailed for the various duties, some in connection with the removal of inhabitants, others for cattle, etc., everything required to be moved being dealt with by the requisite numbers of Special Constables. Others were detailed to keep order along the various routes selected and some were in place at every junction of the main roads to hold up refugees if necessary to keep the roads clear for the military. The rendezvous for all cattle, etc., was Richmond Park.

There was much guarding of key and vulnerable points, which seem to have not been considered by the authorities in the move to war. Much of this was done by the Special Constabulary or unarmed policemen

The providing of billets for military authorities was another great tax upon the police, fifteen thousand found in the first winter of the war. The troops arrived ignorant of everything and had to be "spoon fed". The spy and signalling mania with which the public became infected proved a source of continual trouble and the public was a perfect nuisance. Every Defence of the Realm Regulation added to already onerous duties of the police and the influx of aliens from restricted areas and their supervision also caused a great deal of work. The correspondence became colossal.

I was very hard pressed all over the county to allow notice to be given of air raids. This I refused to do with the result that instead of sitting up all night in fear the inhabitants slept comfortably in their beds and only learnt of the raids by reading the papers next morning. The police and special constables were given full instructions as to their duties should bombs be dropped in their vicinity and that I held was sufficient.

Being an unrestricted area Surrey experienced an influx of Belgian refugees who came in large numbers without warning and were distributed across the county. The time of the police was much occupied in finding and registering them.

At the busiest time in the War a census of all agricultural implements was urgently called for. It can be imagined what the distribution and collection of two thousand two hundred and fifty forms meant in the way of work for the police. Then there was the requisitioning of horses of which many thousands were obtained in this county. Countless returns were called for from time to time and when considering the preparations to be made in the event of another war as many of these matters as possible should be foreseen and dealt with beforehand.[37]

[37] SCC Archives CC98/72 undated

William Eustace former Met Inspector SPC at Bagshot Special Constable

Reigate Borough special constables, 1918.

Guildford Cathedral

Guildford Cathedral

The Regulars Return

1919 men returned from the war serving in Woking. Note wound bars and overseas chevrons

Overseas service chevrons were introduced in early 1918 and were small and inverted and worn on the right cuff. King's Regulations "no longer fit for military service"; blue stripe indicates one year's overseas service. This was worn on the right lower sleeve. The wound stripe was worn on the left lower sleeve

Police Sergeant Herbert John (Pat) Wheal

SURREY CONSTABULARY
APPOINTMENT BOOK
Appointment Number 2332

Name Herbert John Wheal

Age 22 **D.O.B.** 09/07/1916 **Height** 5 **ft** 10 **ins** **Complexion** Fresh

Hair Dark Brown **Eyes** Greeny Grey **Marks** Nil

Born in the parish of London **in the county of** _____

Married _____ **on** _____ **at** _____

Trade Clerk Last Residence 45, Forest Lane, West Ham, E15

By Whom Last Employed, and Where. E.W. Rose, Gt Titchfield St, London. N1

What Relatives Residing In Surrey and Where Nil

Previous Public Service Nil

Length of Service Nil

No. on Collar 419

Date of Appointment 5th February 1939

When Sworn in, and where 10th February 1939 at Guildford

Before what Magistrates Mr Thorpe and Mrs Strachey

Where first stationed Woking 11/02/39

Promotions

Date	From	To
24 Feb 1957	Constable	Sergeant

Removals

Date	From	To
3 Mar 1941	Woking	Headquarters
15 Feb 1943	HQ	RAF
1 Oct 1945	RAF	HQ (Crime Bureau)
30 April 1951	HQ (Crime Bureau)	Dorking
16 Mar 1953	Dorking	Camberley (Detective)
14 Nov 1955	Camberley	HQ (Crime Bureau) (Indoor Detective)

Date		
No Date listed	**Passed Official Anti-Gas-Course**	
15 Feb 1943	**Called up for Service in RAF De reserved 1st July 1942 and volunteered For flying duties**	
5, 6 & 11 June 1943	**Sat for Examination for Sergeant and Passed**	
30 June 1946	**Sat for Examination for Sergeant and Passed**	
15, 16 & 21 Feb 1947	**Sat for Examination for Inspector and Failed**	
No Date listed	**Gave notice of wish to pay pension contributions at higher rate**	
4 Dec 1948	**Sat for Examination for Inspector and Passed educationally**	
6 July 1949	**Accepted averaging for Police Pensions Regs 1949**	
1/1/51 – 10/3/51	**Passed a Course of instruction for Detective Constables at Metro. P. Tng School Hendon**	
7 April 1951	**Sat for Examination for Inspector and Failed in police duties (GO1385)**	
19 April 1952	**Sat for Examination for Inspector and Failed in police duties**	
5 April 1956	**Pens Cons 5% less -/2d ? P.P. Regns 1956**	
13 Feb 1961	**Police Long Service & Good Conduct Medal**	
26 Oct 1967	**Commended by CC for exceptional interest and zeal shown in the preparation of the Cadet recruiting files. A task outside his normal duties**	
23/24 Jan 1968	**Man management at HQ**	

Cause and Date of Removal from the Force Pensioned on Completion of Service 22nd February 1969

Conduct During Service **Exemplary**

Date of Certificate **25th of February 1969**

Completed 30 Years, Approved Service.

