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

January 2018

www.surrey-constabulary.com
Editor Robert Bartlett
938at938@gmail.com

Surrey Constabulary History
Journal 37

PS Brian Craddock, Inspector Trevor Saunders at Godstone Traffic Centre

Contents

It was thought the officer on the right was PC Fred Atkins in the Surrey Constabulary before transferring to the Metropolitan Police where he was murdered. However, research at the county archives indicates he never served in the county.

PC Fred Atkins

Died 23 September 1881, aged 23

Shot three times and fatally wounded trying to arrest a burglar[1]

Peter Kennison: I represent the Police Roll of Honour Trust and I have been asked to inquire into PC Fred Atkins who was murdered in Kingston in 1881 where he was a Metropolitan Police officer. I wonder if you are able to help to find out if he was PC 66 Surrey Constabulary as I believe a picture (above) a relative has shown me with a non Metropolitan Police helmet and plate together with a crown in the collar. He is standing by Pc 60.

If PC Atkins is PC 66 Surrey Constabulary before he transferred to the Metropolitan Police when he was 19, he was likely to have been attested in Surrey 1876 or 1877 although there is evidence of a 15 year old having been attested.

PC Fred Atkins 61462 joined Metropolitan Police 7th May 1877 and was attested by Colonel Labalmondiere and was posted to V Division as PC 356V Division class advancement to 2nd class on 22nd May 1880

Atkins was murdered 23rd September 1881 shot three times by burglar at Kingston whilst inspecting a house

Census

1861 Census aged 2. Address not shown other than Walton on Thames. Father a fruiterer

1871 census shows Fred aged 12. Parents Fred and Amelia and 7 siblings. Dad is a greengrocer. Address Common Lodge, Walton on Thames. They had one servant.

Siblings John 14, Fred 12, William 10, Amelia 8, George 6, Jane 1, Lisa 3 months.

1881 census resided at George Street Police station Richmond which was the police station

Born at Walton on Thames, Surrey aged 23 in 1881 born[2] 1858 not 1851 as quoted

[1] http://www.policerollofhonour.org.uk/forces/england/metropolitan/metropolitan_roll_1829-1899.htm

[2] Dr Peter Kennison ex Metropolitan Police Inspector; son of PS 629 Frank Kennison (Surrey Constabulary) Brought up in police housing at Burpham Traffic Centre

Research at the Archives at Woking

The enrolment register at the SCC archive at Woking was consulted in January 2018. There was no trace of Fred Atkins serving in the Surrey Constabulary. He does not appear in the index to the appointments register or as an entry from 1867 when he was aged 9 to December 1877 the year when he joined the Metropolitan Police.

Each recruits collar number is given and it is reallocated when an officer leaves. Inspectors and superintendents do not have collar numbers and so on promotion the number is reallocated.

In the photograph there is PC60 and PC66. PC60 was issued a number of times but long term from September 1871 when Howard John Page joined aged 15 serving until 1921 being awarded a KPM and OBE retiring as a superintendent and Deputy Chief Constable.

Page was promoted sergeant 1881 and Inspector in 1888 when PC60 could be reallocated. Therefore the person in the photograph if it is Surrey, and it certainly looks like it, is someone after 1888.

The register was checked from 1877 to 1867 for PC66 and it was issued once to James Golding who was 30 in May 1867. He joined in August 1867 from the Army and worked most of his service in the Guildford area until he died in April 1882. It is clear therefore that PC66 served until 1882 a few years after Atkins joined the Metropolitan Police.

So neither of those in the photo appears to be who it was thought they were.

It would be useful to know when the helmet pattern was changed as that may help. There is a photo of 1881 with the new helmet but also a print dated 1911 with the old style. As always confusion is never far off!

What therefore is the providence of the photo and how has it come to be named as one of PC Atkins?

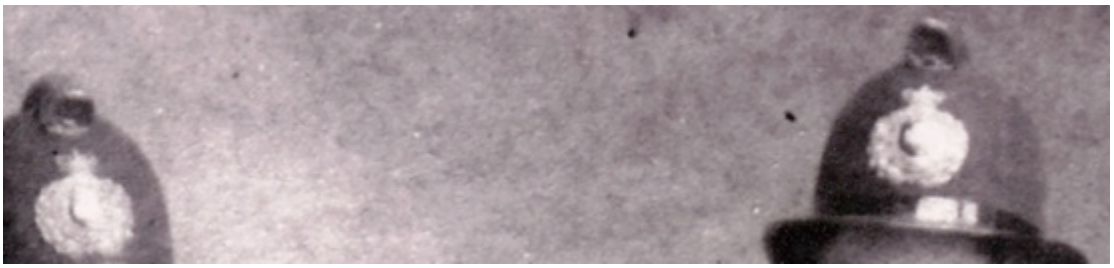
PC Fred Atkins Metropolitan Police

Chertsey Surrey Constabulary about 1880 – note helmet

The style of helmet as worn in the picture of PCs 60 and 66 matches

About Chertsey 1880

The PC on the right is not PC Atkins as thought by his family. Almost certainly a photo of two Surrey Constabulary officers

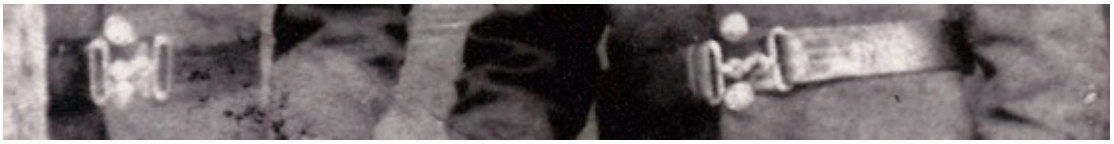


The Helmet plate matches those of Chertsey officers 1880.

At some point collar numbers are added to the helmet plate. This is pre 1902

PC 63 Tribe of Horley 1873-1893 with new style helmet

Note the S belt clasp similar to that worn in the possible Atkins photo. New style helmet but no number in the helmet, also wearing white gloves.



From a Facebook entry:

In 1881 P.C. Frederick (sic) Atkins was shot dead as he approached The Knoll, a large house on Kingston Hill in the Met's V Division, while on his beat.

Mr. Short, the butler, was woken by the sound of a pistol firing and got up to search the house, on his rounds meeting the housekeeper, who had also heard the shot. Each door proved to be secure, but as they approached the front entrance they heard a moan coming from outside. On opening the door they found P.C. Atkins, unconscious on the ground and bleeding profusely.

The two members of staff immediately alerted their employer, Mr. Powyskecki, who telephoned the police station on London Road, Kingston. Several local inspectors, along with Divisional Surgeon Dr Roots, attended The Knoll, where they found P.C. Atkins in a perilous condition, unable to be taken to hospital. He was, however, moved to Kingston police station, where he was examined by Dr Roots. It was discovered that the constable had been shot three times, once in the chest, with the bullet entering a lung, and also in the abdomen and left thigh.

The 22-year-old Atkins, who had been transferred to V Division just two months earlier, was questioned by Inspector Bond and Dr Roots, and, with great difficultly, was able to make a statement:

I did not see anybody or hear anything, which should me to imagine there were burglars at work. I went along the avenue slowly, accordingly to my usual custom when on duty there, but there was no-one about. Before I was aware of anything I saw something like the gleam of a lantern, and then whispers, after which there was a report, and then I felt I was struck by something sharp in the chest. I turned to one side quickly, when another shot was fired, and that's all I can remember.

Inspector Bond, with colleagues Crowther and Rushbridge, examined the grounds of The Knoll and a lantern and a jemmy were found underneath some bushes. An iron bar had been removed from the window of a lavatory at the side of the house, and it was here that the officers suspected the burglars were about to enter the house when they were disturbed by P.C. Atkins. With that window sitting in a dark recess, it would have been impossible for the constable to see his assailants.

The young officer survived for another twenty-four hours before succumbing to his wounds. The primary cause had been the bullet, which passed through his lung, it still being lodged in his back. A second bullet had been found by the lantern and jemmy,

with the third and final dropping from Atkins' clothing, as he was undressed at the station.

Although the Kingston police diligently searched the grounds of The Knoll and investigated their usual suspects, no clue was found as to the killer or killers, and Scotland Yard was called in. Howard Vincent wasted no time in sending Det. Inspectors Donald Swanson, Walter Andrews and Frederick Shaw to Kingston. A local blacksmith named Brockwell was soon arrested, and interviewed at Kingston police station. His boots were found to match footprints found in the grounds of The Knoll, but, despite being questioned for over five hours, no evidence could be found against him and he was released.

Despite a Government reward of £100, which was added to by a consortium of Kingston businessmen, no clue was found as to those responsible for P.C. Atkins' death. His killer was never identified.

When the funeral of the tragic constable took place a week after his death, on Thursday, 23rd September, nearly two thousand policemen from all divisions attended, most travelling by special train from Waterloo to Walton-on-Thames, where Atkins' family lived.

While attitudes ran high in the wake of Atkins' murder, it took the fatal shooting of P.C. George Cole by a burglar the following year and the attempted murder of P.C. Patrick Boans in 1883 to force the authorities to seriously consider arming their officers. It was decided to give Superintendents of the outer-lying divisions the opportunity to arm their constables on night duty, an option which received mixed reactions from within the force.

Despite this availability, it wasn't until four years later that the first revolver was fired by a Metropolitan policeman while on duty, when, on 18th February 1887, P.C. Henry Owen fired six shots into the air in an attempt to wake the residents of a burning house after his shouts had failed to rouse them.

Until 1991, the case of P.C. Frederick (sic) Atkins was only second instance of an unsolved murder of a Metropolitan Police officer, after that of P.C. George Clark in 1846. A plaque was erected in Kingston's Police Memorial Garden in Atkins' memory in 1996, and a replica erected in the Watchman public house, on the site of the former New Malden police station.[3]

[3] https://www.facebook.com/donaldsutherlandswanson/photos/a.1737079016507508.1073741828.100039782544768/1759833414232068/?type=3

1881 September 30: The Kingston Murder: The **funeral of the unfortunate policeman Fred** Atkins who was murdered by a burglar outside The Knoll, Kingston Hill last week took place yesterday afternoon in the picturesque cemetery adjoining St Mary's Church, Walton on Thames. The occasion was taken advantage of to show the great sympathy felt both by his comrades in the force and the inhabitants of the district where he was thoroughly known. The blinds in most houses were kept drawn and signs of mourning were exhibited throughout the village, while form midday business was practically suspended. At one o'clock the first portion of the police force made their appearance in the village and proceeded to the rendezvous appointed about half way between Walton and the railway station where they were joined by the remainder of the men who had come from London and other places by special trains. The entire number of police who arrived by rail was between 1500 and 1600 drawn from various divisions of the Metropolitan force all being under the individual command of Superintendent Digby V Division who had entire control of the arrangements. These were joined by members of the Surrey Constabulary and the men from adjoining districts, which must have brought the full strength up to something approaching two thousand. It was impossible that such a large number could obtain admission to the church they were formed in double ranks either side of the road from the deceased's house to the churchyard. About half past two an advance party of fifty men attached to the Richmond and Kingston stations followed by the band of the V Division playing the "Dead March", started from the house immediately preceding the coffin, carried on the shoulders of six comrades of the deceased, with 8 others acting as pall bearers. The father and mother, brothers and sisters and other relatives followed the body. Amongst the friends in attendance were the servants of Mr Powys-

Keok outside whose house the murder took place. The coffin bore the name and age of Atkins, was completely covered with flowers, which had been sent from all quarters. After the mourners there followed police sergeants of the various divisions, and then the inspectors who preceded the fire brigades from Kingston, Surbiton, Walton and Richmond. These in turn were succeeded by the Local Lodges of Odd Fellows and Foresters in funeral regalia and the rear of the cortege was brought up by some of the inhabitants. At the arrival at the gate of the churchyard the Rev. T J M'Cowan, the vicar, met the procession. The first part of the service was read in the church and then the coffin was carried to the cemetery and laid in the grave. Before the coffin was lowered into the grave Mrs and Miss Digby laid wreaths on the coffin as did many others. After the service a number of the police filed past and took a last look at the coffin of their murdered companion.[1]

Memorial Plaque

Walton on Thames

Refurbished Triumph 2500TC

From a member of the public: I have just been looking at the Vehicles 2 pages on the Surrey Constabulary website and was delighted to find a couple of photos of a Triumph 2500TC Traffic car MPB 510P.

I am the owner of this car and am in the final stages of restoring it to its original condition. I have owned the vehicle since 1997 (these jobs are never quick!) The car is based in Dorset.

Guildford Borough Police Miscellany

1918 PC James Gascoyne Guildford Borough Police commended for bravery in stopping two brewery horses in North Street [4]

1918: Guildford Borough Police: By 1918 sergeant **C. A. Emery** had been promoted to the rank of major and awarded the **MC** for bravery. **PC Punter** had been promoted to Squadron Sergeant Major and **mentioned in despatches**. Detective Constable **Mansfield** had been promoted sergeant in the Royal Garrison Artillery and **mentioned in despatches** for courage and devotion to duty in rescuing wounded and saving ammunition under shellfire. [5]

[4] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[5] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary

1927: PC William Locke and PC James Gascoyne Guildford Borough Police found a burglar in a house in Warren Road. A chase followed and when Locke overtook the thief a violent struggle ensued ceasing only when Locke had used his truncheon and Gascoyne had applied "ju-jitsu" holds. A loaded revolver was found in his pocket.[6]

1928 PC Locke Guildford Borough Police was commended for his courage in stopping a runaway horse at Ram Corner.[7]

1928: The Guildford Borough Police CID consisted of Detective Sergeant Arthur Manfield, and Detective Constables C P Fountain and H E Stone.[8]

1928: PC Bowd Guildford Borough Police was commended by the Guildford Coroner for the praiseworthy and plucky manner in which he tried to recover a man from the swollen river in darkness from the road bridge at the bottom of the High Street at night. Unfortuantely he was not succesful. [9]

1931 September the Home Office inform the Guildford Borough Police Watch Committee that **police pay was to be reduced** from the 1 October 1937, constables 5 shillings a week, sergeants 6 shilling and three pence a week, and Inspectors 7 shillings and six pence a week. Chief Officer's deductions were to be on a percentage basis.[10]

1931: When in 1931 PC Fountain joined the Guildford Borough Police CID he was on call when off duty. Housebreaking was prevelant as was theft of cycles. The cycle theft caused a lot of hard work and was finally cleared up when it was discovered that bikes were leaving the town by train avoiding the road checks that had been set up. When the thieves were arrested cycles from across England were recovered

Fountain owned a motor cycle and since the Force did not have any transport he was able to use the vehicle and claim an allowance. Before he joined CID he would often use the motor cycle on nights to pad out the cover when they were short of men. He would carry the detective sergeant in the side car – both being in plain clothes. This proved effective and they made many arrests. The motor cycle was kept in the yard of the Surrey Arms opposite the police station. The DS at the time was Manfield. [11]

[6] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[7] Press cutting dated 1928
[8] PC Bowd biography note below
[9] PC Bowd biography note below
[10] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[11] From a biographical note by PC Fountain below

DS Fountain and DS Manfield Guildford Borough Police

1932 The Guildford Borough Police Watch Committee agreed that the force be brought up to **full strength of 39**, five additional constables and one sergeant were to be appointed and one additional RAC scout be employed on point duty in addition to the five already doing this work. This would cost £1025 for the first year. Cycle use was encouraged with an allowance of £2 a year. Officers agreed for 6d a week to be donated form their pay to the **Mayor's Work Fund**.[12]

1933 Guildford Borough Police Watch Committee agreed to work closely with the county for ther detection of crime. The Chief Constable's quarterly report ending

123 warrants executed
17 persons arrested
180 people summoned
31 people cautioned for minor offences
10 people arrested for other forces
528 doors and windows found insecure and occupants or people responsible notified.
472 street lamps which were not alight were reported to the police.
130 cases where assistance rendered to ill or injured people in the street [13]

[12] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[13] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary

Overdue reports

1939 September: PC Osmund Wright: Transferred from Bristol to Guildford Borough on the 3 September 1939 with the nicknames "Ozzie" and "Wrig". His medical was with Dr Peter Milligan and after an issue around diabetes he was accepted on £3 4 shillings a week. He lived above North Street police station later moving to digs in Onslow Village. He recalls the day after war was declared a number of officers had disappeared to re-join the Colours – having the previous evening enjoyed a riotous party.

