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

March 2019
www.surrey-constabulary.com

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Surrey Constabulary History
Journal 48

1986 Lady Dianna at Byfleet with unknown local officer

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Caterham Valley

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General Orders for 1851 July 27: Constable **John Page of the Surrey Constabulary a** 1st Class constable and acting inspector at Chobham is **appointed inspector** at twenty-three shillings a week. (Note – there were no sergeants)[1] Page had a distinguished career including many years as superintendent at Dorking. The following however could have resulted in his service in the police being terminated. He was allegedly the father of an unborn child whose mother committed suicide in Worcestershire from where he had served in the police, when he was an inspector at Chobham.

John Page was No 65 on the list of enrolments to the Surrey Constabulary on January 18 1851 aged 32 when he joined. He was 5 feet 9½ inches tall and had been born in Glastonbury and had served in the Birmingham Police for 18 months and Worcestershire Constabulary 22 April 1845 until January 14 1851. He was superannuated 30 September 1873 at £12 per annum dying November 24 1878.

A scandal in his home area did not, surprisingly, impact the career of the newly promoted inspector. A newspaper reported in **1852 on May 13 referring to Inspector Page of Chobham**: We last week related the circumstances attendant to the finding of the body of a female in the Avon below Rough Hill. Birlingham [2] and the deceased proved to have been Sarah Mills till that time living as a cook at Mr Joseph Woodward's. Her employer in evidence at the inquest stated "I believe the depression of spirits have been produced by the conduct of a man named John Page, formerly in the police force at Kidderminster, but now inspector of the Surrey Constabulary stationed at Chobham, who she said had seduced her and then deserted her.

In a letter left by the deceased she says that she was once a respectable young girl but was led astray by a wicked man who got her into trouble and then forsook her when she was three months gone. He would not write or see her. Had he had spoken to her that would have saved her life.

Some very affecting letters written by the deceased to Page and returned by him to Superintendent Harris were read at the inquest. The jury returned a verdict of temporary insanity. Worcester Herald.[3]

1870 April 23: Dorking: Mr Superintendent Page: It is with extreme regret we have to announce that Mr John Page the superintendent of police in this district is

[1] Surrey Constabulary General Orders Book 1 1851-
[2] Birlingham is a village and civil parish in the Wychavon district of Worcestershire south of Pershore, located in a bend of the River Avon.
[3] 1852 May 13 Cheltenham Chronicle

about to be **removed to the Chertsey division.** Fortunately, the cause of Mr Page's removal is one that adds to his merit, because of the district he is about to take charge, is from its size and importance one peculiarly required an experienced and able officer and therefore the appointment is a step of promotion; but though it is to his credit that this selection should have been made by his chief, still the people of Dorking will feel greatly the loss of one who for 18 years has been amongst them as a faithful officer, thoroughly efficient in the discharge of very onerous duties, and who in the exercise of that office, during the long period mentioned, has gained the esteem of all, by the kindly manner in which it was conducted. As a personal friend John Page will be kindly remembered by all who knew him and we believe there is but one wish for him in his going, that of success in his new sphere of duty. We presume of course that Chief Constable has made this change in the interests of the county, but we believe it is the intention of the magistrates here to ask the Chief to retain Mr Page at Dorking. We hope the application will succeed. At all events we know there is a strong desire in the town to present Mr Page with a testimonial before leaving. No man better deserves such a mark of esteem and we hope it will take a tangible form. Our best efforts shall be used to promote its success.[4]

The Hungry Forties - Biddlecombe and Hollington

This was a period in the early 1840s when Britain experienced an economic depression, causing much misery among the poor. In 1839 there was a serious slump in trade, leading to a steep increase in unemployment, accompanied by a bad harvest. The bad harvests were repeated in the two following years and the sufferings of the people, in a rapidly increasing population, were made worse by the fact that the Corn Laws seemed to keep the price of bread artificially high. In 1845 potato blight appeared in England and Scotland, spreading to Ireland later in the year and ruining a large part of the crop. The potato blight returned in 1846, bringing the Irish Famine.[5]

Poverty can never be an excuse for murder or manslaughter but the killing of a gamekeeper by a man desperate to feed his six children arouses sympathy for all those involved. The victim, the father of seven children, was doing his duty when he died. Nothing tells the story better than contemporary press cuttings.