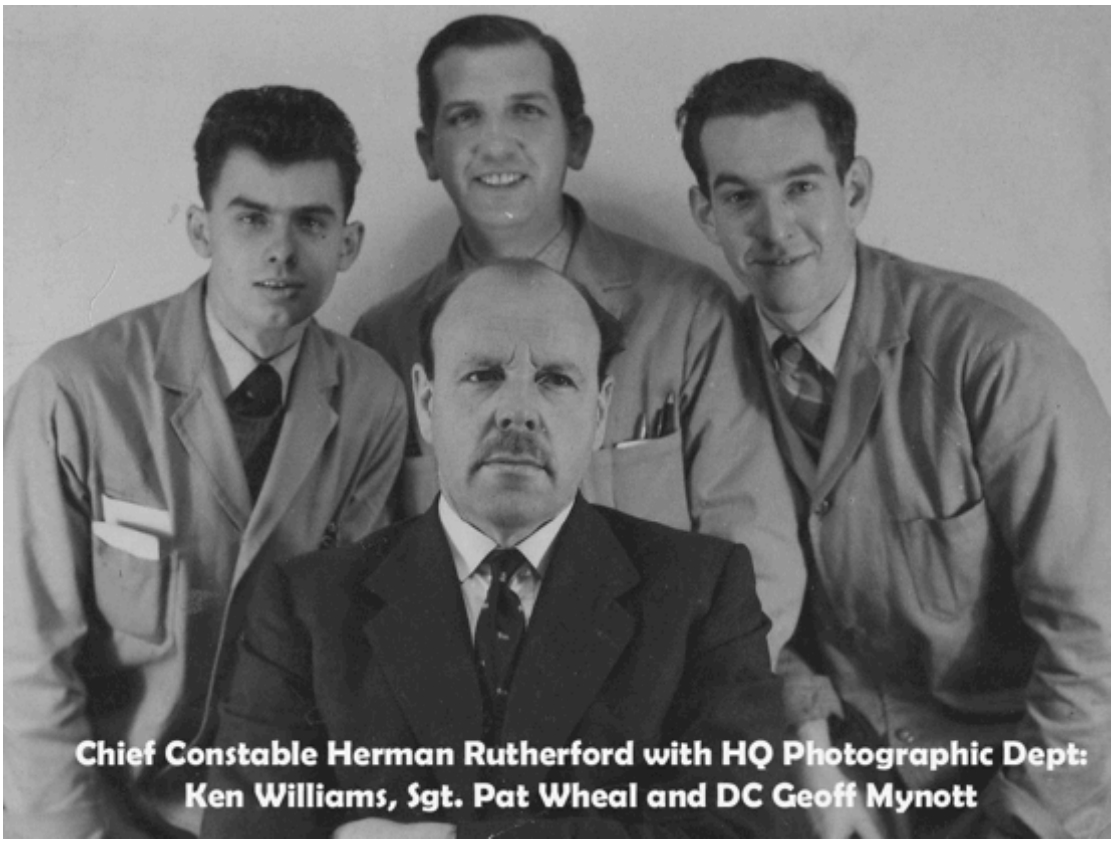
Amount of pay on retirement £ Average for the last three years £ 1342.4.5

Pension @ 40/60 ths £ 894.16.3 or Gratuity £ - Granted.

Less £221.16.9 commuted to produce a lump sum of £2,580.3.1
Net pension £672.19.6 pa SPC 23.2.69

Pat Wheal

Geoff Mynott, Pat Wheal and Cadet Williams late 1950s

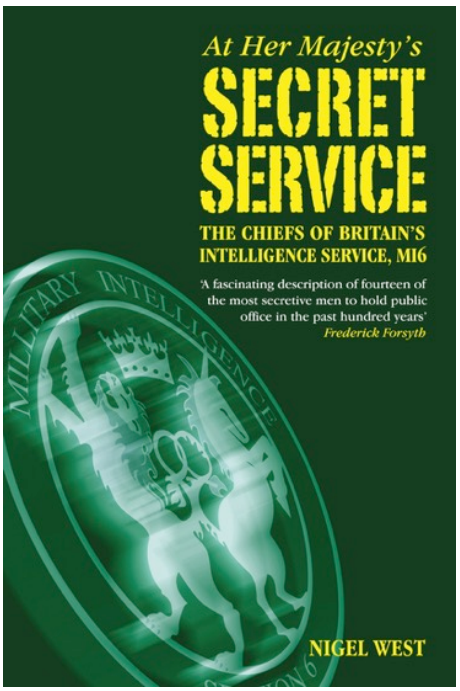


Sergeant Pat Wheal in this picture is believed to be Herbert Wheal whose record of service is above. Pat worked in HQ for many years in photographic department.

HQ Photographic late 1960s Pat Wheel, Jack Woodford, Bramley Hall, unknown, Ken Williams, Timber Wood and a lady administrator

Police Sergeant Pat Wheals police medals to which are to be added his Second World War RAF service

Book Reviews



At Her Majesty's Secret Service: The Chiefs of Britain's Intelligence Agency, MI6

frontline BOOKS
Pages: 246
ISBN: 9781848328945
Published: 30th June 2016

Author Rupert Allason alias Nigel West is a military historian, journalist and former Conservative Party politician. He was the MP for Torbay in Devon, from 1987 to 1997. He writes books and articles on the subject of espionage under the pen name Nigel West.
Nigel West often speaks at intelligence seminars and has lectured at both the KGB headquarters in Dzerzhinsky Square and at the CIA headquarters in Langley. He is now a member of the faculty at the Centre for Counterintelligence & Security Studies in Washington DC. (www.cicentre.com)

In 2003 Nigel was awarded the US Association of Former Intelligence Officers' first Lifetime Literature Achievement Award.

Summary: in August 1909, Admiral Alexander Bethell, Director of Naval Intelligence, summoned a kindly, balding, figure named Mansfield Smith-Cumming to London to assume the inaugural position of Chief – more famously known as 'C' – of what has become one of the world's leading intelligence agencies, the British Secret Intelligence Service.

Whilst the organisation has developed in just over 100 years since its inception, the position of C, held since 2024 by Alex Younger has in many respects remained unchanged. This remarkable book tells the story of that role, from Smith-Cumming to John Sawers (2009-2014) and each of the other thirteen Cs in-between, all of whom still get reports headed 'CX' i.e. Cumming Exclusively.