Shortly after Dunkirk there were a large number of refugees flooding into Guildford, which was known as an "unprotected area" and all had to be vetted as possible enemy agents. Tribunals were set up. PC Wright acted as an interpreter until 1942 working closely with PC Ferguson on alien issues when he volunteered for the Royal Navy leaving the Borough in August 1942.

He re-joined the Borough in 1945 and on entering his former office found that the paperwork was untouched and was as he left it. He again became deeply involved in working with aliens particularly sorting out Polish service personnel and naturalisation.

Mr Wright ended his service as a sergeant in the Surrey Constabulary stationed at Guildford working amongst other duties as Coroner's Officer. [14]

PC 36 Aubrey Charles Harris Guildford Borough

Sergeant (Bomb Aimer) RAFVR

Killed aged 30 25 June 1943

Current 90 Squadron badge

[14] Notes from Mr Wright early 1980s

PC Harris served as a Sergeant (Bomb Aimer) in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve No 90 Squadron. Aged 30 when he died, PC Harris was the son of Major Charles Basil Harris, Royal Artillery, and Gertrude Ann Harris; husband of Melissa Alexandra Harris, of Onslow Village, Guildford. He had been a member of Guildford Borough Police. Aubrey Harris is buried in Haasrode Churchyard Brussels.

PC Harris was born on the 30 December 1912 in St Helier, Jersey joining the police in Guildford Borough on the 30 July 1932 when he was 20. He was sworn in the Guildhall on the 5 August 1932. When joining he was single and a clerk living in 19 Hillsborough Road, Luton

Details: Shot down by night fighter (Ofw Reinhard Kollak, III/NJG4) and crashed 0139 at Haasrode, 3½ miles south, south east of Leuven, Belgium. The dead of the crew are buried Haasrode Churchyard. Sgt Harris was the son of Major Charles Basil Harris of the Royal Artillery. Sgt Stanton baled out and was aided by the local Resistance and after being taken to Bree, was helped as far as Paris. Here, he was arrested and incarcerated in the notorious Fresnes Prison before being sent to Germany and a POW camp.

Retired Sergeant Bill Leahy (who died in 2008) Guildford Borough Police, wrote that PC Harris had been a member of Guildford Borough Police. He was Bill Leahy's best man as Bill was for Aubrey at his wedding. Police officers could not join up until 1942 as they were in a reserved occupation. Aubrey became aircrew and was killed on

his way back from his 13th mission and was buried in the churchyard in Belgium with full military honours provided by the Germans.

Another member of the Borough was DI Percy Bailey. As the war drew to its violent end, police officers were recruited into the Control Commission to act mainly as police commanders in towns in the former occupied areas and within Germany. Mr Bailey became Lt Colonel and during his tour visited Aubrey's grave in Belgium and saw the police reports of the death and burial. Mr Bailey did not return to the police.

As a side-line, the DCC of Surrey gave an instruction that any officer living in a police house who volunteered for the Control Commission would lose his home. However there were advantages of pay and a commission.

Bill was to name his second son after Aubrey. Mrs Harris, Aubrey's widow (now Mrs Melissa Rodd) lives at Albury (2004) and is the Godmother to Bill's daughter. [15]

1945 PC Sivill was sent to Preston on an advanced driver's course run by the Lancashire Constabulary and was subsequently posted to the County Traffic Depatment with PC Kendall. After a varied career in the Constabulary he returned to Guidford from where he retired in 1967 [16]

1945 PC Weeks: was demobbed in 1945 and re-joined the Borough (Joint Police). He was sent on a refresher course to Southampton and soon recommenced duty on a new Triumph motorcycle with Dick Mathews in the Guildford Division as PC 475 of the Surrey Joint Police. PC Weekes served in the wireless control room at police HQ for the last two years of his service retiring 28 February 1963. A keen athlete he ran for Eastern Command whilst in the Army and in 1949 he escorted the Olympic Flame through Guildford on its way to London. [17]

1946 February PS William Locke awarded the **King's Police Medal for Gallantry** after he placed himself in front of a prisoner who was displaying an automatic pistol and attempting to escape from Guildford Police Station. The prisoner fired at point blank range but the bullet struck the bottom button of the sergeant's uniform jacket and was deflected. Sergeant Locke thereupon closed with the prisoner and overpowered him. In February 1946 PC Wilson on patrol in Guilford stopped a man who gave unsatisfactory answers and aroused the officer's suspicions and so he was arrested. He was wearing a coat several sizes too large and whilst being searched at the police station by Sergeant Almond the man suddenly produced an automatic pistol. Both the policemen moved very fast PC Wilson out of the line of fire and Sergeant Almond out of the door. Meanwhile Sergeant Locke having heard the disturbance came at the gunman from behind. Sergeant Almond who must have returned shouted a warning and the gunman turned when the sergeant was about four

[15] Correspondence with Robert Bartlett 2004
[16] Biographical note from Mr Sivill early 1980s below
[17] Notes made about 1980 by Mr Weekes

feet away the gun was fired. The bullet blew a metal button off the sergeant's tunic. On further investigation it was found that the gun had four more bullets but the gun had jammed. The man was sentenced to seven years [18]

From Mrs Thompson, Guildford: April 2009[19]: Daughter of George Locke: When my father challenged this man he struck him hard with his left hand as his right hand was injured. He then fell on him and an outline of the gun was found on his stomach. Later that evening he was brought home by the police surgeon as he was quite shaken by the event and later that night the police surgeon attended again and I remember him saying, "Locke, you are on fire!" The following day he was fine and returned to work. My father was a Borough man who never gave up his rights as he wanted to stay in Guildford. His KPM is in a display cabinet in HQ along with a letter from him in his beautiful handwriting. I remember being told that in about 1926/1927 on his very first night on patrol in Guildford with a senior man they captured a man who had a pistol. On another occasion he was checking an unoccupied house and found a window open. He entered and searched and found a man hiding in one of the beds. He was a big tough man and one night he gave chase, leaping a five-barred gate to catch a criminal something he could never normally do!

Guildford Borough Police Officers

1933: PC Eldridge: The Watch Committee agreed to **purchase a Morris van** at a cost of £300 and for it to be garaged at the Surrey Arms Hotel at a rent of 6 shillings a week.[20] **21**

Mr D Eldridge joined the Borough on the 18 March 1933 from being a regular in the Royal Navy. He attended a medical undertaken by the police surgeon along with about twenty other candidates of which only two were accepted. The minimum height was 6 foot. The following day he was issued a uniform and became PC 43 and then performed one week of day shifts being instructed by a senior constable followed by two weeks night duty and then he was let out on his own.

In 1933 the shifts were one month of alternate morning/afternoon shifts 0600-1400 and 1400-2200 followed by two weeks of nights from 2200-0600. Occasionally they were posted to Traffic Points when they worked 0900-1800 – these were busy junctions. There were no police boxes and so to "ring in" a public call box was used the only way of course of getting assistance. A cycle allowance of a shilling a week was paid as was a boot allowance of 1/6d.
Two complete uniforms were issued, one new and one worn for nigh duty. The night helmet had a black helmet plate and a belt was worn to carry the wet cell torch.

[18]Tom Roberts P 91Friends and Villains Hodder and Stoughton 1987
[19] Conversation with Robert Bartlett
[20] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[21] Notes from Mr Eldridge made in the early 1980s

Some PCs were trained with the Surrey Constabulary at Woodbridge Road.
Borough PCs were not allowed to leave the Borough even when off duty without recording their whereabouts in a register. When a sergeant, Mr Eldridge was instrumental in having this recording restriction removed. [22]

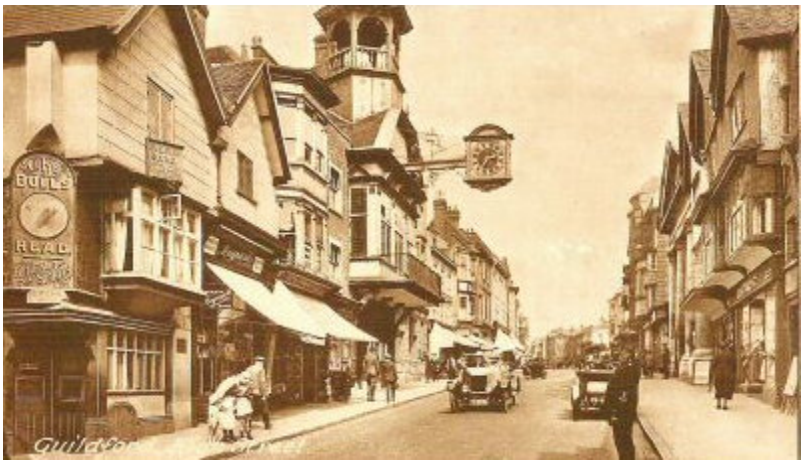
George W Almond retired Inspector

1933: From the family memoirs of George William Almond "A Policeman's Lot is not a Happy One" Written 1983 (Retired Inspector and formerly Guildford Borough)

Fifty years ago on the 18th March 1933, Bill Leahy and I and two others joined the Guildford Borough Police. The occasion was an increase in establishment bringing the strength to forty seven, when the Borough was extended to take in Burpham and Merrow and "so much of the area of the Chantries as lies to the North of the Tillingbourne Stream", or words to that effect. I am writing this account of Guildford, as we knew it and the way it was policed. There was a chief constable, an inspector, five uniformed Sergeants, one CID Sergeant and three plain-clothes constables. The remainder were constables. One sergeant and two of the constables were permanently on office duties. The whole of the Borough was divided into seven beats and an additional patrol was employed at night and on occasions when shops were closed in the central area. The High Street, the extra patrol and the beat that encompassed the area along Woodbridge and Stoke Roads to Joseph Road were worked by foot patrols, with the remainder worked by constables on bicycles. During the day and occasionally at night one motorcyclist was employed.

Our training consisted of a few talks from the inspector and patrolling with senior constables. We were fitted out with second-hand uniform and sworn in during an ordinary session of the court in the Guildhall. In the main the patrol sections worked a straight eight-hour shift, the tours lasting a fortnight. The hours were 6am to 2pm; 2pm to 10pm; and 10pm to 6am. Superimposed on the day shifts was a section engaged with traffic control, which worked 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 6 pm.

[22] Notes from Mr Eldridge made in the early 1980s



The policeman on the right is on Number 1 beat and therefore a senior man[23]

The Borough employed RAC scouts to control the traffic at the Railway entrance, the junction of Portsmouth Road with High Street, Quarry Street junction with the High Street, Waterdon Road and York Road junction and York Road and Sandfield Terrace junction. There may have been others. The beat constables had to relieve at thee points as required.

As a rule the men had six weeks on day duty and then a fortnight on nights. We worked the first six weeks of our service on nights without a Rest Day and at the end of it the inspector told us we had done quite well and he was going to give us a day off the next week. Our future training consisted of writing out Moriarty's Police Law from cover to cover in exercise books and submitting them for inspection weekly. We also had to study Sir Howard Vincent's Police Code[24]. Our pay was three pounds ten shillings a week. The sergeants got five pounds, the inspector six pounds ten shillings and the chief nine pounds. The increment for constables was two shillings and sixpence a week each until a maximum was reached. There was an additional two shillings and sixpence on passing the promotion exam to sergeant. Parading for duty and for dismissal was in the officer's own time outside the eight hour shift, and this entailed arriving at the police station about twenty minutes before the starting time so that "Information" could be recorded. Additionally pay parade was in one's own time and had to be attended on Friday afternoons. This was usually followed by a "pep talk" from the chief.

[23] Tony Collman private collection
[24] See Appendix 1 – the code contained detailed instruction on how a police officer should act and legislation useful for the patrolling constable

Inspections of uniform parades were held twice a year and all the uniform had to be taken in to the Police Station for this purpose. We had to use cabin trunks and hire a taxi at our own expense to get it there. Our issue consisted of two greatcoats, four helmets and a night belt, two gabardine raincoats, four tunics, eight pairs of trousers and two pairs of waterproof leggings and two cloth capes. The tunics fastened up to the neck so we had no issue of collars and ties then. All this was in one's own time.

All reports had to be written after duty and we had no proforma to fill in. Even accident reports were written on plain lined paper and statements were attached. I well remember on many occasions commencing to write a report after 10pm and not being finished until 1am then having to be back on duty at 6am the next morning.

One of my first cases in court was the result of a call from the workhouse where the master gave a vagrant into my charge for "that he was a refractory pauper refusing to perform his allotted task". This was not an infrequent charge and the penalty was usually that he was ordered out of the Borough. This also rendered him liable to re-arrest if he returned. The Relieving Officer was a very important person in the Borough and we often had to contact him and work with him. He was able to dispense the limited amount of aid to the very needy and he also dealt with lunacy laws and those who were mentally deficient. The Good Intent in Quarry Street and Mill House in Mill Lane were "Doss Houses" and in addition there was Vaughan House, and the Workman Home in Chertsey Street. At some of these establishments we were introduced to fights where knives were flashed and blood spilled and great hobnailed working boots were sunk into soft flabby stomachs. Nor was the smell too good. There were By-laws affecting these places and I remember the walls had to be white washed once each year.

I think the most important lesson we learned was the order of priority in which the precepts governing the policeman's duties fell.

The preservation of life

The prevention of crime and the protection of property

The detection and apprehension of offenders

The preservation of the Peace

With hindsight I can say that whatever rank a policeman held there were times when decisions had to be made quickly and the above sequence would help to get one's priorities right. I believe the "protection of property" is now further down the list.