1844 January 13: Dreadful Murder at Bramley: On Saturday morning, Mr Head, steward to Lord Grantley, was sent to by the wife of James Edwards, the gamekeeper, saying that she was uneasy, as her husband had been out all night, which induced Mr Head to ride out in search of him; on passing the lock near the back of Bramley-street, he saw something in the water which he thought was a sack, but, on obtaining assistance, it proved to be the body of the unfortunate and respected gamekeeper,

[4] 1870 April 23: Surrey Advertiser and County Times
[5] http://oxfordindex.oup.com/view/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803095950840

Edwards, whose head appeared to be in a dreadfully maimed state, but our own reporter having attended the inquest, the particulars of which follow, we refer our readers to the examination of the several witnesses.

Edwards was a powerful man, about 46 years old, and has left a widow and seven children; he had been several years gamekeeper to Lord Grantley, and was considered an active, brave, and trusty servant. On Saturday evening, Elsey was apprehended and brought to Guildford by Jenkins, late an officer in the A division of police[6], (who was at Albury, and heard of the murder), on suspicion. Elsley, who has a wife and large family, had for several years been deemed a notorious poacher, and otherwise bad character; on his premises have been found some salted mutton, tools in great variety, besides pheasants, which latter were laid very cleverly under a bee hive in the garden.

On Sunday Elsley began to show some signs of compunction, and was desirous of seeing the Rev. Mr. Pettman, Curate of Shalford and Bramley, and on Monday morning, at 6.30am he sent for Inspector Hollington, to whom he made a confession which will be found in the evidence. [7]

1844 January 13 Reading Mercury: Murder of gamekeeper near Guildford: On Tuesday an inquest (adjourned from Monday) was held at the Jolly Farmer, Bramley near Guildford, before Mr CJ Woods coroner for West Surrey, on view of the body of James Edwards aged 48, principal keeper of the Right Hon Lord Grantley. On Monday the jury proceeded with the coroner to the clubroom to view the body, which presented a frightful spectacle, there being upward of a dozen wounds on each side of the head, evidently inflicted by some blunt instrument, in all probability the blunt end of a gun.

Joseph Head being sworn deposed as follows, "I reside in the parish of Bramley, near Guildford. I am bailiff to the Right Hon Lord Grantley. On the morning of Saturday I was informed that the deceased was missing. After making inquiries about him of everyone I saw, I rode out on horseback along the side of the river Wey. Whilst proceeding along the bank my horse all of a sudden started at something in the water. I dismounted and saw the deceased in the river. There is a furze field [8] called Lyne-Ersh adjoining the spot. It is Lord Grantley's property and in his lordship's occupation. I observed that the deceased was seriously bruised or injured about the head. I searched the furze field. About five yards from the river I found a pool of blood and there had recently been a struggle at this point. I found the hat and stick, which I now produce. The hat belonged to the deceased."

[6] At the Assizes Jenkins says he is an Inspector of police based at Shere. This is confusing!
[7] Illustrated London News for January 13th 1844, which had a heading 'Guildford – Murder of Lord Grantley's gamekeeper'.
[8] Furze is another name for gorse

E Walker stated as follows, “I am a gamekeeper in the service of Mr Sparks and knew the deceased. On Friday evening last I went to the Jolly Farmer public house; it was then a little before seven o’clock. I saw the deceased there. I was with him in company for only a few minutes. As near eight o’clock as possible deceased observed to me persons were come into the house whom he did not like, and mentioned the names James Elsey and young Vickery. Deceased said he should be gone for half an hour or three quarters and desired me not to leave the place.”