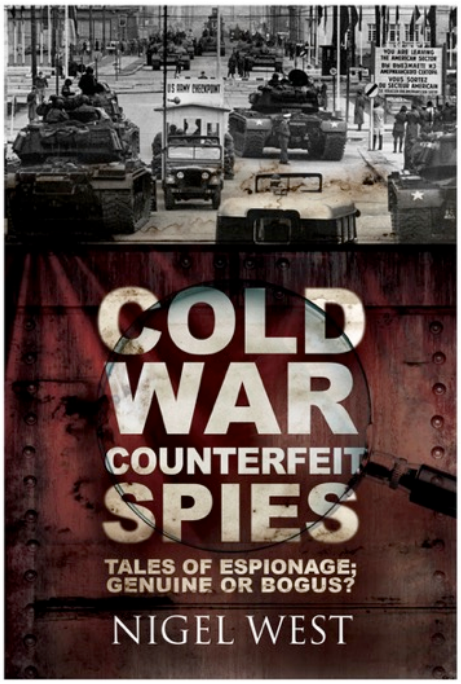
Each biography is set against the intriguing political backdrop of the period, from the days leading up to the First World War, through the Nazi regime in Germany, the Cold War battle with Soviet Russia, to the present terrorist threats. The result is an absorbing and highly entertaining portrait of the mysterious world of global espionage.

Review: This is an updated reprint of a book of the same title published in October 2006. As to be expected from such a prolific and knowledgeable author, the book is packed full of facts and tales of espionage but space restricts detail in many areas. Concentrating on the time in office of the leaders of SIS brings a structure to the book

encompassing scandal and some of the well-known activities of the Service. Of course much remains very secret, very secret indeed and no matter how informed and well serviced with informants and open sources an author is, a dozen or so pages covering a number of years naturally restricts content and therefore revelation. This can be frustrating. However if the reader is seeking a full history up to modern time of the SIS that is not available though there are large volumes available covering long gone operations and tribulations. The official history stops in 1949.

In the early days the spread of operations and activities were limited and within the grasp and understanding of the head of the Service. However once deployed, officers were free from senior management and were therefore more entrepreneurial! This can no longer the case. The nature and scale of intelligence gathering has undergone a revolution following the attack on the Twin Towers. Huge investment in specialist staffing, computing and IT, the growth of telecommunications and the Internet with social media has enhanced considerably the effectiveness of the security agencies. However people are still required. More technicians than in the past, many more analysts and language experts but there remains the requirement for feet on the ground; brave people prepared to risk a great deal to determine an operation. The heads of intelligence agencies are no doubt considerably more involved in the day to day than their recent predecessors, authorising operations and liaising with government and ministers. Instant communications to anywhere in the world enables operations to be micro managed a capability adding to already huge responsibilities of senior people. Managing and spending a budget of almost £1.9 billion for the three main UK agencies is a task in itself without the added complexities of keeping on top of the numerous operations mounted by the increased staff numbers. Always looking for that episode with the potential for political and institutional discomfiture.

This is an intriguing book that will I am sure lead the non cognoscenti reader to dig deeper amongst the large number of books on SIS and the Security Service together with military and communications history. But, who is to be believed? The next recently published Nigel West book considers the number of volumes on spying and tales of daring do, written by romantics, fantasists, phonies and imposters or those who add two and two to make 22! It maybe that truth and intelligence can not always be linked and with the passage of time, various filters and deception people's truths change and surviving institutional records establish how that organisation or individuals wish history to be. Churchill is believed to have said, "I know how history will remember me, as I shall write it." Possibly some of the agencies with an eye to the distant future will ensure their actions and activities were always on the side of the gods! With all these uncertainties the book is a valuable contribution to awareness of the activities of the secret state, fascinating and absorbing.



Cold War Counterfeit Spies

By Nigel West

frontline BOOKS
Pages: 252
ISBN: 9781473879553
Published: 1st August 2016

Author Rupert Allason alias Nigel West is a military historian, journalist and former Conservative Party politician. He was the MP for Torbay in Devon, from 1987 to 1997. He writes books and articles on the subject of espionage under the pen name Nigel West.

Nigel West often speaks at intelligence seminars and has lectured at both the KGB headquarters in Dzerzhinsky Square and at the CIA headquarters in Langley. He is now a member of the faculty at the Centre for Counterintelligence & Security Studies in Washington DC. (www.cicentre.com)

In 2003 Nigel was awarded the US Association of Former Intelligence Officers' first Lifetime Literature Achievement Award.

Summary: The Cold War, with its air of mutual fear and distrust and the shadowy world of spies and secret agents, gave publishers the chance to produce countless stories of espionage, treachery and deception. What Nigel West has discovered is that the most egregious deceptions were in fact the stories themselves. In this remarkable investigation into the claims of many who portrayed themselves as key players in

clandestine operations, the author has exposed a catalogue of misrepresentations and falsehoods.

Did Greville Wynne really exfiltrate a GRU defector from Odessa? Was the frogman Buster Crabb abducted during a mission in Portsmouth Harbour? Did the KGB run a close-guarded training facility, as described by J. Bernard Hutton in School for Spies, which was modelled on a typical town in the American mid-west, so agents could be acclimatised to a non-Soviet environment?

With the help of witnesses with first-hand experience, and recently declassified documents, Nigel West answers these and other fascinating questions from a time when secrecy and suspicion allowed the truth to be concealed.

Review: "Cold War Counterfeit Spies Tales of Espionage Genuine and Bogus" is a follow on from West's 1999 work, which covered similar ground but concentrating on the Second World War. With so many doubtful authors peddling half-truths, exaggeration and downright lies who is to be trusted? When reading history at University undergraduates are taught to make a judgement on the author of the work, based around their background, training, and level of education, publications and works of scholarship. You have to make your mind up if you can you trust the author or at least read with scepticism. This is certainly the question to be asked for work published about the security world, which seems to attract a whole range of Walter Mitteys as hangers on! Have these people sat in front of a typewriter and made it all up or have some been fed material by intelligence organisations to spread misinformation and to cause problems for governments and competitor organisations. What is the truth? What is truth?

So why do they do it? Often there is little financial gain and if there is an enthusiasm for the subject why manufacture lies? Is it to satisfy a yearning for status or seen as a way in to the closed world where entry is forbidden? In a recent article in The Times David Aaronovitch considers why artists forge art and concludes it is often some form of protest against the art establishment. Aaronovitch also concludes that the "buyer" agrees to being deceived and once your reputation is invested it is extraordinary difficult other than to stick with your mistake.