At night beat work in the residential areas consisted mainly of checking unoccupied properties, and as each beat was supposed to be covered in four hours this meant we were expected to examine all such properties twice during the night. We had to work the beats to a prescribed plan and the points given would either take you round the beat working right or left or figure of eight. Only an emergency would excuse any change from this. We had half an hour meal break round about 2am. The night reserve constable would have the kettle boiling and there was always a good fire to thaw out by, and chat and plenty of laughs with good mates. There was a camaraderie engendered by the strict discipline imposed and the harsh conditions under which we had to work. If anything untoward happened during the night, which was not found by the constable on the beat but was reported the next morning, the constable was called out from his bed and made to attend at the police station. And report when he was in that area and what he saw or did not see, and there was always the fear of a misconduct form and a fine following such a happening. The annual leave entitlement was one day per month in each year and in the first calendar year we had eight days. There were no concessions for inclement weather. The beats had to be worked whatever the conditions. Trying to wheel a bicycle up Pewley Hill on frozen snow was a task almost as difficult as trying to descend it.

The North Street market on Saturdays was a high spot of the week. The stalls stretched from Jeffrey's Passage to Swan Lane and sales continued until 10pm. Many of the stalls were lit at night by oil lamp flares. The street market drew crowds and a By-law prevented stallholders from selling to people on the roadside of a stall. The stalls faced the footpath on the police station side of the street. However, there was the occasional prosecution of stallholders causing obstruction by causing a crowd to collect on the road by selling from the back of the stall. Obstruction by cars was a big problem and there were many prosecutions for this offence. The Mayor was usually in the chair on the Bench and as an example of the lapse of formality there was an occasion when the Mayor turned to an old policeman in the witness box and asked "How long did you say the car was there Reg?" The Guildhall played a great part in our life.

It was the Guildhall bell, which was rung by one of us whenever there was a fire warning. There were only one or two regular firemen and the others were volunteers. They were contacted at their homes or place of business by bells, which we rang from the police station by inserting a plug into a socket and turning a handle. There was a separate socket for each fireman. If the town bell was sounded for one series of rings, it indicated the fire was in the Borough. The first policeman arriving at the fire had to do the report. This gave rise to the belief that the police dash to a fire amounted to a "slow" bicycle race.

The Guildhall was also the scene of the Borough Quarter Sessions and on one occasion I was to deputise for the Usher who was sick. I had to go to his sick bed to ask him the wording of the various proclamations and charges to the jury, as no one seemed to know the exact words. I borrowed a gown from the Town Clerk and I think I must have managed the job fairly well as I received a smile of approbation from the Recorder. At least, I fondly imagined that it was! The Guildhall was also the scene of our assembly for the Government Inspection. About that time there was one Government Inspector who was in the eyes of most policemen, the embodiment of the worst evils which hell could produce. He was a colonel, but he would have been at grave risk if he had acted on the battlefield as he did at these inspections. He would quite unjustifiably try to humiliate every officer of whatever rank to whom he spoke, even the chief. We had a good laugh over a story from the county. His moustache was freshly waxed and he rapped on the desk imperiously with his cane in a village police station in a good class retirement area of the county. "I'm Colonel ……" announced the government inspector. Without looking up the sergeant is supposed to have said "Oh yes, well they're all colonels or half pay sea-captains around here. What can we do for you?" I never wanted to know the end of the story. Perhaps there isn't one. It is only fair to say that most of the gentlemen holding that office had quite a different approach to inspections.

The weekly cattle market in Woodbridge Road was quite an event. Two PCs were engaged on special duty from 9am to 1pm and two more from 1pm to 5 pm. This at 1/6d per hour earned each PC and extra 6/-. There was a minimum rate of 4/6d for special duty so that an afternoon at the City Football Ground enriched us by 4/6d. We had to supply our own bicycles for which we drew a small allowance for upkeep. However, there was no compensation for the initial outlay and no means of saving for a new one. All constables had to become proficient at Life Saving and obtain the Royal Society's medallion as well as the medallion for the St. John's First Aid. Those on duty during first aid lectures attended in duty time, but the rest in their own time. We wore a silver badge on each forearm to show we possessed these qualifications. We were required to practice in the indoor baths in Castle Street at 6am after night duty.

Guildford Borough Police life saving team about 1933

Our free time was not really free. We had to ask permission in writing to go outside the Borough at any time. To become married an application was necessary giving full particulars of one's fiancée. The Police of the district where she lived checked these details, and permission was then granted. I never heard of anyone being refused either of these requests and fortunately by the efforts of the Federation the regulations were eventually relaxed.

During carnivals and processions where crowds were collected we were very proud of our "Mounted Branch". The harness was kept at the Police Station and the two "Mounties", ex Horse Guardsmen, polished it up to be placed upon a couple of hacks from the local horse riding stables. However, their skill at riding made the whole thing look very impressive and it was most effective. Before the Queen's Royal Regiment received the freedom of the Borough their church parade at Holy Trinity church usually meant that they carried with them their colours and so had the traditional escort with bayonets fixed. It was necessary on these occasions for the Civil Power (often in the shape of yours truly) to exercise the right to escort the whole battalion. We always had good relations with the Queen's Regiment. By now you probably will be wondering how on earth they found enough men from a total of forty two to meet the demands of a seven beat system as well as a traffic section, a CID, and administration, not to mention coping with the rest days, annual leave and sickness. However, by coupling beats, and switching hours of duty to meet contingencies the problems were solved, but it was not long before more men were recruited and by the time the war broke out in 1939, the chief constable's pay had gone up to ten pounds a week.

But back to the early days when Guildford town centre was well known for its narrow passages, the main one being Swan Lane. In those days Chaplin's and Pickford's were agents for the Southern Railway and the horses and vans brought the goods from the station to the shops. The brewers also had horse drawn vehicles for delivery of beer to the pubs. When on traffic duty we wore white celluloid armlets and after eight hours they weighed about half a hundredweight instead of a few ounces. I was walking through the wider part of Swan Lane wearing such a pair of armlets and one of Chaplin's horses decided that he didn't like me and grabbed at my arm with his teeth. I was glad I had the armlets. They showed teeth marks for a long time. There was a great deal of horse traffic and cattle were frequently driven through the streets in herds. In fact I dislocated my thumb on one occasion and the police surgeon kept me off work because he said I couldn't possibly stop a runaway horse whilst my thumb was in trouble. I didn't tell him I couldn't stop a runaway horse anyway. I remember an occasion when a maverick cow escaped from the market and ran up the High Street. It charged several people and a young constable on duty had all the buttons ripped off his greatcoat. It eventually went into the large park, which is now off Paynters Close Estate, and Sergeant Proffit shot it. I believe and old lady was either killed or seriously injured in the High Street by this cow but the details escape me.[25]

PC Charles Barham

Charles Barham one of the last to join Guildford Borough and seen here in the uniform of the Surrey Constabualry in 1970 outside Woodbridge Road police station

[25] Originally published in Old and Bold edited by Robert Bartlett for the Surrey Police Retired Comrades Association

Charles William Barham born 17 August 1917 Partridge Green, Sussex. Served as a plumber and heating engineer before joining the police on the 9 September 1939 as PC61. In 1942 he joined the Royal Navy where he served until the end of October 1945 on HMS Blenheim in the Middle East as an engineering artificer – coppersmith.

May 1970 Charles Barham retires – the last of the Borough policeman serving[26]

Charlie Barham right with his son Inspector Clive Barham and retired Inspector Richard Ford in the centre – author of the previous history of the Borough Police

PC P Bowd

PC P Bowd joined the Borough on the 9th May 1927 having served for three years from 1924 in the Royal Horse Guards (Blues) and following a medical from Dr Milligan and an interview with the Chief Constable Mr Nicholas. He was then posted

[26] From Off Beat the Surrey Police force newspaper

as a mounted branch officer in a section consisting of PS Arthur Brazier, PC Percy Punter, PC Jack Lock, PC Reg Demount, PC Bob Roberts and PC P Bowd.

As the Borough could not afford its own horses these were hired from a Mrs Darling who kept a fine stable on the site now (1980s) occupied by Messrs Anglel Son and Grey (builders merchants) known as Durling's Corner, Onslow Street. The horses were ridden into Laundry Lane where the Salvation Army band practiced and the horses were shod by Mr Ward the blacksmith.

Before the first purchase of a motorcar, allowances were paid to a number of constables for the use of their motorcycles on emergency duties and by the time the Morris van had been purchased PC Bowd had transferred to the CID as a van driver.
In 1928 the CID consisted of Detective Sergeant Arthur Manfield, and Detective Constables CP Fountain and HE Stone.

In 1928 PC Bowd was commended by the Coroner for attempting to rescue a would be suicide from drowning in the River Wey- from the road bridge at the bottom of the High Street and at night. Unfortuantely he was not succesful.

The strength of the force was 34 officers paid £3.13.6d a week. The night duty officers had to wake the early relief at approximately 0500 by banging on the ouside walls with their truncheons. It was also the responsibility of the night duty PC to check the first (workman's) train each morning for suspects leaving the Borough by rail. (This was certainly still the practice in Dorking in the late 1960s). The same applied to the last train coming into the Borough each night.

PC Bowd served in the CID from 1929 to 1943 when he went into the Army and served in Italy, Belgium and Germany where joined the Control Commission and acted as a magistrate in the lower courts. He was made a superintendent in the Control Commission and controlled the German CID in Onasbrook (sic probably Osnabrook) until the end of 1945. He was later promoted chief superintendent and posted to Hamburg where he prosecuted in the more serious crime cases. He remained in this post until he retired in 1950 never returning to the Borough Police.

PC 24 Tiny Burbidge

Mr A W Burbidge was born on the 7 July 1907 in Camberwell, London joining King's Company, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards where he served from 1926-1929. In 1929 he joined the Borough as PC 24 and was another with the nickname "Tiny". [27]

On his first day in the Borough he was on late turn on a Saturday and had to find his own way around. This was follwed by two weeks of nights then two weeks of days.

[27] Notes from Mr Eldridge made in the early 1980s

On his first day he was on point duty when he arrested the director of a local brewery for driving whilst drunk at the bottom of the High Street. The man was convicted and fined £20

Mr Burbidge serve in the Borough throuout the Wars as a uniform beat officer and station officer in North Street. There were a great number of Canadian troops billeted nearby and they caused a great deal of trouble in Guildford as this was their nearest town for recreation. Fights were common and police often ended up with their backs to the wall with truncheons drawn.

War time identity card

Living in Westbury was simpler than his early arrangement of digs travelling when on days off by cycle to his home in Camberwell.

The station officer from North Street controlled air raid alarms. The parade room was a large room leading to the cells and also served as a mess room with one gas ring and as a charge room for the prisoners. Meal breaks were only half an hour and all the men took their breaks at North Street but a beat officer always covered the High Street. Cycle beats were covered using locally provided bikes from Jackson's Cycle Agents of The Parade, Woodbridge Road.

There was a police social club above the old fire station, which had a scheme where officers could buy furniture etc. at cost price and at the end of the year any profits were shared between members. Every division of the Metropolitan Police was entertained by the Borough travelling down by coach, having lunch at The Parrott at Shalford then on the river and in the afternoon played cricket ending up with a dance

in the evening. About three times a year the Borough held a large ball, a very formal affair, usually in the Drill Hall and "A" Division of the Metropolitan Police band would provide the music.

Unattended homes were checked twice in every duty by going into the garden and around the house. If any windows were found insecure on commercial premises the owners would be called from their beds.

A plain helmet was worn in the summer months and a more elaborate one in the winter.

PC 15 Cecil Burgess

Cecil Burgess was born 1912 in Suffolk and was a motor mechanic before joining the Borough in August 1935 joining the Surrey Constabulary upon amalgamation.He retired in 1965 and worked as a civilian employee in Mount Browne working in Crime Bureau.

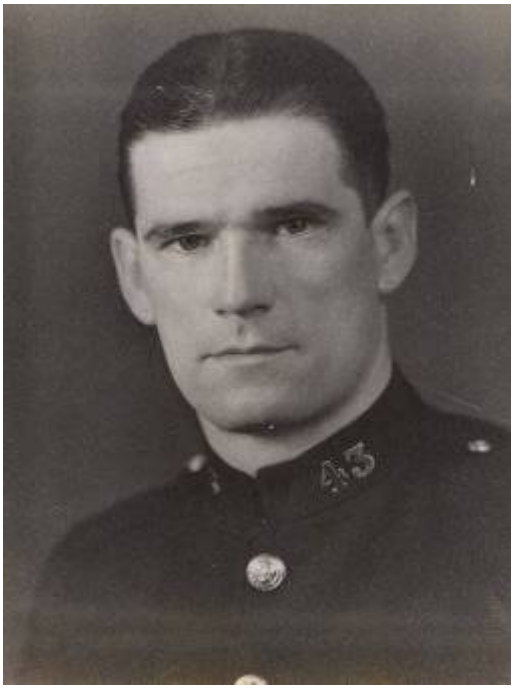
Cecil Burgess

PC 43 Eldridge (later sergeant 450) – Served as a Lieutenant, Control Commission Germany

Mr D Eldridge joined the Borough on the 18 March 1933 from being a regular in the Royal Navy. He attended a medical undertaken by the police surgeon along with about twenty other candidates of which only two were accepted. The minimum height

was 6 foot. The following day he was issued a uniform and became PC 43 and then performed one week of day duties being instructed by a senior constable followed by two weeks night duty and then he was let out on his own. [28]

In 1933 the shifts were one month of alternate morning/afternoon shifts 0600-1400 and 1400-2200 followed by two weeks of nights from 2200-0600. Occasionally they were posted to Traffic Points (standing in the road directing traffic) when they worked 0900-1800 – these were busy junctions. There were no police boxes and so to "ring in" a public call box was used the only way of course of getting assistance. A cycle allowance of a shilling a week was paid as was a boot allowance of 1/6d.



Two complete uniforms were issued, one new and one worn for use on night duty. The night helmet had a black helmet plate and a belt was worn to carry the wet cell torch. Some PCs were trained with the Surrey Constabulary at Woodbridge Road.
Borough PCs were not allowed to leave the Borough even when off duty without recording their whereabouts in a register. When a sergeant, Mr Eldridge was instrumental in having this recording restriction removed.

Having served in the Borough throughout the war he volunteered for the Control Commission in Germany and served near Hanover in the rank of Lieutenant. Uniform was dark blue and similar to a superintendent's tunic. His main duties were as a prosecutor in civil cases between displaced persons. He returned to the Surrey Constabulary as PS 450 on the Guildford Division retiring in 1958.

[28] Notes from Mr Eldridge made in the early 1980s

PC 39 later sergeant Feehan (PS 440 Constabulary)

Mr J Feehan was born in Eire and worked on a farm until he joined the Borough on the 18 July 1931. He was a very large strong, tough man with a heavy Irish accent that was at time difficult to understand. He acquired the nickname "banana feet" (not to his face!) because his feet were so huge they bent over the pedals of his cycle. He was also known as Mick to his face and "shags" probably if he liked you.