Charlotte the wife of Henry Brown of Bramley, “On Friday night about eight o’clock whilst sitting with my three sons, I heard the report of firearms which appeared to proceed from Lyne-Ersh. It was at the time raining fast, but moonlight. A quarter of an hour subsequently I heard another report which appears to come from the same direction.”

John Turrell of Bramley also heard the report of firearms on the night in question and went into his stable and whilst listening heard someone say “Oh dear!” It appeared to come from the direction from where the body was found. Did not take any particular notice of it, thinking it might be bargemen passing through the lock.

Charles Jenkins Inspector of police produced portions of a gunstock and a ramrod with portions of a gunlock and two screws and a piece of waxed thread. Upon comparing them the several portions previously correspond.

Mr WH Biddlecombe, “I am chief constable of the borough of Godalming. On Saturday last the 6th instant about three o’clock in the afternoon I went in company with the last witness and apprehended James Elsey at Run-common. The same afternoon I went to the prisoner’s house and found the smockfrock (now produced) with a great deal of blood on it. The same evening I went to the prisoner’s house alone, and in an iron grate of the bedroom I found the shirt, which I now produce with some old rags thrown over it. The front of it was torn and there were marks of blood on the sleeve. On the right wristband there were several marks of blood. The left wristband had the appearance of having been in dirty water and afterwards dried. I then searched a wood house standing within a few yards of the prisoner’s house when I found the velveteen-shooting jacket (also produced) rolled up and concealed behind some straw; the jacket was very wet and much torn; a part of the right cuff of the jacket was torn off. I also found the pistol I now produce in the kitchen loaded and the gun barrel I now produce. I also found on the mantelpiece in the same room, the piece of horn now produced, which to me appears to correspond with the ramrod found when the deceased was murdered.”

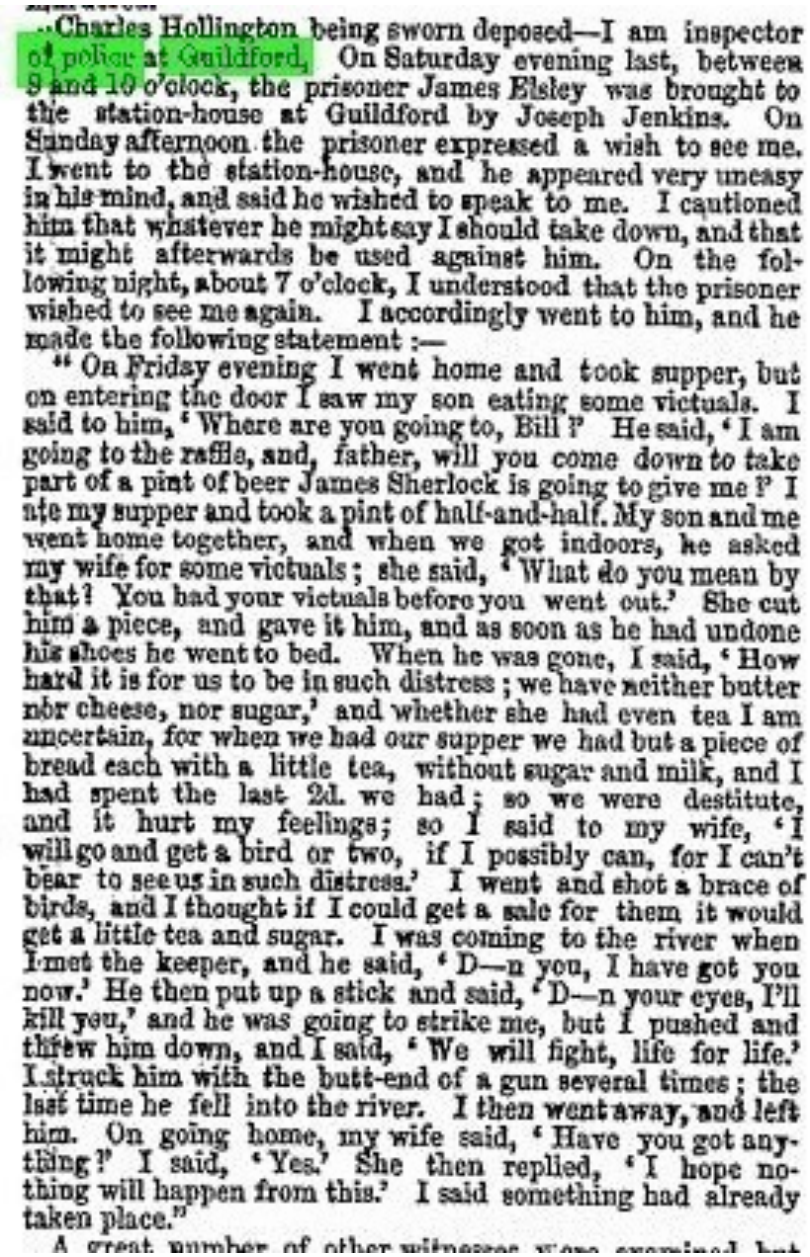
Charles Hollington being sworn deposed, “I am inspector of police at Guildford. On Saturday evening last, between nine and ten o’clock, the prisoner James Elsey was brought into the station house at Guildford by Joseph Jenkins. On Sunday afternoon the prisoner expressed a wish to see me. I went to the station house and he appeared