In this closed world of espionage it may be best not just to ask what truth is: but also to ask instead how we can recognise it with any reliability when it appears. This is a hard enough question for the intelligence analyst with all the resources of a major organization what chance a freelance author! For the outsider determined to write on the subject where do they get their information and what of its reliability? How will they judge if they are being fed nonsense, being used? Do they care? Do they get an adrenalin rush by believing they have entered the inner sanctum of professional intelligence operators and believe what they write? Are some of the works written by

charlatans or are the tales embellished to make the books marketable? Or does the work start as fiction later being dressed up as truth?

Manufactured tales of espionage and undercover work are now more likely to be revealed as deception than in the past with the mass release of restricted information by rogue operators. However wholesale release of secret and confidential material is certainly nothing new. One of the most newsworthy cases exploded onto the scene following the release by Daniel Ellsberg a former United States military analyst who precipitated a national political controversy in 1971. In the pre-computer age he released what were known as the Pentagon Papers, a top-secret study of U.S. government decision-making in relation to the Vietnam War.

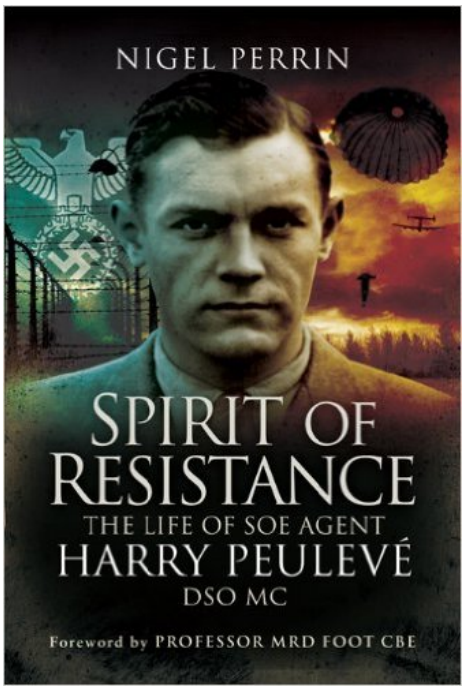
The overwhelming presence of computers linked with poor security led to significant damage by two low-level US employees of the secret world. Chelsea Elizabeth Manning (born Bradley Edward Manning) a United States Army soldier who was convicted by in 2013 of violations of the Espionage Act and other offences, after disclosing to WikiLeaks nearly three-quarters of a million classified or unclassified but sensitive military and diplomatic documents. This massive release of secret information was compounded by the activities of Edward Snowden, an American computer professional, former Central Intelligence Agency employee, and former contractor for the United States government who copied and leaked classified information from the National Security Agency in 2013. How can the secret world guard its operations, methods and people when the threat of wholesale release of material is a possibility? What astonishes is that low-level employees had unrestricted access to so much secret and confidential information. It is now clear that a report or note written today may be disclosed tomorrow a fact that will make people hyper cautious with their documentation and lead to a lack of a written record. This illegal release of secret information may also damn the counterfeit author!

Prolific author Nigel West raises many questions about reliability of information and sources destroying the claims and myths established by the writers of best selling books. It is frightening how many authors he has identified whose work does not stand close scrutiny by someone with considerable background knowledge of the security world and it operations.

Just one example from many the case of self styled Brigadier Alexander Wilson DSO DFC (from his time in the RFC during the First World War) author of spy and mystery stories, multiple bigamist who having worked at monitoring telephone lines in London for SIS in wartime, styled himself to his four wives and seven children as an active member of SIS which of course, demanded time away from home. Wilson had a criminal record including for wearing medals to which he was not entitled. He was a gifted linguist and wrote numerous books, a philanderer and prone to financial misconduct.

So what is the harm? Does it matter and are there benefits for those who operate in the secret world that fabricated yarns establish that people of great resourcefulness and courage are members of their organisations? West considers that such books do incredible harm and rarely does criticism follow the books across the world. Often years after a book has hit the headlines it is still being quoted as an accepted, reliable account of the events it claims to document. Some books wrong as they are, exacerbate political and social strains within communities such as wrongly and knowingly alleging British dirty tricks, which inhibit the search for peace and reconciliation in Ireland.

Not just a fascinating read but a very useful contribution to the genre of intelligence and specialist operations.



Spirit of Resistance: The Life of SOE Agent Harry Peulevé DSO MC

19 Nov 2008
Nigel Perrin (Author), M. R. D. Foot (Foreword)
Hardcover: 224 pages
Publisher: Pen & Sword Military; 1st edition (19 Nov. 2008)
ISBN-10: 1844158551
ISBN-13: 978-1844158553

Summary: One of the most determined and courageous secret agents of the Second World War, Harry Peulevé joined the BEF in 1940 before volunteering for F Section of the Special Operations Executive. On his first mission to occupied France to set up the SCIENTIST circuit, he broke his leg on landing and, after numerous close calls,

made an heroic crossing of the Pyrenees on sticks in December 1942. Imprisoned, he escaped and eventually returned to England in May 1943. He formed a close friendship with Violette Szabo before setting out to train a Maquis group in central France. Despite the Gestapo's repeated attempts to catch him he built up a secret army of several thousand resistance fighters. Eventually betrayed and captured, he was tortured at Avenue Foch but never broken. By coincidence he and Violette met while in captivity before Harry was sent to Buchenwald where he not only avoided execution but also managed to escape reaching American lines in April 1945. Sadly Peulevé never fully recovered from his wartime traumas but nothing can detract from his outstanding courage and contribution.

Violette Szabo

Review: For Surrey officers there is a local interest as both Szabo and Peulevé undertook selection and part of their training at Winterfold House on Pitch Hill above Ewhurst and at Wanboorough Manor just to the north of the A31 at Puttenham on Ash Section.

This is not a new book but was published in 2008 but is well worth a re-release. It was a coup for the author, for his first book to have the forward written by the late Professor MRD Foot the official historian of SOE who has a number of interesting points based on his huge knowledge of the organisation. “Even in the galaxy of heroes and heroines, muddlers and villains that made up SOE, Harry Peulevé stood out for courage and tenacity.” “There have been a lot of weak books about the exploits, and failures, of SOE. It is a relief to read a different one. Nigel Perrin has been through all the papers that have turned up at Kew as well as getting hold of the surviving members of Harry’s family and reading the books that are worth pursuing on the subject, while keeping clear of the junk that still abounds.” Foot sums up, “ His life, provides a splendid example of what a single soul can do if he has stout friends to help him and a sound cause for which to fight.”