There are numerous stories but the following will suffice:

1951 Tony May[29] In 1951 after being posted to Guildford from the Training School at Sandgate I discovered that Guildford was divided into eight beats with One Beat being the High Street, which was sacrosanct. The only time a probationer was allowed there was during the night meal break from 2-2.45am. As we met and passed under the Guildhall clock the magic words "All correct" were passed. Number Two Beat was Woodbridge Road and London Road, Three and Four Beats were Farnham Road and Onslow Village, Five and Six Bellfields and Stoughton and Seven and Eight were Merrow and Burpham. Quite often beats were doubled up and I can remember sometimes there were perhaps only two or three Probationers on nights plus the experienced PCs on One Beat and station officer. At that time there were many of the old "Borough Force" constables and sergeants still serving such as 'Tiny' Burbridge, 'Tiny' Oliver, Ernie Klieser, 'Digger' Field, Charlie Barham and Sergeants 'Nutty' Almond ' Piggy' Proffit, 'Shaky' Williams, 'Mick' Feehan, Don Eldridge and of course Bill Leahy. No disrespect but nearly everybody had a nickname in those days George Lock was one of the inspectors. Sometimes the sergeant or inspector met you. At one of the 'points' on the corner of Manor Road and Stoughton Road there was a house called "Just Here." When the sergeant said 'Book me five just here' many fell into the trap including me the first time. I can very well remember my first ever night duty, standing at the corner of Clandon Road and London Road by the phone box around about 1am when the railway signal arm in London Road Station dropped down with a clang and nearly frightened me to death.

1950s Late: Guildford: Charlie Mitchell[30]**:** Did you do your basic training at the old Guildford Police Station in Woodbridge Road? For those of us who did in the late fifties it must bring back many memories. Going on nights was an experience; there was a man in a black suit collarless shirt with pieces of paper over his face obviously a very bad shaver who would follow you around for a while muttering things under his breath. He didn't cause any problems but we were all aware of him. Remember having a sly smoke in the graveyard behind the church at the top of the High Street? Who could forget "Shags", Sergeant Mick Feehan. I am 6ft 2inch but Shags looked like the missing link. He was a rough looking character tall, large chin, hair down his

[29] The Working Life of the Surrey Constabulary 1851-31 December 1992 Robert Bartlett March 2012
[30] The working life of the Surrey Constabulary 1851-31 December 1992 Robert Bartlett March 2012

nose and a thick Irish brogue. Yes he was my sergeant and a better man it was hard to find. One night I had a bit of bother with two sailors in uniform. Shags came round the corner tried to shut them up but they persisted, so I arrested them going up to the nick they were giving it all. Outside the nick Shags said "Now I will give you the choice lads you can come in and be charged or you can come up this alley with me and my colleague where I will take your windpipe out and strangle you with it. What is it to be?" With one accord they wanted to be charged. He kicked them both up the backside and told them to get back to there ship. This was the life then.

One early evening Shags and I were in the High St Guildford when a patrol car stopped a car near the bottom of the road; I believe Norman Lampard was part of the crew. The car stopped and the police car pulled in behind it. Shags said "You must never do that they could just drive away when you get out check them." Sure enough the officers went to the car and it took off. Shags said "Look, I told you but never mind I will stop them" and as quick as a flash he had his truncheon out and threw it at the car, missed it and clattered into Courts shop window opposite.

PC 39 and later sergeant Mick Feehan

He told me once that he was in Guildford police station about three in the morning when there was a report of a motorbike being stolen from Bramley and it was heading for Guildford. Shags said he got on his bike and got to the Quarry Street junction with

High Street when along came a motorbike. How was he going to stop it; our hero threw his bike at it knocking man and motorbike across the road. It was again unfortunate the rider was a man from the railway on his way to work. Shags said he was writing reports for months.

Jeff Bloomfield told me that when he joined times were hard and as a result he had put old cycle tyres on the soles of his night boots. One night he was out with Shags checking unoccupied houses. Shags got his torch out shone it on the ground followed Jeff round the outside of the house saying Wait a minute there has been someone round here on a bike.

There are many more but some you cannot tell. Remember him checking prisoner's property and having to record it. There was a pair of scissors to be recorded. Shags wrote skis then siss then said "Oh bugger it a knife." I remember making a point at the telephone box by Guildford Lido, no radio communication then. Inspector Lock met me and enquired if I had been in for my swim yet. He went on to tell me that was why we had a point there as you always had a swim.

Robert Bartlett: In 1963 there were many of the old time sergeants and constables still serving, some from the days when Guildford was a Borough Force in its own right. The term character comes easily to mind. They were mostly very big men, who were brought up to resolve many of the problems they faced with their fists. Many had served in the war, some in Korea. They knew what was right and wrong but probably many could not have been too certain of their powers. If you deserved it you would be arrested and the station sergeant or Inspector would sort out the niceties of the law. They were well known locally and mostly respected, even by the people they locked up. Some of these men could and did drink enormous quantities of beer, and for some it mattered not if they were on duty or not. One sergeant (with a biography in this history) after a particularly arduous session at the Surrey County Show in Stoke Park got on his bike to go home and fell off the other side, sprawling in the road. He and his bike were put in the back of the "brown van" and taken home.

I recall Sergeant Feehan for a different reason. He was a very large and tough Irishman who had lost nothing of his accent, making him sometimes difficult to understand. Sergeant Feehan had been given the nickname "banana feet" because his feet were so large they drooped over his bike pedals like a banana! Others, including PC "Tiny" Oliver it was said had in his younger days a favourite method of dealing with the rowdy youngsters, particularly the large numbers of military personnel who descended on the town. The policeman would stand behind the shop blinds that hung down onto the pavement and thump the unsuspecting rowdy through the blind. They never knew what hit them. It is also rumoured that many a soldier or sailor found being a nuisance at the bus station at the bottom of the High Street during the war ended up in the river. It was said that they also carried their truncheon up their sleeve to give a "tap" to the rowdy youths or military men to encourage them on their way.

I ma glad they were on my side! [31]

PC45 George Ferguson – later Chief Superintendent Surrey Constabulary

George Richard Ferguson[32] was born on the 3 November 1910 in Southampton joining the Borough on the 25 November 1933 where he was to serve in uniform, CID, clerical, mounted and motor patrol. After 15 months on patrol he became a clerk in the Chief Constable's office on 16 September 1939, acting sergeant in May 1940, the a temporary sergeant on CID, and Special Branch. In December 1940 he was promoted sergeant and two years later clerk sergeant. From July 1947 in the Constabulary he was appointed inspector for Godalming and then Egham and also as detective inspector on the Weybridge division. Other promotions followed until George was appointed chief superintendent at Farnham. A very keen and able sportsman George represented the force at football and played Southern League for Guildford City and also cricket for Guildford Cricket Club. He swam for the police and played representative golf for the Borough and county.


Chief Supt. G. R. Ferguson.

PC 15 Fountain later detective sergeant

Mr C P Fountain PC 15 was born in Hampshire joining the Borough on the 4 January 1926 applying on the spur of the moment without any specific knowledge of Guildford. At that time half the force were down with flu and Dr Milligan gave him a speedy examination, this was followed by an education test and he reached the standard and was accepted. He was put into North Street police station in civilain clothes and left to get on with it as best he could as all the uniform officers that were well were needed on the streets. This carried on for about a month until he was fitted with a uniformand went on the usual months night duty learning his way around Guildford. He lived in the accommodation above the police station with four others .

[31] The working life of the Surrey Constabulary 1851-31 December 1992 Robert Bartlett March 2012
[32] Notes by George Ferguson early 1980s

During the 1926 General Strike members of the public used to call at the police station in order to offer lifts in their private transport and there were often considerable queues of cars waiting.

He owned a motor cycle an since the Force did not have any transport he was able to use the vehicle and claim an allowance. Before he joined CID he would often use the motor cycle on nights to pad out the cover when they were short of men. He would carry the detective sergeant in the side car – both being in plain clothes. This proved effective and they made many arrests. The motor cycle was kept in the yard of the Surrey Arms opposite the police station. (Note: No longer there) The DS at the time was Manfield.

When in 1931 he joined the CID he was on call when off duty. Housebreaking was prevelant as was theft of cycles. The cycle theft caused a lot of hard work and was finally cleared up when it was discovered that the bikes were leaving the town on a train avoiding the road checks that had been set up. When the thieves were arrested cycles from across England were recovered.

Mr Fountain was a keen cricketer and is in the photograph below – taken on Blackheath after a game against the Metropolitan Police 29 June 1934.

The Chief Constable Mr Nicholas was very keen on cricket and so it was often as often three times a week that Fountain played, the Chief Constable adjusting his duties!

PC 62 Harry Gardiner June 1939 (PC 476)

Harry W Gardiner was born in Gosport, Hampshire on 27 July 1917 taking a few local jobs before enlisting in the Grenadier Guards in 1935 aged 18, serving four years. Joining the Borough on the 10 June 1939 as PC 62, Harry was sent to Digbeth the Birmingham Training School but was recalled to the Army in December 1939. Joining with Harry were PCs Woodford, Brooker, Barber and A Gilbert

Serving in the Guards Armoured Divison in the training wing at Pirbright he later became a wireless instructor. Harry was demobbed in 1945 rejoining the Surrey Constabulary becoming PC 476 of the Guildford Division. He retired from the police in 1964.

Was a part of a lifesaving team with PC Wright, PC Barry and Inspector Howard. In the early 1960s Harry was stationed at Guildford Police Station. [33]

[33] Notes from Harry Gardiner in 1980

PC 58 Gilbert

Mr A Gilbert was born on the 4 May 1917 in Alton working as a carpenter and joiner from 1931-1939 joining the Borough on the 20 May 1939 as PC 58 with the nickname "Swanny".

Volunteered for the RAFVR in June/July 1942 he served in Bomber Command as a sergeant pilot flying Mosquitoes. He was demobbed in November 1945 and rejoined the Surrey Joint Constabulary.

He served on the beat in the Borough until 1949 when he transferred to HQ Traffic of the Surrey Constabulary until 1960 retiring in 1964

During World War two private houses were used as police posts and air raid shelters. There were two shifts(1st and 2nd Siren) which were worked by police after a normal 12 hour shift. Initially they were granted one day off a week but later they were able to alter this so that they only performed 8 hour shifts but did not have any days off.
He was the first Guildford PC to deal with enemy bombs falling in Shalford meadows causing no damage other than craters. There was a stick of about 5 bombs of 50kg each. PC Woodford was also present.

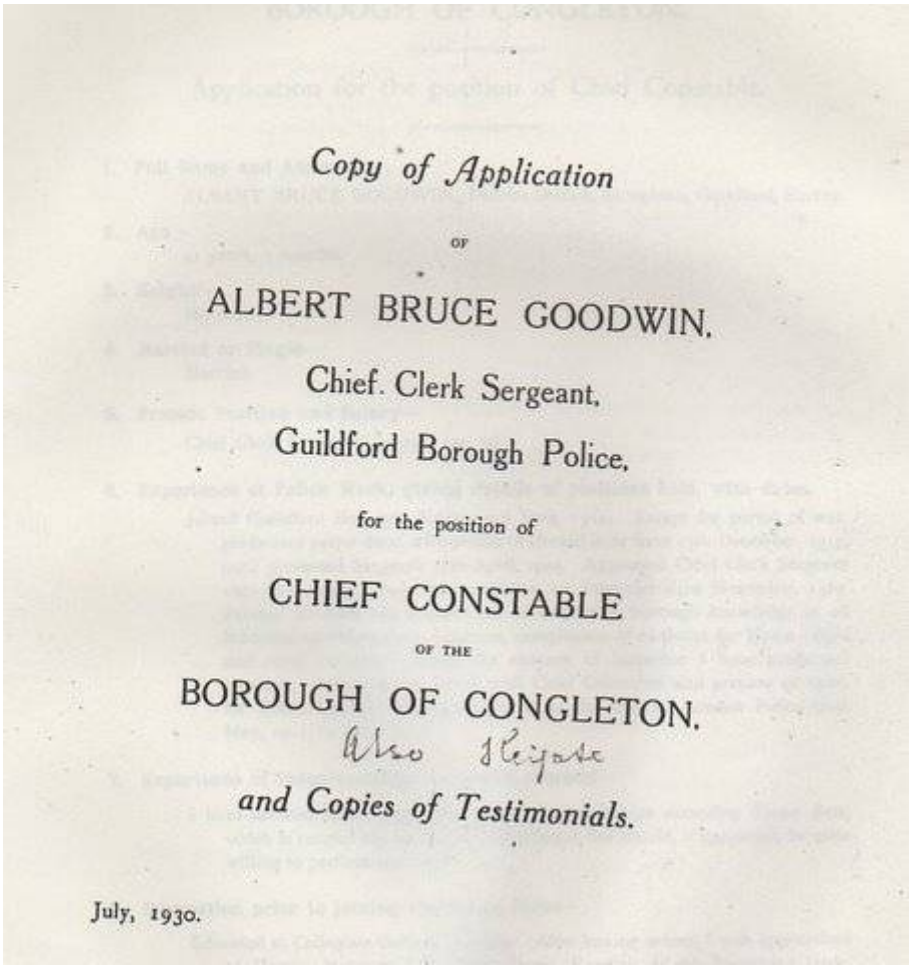
PS 9 Goodwin without his war service medals

Albert Bruce Goodwin was born in 1889 in Reading and was educated at the Collegiate School joining the City of London Police in 1911 after a number of jobs.
1937 June 12: The Surrey Advertiser of Saturday June 12 1937 reports the retirement of PS Godwin aged 48. Much of the report below was taken from the retirement notice which also featured the above photograph. Other documents show he reached the rank of corporal in the Army and that in the police he passed his examinations to inspector in 1929 and was said to be the next in line for promotion. In July 1930 he made an unsuccesful application to become the Chief Constable of Congleton Borough. [34]

The death was reported in an undated newspaper cutting (Believed 1965) of Albert Bruce Goodwin at the age of 76, whilst living at 40, Woking Road, Guildford. Born in Reading where he attended the Collegiate School working firstly as a saleman and in 1908 he joined the Coldstream Guards. On leaving the Army in 1911 he joined the City of London pPolice later transferring to Guildford in 1912. He was recalled to the

[34] Information and press cutting supplied by Mr Goodwin's son in the early 1980s

Colours and wounded three times. After the war he re-joined the Borough police and for five years he was assistant clerk in the Chief Constable's office being promoted sergeant in April 1924 and appointed chief clerk in June 1929. Later in his career he was stationed at Merrow. In July 1921 he was commended by the Guildford Coroner for his attempts to save the life of a drowning boy having plunged in from the river bank a number of times. Mr Goodwin was the holder of the St John Medallion, the Royal Life Saving Society Medallion, the City of London Police Coronation Medal, the 1914 Star and General Service and Victory Medals. He was also an Old Contemptable.



Copy of Application

OF

ALBERT BRUCE GOODWIN.