very uneasy in his mind, and said he wished to speak to me. I cautioned him that whatever he might say I should take down and that it might afterwards be used against him. On the following night about seven o'clock I understood that the prisoner wanted to see me again. I went to him, and he made the following statement:

"On Friday evening I went home and took supper, but on entering the door I saw my son eating some victuals. I said to him "Where are you going to Bill?" He said "I am going to the raffle, and father will you come down to take a part of a pint of beer James Sherlock is going to give me?" I ate my supper and took a pint and a half. My son and me went home together and when we got indoors he asked my wife for some victuals; she said, "What do you mean by that? You had your victuals before you went out." She cut him a piece and gave it to him and as soon as he had undone his shoes he went to bed. When he was gone I said, "How hard it was for us to be in such distress; we have neither butter nor cheese, nor sugar; and whether also she had even tea. I am uncertain for when we had our supper we had a piece of bread each with a little tea without sugar and milk, and I had spent the last 2d we had; so we were destitute and it hurt my feelings. So I said to my wife, "I will go an get a bird or two if I possibly can, for I can't bear to see us in such distress." I went and shot a brace of birds and I thought if I could get a sale for them I would get a little tea and sugar. I was coming to the river when I met the keeper and he said, "D—n you I have got you now." He then put up a stick and said, "D—n your eyes, I'll kill you," and he was going to strike me, but I pushed and threw him down, and I said and I said, "We will fight, life for life." I struck him with the but end of a gun several times; the last time he fell into the river. I then went away and left him. On going home my wife said, "Have you got anything?" I said "yes." She then replied, "I hope nothing will happen from this." I said, something had already taken place."

The Coroner then summed up with great minuteness and the jury without the least hesitation returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against James Elsey.[9]

[9] 1844 January 13 Reading Mercury



Charles Hollington being sworn deposed—I am inspector of police at Guildford. On Saturday evening last, between 9 and 10 o'clock, the prisoner James Elsley was brought to the station-house at Guildford by Joseph Jenkins. On Sunday afternoon the prisoner expressed a wish to see me. I went to the station-house, and he appeared very uneasy in his mind, and said he wished to speak to me. I cautioned him that whatever he might say I should take down, and that it might afterwards be used against him. On the following night, about 7 o'clock, I understood that the prisoner wished to see me again. I accordingly went to him, and he made the following statement :—