To have the support of the leading authority on the history of SOE for the book is an indication of the quality not just of the writing but also of the accuracy of the detail and overall the reality of being a trainee agent and their deployment. This was not a man from a privileged background but someone caught up as an English soldier in the evacuation from France. His feeling of helplessness and having been a coward walking away from people who needed his help drew him into the Special Forces.

The author has written well about the selection, training and deployment of agents and the secret world within which they operated. Harry Peuleve parachuted into German occupied France to recruit, train and lead the fledgling French Resistance. From the start his mission was wrecked as he fractured his leg after being dropped from the aircraft too low. His operation was curtailed eventually making his way back to England via Spain. At this point there was a tale of great courage and initiative but the story was incomplete as he was to return to France. Harry volunteered for a second mission and returned to France. He formed teams of French Maquis Resistance to harass the Germans, in this he demonstrated outstanding gallantry and leadership in an engagement with some 400 well armed Germans killing some 50 of them before making his escape.

In a period of betrayal and concentrated Gestapo activity this operation in the south of France was constantly fraught. Harry shot his way out of one Gestapo ambush killing two. He became involved in the detention of a German posing as an RAF officer to infiltrate the escape lines as well as working with the Secret Army. Harry was betrayed, captured and brutally tortured by the Gestapo at Avenue Foch in Paris. He was sent to Buchenwald from where he escaped as the war ended. His courage and leadership were rewarded with a DSO and MC

Peulevé's story continues into the difficult area of the peacetime re-adjustment of a man who suffered severe trauma. To the time of his death in 1963 he was still experiencing nightmares of his time in Buchenwald and it is likely that to subdue the mental agony he slipped into excessive drinking. Harry Peulevé was to die alone in a hotel bedroom whilst on business in Spain aged 47.

This is quite a story helped in the telling because Harry wrote about his experiences through a memoir, which was not completed nor published. With the help of Harry's family now living in Denmark, a vast trawl of the National Archives and even some elderly ex SOE agents has produced an excellent book that has greatly added to the history of this incredible wartime organization. This has resulted in a well-written book that will hold the reader's attention.

Mary Ann Cotton - Dark Angel

Britain’s First Female Serial Killer

Martin Connolly
Imprint: Pen & Sword History (Paperback)

Pages: 186
ISBN: 9781473876200
Published: 1st August 2016

Author Martin Connolly

Martin Connolly was born in Belfast in 1951. Married with seven grown up children, he has completed research in Psychology, Theology, Judaism and the Holocaust. He has published in magazines, and produced teaching materials in the three disciplines as well as writing on the origins of the conflict in Northern Ireland. His other books include A Potted History of West Auckland, and The Miners' Triumph: The First English World Cup Win in Football History.

Summary: A female thief, with four husbands, a lover and, reportedly, over twelve children, is arrested and tried for the murder of her step-son in 1872, turning the small village of West Auckland in County Durham upside down. Other bodies are exhumed and when they are found to contain arsenic, she is suspected of their murder as well. The perpetrator, Mary Ann Cotton, was tried and found guilty and later hanged on 24

March 1873 in Durham Goal. It is claimed she murdered over twenty people and was the first female serial killer in England.

With location photographs and a blow-by-blow account of the trial, this book challenges the claim that Mary Ann Cotton was the 'The West Auckland Borgia', a title given to her at the time. It sets out her life, trial, death and the aftermath and also questions the legal system used to convict her by looking at contemporary evidence from the time and offering another explanation for the deaths. The book also covers the lives of those left behind, including the daughter born to Mary Ann Cotton in Durham Goal.

Mary Ann Cotton: England's First Serial Killer

Review: Mary Ann Cotton was born **Mary Ann Robson** in 1832 and died on the scaffold on the 24 March 1873 having been convicted for killing of a stepson by poison. It is possible she had as many as 21 victims, including eleven of her thirteen children and a number of husbands. It was alleged she mostly used arsenic poisoning, which caused severe gastric pain and rapid decline of health. The author considers that there are doubts as to the number of murders committed by Cotton, or if she murdered any of the victims. However on the balance of probabilities it would appear that these deaths were caused by poison; but how was this poison administered and was it administered deliberately and with the intent of killing the victim? The author considers that an independently minded reader will be drawn to conclude that there is a reasonable doubt as to the guilt of Cotton. This is a fraught path to travel given modern attitudes to criminal investigations and the trial process. The police officers

and magistrates who would have been involved in the investigation, at times under the direction of the coroner should not be underestimated. So many deaths occurred and were accepted by the authorities as natural causes, which of course did not result in a detailed or thorough enquiry. Given all the constraints on the investigation, and my goodness this case had many, the prosecution charged just one murder by poisoning.

Arsenic had a number of uses and could be bought from the chemist or grocer. These uses included in the manufacture of glass, farmers used it to control pests and was used in sheep dip. With medicinal and cosmetic uses arsenic was best known in the nineteenth century as a dye Scheele's Green or emerald green. It was used in wallpaper, as it did not fade like vegetable dyes. It was unbelievably used in food to add colour, which in at least once case in Northampton killed the consumer. It was also used to induce a miscarriage. Arsenic had utility as a medicine used sparingly.

Home remedies were essential as medical assistance was sparse and expensive. The problem for the doctor was identifying a poisoning from natural causes and if it was a poisoning if this was a criminal act that included suicide or accidental. Any doubts led to the Coroner being informed. As arsenic was colourless and flavourless it was easy to feed to victims but it was not until 1836 a test was developed that would detect a small amount of poison that would remain in the body. The arsenic test was enhanced in 1841.