Chief. Clerk Sergeant,

Guildford Borough Police,

for the position of

CHIEF CONSTABLE

OF THE

BOROUGH OF CONGLETON.

Also Photo

and Copies of Testimonials.

July, 1930.

PS Goodwin

PC Jack Gower PC 46

Jack was born in Woking on the 6 March 1914 and worked in the building industry before joining the Metropolitan Police in October 1934 stationed at Cannon Row. He transferred to the Borough on 24 August 1937 having seen and advertisement in the Surrey Advertiser. In June 1937 he was posted to the office on clerical duties and enquiries working with PC Loveridge, PC Whyman and PC Ferguson. [35]

[35] Notes made by Jack Gower

1935 the beats were:

No 1 beat: High Street
No 2 beat: North Street to the Bypass
No 3 beat: Pewley Hill cycle patrol
No 4 beat: Onslow Village cycle patrol
No 5 beat: Stoughton cycle patrol
No 6 beat: Burpham
No 7 beat: Merrow

There was an additional High Street patrol from 1800-0200 with a responsibility for checking the rear of the shops.

Meal breaks were of half an hour duration and were taken in North Street Station with the exception of number 7 beat at Merrow where the PC was permitted to take his meal break at the police house as the officer's wife was unwell. The house in Merrow was near the A265 and originally had cells.

In 1942 PC Gower was promoted sergeant and in 1943 at the time of the merger he was appointed a liaison officer for Civil Defence with the Surrey Joint Police, which he continued until 1950. In 1951 he was transferred to Walton on Thames as Sergeant 439. In August 1953 he was promoted inspector and became training officer for the force at Mount Browne. In January 1956 he was appointed War Duties officer and served under Chief Constable Joseph Simpson. (Later knighted as Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police) He later attended the Police College Course 57/1 from January to March 1957 and was then posted to Chertsey as the sub-divisional inspector. In June 1963 Jack was promoted chief inspector and became deputy to the superintendent in charge of Oxted Division. He retired on the 23 October 1965

During the war there was an additional police station at St Michael's, Albury Road off the Epsom Road where the Chief Constable had his office. North Street was under an inspector. The borough was split into inner and outer rings with a lookout tower at the top of Abbots Hospital for tracking bombs, manned by a PC. Each sergeant had a large book where he entered references to all reports handed in by men on his relief and also details of points made with the men. These were inspected and initialled every morning by the Chief Constable. All original notes were entered by the PC in his notebook.

PC Gower was one of the few men to successfully ask for and get an extra allowance of sixpence per week for "zeal, efficiency and smartness."

Jack was still alive at the time of the Guildford Borough reunion in the early 1990s.

Bert Hacker

Bert Hacker was a boy messenger during the early part of the war when aged 15 undertaking voluntary duties on two evenings a week and on some weekends. He had a uniform similar to Service Dress but dark blue with a belted tunic. There was an oval cloth badge over the left pocket with "PAMS" thereon. Also the boys were issued with peaked caps, tin helmets and used their own cycles. Duties consisted of standing by at police stations and ARP posts to carry messages in the event of normal methods of communication being put out of action. Bert was to become a member of the Surrey Constabulary and was serving in Guildford in the early 1960s. [36]

PC 13 later PS 45 Surrey Constabulary Douglas Hayball

Douglas Reginald Hayball was born in Portsmouth on the 1 July 1918. After a time as a clerk on the 3 September 1938 he joined the Borough leaving for the Army where he served with the Highland Light Infantry and later commissioned into the Indian Army 3rd Madras Regiment. After the war he returned to the Borough. He was promoted sergeant in 1951. [37]

[36] Note from Bert Hacker in the early 1980s
[37] Note from the early 1980s from Mr Hayball

Doug was a sergeant at Guildford in the early 1960s, a quite gentleman, and after retirement in 1966 trained for the church becoming a vicar.

A Nostalgic Occasion

The Surrey Constabulary recently welcomed a visit at its Headquarters, Mount Browne, Guildford, from one of its ex-Police Officers, the Rev. Douglas R. Hayball, who was accompanied by his 14-year-old son, Peter.

The Rev. Hayball, who is the vicar of 'Holy Trinity' Church, Parr Mount, St. Helens, Lancs., was in the Guildford area visiting relatives. He popped in to renew some old acquaintances, reminisce and re-visit the building where he had performed the duty.

He started his police career in 1938 when he joined the Guildford Borough Police which was later amalgamated with the Surrey Constabulary. Promoted to Sergeant in 1951 he served as Beat Policeman, control room wireless operator and was involved in Police training at Mount Browne. He retired from the Surrey Constabluary in 1966 after 28 years police service and took up the cloth.

During his visit to Mount Browne he was met by Chief Inspector Eric Hughes with whom he had worked during his service in the Surrey Constabulary. Together they talked about old times and the various changes that had been made since his retirement. The Rev. Hayball was shown round the building which has been the subject of many changes since his day.

Left to right: Chief Inspector Eric Hughes, Inspector Gordon Everingham, Rev. Douglas Hayball, his son Peter and Sergeant Bernie Buck—stand outside HQ during Rev. Hayballs visit to see ex-colleagues. *Photo by Terry Keller.*

1974 Off Beat

PC 17 A C B "Tom" Hayward, Sergeant 8 and later inspector

Mr ACB Hayward joined the Borough on the 9 May 1927 having been working for the Post Office. He was allocated PC 17 and served on the beat for 12 months before taking up clerical duties in the office. He returned to beat duty and in March 1937 he was promoted sergeant No 8 and with further promotion to inspector in 1940 retiring in 1959. [38]

When he joined in 1927 the strength was 34 men:

1 Chief Constable

[38] From notes made by Mr Hayward in the early 1980s

I Inspector
1 Detective sergeant
1 Clerk sergeant
3 Patrol sergeants
27 Police constables

In 1929 the establishment was increased by 5 constables and again in 1933 due to the enlargement of the town boundary the Force was further increased by a sergeant and six constables. There were 300 applicants – times were hard and the police seen as a secure job. Hayward was the only man accepted out of 70 who went for a medical with Dr Milligan. He spent the first month on night duty because he was issued with a cast off uniform and had to be kept out of sight until he could be measured and fitted with his own uniform by Messrs Compton and Sons and Webb. (Note: Suppliers of uniform to the Surrey Constabulary for several generations) Pay was £3.10s a week and there was an allownace for drinks of a shilling a week. If an officer was sick and could walk he had to present himself to the police station everyday. If he could not get about he was visited every day by the next rank up. Stoppages of pay for sickness was initially seven shillings a week but this was later reduced to six shillings because they would have had one day off in any event.

The minimum height was six feet and the maximum age was 24 years. Constables were not allowed to arry without the permission of the Chief Constable after the bride had been vetted.

The PC on station duty was responsible for warning the volunteer firemen in the event of a fire. There was a plug-in switchboard in the police station and by plugging in to several holes in succession and giving each one a ring by turning the magnetic handle, the alarm was conveyed to the firemen. On other occasions the alarm was sounded by tolling the bell above the Guildhall.

There was no motor transport until 1930 and Mr Hayward recalled that on one occasion he was on duty in the station when they were told some men were trying to break into the Co-Op. He called the detective sergeant and they hired a private motor car and set off in pursuit. There was no radio so they had to make several stops and phone the police station for news of sighting of the villains. They were last seen near East Grinstead where they made off across the fields and were arrested by local police. The detective sergeant and Sergeant Hayward collected the prisoners and brough them back to Guildford.

The Chief Constable Mr Nicholas lived above the station in North Street and when he died in 1929 the flat was split up and several single men occupied some of the rooms and others were used for offices. The front room was shared by a clerk and two detective sergeants and an inspector. There was a large double sided desk in the centre of the room and they sat on high stools.

Among the many duties carried out by police was the enforcement of the Diseases of Animals Act which meant a tour of duty on Tuesday morning at the cattle market and for this they were paid and extra 1/6d an hour by the local authority. Once a year they carried out an inspection of local public service vehicles. They would all assemble on the Market Square and be checked for cleanliness, condition, licences etc.

In the 1930s constables were not allowed to sit for promotion exams for the first four years of service (Not: As it was on into the 1960s). The constable sat the sergeants exam in two parts, police law and education. (The same on into the late 1960s but national examinations).

The police law exam was set by an inspector and consisted of four questions; presentation and preparation of a case, police law and proceedure, local bylaws and writing a report. The education examination was set by a local schoolmaster; arithmatic, general knowledge, geography and an essay. One hour was allowed for each paper so the exam was from 9-1, 2-6.

PC (later PS) 47 W H Kay

Mr Kay was born in Walthamstow in 1912 his first job was as an accounts clerk before joining the Borough in 1935. When he joined officers were employed in the station to clean the floors and the front door step to the North Street police station. He was later a clerk sergeant in the Albury Road police station moving to the Surrey Constabulary from where he retired in March 1962.

He recalls that officers were fined a shilling a minute for being late on parade and he used two alarm clocks to be on the safe side.

PC 13 later PC 30 F R Kendall, then PC 455 in the Constabulary

Mr F R Kendall[39] born 1906 in Essex served in the Grenadier Guards for three years from 1924-1927. In February 1927 he applied for and joined the Borough aged 22 years. In July 1927 as PC 13 he was involved in a serious road traffic accident whilst riding his motorcycle and suffered multiple injuries and was not expected to recover and was required to resign on medical grounds. The police surgeon was Dr Milligan.

After some months and several medicals he reapplied and was taken back on the strength as PC 30 after an interview with the Chief Constable Mr Nicholas. He agreed that Kendall could re-join immediately. This was a shock and as he had nowhere to live the Chief Constable picked up the phone and rang a lady who offered digs immediately, saying "—you can start back tomorrow."

[39] From notes by Mr Kendall early 1980s

In 1934 with the passing of the Road Traffic Act it was necessary to enforce it but Mr Nicholas was dead against motor transport of any sort however we had to do something and a Ford Model 8 was purchased and I became the first driver with PC Rook. . We had another officer with us as observer and worked 0900-1700 and no night duties. We did not have to make any "rings" but we were restricted to the Borough and called in at the station when passing to check if we were required as there were no radios.

The total strength of the force was 30 the Chief Constable being number 1 and so on down the ranks. There were no ambulances so the police kept a hand ambulance at the station for carrying injured people, suicides etc.

PC Kendall when in the Army and on traffic duty

One of the conditions of service was that an officer had to be able to swim and had to qualify as a lifesaver along with first aid training.

In January 1928 there was very heavy snow fall in Guildford followed by torrential rain and serious flooding.

When the force was amalgamated Borough constables were guaranteed service in the Borough if they wished but this could be a bar to promotion.

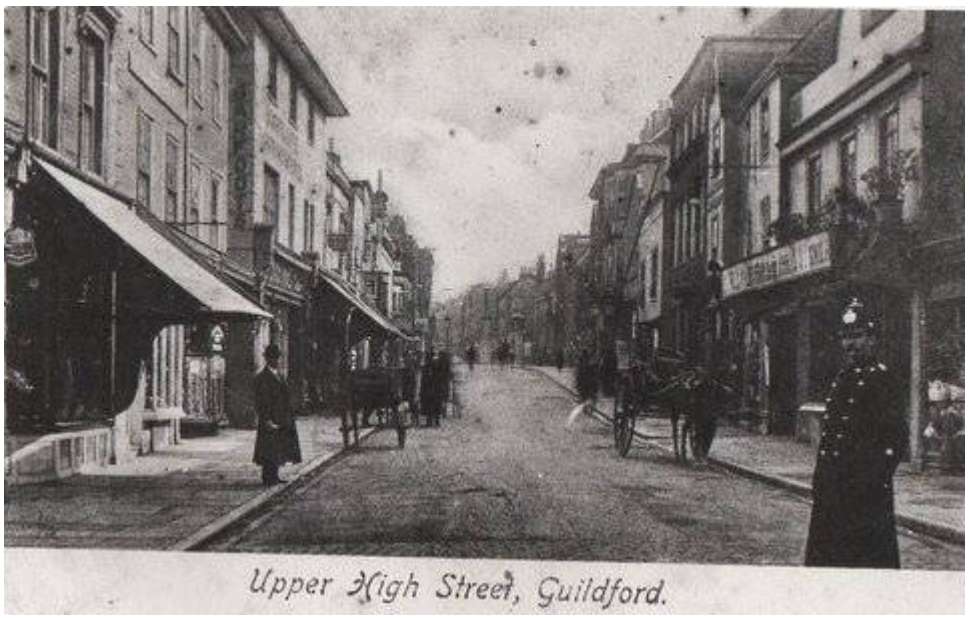
Kendall was on night duty when the first bombs fell on Guildford at St Catherine's near Mount Browne.

There was no wireless in use in the Borough before the War and when the fist sets were used one was fitted to a Sunbeam Talbot patrol car and PC Kendall responded to the first emergency call, which was to a suspected housebreaking at Old Woking.

PC Fred Kendall wearing a winter uniform.

1948 28 September Kendall was on night duty and called to a woman suffering from the after effects of childbirth and who was reported at 0100 to be in the River Wey at Farnham. Along with another officer he was able to save the woman from drowning. For this action PC Kendall was awarded a Royal Humane Society Award on Vellum. PC Kendall retired in 1958

PC 19 Frederick Lawrence in the post card below (Later PS 6)



Frederick Lawrence[40] was born in 1879 in the Newdigate area of Clandon and died in 1960. Working on a farm and for the Gas and Light Company at Kingston Fred joined the Borough about 1900 becoming PC 19. He remained in the force during the Great War and was promoted to PS 6 before retiring after what was thought to be 26 years service. During the Second World War Fred kept licensed premises next to the Guildhall known as the "Kitchen Kettle.

Fred had four brothers and six sisters, three brothers served in the police two in Folkestone and one in Dover. His son F. George Lawrence served for 26 years in the Surrey Constabulary and his son was serving in the police in Ross on Wye in the early 1980s.

PC40 later PS William (Bill) Leahy (460 Constabulary)

William or Bill as he was known was born in Guildford on 23 February 1912 where his father was in the military police. Apprenticed to Burton's tailors he had an ambition to join the police and in 1933 when the Borough were authorised to increase their strength he applied and was the only one out of twenty to pass Dr Milligan's medical. On the 18 March 1933 he reported for duty in North Street with three other recruits PC 26 Carragher, PC 41 Parsons and PC 42 Almond. The numbers were allocated on the basis of first come first served as traditionally the lower the number the more senior you were. Annual leave was allocated by seniority and so the higher the number the lower you were on the list which meant for Bill that for his first two years of leave he never saw the sun on his holidays.

[40] Notes early 1980 from son George who served 26 years in the Surrey Constabulary

The police found them lodgings and they were taken out on patrol in civilian clothes by Inspector Yeend who would drop them off at distance points to find their own way back to the police station. Pay was £3.2.6d a week. They were then issued with cast off uniform and went on night duty learning beats. They also had to write out a sheet copied from Moriarty's Police Law which was the total instruction in police law. (The book was still being used on into the 1970s and possibly beyond). Officers were subsequently measured for and issue with four uniforms, mackintosh, greatcoat and other items. The buttons were not chrome plated and had to be cleaned before every tour of duty as did the helmet badges, facings and whistle chain all of which quickly tarnished in damp foggy weather.

There were eight beats in the 1930s and additionally some traffic beats, which in reality were extended traffic points. These were located at Lovibonds near the off licence; Sainsbury's near the grocery store; Playhouse then a Cinema near Tunsgate; North Street; railway entrance patrol.

Change over of shifts was actually done on the beat not at the police station. No 1 beat was the High Street and a senior PC always covered this. Shifts on days were alternate early/late. After two years on probation PCs were authorised to do duty on Tuesdays at the cattle market acting as Inspectors for the Diseases of Animals Act. Police also issued licences under this Act (Note: duties of police on into the 1970s)

PCs on the beat had to carry a list of unattended premises and these had to be checked twice in a tour of duty. If one was found broken into the PC was liable to be fined. All beats were worked on foot until cycles came along although not used by the sergeants. In 1936 the Borough acquired a Ford Popular CPF200 which was bought locally for £100 new! PC Leahy and PC Rook were the crew and supposed to enforce the Road Traffic Act 1930 although in reality they were used for a variety of jobs since they had to call in the police station every hour.

On the outbreak of war Bill was posted to the CID with an allowance of 7/6d a week. There were some 5000 Canadian troops billeted at Whiteley Camp at Merrow Downs and Newlands Corner and they caused a lot of trouble in the town. They were a hard lot and mostly dealt with by their regimental police. Many were lost on the Dieppe raid.

PC Leahy remained on CID until the end of the war and later became Sergeant 460 of the Surrey Constabulary serving in the Guildford Division until he retired on the 18 March 1963 exactly 30 years after he joined. [41]

[41] Notes from Bill Leahy in the early 1990s

1955 The **railway strike** the Surrey Constabulary sent aid to the Metropolitan Police to counter potential trouble. **Tony Forward:** About twelve PCs led by Sergeant Bill Leahy went to Croydon where they assisted the Metropolitan Police. [42]

Bill was a larger than life character and on into his long life he maintained social contact with his ex-comrades. There are many tales one of his checking the pubs in the High Street with a young probationer in the early 1960s. On entering the pubs he would be asked if he needed to check the stock register which he did – out the back and as there was no such duty he drank his pint and moved on to the next "stock cupboard."[43]

The Surrey Police circulated the following message in September 2008:

> I regret to inform you of the death of retired Sergeant William (Bill) Leahy, a widower aged 96yrs. He died at his home in Guildford today (Sunday 7th September 2008). He leaves a son, Aubrey, who lives in the USA and a daughter, Bridget, who lives in London with her husband.
>
> As you may have read in the last Old and Bold, Bill was the oldest Surrey Police pensioner. He joined Guildford Borough Police in 1933 and retired from the Surrey Constabulary in 1963. He spent the whole of his service in Guildford.
>
> The funeral took place on Monday 22nd September 2008 at Guildford Crematorium. Everyone was invited to refreshments afterwards for light refreshments at the Olive Tree, Sutton Green Road, Sutton Green
>
> Bill's son Aubrey was named after Aubrey Harris a member of the Borough and a close friend of Bill who was killed whilst on flying operations with the RAF in 1943.

[42] Correspondence with Robert Bartlett
[43] As told to Robert Bartlett by a new constable who did not have the capacity for the beer!

A total of 197 years of age Bill Leahy and Cyril Dumbleton 2006 Old Comrades

PC 31 George Locke (PS 11) later Inspector Surrey Constabulary

William Lock was born on the 20 November 1903 in Bishops Waltham near Southampton joining the Borough in April 1926 after working in his family's

business. He was promoted sergeant in 1940 as PS 11 and later Inspector. He married in 1928 and on his retirement worked for the County Court. He died in 1961.

1927: Pc William Locke and PC James Gascoyne found a burglar in a house in Warren Road. A chase followed and when Locke overtook the thief a violent struggle ensued ceasing only when Locke had used his truncheon and Gascoyne had applied "ju-jitsu" holds. A loaded revolver was found in his pocket.[44]Mr Justice Horridge commended Locke for bravery for arresting an armed burglar in Warren Road.[45]

1928 PC Locke was commended for his courage in stopping a runaway horse at Ram Corner.[46]

1946 February PS William Locke awarded **King's Police Medal for Gallantry** placed himself in front of a prisoner who was displaying an automatic pistol and attempting to escape from Guildford Police Station. The prisoner fired at point blank range but the bullet struck the bottom button of the sergeant's uniform jacket and was deflected. Sergeant Locke thereupon closed with the prisoner and overpowered him. In February 1946 PC Wilson on patrol in Guilford stopped a man who gave unsatisfactory answers and aroused the officer's suspicions and so he was arrested. He was wearing a coat several sizes too large and whilst being searched at the police station by Sergeant Almond the man suddenly produced an automatic pistol. Both the policemen moved very fast PC Wilson out of the line of fire and Sergeant Almond out of the door. Meanwhile Sergeant Locke having heard the disturbance came at the gunman from behind. Sergeant Almond who must have returned shouted a warning and the gunman turned when the sergeant was about four feet away the gun was fired. The bullet blew a metal button off the sergeant's tunic. On further investigation it was found that the gun had four more bullets but the gun had jammed. The man was sentenced to seven years [47]

[44] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[45] Undated Surrey Advertiser cutting but his last day of service was July 4th when Princess Margaret visited Guildford
[46] Press cutting dated 1928
[47] Roberts P 91

From Mrs Thompson, Guildford: April 2009[48]: Daughter of George Locke: When my father challenged this man he struck him hard with his left hand as his right hand was injured. He then fell on him and an outline of the gun was found on his stomach. Later that evening he was brought home by the police surgeon as he was quite shaken by the event and later that night the police surgeon attended again and I remember him saying "Locke, you are on fire!" The following day he was fine and returned to work. My father was a Borough man who never gave up his rights as he wanted to stay in Guildford. His KPM is in a display cabinet in HQ along with a letter from him in his beautiful handwriting. I remember being told that in about 1926/1927 on his very first night on patrol in Guildford with a senior man they captured a man who had a pistol. On another occasion he was checking an unoccupied house and found a window open. He entered and searched and found a man hiding in one of the beds. He was a big tough man and one night he gave chase, leaping a five barred gate to catch a criminal something he could never normally do!

PC 49 John Pearce (PC469)

John Pearce was born in Derbyshire on 7 September 1919 joining the Grenadier Guards on the 23 March 1934 leaving to join the Borough in January 1938. Training was undertaken at the Surrey Constabulary HQ in Woodbridge Road from 1000-1500 followed by 1800-2100 walking beats in plain clothes accompanied by a uniformed PC learning beats. This lasted for two weeks followed by a month of night duty, the

[48] In conversation with Robert Bartlett

first weeks accompanied the second two weeks on your own. The trainees used Moriarty's Police Law as the textbook for training. [49]

In December 1939 John was recalled to the Army and joined the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards serving in the 1st Guards Armoured Division as a tank driver. He served through the war including Operation Market Garden the dash for Arnham to relieve the Parachute Regiment getting as far as Elste. He ended the war in the port of Cookshaven being demobbed in August 1946 to re-join the Borough. It is confusing as to when but at some stage John was a professional middleweight boxer using the name Jack Hood.

In the early 1960s an immaculate John Pearce was working as an aide to CID in Guildford where he lived with his wife who owned and ran a fashion shop for ladies clothes in the Upper High Street.

PC 37 Mathews

PC 37 Mathews riding a Norton in about 1935 in Stoke Park (later PC 461)

PC R Mathewswas born in Aberavon, South Wales on the 19 December 1909 and worked as a tunneler in the coalmines before joining the Grenadier Guards in August 1928 leaving to join the Borough in July 1933. Mr Mathews performed foot duties

[49] Notes by John Pearce early 1980s

until 1935 when he was posted to motor-cycle duties riding the first Borough motor cycle the Norton Model 19 later to be replaced by a Norton ES2 (500cc). [50]

As the only motorcyclist at the time his duties were to patrol and enforcing the road traffic acts on the recently opened by-pass. His hours of duty were normally 0900-1300 or 1400-1800 or 1400-2000 but no night duty. Normal magistrates Courts were held in the Guildhall on Mondays whilst Quarter Sessions were at County Hall at Kingston.

In 1939 Mr Mathews was recalled to the colours and served in the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards as a sergeant in Guards Armoured serving through the war being discharged from Germany. He re-joined the Borough in 1945 and took the number PC 461 in the County Constabulary from where he retired in 1963.

PC 17 Edwin "Tiny" Oliver (PC 470)

Edwin Thomas Oliver always known as "Tiny" as he was not, was larger than life police officer still working in Guildford in the early 1980s and full of tales of policing the Borough before and during the War. He was not related to Chief Constable Oliver although his father served in the Borough dying in service.

[50] Notes from PC Mathews early 1980s

He was born on the 9 May 1918 in Guildford and worked as an electrician for the local council before joining the police of the Borough on the 17 July 1937 as PC 17. On joining he was paid £3 11 shillings after deductions. Pay parades were held on Fridays and were either at North Street or pre-packed at the municipal offices. His first month's duty was a mixture of beat duty with a senior PC and classroom duty at Surrey HQ in Woodbridge Road. [51]

Tiny was involved in a case involving Lt Hemmant in 1940 after he shot a woman in Quarry Street.

Tiny was called up in 1942 with PC Weekes and served in the Royal Artillery in the Jungle Field Regiment in India, Burma, Indo-China, and Malaya as part of the 14th Army under General Slim. In 1946 he returned to the UK and after two months at Bovingdon he was discharged. Whilst in the Army his service pay was made up to that of a constable by the Guildford Borough Police.

Re-joining the Borough in January 1947 he became PC 470 of the Constabulary doing desk duty in the Woodbridge Road police station and beat duty. He retired in October 1967 and died in November 1978.

His father was Thomas (Tiny) Oliver PC 8 who is in the group photo taken outside North Street in 1911 served 1909 -1929 when he died.

PC 54 and later Sergeant Clifford Robinson

Clifford Alfred Robinson was born in Guildford on the 21 June 1917 and on leaving school he became a toolmaker. He joined the Borough on the 5 October 1938 as PC 54 (his wife's father was a retired superintendent in the police). He was to work beat and motorcycle duties transferring to the Surrey Constabulary and moving to Godalming in 1953, the information room in 1957 where he was promoted sergeant in 1960. [52]

Cliff was awarded a medal of the Royal Society for the Protection of Life from Fire.

[51] Notes from Tiny Oliver in the early 1980s
[52] Notes by Cliff Robinson early 1980s

PC 21 Rook in North Street Police Station

James Edward Rook[53] was born in Grimsby and served in the Coldstream Guards from 1927-1930 before joining the Borough in September 1930. He served in uniform, plain clothes, cycle patrol in the summer time, then rode the first motor cycle patrol on a Norton. Later Jim drove a hired Morris Oxford which was limited to 30 mph. On moving to the CID Jim was trained at Hendon before finally becoming the Coroner's Officer working for four coroners.

Received a commendation for arresting "the staring eyed murderer" (Note: It is not known what case this was)

PC 21 Rook a Borough motor-cyclist

[53] Notes written by PC Rook in early 1980s

Jim Rook a few years on!

PC 51 later Sergeant 8 Wilf Sivill

Joined Guildford Borough 27 March 1937 from the Blues and Royals being one of seven accepted after the medical from Dr Milligan. He started on nights for six weeks then two weeks of day duties. The duties sergeant did not take kindly to people looking at his roster! [54]

Lifesaving and First Aid were compulsory with classes for lifesaving at 0600 in the public baths at Castle Street (Note: still so in the early 1960s at those baths for police cadets) even for those coming off night duty until they held a certificate. Classes for First Aid were held in the evening.

PS Sivill was employed on ordinary duties but for special events such as carnivals, assize courts etc horses were hired from a local livery stable and he performed mounted duties with PC Roberts. The Force owned four sets of harness and it was his job to keep them clean.

[54] Notes from Mr Sivill early 1980s

In December 1939 Mr Sivill was employed as a beat motor-cyclist riding a maroon Triumph Tiger 100. A second machine was obtained and riden by a War Reserve constable. Shifts were normal hours. Duties included escorting Army convoys and ordinary police patrol work. Once after a German raid they took some unexploded incendiary bombs back to North Street Police Station where they were identified by a sergeant and they were ordered out! There were many Canadian troops in th earea and on visits to their camp at Newlands Corner and Netley Heath the police motor bike was left at the Guard Room, the police officer being given a lift in a jeep with an escort as the sentries were not too careful who they shot. In about 1944 PC Sivill transferred to the CID and whilst on this duty with DI Stone was involved in the Babes in the Wood murder.(1947 after the amalgamation)

Unknown but is a Triumph and may be Mr Sivill

PC 8 Steeds later Superintendent Guildford when part of Joint Police then Superintendent Surrey Constabulary

Ashley Thomas Steeds was born on the 30 July 1904 in Salisbury starting work as a clerk before joining the Borough on the 15 April 1925 as PC 8 serving in uniform patrol and clerical duties. He was 6 feet two inches tall fresh complexion, brown hair with blue eyes. On joining he was a clerk in a garage in Salisbury

The following is taken from the appointments register of the Borough Police[55]:

13 May 1926 confirmed in his appointment and advanced to £3.12s class – Fourth Class constable
15 April 1927 advanced to £3.14s
13 May 1928 advanced to £3.16s
13 May 1929 advanced to £3.18s
23 November 1929 passed promotion examination to sergeant and advanced to Third Class Constable
15 April 1930 advanced to £4 class

[55] Tony Collman private collection

18 May 1931 Promoted to chief clerk sergeant and advanced to £5 19s 3d
13 May 1932 advanced to £5.2 6d class
18May 1933 advanced to £5 7s 6d class
18 May 1834 passed promotion examination to Inspector
19 April 1935 advanced to £5 10s class
18 May 1935 promoted inspector and advanced to £5.19. 3d class
21 September 1936 advanced to £6.3.1d class
21 September 1937 advanced to £6 6s 11d class
21 September 1938 advanced to £6 10s 9d class [56]

Ashley Steeds Life saving medal[57]

Ashley Steeds first aid medal[58]

Ashley Steeds instructor's medal[59]

1943 February: Superintendent Ashley Steeds of the Borough assumed command of the newly formed Guildford Division.

[56] Notes from Ashley Steeds in the early 1980s
[57] Tony Collman private collection
[58] Tony Collman private collection
[59] Tony Collman private collection

Ashley Steed as Superintendent Guildford making a presentation at a local school[60]

PC 8 Steeds later Superintendent Guildford when part of Joint Police then Superintendent Surrey Constabulary[61]

PC 48 Thorne PS 464 of the Surrey Constabulary

Mr W L Thorne was from Cripplestyle in Dorset where he was born on the 20 July 1913. He had two uncles serving in the Metropolitan Police. After a number of jobs he joined the Borough on 26 March 1937 as PC 48. He did several weeks training with the Surrey Constabulary at Woodbridge Road and then went on the beat. He remained on duty in the Borough throughout the war. He recalls a flying bomb falling in Recreation Road and that the force had a Wolseley 16/80 HPH880 and a Buick Straight "8" which he crashed.