In London in 1834 Alfred Swaine Taylor the so called father of forensic science, was appointed professor of medical jurisprudence at Guy's Medical School in London. He published papers and books on poisons and poisoning. Swaine Taylor was very active in the courts in the south and eastern England and his work allowed him to identify particularly arsenic and the volumes used. At the time of the allegations against Cotton he was at the top of his profession, highly regarded as a forensic scientist and expert. He was not however called upon in this case, as in Leeds there was also a very competent forensic scientist. The suspicious death of Charles was investigated and a post mortem undertaken as was then the way, by the local doctor. Analyses using the Reinesch method detected arsenic and the viscera was sent to Dr Scattergood in Leeds a leader in the identification of poisons, who confirmed the child's death was due to arsenic poisoning. The prosecution then had to prove beyond all reasonable doubt how that poison was deliberately administered. The judge ruled that details of the other suspicious deaths could not be given in evidence.

In 1852, at the age of 20, Mary Ann married colliery labourer William Mowbray in Newcastle upon Tyne register office; they soon moved to Plymouth, Devon. The couple had five children, four of whom died from gastric fever. William and Mary Ann moved back to North East England where they had, and lost, three more children. William became a foreman at South Hetton Colliery and then a fireman aboard a steam vessel. He died of an intestinal disorder in January 1865. William's life was

insured and Mary Ann collected £35 on his death, equivalent to about half a year's wages for a manual labourer at the time.

Soon after Mowbray's death, Mary Ann moved to Seaham Harbour where she had a relationship with Joseph Nattrass. During this time, her 3½-year-old daughter died, leaving her with one child out of the nine she had borne. She returned to Sunderland and took up employment at the Sunderland Infirmary and sent her remaining child to live with her mother.

One of her patients at the infirmary was an engineer George Ward whom Mary Ann married on 28 August 1865. He continued to suffer ill health and died in October 1866 after a long illness characterised by paralysis and intestinal problems. The attending doctor later gave evidence that Ward had been very ill, yet he had been surprised that the man's death was so sudden. Once again, Mary Ann collected insurance money from her husband's death.

James Robinson was a shipwright Sunderland a widower hired Mary Ann as a housekeeper in November 1866. A month later, when James' baby died of gastric fever, he turned to his housekeeper for comfort and she became pregnant. Then Mary Ann's mother, living in Seaham Harbour became ill so she immediately went to her. Although her mother started getting better, she also began to complain of stomach pains. She died at age 54 in the spring of 1867, nine days after Mary Ann's arrival.

Mary Ann's daughter Isabella, from the marriage to William Mowbray, was brought back to the Robinson household and soon developed bad stomach pains and died; so did another two of Robinson's children. All three children were buried in the last two weeks of April 1867.

Robinson married Mary Ann in August 1867. Their first child, Margaret Isabella, was born that November, but she became ill and died in March 1868. Their second child George was born on 18 June 1869.

Robinson become suspicious of his wife's insistence that he insure his life; he discovered that she had run up debts of £60 behind and had stolen more than £50 that she was supposed to have put in the bank. The last straw was when he found she had been forcing his older children to pawn household valuables for her. He threw Mary Ann out, retaining custody of their son George.

Mary Ann was desperate and living on the streets when her friend Margaret Cotton introduced her to her brother, Frederick Cotton, a pitman and recent widower who had lost two of his four children. Margaret had acted as substitute mother for the remaining children, Frederick Jr. and Charles. But in late March 1870 Margaret died from an undetermined stomach ailment, leaving Mary Ann to console the grieving Frederick Sr. Soon her eleventh pregnancy was underway.

Frederick Cotton and Mary Ann were bigamously married in September 1870 and their son Robert was born early in 1871. Soon after Mary Ann learnt that a former lover Joseph Nattrass, was living 30 miles away and no longer married. She rekindled

the romance and persuaded her new family to move near him. Frederick followed his predecessors to the grave in December of that year, from "gastric fever." Insurance had been taken out on his life and the lives of his sons.

After Frederick's death, Joseph Nattrass soon became Mary Ann's lodger. She gained employment as nurse to an excise officer recovering from smallpox, Richard Quick Manning. Frederick junior died in March 1872 and the infant Robert soon after. Then Nattrass became ill with gastric fever, and died – just after revising his will in Mary Ann's favour.

The insurance policy for £8 Mary Ann had taken out on Charles' life still awaited collection.

Mary Ann's downfall came when asked by a parish official Thomas Riley to help nurse a woman ill with smallpox. She complained that Charles Edward Cotton was in the way and asked Riley if he could be committed to the workhouse. Riley, who also served as West Auckland's assistant coroner, said she would have to accompany him. She told Riley that the boy was sickly and added: “I won’t be troubled long. He’ll go like all the rest of the Cottons.” Five days later, Mary Ann told Riley that the boy had died. Riley went to the village police and convinced the doctor to delay writing a death certificate until the circumstances could be investigated.

Mary Ann’s first port of call after Charles Cotton’s death was not the doctor’s but the insurance office. There, she discovered that no money would be paid out until a death certificate was issued. An inquest was held and the jury returned a verdict of natural causes. Mary Ann claimed to have used arrowroot to relieve his illness and said Riley had made accusations against her because she had rejected his advances. Then the local newspapers took up the story and discovered Mary Ann had moved around northern England losing three husbands, a lover, a friend, her mother, and a dozen children, all of whom had died of stomach fevers.

The doctor who attended Charles Cotton had organ samples, which tested positive for arsenic. He went to the police, who arrested Mary Ann and organised the exhumation of Charles' body. More samples were obtained substantiating the earlier finding. She was charged with his murder.