[60] Tony Collman private collection
[61] Tony Collman private collection

Around 1950 Mr Thorne was acting sergeant and living in the police station with his wife who was the police matron. Mr Thorne was promoted sergeant in early 1952 moving to Egham as PS 464 retiring on June 13 1964.

A most unlikely British police car the Buick Straight 8
Not the one used in Guildford Borough

Believed to be PC Thorn

PC 20 Truelove

Alexander Arthur Truelove was born 1892 in Reigate and aged 22 when he joined Guildford Borough on the 2nd January 1915. He had lived in Nutley Lane Reigate and worked as a chemist's porter for J. Rogers, Market Place, Reigate. He was six feet tall with a fresh complexion, black hair and dark brown eyes

Joined the Borough in a civilian role in 1914 he became PC 20 but then volunteered for the Army joining the Military Police.[62]

[62] Guildford Borough appointments book

4th Feb 1916 resigned to join the colours resumed police duty 28.12.18, re sworn
30.12.18 4th class Constable to 3rd Class Constable
5th Jan 1920 advanced to £4 class to 3rd Class Constable
5th Jan 1921 advanced to £4.2.0 Class
8th Oct 1921 elects that the scale of ordinary pensions prescribed by the Police Pension Act 1890, should apply in his case.
5th Jan 1922 advanced to £4.4.0 Class
5th Jan 1923 advanced to £4.6.0 Class
5th Jan 1924 advanced to £4.8.0 Class
5th Jan 1925 advanced to £4.10.0 Class to First Class Constable
5th Jan 1932 advanced to £4.12.6
5th Jan 1937 advanced to £4.15.0

Wounded on the Somme in his leg he was invalided back to the UK. When discharged he volunteered for the Royal Garrison Artillery. After the war he re-joined the Borough finishing at the end of the Second World War after 31 years service.
Mr Truelove served part of his service in the Borough on the mounted branch. He died in 1978

Alexander Truelove First World War medals insignia and identification tags[63]

[63] Tony Collman private collection

PC Trueloves Life saving medallions[64]

PC 19 W Turner

Mr W Turner was born on the 4 February 1891 in Weston, Hertfordshire and served in the Hertfordshire Regiment and Royal Garrison Artillery for 12 years including the Great War. On the 19 April 1919 he joined the Borough as PC 19 and was given the nickname "Happy". [65]

With his wife they lived above North Street police station for four and a half years from 1936. Mrs Turner acted as a police matron, provided meals for the prisoners and escorting female prisoners to Holloway. She also cleaned the police station.
He was commended by Kingston Court during the war for an incident involving a gold watch and a Canadian soldier.

Spending most of his service on beat duties working shifts he retired in 1945 dying in 1966

PC 57 Oliver Weekes and PC475 of the Surrey Constabulary

Geoffrey Olivant Weekes was born 8 October 1917 in Grantham, Lincolnshire and in 1932 he became a telegraph messenger boy with the GPO. On the 29 April 1939 he joined the Guildford Borough Police and was sent to Birmingham in June 1939 for a three-month course and was there when war broke out. All students were immediately returned to their forces and he began 12-hour shifts either 0600-1800 or 1800-0600. [66]

[64] Tony Collman private collection
[65] Note from Mrs Turner in the early 1980s
[66] From notes by Mr Weekes made about 1982

On 3 December 1939 he took over a motorcycle patrol from PC Mathews on what as far as could recall a Norton, Velocette and a BSA. The other motorcyclists were PCs Sivill and Burgess and their shifts were 0600-21400, 1400-2200, 2200-0600 carrying out general patrol duties.

On the 25 August 1942 Weekes joined the Army and with PC E. Oliver (Tiny) were posted to Larkhill for a driving course with the Royal Artillery. He did not serve overseas but reached the rank of Bombardier. He was demobbed in 1945 and re-joined the Borough (Joint Police). He was sent on a refresher course to Southampton and soon recommenced duty on a new Triumph motor-cycle with Dick Mathews in the Guildford Division as PC 475 of the Surrey Joint Police. PC Weekes served in the wireless control room at police HQ for the last two years of his service retiring 28 February 1963. A keen athlete he ran for Eastern Command whilst in the Army and in 1949 he escorted the Olympic Flame through Guildford on its way to London.

PC Weekes in 1942 and in 1947 Surrey Constabulary

PS Osmund Wright former Royal Navy (Commissioned)

Mr Osmund Wright was born on the 10 July 1915 in Wimbledon Park and attended the Royal Russell School, Addington. Working first as a commercial artist for Bentalls Ltd., Kingston he joined the Bristol City Police in 1938 transferring to Guildford Borough on the 3 September 1939 with the nicknames “Ozzie” and “Wrig”. His medical was with Dr Peter Milligan and after an issue around diabetes he was accepted on £3 4 shillings a week. He lived in the above North Street police station

later moving to digs in Onslow Village. He recalls the day after war was declared a number of officers had disappeared to re-join the Colours – having the previous evening enjoyed a riotous party. [67]

Shortly after Dunkirk there were a large number of refugees flooding into Guildford, which was known as an "unprotected area" and all, had to be vetted as possible enemy agents. Tribunals were set up. PC Wright acted as an interpreter until 1942 working closely with PC Ferguson on alien issues when he volunteered for the Royal Navy leaving the Borough in August 1942.

In the Royal Navy he served on the Russian convoys and was involved in the Battle of the Barents Sea involving the German battleship Prinz Eugen. Mr Wright lost the fingertips of several fingers through frost bite. He later too part in the Battle of the Atlantic and was commissioned working in Scotland on Combined Operations under Mountbatten He was posted to Southampton and commanded a tank landing craft on the D-Day landings.

He re-joined the Borough in 1945 and on entering his former office found that the paperwork was untouched and was as he left it. He again became deeply involved in working with aliens particularly sorting out Polish service personnel and naturalisation.

Mr Wright ended his service as a sergeant in the Surrey Constabulary stationed at Guildford working amongst other duties as Coroner's Officer.
He was working out of Woodbridge Road in the early 1960s and retired in 1964 when he became an employee of Triggs Turner a local solicitor.

PC 29 Whyman (Later Squadron Leader)

A J Whyman was born in Eastbourne on the 18 March 1916 where his father was in the police. He was educated at Eastbourne Grammar School and worked in a solicitor's office after school. Aged 19 in July 1935 he joined Guildford Borough as PC 29. His training consisted of writing out parts of Moriarty's Police law for Inspector Yeend. After his two years probation it was found he could type so the rest of his service he was posted to the office in North Street. He recalled there was a ships type of voice pipe from the front office to the Chief Constable's office and also recalls the layout of the offices. Pay parades were on Friday and were similar to those in the services. In 1936 he was commended for attempting to rescue a man from drowning in the River Wey. [68]

[67] Notes from Mr Wright early 1980s
[68] Notes from Mr Whyman early 1980s

The first police motorcar was a Ford 8 1937 model, index number CPF200. The passenger pulling a piece of cord operated the bell. Personal uniform or "Kit" was inspected once a year when it had to be laid out in the drill hall.

In 1942 he volunteered for the RAF undertaking flying training in Canada and Florida crossing on the Queen Mary. On completion of his training he was promoted to Pilot Officer returning to the UK before being posted to India to the North West Frontier. He further qualified as a glider pilot preparing for operations against Japan with 42nd Airborne Division.

In March 1946 he was demobbed and re-joined the Borough under class "C" and he had to work his notice. He then resigned to work in Kuwait with an oil company and re-joining the RAF in 1951 where he served with the Air Training Corps retiring in March 1966 as a Squadron Leader.

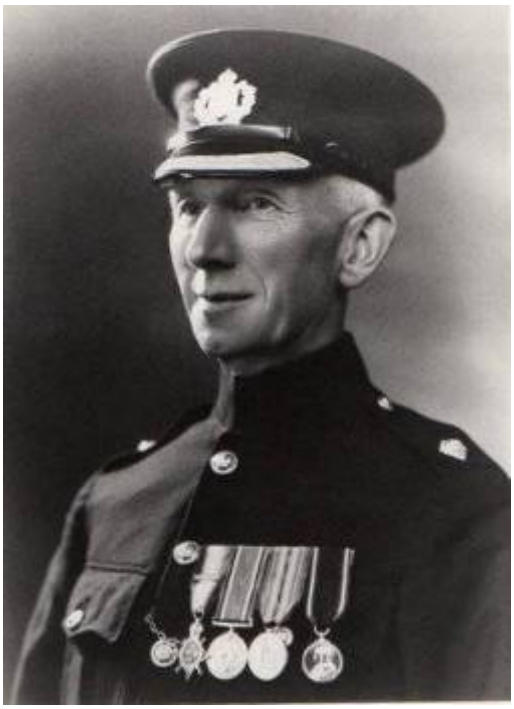
Mr Whyman was an accomplished cricketer playing for Eastbourne when he was 15 and later for police and service teams.

PC 60 Jack Woodford PC 478 of the Surrey Constabulary

PC Woodford was born in Chiddingfold on the 4 November 1918 working in a garage before joining the Borough on the 20 May 1939 and going to Birmingham for his three months of training which was curtailed due to the outbreak of war. He was called up to the Army in 1941 and served in the 49th Battalion Royal Tank Regiment stationed in the UK until 1944 then he served in Normandy including the battles at Caen and the Bulge. He ended the war on Luneburg Heath. Jack re-joined the police as PC 478 until he retired on the 20 May 1969.

Jack attended the Surrey Police Retired Comrades Association lunch in 2011 and was the last surviving member of the Guildford Borough Police.

Jack Woodford second from left



Inspector Walter James Yeend

Walter James Yeend was born 1886 Neasden and became an underground train driver before he joined the Borough 1910 after service in the Coldstream Guards. He was recalled to the Army for the Great War serving throughout in the Guards. In 1916 Mr Yeend was returned to the UK with rheumatic fever and was later stationed in

Victoria Barracks, Windsor as an Orderly Room Sergeant. In 1919 he rejoined the Borough reaching the rank of Inspector leaving the force in 1935 to be employed as a guide at the new Guildford Cathedral. On the outbreak of war he worked in the ration department of the local authority. Mr Yend was always keen on physical fitness.

Guildford Borough Police reunion early 1990s Back Unknown, Unknown, Jack Gower, Jack Woodford (last surviving March2012); Middle: Bill Leahy, Jim Rook, Charlie Barham, and Digger Field.
Front: Wilf Sivill, Superintendent Guildford Stan Harland, Joyce Turner, Jack Spratt? Mick Feehan

Harry Beresford Mann PC12, late Reigate Borough Police

Transferred to Southend in 1914

Killed in Action 1917

Served with Southend Borough Constabulary from Sep 1, 1914 and died on Sep 2, 1917.

Harry Beresford Mann was born on March 4, 1890, in Chelsea. On June 17, 1910, he joined Reigate Borough Police serving in that force as Constable 12. His parents were then living in Barrack Road, Finchampstead, Berkshire and prior to joining the police Harry had been employed for a while at Wellington College, Berkshire. In February 1914, whilst living at 7 St. John's Terrace Road, Redhill he responded to an advertisement and applied for a transfer to Southend-on-Sea Borough Police force. He described himself as being five feet eleven inches tall, weighing twelve stones two pounds with a chest measurement of thirty-eight inches. He had blue eyes, brown hair and a fresh complexion.

James Metcalfe, Head Constable of the Reigate Borough Police supported his application and wrote to the Chief Constable of Southend on February 27, 1914.

"I have to inform you that the above named has my permission to apply for the office of constable in your force. He has served in this force since 17th June, 1910, and in my opinion is quite eligible for the office he seeks. I have lost a number of fine young fellows in this way, but I am not surprised at those who have anything in them desiring to transfer to larger Boroughs where there is more going on. This loss is a rather serious inconvenience to me and my officers, but I am not at all disposed to in any way obstruct the freedom of such transfers."

Harry was duly accepted by the Southend force and was appointed Constable 75 on April 1, 1914. He was posted to the Leigh section.

On September 9, Harry was early turn duty and should have paraded at 5.50am but overslept. Sergeant 11 Arthur B Wiffen arranged for someone to "knock him up" and he arrived for duty at 6.35am. Asked why he was late Harry replied 'I wound my clock up last night but did not switch it off and the bell did not ring, I am sorry this has happened.' Sergeant Wiffen reported him for parading for duty 45 minutes late. Inspector William Carr endorsed the report 'This man has not been any trouble before, and I have no reason to doubt his statement.' Mr Kerslake, Chief Constable of Southend instructed that Harry be cautioned for this transgression.

On Sunday June 27, 1915, Harry married his girl friend Blanche.

On November 20, 1915, he applied for permission to join the Military Police for the duration of the war. Mr Kerslake granted his application and in the following month he was enlisted, not with the Military Police, but as Gunner 126548 Mann of L Battery, Royal Horse Artillery.

At the same time that Harry enlisted, Philip George Saban also enlisted as Gunner 126544 and was assigned to Y Battery, Royal Horse Artillery. He was a colleague of Harry Mann in Southend Police.

Philip George Saban was born on July 26, 1893, at Great Hallingbury, Essex. He was the youngest son of William, a labourer, and Emily Saban. He was baptised at the village church on September 13, 1893, and the family lived at 129 Harps Gate, Great Hallingbury. In September 1914, then twenty-one years old, five feet eleven inches tall, weighing eleven stones five pounds, with blue eyes, dark hair and a fresh complexion he joined Southend Borough Police and was attested as Constable 66. Philip was a single man who had previously worked as a labourer for F H Patten, Lodge Farm, Great Hallingbury.

Having made background enquiries in relation to Philip Saban, following his application to join the police, Sergeant 18 George Goody of Hatfield Broad Oak police station stated:

'I have made enquiries with reference to his character. I find he is a steady, sober, quiet, respectable young man and I have been unable to learn of anything to the prejudice of his character and believe him to be a suitable person to join the Police Force.'

Having joined Southend Police, Philip lived in the Westcliff area. It cannot have been pure coincidence that he enlisted with the Royal Horse Artillery on the same day in December 1915, as Harry Mann. It is highly probable the two men were close friends.

The Royal Horse Artillery, part of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, was organized into Brigades of two batteries, each of which had six guns and twelve wagons and an ammunition column. Whilst other weapons forming part of the Royal Artillery armoury were horse drawn, the Royal Horse Artillery was required to be more mobile than the Royal Field Artillery and was primarily concerned with the close support of cavalry. They were initially armed with the 13 pounder quick firing gun which was somewhat lighter in weight than the 18 pounder used by the Royal field Artillery. During the period of trench warfare the Royal Horse Artillery served in a similar capacity as the Royal Field Artillery, for most of the time giving support to the infantry.

In March 1916, the 29th Division arrived in France. It comprised: 15th Brigade Royal Horse Artillery - B, L and Y Batteries (each with 4 x 18 pounders). 17th Brigade Royal Field Artillery - 13th, 26th and 92nd Field Batteries. 132 Brigade Royal Field Artillery - 369th, 370th and 371st Field Batteries. 147th Brigade Royal Field Artillery - 10th, 97th and 368th Field Batteries.

PC Harry Mann was a member of L Battery and PC Phillip Saban was a member of Y Battery Royal Horse Artillery.

Harry Mann was recorded as missing presumed killed in action on November 30. His body, if ever recovered was never identified. He was twenty-nine years old when he

died. His police colleague Philip Saban was mortally wounded and died later of his wounds at the 29th Division Casualty Clearing Station at Grevillers on December 2, he was just twenty-four years of age.

Harry Mann and Philip Saban had been colleagues in Southend Police Force, they had enlisted together to serve their country, they had fought in the same Brigade in the fields of France and Flanders and they died on the same battlefield. Philip Saban is buried at Grevillers British Cemetery close to the location of the Casualty Clearing Station where he was treated.

On January 10, 1918, Blanche E Mann, the widow of Harry Mann, who was then living at 9, Farm Avenue, Streatham, S.W.16 wrote to Mr Kerslake, Chief Constable of Southend Borough Police:

"It is with great sorrow I must tell you my dear husband is feared killed. I have enclosed a copy of the letter one of his officers wrote for you to read and still hope that there is a possible chance of his being alive as so far I have had no official news from the War office. Yours truly Blanche E Mann."

The letter that Blanche Mann referred to was from 2nd Lieutenant S H Edgar of L Battery, Royal Horse Artillery:

"I am writing these few lines to tell you how sorry I am not to be able to find any further traces of your husband. I have not written sooner as I hoped to have better news for you. I am afraid I can offer you but very little hope of his being alive but will tell you the circumstances. He together with three gallant comrades voluntarily carried a wounded man to the dressing station when a shell burst in the party and I am afraid killed them all. We were unable to find out as the Germans were only a few yards off and we had to retire. All this happened at Manieres. I should like to say had your husband lived I should have recommended him for a decoration for very conspicuous gallantry. I can only offer you my most sincere sympathy in your great loss and say how much we all miss him."

On February 13, 1918, the Watch Committee of Southend reported that Constable Mann had been officially reported as wounded and missing and that Constable Saban had been killed in action. They directed that the Council's sympathy be expressed to the relatives of the officers.

On March 15, 1918, the Chief Constable was directed to continue, till the next meeting, the payment of War Service Allowance to the wife of Constable Mann, who had been recently reported wounded and missing in France. On April 12, 1918, the Chief Constable was instructed to discontinue, from the end of that week, any further payment to Mrs. Mann whose husband had been missing and was now presumed to have been killed.

In March 1927, Blanche Mann, then living at 78b High Road, Streatham, S.W.16 wrote to Mr Kerslake, who was still the Chief Constable:

“I beg to apply for the superannuation money that was due to my late husband P.C. 75 Harry Beresford Mann late of the Southend Police Force (Leigh Section) who was presumed missing in France Nov.30th 1917.... Owing to adverse circumstances and having to help support my mother I shall be glad to receive some (money) at your earliest convenience and cannot understand why it was not sent to me at the time.”

In response she received the sum of £5.05.1d representing the amount of her late husband's pension deductions whilst serving with Southend Police.

Blanche Mann never married again and in 1957, following the changes to the police Pension Regulations, she was awarded a widows pension. She was then living at 67 Lesbourne Road, Reigate, Surrey.

Philip Saban’s grave

Home Guard towards the end of the war led by a Borough sergeant[69]

8th Surrey (Reigate) Battalion

1944 Friday 29 December: Surrey Mirror – 1944 [70]

The Borough's Home Guard. A Short History Of The 8th Surrey Battalion. The Days Of The L.D.V.

How many people lining the route of the 8th Surrey (Reigate) Battalion Home Guard's farewell march on Sunday, December 3rd, gave more than a passing thought to the significance of the event, or cast their minds back to Tuesday, May 14th, 1940 when, with the field-grey hordes of Germany spreading like an evil canker across Europe, the Secretary for War. Mr. Anthony Eden, came to a B.B.C. microphone with the appeal that brought old soldiers, well past the age of soldiering, back to arms, and set youth, not yet quite old enough for full-time soldiering, drilling, shooting and stalking?

The story starts at mid-day on that memorable Tuesday with a telegram over the signature of the Under Secretary of State. It went to every Chief Constable in the country. Mr. W. H. Beacher, sitting in his office in Reigate, read it: "Broadcast Will be made at 9.10 pm. to-day inviting male British subjects between the ages of 17 and 65 to register for Local Defence Volunteer Corps against enemy landings by parachute or otherwise. Registrations will be at any police station. Circular follows. In meantime, please ensure forthwith that all stations are prepared to receive registrations." There followed details of particulars to be taken. While the then Reigate Borough Police were making the necessary arrangements there came a second telegram notifying them of a broadcast appeal to be made for rifles and ammunition, and asking the police to be ready also to record details of all weapons offered to the new Volunteer Force.

The broadcasts, which gave first news of the new Force to the public came in the bulletins at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. It was during the latter that Mr. Eden outlined the enemy's methods of parachute attack and made his now famous appeal. In the Borough, as elsewhere in the country, the response was astounding. Almost before the broadcast was over the telephone lines to the police stations were busy and personal calls at the stations to register mounted rapidly. Mr. Beacher and his staff worked almost without pause to keep pace with the applications, 1,500 of which poured in in 48 hours.

[69] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/homeguard.htm Peter Pringle's photograph

[70] http://sussexhistoryforum.co.uk/index.php?topic=7355.0;wap2

Reigate Hill Patrol

Some of the Volunteers had their first taste of duty only three days after the broadcast, for it was on May 17th that the late Capt. E. H. Tuckwell came from Guildford Headquarters to the Chief Constable - at 4 p.m. - to make arrangements for night patrols to be on Reigate Hill. Capt. W. E. Hill, M.C., was contacted, and was acquainted on his arrival, shortly before 7 p.m., with what was required. A police car took him to the addresses of several of the Volunteers, and, armed with six "P.14" rifles, all that could be mustered at that stage, the little party set off in police cars for their patrol ground. The twelve men who comprised this first patrol were Messrs. Chalcraft, Cook, Cuss, Dungate, Elliott, Hunt, Jarrett, Laker, Lott, Lovegrove, Pilbeam and Rumble, under the command of Capt. Hill, who, however, found the chosen site for the observation post, a spot near the water tower on Colley Hill, to be unsatisfactory, the view to the southward being impeded by Reigate Park. On the following night therefore the same patrol moved to Reigate Park itself, and were under the command of Mr. Vigers, Capt. Hill having been summoned to Guildford to an urgent conference. Most of the men on these early patrols were unfamiliar with the "P.14" rifle, not having handled firearms since the last war, and so the commanders divided their small force into two, one keeping up the patrol of the area whilst the other received some instruction as to the handling of the unfamiliar weapons. These night watches were divided into three periods - 10 p.m. to 1 a.m., 1 a.m. to 4 a.m., and 4 a.m. to 7 am.

The Borough Company Formed

Meanwhile, at the conference to which Captain Hill had gone, and which was also attended by Alderman Lieut. Col. F. J. Spranger, Mr. W. H. Beacher, Capt. Mansfield (Redhill) and Capt. Charlesworth (Merstham), it had been decided that Reigate (including Redhill, Earlswood and Merstham) should be allotted one Company of the L D.V. The work of registration was continuing, and preliminary details of the scheme were being worked out, so that on May 20th at a meeting at the Town Hall, convened by the Chief Constable and presided over by Alderman Spranger, it was possible to get down to the work of organisation. At this meeting, at which Alderman Spranger intimated that he was unable to take command of the Reigate Company but at which he introduced Mr. R. J. V. Hake, of the White House, Reigate Heath, as Company Commander, it was decided that the Company should comprise a Reigate Town Platoon under Capt. W. E. Hill, a Redhill Platoon under Capt. E. T. Mansfield, and a Merstham Platoon under Capt. W. G. Charlesworth.

Equipment And Excitement

In view of the fact that orders had been issued for the manning of vital points by the night of May 22nd, Command and Platoon officers had to hustle to contact their men and to arrange rotas for the mounting of guards. Arrangements had also to be made

for the equipping of the men with the "fixed and distinctive badge or sign, easily recognisable from a distance" required by international law. It had been ruled that every Volunteer should be provided with a steel helmet, a Service jacket or denim overall, and a Service or forage cap. Alternatively, he was to wear with his civilian clothes - but not civilian headwear- an arm band bearing the letters. "L.D.V.," to be affixed to the sleeve. Those early Volunteers are hardly likely to forget those exciting nights, not unrelieved by moments of hilarity, when they first reported at the various guardrooms and selected their jackets and trousers from the piles dumped on the floors. Some fitted and quite a lot didn't, and many a stirring tale could be told of uniforms in the latter category which were tailored with lengths of string.

And not the least exciting moments were those when the rifles and ammunition, brought from a central store, were handed round. The old soldiers in the L.D.V. were not long in familiarising themselves with rifles of a different pattern from those they used in the last war, but some of the younger members, though willing to learn, caused some nervousness during the initial stages as they swung their weapons while trying to load and unload- and at least one guardroom floor was punctured when a young L.D.V., after unloading at the end of the night, pulled the trigger to make sure that he hadn't "left one in." This incident may or may not have been responsible for an order that was made to the effect that the five rounds issued to each man were to be carried in the pocket and only to be inserted into the weapon when the Volunteer was confronted by the enemy!

The Local Defence Volunteers, however, were not deterred in their preparations to defend the Borough against invaders by the early shortage of rifles and ammunition, and the younger and more agile volunteers were invited to form themselves into bombing squads, the "bombs" being the famous home-made "Molotov Cocktails" - glass bottles charged with a highly inflammable mixture of crude tar and petrol and prepared for fragmentation on impact by irregular slashes of the bottle's surface with a glazier's diamond. They were for use against tanks, and had proved their efficiency in the Spanish Civil War. The fact that, armed only with such weapons, a rifle, five rounds of ammunition, plus the usual cold steel, they might have to face the modern weapons of the world's most ruthlessly efficient war-machine, did not appear unduly to perturb these Volunteers, young or old. Their spirit was superior to their weapons.

The Threat Of Invasion

With events moving apace on the Continent it became evident that this country faced something more than the dropping of paratroopers whom the Local Defence Volunteers had been intended to counter. The threat of a full-scale military invasion from the bases across the English Channel was growing hourly, and with it the need for envisaging the L.D.V. as something more than a mobile scheme of defence. General Ironside, Commander-in-Chief of the Home Forces, alive to the fact, called a conference of L.D.V. leaders; at which it was laid down that defence of the

roadblocks that were being hurriedly erected all over Southern England must be the prior concern of the Volunteers.

Under the stimulus of Mr. Hake's energetic direction the Borough L D.V. jumped to it with a will. Mr. Hake set up his H.Q. in the annexe to the Town Hall, and appointed Mr. Sidney Lovegrove, a former Quartermaster, to take charge of the weapons and stores that were beginning to trickle through a little faster than hitherto. Observation posts established on Redhill Common and in Reigate Park were improved, from the point of view of those manning them, by the loan of two portable-job-office on wheels and equipped with heating and lighting. Other posts were established on Reigate Hill, Colley Hill, and at Merstham on Shepherds Hill. Roadblocks which the L.D.V. were to man sprang up at points near Reigate Heath, on the Kingswood-road, in London-road, Merstham, near Nutfleld Priory, and, in addition, guards were mounted nightly at the Reigate, Redhill and Merstham telephone exchanges. Occasional extra guards had also to be provided day or night when called for by the military authorities or R.A.F. Commands for such things as food depots or military traffic temporarily parked in the area.

PS 38 Alfred Samuel Deakin, Guildford Borough
Lieutenant on the General List;
Control Commission Europe
Died aged 37, 1 March 1945

PS Deakin trod on a mine whilst serving as a Lieutenant on the General List as a member of the Control Commission. He was aged 37 when he died the son of Alfred and Alice Elizabeth Deakin of Guildford and husband of Lily Margaret Deakin, of Guildford, Surrey, England. He is buried in the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, Netherlands.

PC Deakin joined the Guildford Borough Police on the 8 August 1931 being sworn in the Guildhall on the 10 August before W T Patrick Esq., DR G C Williamson, Mrs E Harris, R F Billing Esq. Formerly he had been a machinist and soldier with the Coldstream Guards for 7 years. When joining he lived in 33 Greenwood Villas, Lower Farnham Road, Aldershot. Born in Aston Warwickshire he was single when he joined the police, height 6 feet 1 inches tall, fresh complexion, light brown hair and blue eyes.

Service:
PC Deakin's appointment was confirmed on the 8 August 1932.
Passed sergeant's examination on 4th September 1938

Bill Leahy: "Sergeant Sam Deakin was promoted during the war from constable and as hostilities came to a close he volunteered to become a member of the Control Commission and act as a chief of police in Europe. He trod on a mine and was killed whilst working in the Netherlands. He was an excellent young man."

Allied forces entered the Netherlands on 12 September 1944. Airborne operations later that month established a bridgehead at Nijmegen and in the following months coastal areas and ports were cleared and secured. It was not until the German initiated offensive in the Ardennes had been repulsed that the drive into Germany could begin. Most of those buried in Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery were Canadians, many of whom died in the Battle of the Rhineland, when the 2nd and 3rd Canadian Infantry Divisions and the 4th Canadian Armoured Division took part in the drive southwards from Nijmegen to clear the territory between the Maas and the Rhine in February and March 1945. Others buried here died earlier or later in the southern part of the Netherlands and in the Rhineland. The cemetery contains 2,610 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, and nine war graves of other nationalities. Within the cemetery stands the Groesbeek Memorial, which commemorates by name more than 1,000 members of the Commonwealth land forces who died during the campaign in north-west Europe between the time of crossing the Seine at the end of August 1944 and the end of the war in Europe, and whose graves are not know. **(CWGC site)**

Alfred Samuel DEAKIN
Sex: Male
Father: **Alfred DEAKIN (1882-1961)**
Mother: **Alice Elizabeth DAVIES (1885-1926)**
Birth 22 Jan 1908 Birmingham, Warwickshire[2]
Census 2 Apr 1911 (age 3) Aston, Birmingham, Warwickshire[3]
53 Ludlow Road Saltley Birmingham
Death 1 Mar 1945 (age 37) Groesbeek, Netherlands[4,5]
PS 38 Alfred Samuel Deakin, Guildford Borough

Alfred Deakin

Lilly Mullard married Police Sergeant Deakin