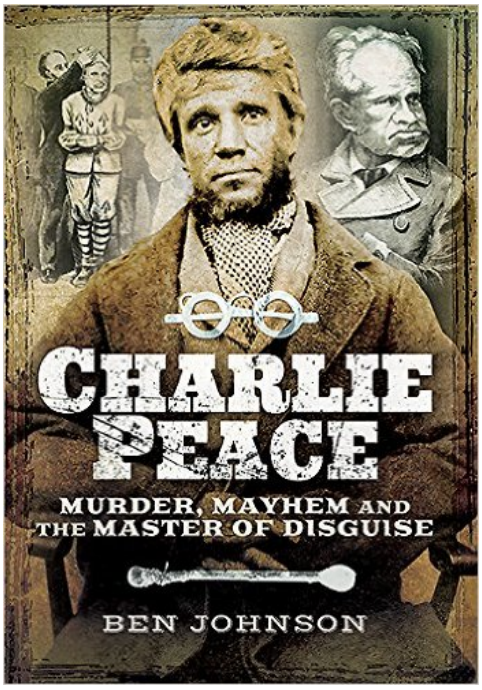
Mary Ann Cotton's trial for the murder of Charles Edward Cotton by poisoning began on 5 March 1873. The prosecution had to convince the jury not only that arsenic poisoning caused the death but also that the prisoner administered it. The defence argued that Charles had died from inhaling arsenic used as a dye in the green wallpaper of the Cotton home. (As set out above the use of arsenic was best known in the nineteenth century as a dye Scheele’s Green or emerald green. It was used in wallpaper, as it did not fade like vegetable dyes.) The jury retired for 90 minutes before finding Mary Ann guilty accepting that she had administered the poison.

The Times correspondent reported on 20 March: "After conviction the wretched woman exhibited strong emotion but this gave place in a few hours to her habitual

cold, reserved demeanour and while she harbours a strong conviction that the royal clemency will be extended towards her, she staunchly asserts her innocence of the crime that she has been convicted of." Several petitions were presented to the Home Secretary, but to no avail. Mary Ann Cotton was hanged at Durham County Gaol on 24 March 1873 by William Calcraft; she ultimately died, not from her neck breaking, but by strangulation caused by the rope being rigged too short.

Arsenic a deadly poison was used throughout the 19th century for a variety of purposes, easy to administer and for the most part, readily accessible. But how did so many deaths go unquestioned for so long? High infant mortality rates, rudimentary record keeping, and substandard nutrition of the poor all helped Mary Ann Cotton escape scrutiny. No doubt, Mary Ann who moved regularly from town to town also earned sympathy as a heartbroken mother and widow.

The author has undertaken considerable research and questions previous thinking, always a difficult thing to do given so many changes to criminal investigation and the trial process as well as trying to get inside public attitudes of those far off days. It will be for the reader to consider if Cotton was guilty of the murder of Charles as convicted, and with all the additional knowledge now available and not known to the jury whether there is every likelihood she was a serial killer or a lady constantly beset by personal tragedy.



Charlie Peace: Murder, Mayhem and the Master of Disguise

Paperback published 1 Aug 2016 160 pages

Publisher: Pen & Sword Books Ltd (1 Aug. 2016)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1473862981
ISBN-13: 978-1473862982

About the Author: Ben Johnson is a freelance writer, columnist and sub-editor. He currently writes for two true crime magazines, and has a first class Honours degree in Journalism from Sheffield Hallam University. It was while studying court reporting that he found his love for the dark subject of true crime, and since these days of sitting at cold, silent press benches, has been a prolific writer, with articles being published on both sides of the Atlantic.

Summary: A devil once lived in God's own county. A grotesque figure with many names and many faces, he could slip into the home of an unsuspecting family with the silent stealth of a cool night time breeze, and leave without a trace. Spending his nocturnal hours limping through the dirty streets with villainy on his mind, and impishly disappearing into the industrial smoke that hung over Victorian Sheffield like a perpetual storm cloud, this was a devil who was to write his own place in the folklore of his home town. Despite his fearsome reputation, this was a devil of flesh and blood. He was just a man, but a man with an unrivalled talent in the dark art of criminality and such was his fame for murder and mayhem, that he was the most wanted man in England for a time. Tales of burglary, murder, daring escapes and a truly shocking miscarriage of justice feature in this biography, along with moments of lost love, damaged pride, and violent revenge. It is a story of a man who had turned to crime through necessity, but consciously chose to continue in an ever-spiralling life of wickedness. Once immortalised in Madame Tussaud's Chamber of Horrors, his gnarled and prematurely aged features would be the last image his victims ever saw yet ironically, he was known by the name of Peace.

Review: Peace was a wicked, nasty man who was a constant danger to the public and the police who would have to arrest him knowing he was prone to extreme violence. He had no redeeming features. His early life was not unusual other than his father was a one-legged lion tamer, and came from a stable happy home. Peace seems to have consciously turned to crime following an industrial accident when his leg was badly damaged and work became difficult to find. His father died and income was hard to come by and so he calculatingly decided to earn a living from crime however he was soon caught. During his brief first sentence he determined on becoming a professional criminal, planning his crimes, the disposal of stolen goods and the avoidance of arrest. He was to become one of the most prolific and wanted criminals of the Victorian age.

Over 25 years Peace burgled his way across Sheffield, Manchester and London, shot at several police officers, killing one, and murdered the husband of a lady whose affection he sought. He also managed to escape from prison

Peace was first arrested for house breaking in 1854. Over the next 20 years he was arrested and convicted several times. Following a prison sentence he moved to Manchester where in August 1859 he was caught committing a burglary and arrested, though not before shooting and almost murdering a police officer. For this he was sentenced to six years' penal servitude. Shortly after his release in 1866 Peace was again caught during a burglary. This time he was sentenced to eight years penal servitude at Manchester Assizes.

But while at Wakefield Prison he made an escape bid but was recaptured hiding in the governor's bedroom. Following release at the end of his sentence probably minus any time off for good behaviour, Peace moved back to Sheffield and became infatuated with Katherine Dyson, the wife of his neighbour Arthur Dyson. The couple moved to get away from Peace, but he followed them and began a campaign of intimidation and harassment that came to a head on November 27, 1876. That night, Peace was watching the Dyson's house and when Mrs Dyson opened the door to come out when she was confronted by him, holding a revolver, he said, "Speak or I will fire."

She fled in terror and Mr Dyson hearing the disturbance began to chase Peace who continually fired at him as he ran eventually hitting him in the head and killing him. Peace ran straight to his wife and when two detectives arrived at his home she told them she had not seen her husband for months. As she kept them talking, Peace climbed onto an adjoining roof and hid behind a chimneystack until detectives had finished an exhaustive search of the property. There was a price of £100 on his head and a description of him was circulated, but Peace shaved his beard, dyed his hair, put on a pair of spectacles and used a strange ability to contort his features in such a way as to change the shape of his face. He also wore a fake arm to conceal a missing finger that had been shot off.

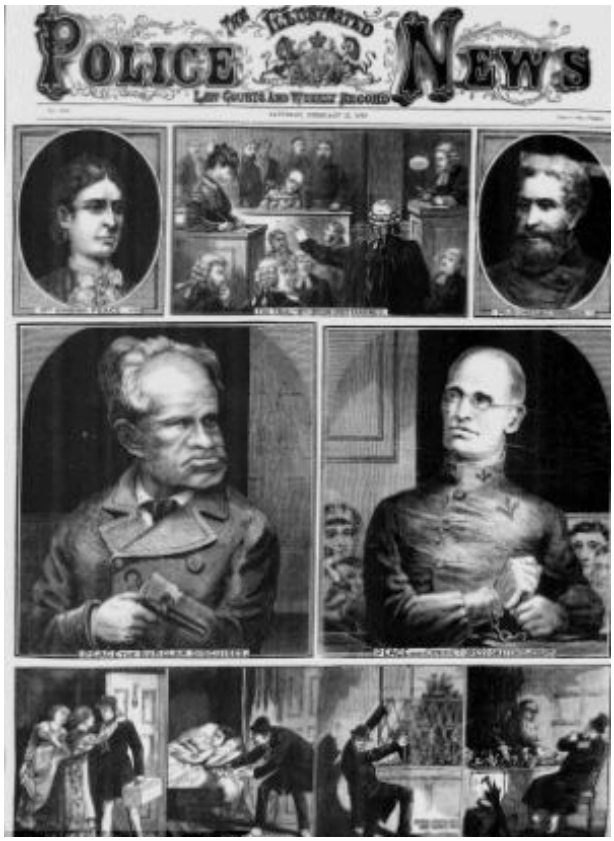
Peace went on the run and eventually settled in Peckham, south east London, using the name Thompson. He bought and sold musical instruments by day and burgled houses by night of ten increasing his stock! At 2am on October 10, 1878 during a series of burglaries in the affluent suburb of Blackheath, Peace was disturbed by PC Edward Robinson and jumped out of a window. The officer gave chase and, despite being shot at five times and badly wounded he gallantly held on to Peace until help arrived.

Peace gave his name as John Ward and was convicted at the Old Bailey on November 10, 1878, of attempting to murder PC Robinson. He was sentenced to a life of penal servitude and PC Robinson was given a £25 reward on the recommendation of the jury.

Living in Peckham with Peace had been a 'Mrs Thompson', his widowed mistress Susan, who eventually admitted to the police John Ward's true identity. Peace was taken from Pentonville prison to Sheffield, where he stood trial for the murder of Arthur Dyson, but not before engaging in a violent struggle with his guards and throwing himself from a train in an unsuccessful bid to escape justice. On February 4, 1879 Peace's trial began at Leeds Assizes; the jury convicted him after deliberating for 12 minutes and he was sentenced to death.

Just over nine years earlier on the 1st August 1870 there was an attempted burglary at a large villa on the corner of Seymour Grove and Manchester Road, Chorlton. The house still stands but has been enlarged into a public house – sometimes called The Grove, sometimes called The Seymour. P.C. Beanland and P.C. Nicholas Cock of the Lancashire Constabulary noticed a suspicious character and separated to intercept the suspect. In doing so, P.C. Cock surprised the man but in trying to arrest him P.C. Cock was fatally shot by a revolver bullet.

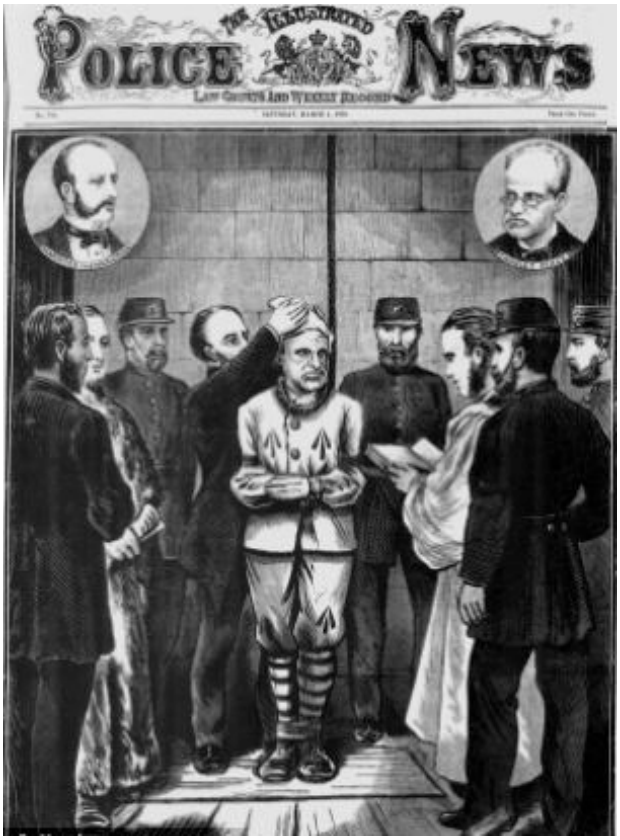
Two local brothers, John and William Habron, were arrested and charged with the killing. William was convicted for murder and sentenced to hang. Fortunately for him the Home Secretary commuted the sentence to life imprisonment.



Peace following his conviction for murder in Leeds made a confession to a priest that he was the killer of P.C. Cock. William Habron was pardoned and received five hundred pounds compensation. Peace had attended the trial but had said nothing.

The author though he adds the caveat he should not be admired, describes Peace as a criminal genius which is an overemphasis of the skill needed to be a burglar and killer and given he spent so much time in prison. He did of course murder, was caught and executed. The author also writes that for every time he was caught, he had committed several over offences for which he was not identified or charged. That is nothing new; that is quite the norm. Not many if any criminals get convicted for every offence they commit. The author concludes that Peace's terrible crimes should not be celebrated but the extraordinary life should be remembered by, "ink and paper so they may not be repeated in flesh and blood."

Most police officers and other rational people would just consider him a nasty peace of work who got what the law of the day decided he deserved thereby stopping him turning so many more people into victims.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