"On Friday evening I went home and took supper, but on entering the door I saw my son eating some victuals. I said to him, 'Where are you going to, Bill?' He said, 'I am going to the raffle, and, father, will you come down to take part of a pint of beer James Sherlock is going to give me?' I ate my supper and took a pint of half-and-half. My son and me went home together, and when we got indoors, he asked my wife for some victuals; she said, 'What do you mean by that? You had your victuals before you went out.' She cut him a piece, and gave it him, and as soon as he had undone his shoes he went to bed. When he was gone, I said, 'How hard it is for us to be in such distress; we have neither butter nor cheese, nor sugar,' and whether she had even tea I am uncertain, for when we had our supper we had but a piece of bread each with a little tea, without sugar and milk, and I had spent the last 2d. we had; so we were destitute, and it hurt my feelings; so I said to my wife, 'I will go and get a bird or two, if I possibly can, for I can't bear to see us in such distress.' I went and shot a brace of birds, and I thought if I could get a sale for them it would get a little tea and sugar. I was coming to the river when I met the keeper, and he said, 'D—n you, I have got you now.' He then put up a stick and said, 'D—n your eyes, I'll kill you,' and he was going to strike me, but I pushed and threw him down, and I said, 'We will fight, life for life.' I struck him with the butt-end of a gun several times; the last time he fell into the river. I then went away, and left him. On going home, my wife said, 'Have you got anything?' I said, 'Yes.' She then replied, 'I hope nothing will happen from this.' I said something had already taken place."

A great number of other witnesses were examined, but

Elsey's statement of admission[10]

1844 March 28 Elsey appeared at the Surrey Spring Assizes in Kingston on the 27 March was charged with the wilful murder of James Edwards a gamekeeper, in Wonersh by the Wey and Arun Canal. The body was discovered in the canal the following morning and the alarm raised. There was obviously some good local information as soon after Charles Jenkins, described as an Inspector of Police stationed at Shere accompanied by chief constable of Godalming William Biddlecombe went to the home of the suspect. He was detained and taken to the Jolly Farmer at Bramley. The officers returned to the house and searched it recovering a newly washed smock with blood on it and other clothing. Both the officers undertook a detailed examination of the prisoner and could find no evidence of him having been

[10] The Standard (London, England), Wednesday, January 10, 1844

involved in a fight. Elsley was arrested and taken to Guildford where Inspector Charles Hollington detained him on the Saturday night. Hollington left an unemployed labourer to watch over the prisoner who on the Sunday confessed to the killing – he had hit the gamekeeper with his rifle but and kicked him into the river. The labourer did not tell of the confession and when on Monday Hollington saw him, he again confessed. The inspector then went to Elsey's home and recovered two pheasants from where the prisoner had said they were. The jury took 20 minutes to find the prisoner not guilty of murder but manslaughter and this married man; father of five or six children was transported for life. [11]

Spring Assizes
Home Circuit
Kingston, Wednesday March 27
Crown Court (Before Mr. Baron Alderton.)
Murder Of Lord Grantley's Gamekeeper

James Elsley, aged 38, was indicted for the wilful murder of James Edwards. There were four counts in the indictment.

The first charged the prisoner with shooting the deceased; the second with shooting him and also beating him to death; the third with beating him only; and the fourth charged the murder to have been committed by casting the deceased into the water, and thereby suffocating and drowning him.

Mr. Clarkson with Mr. Locke, conducted the prosecution, and Mr. Charnock appeared for the prosecution, and Mr Charnock appeared for the prisoner. The case seemed to create a good deal of interest, and the court was crowded during the trial, which lasted seven hours.

Mr Clarkson stated the case for the prosecution, which he said was instituted by Lord Grantley, in whose service the deceased was employed as a gamekeeper. The learned counsel then proceeded to the state the facts of the case as they afterwards appeared in evidence, and also the upon the subject, concluding by calling the following witnesses: -

Joseph Head: I am bailiff to Lord Grantley, and live at Bramley. I knew the deceased James Edwards. He acted as gamekeeper, to Lord Grantley. I recollect the 6th of January, and on that day I went along the Wey and Arun Canal towards Wonersh. I know the Lock, which separates the canal from the Lynarsh field. (A plan of the neighbourhood was here produced and proved to be correct.) I was on horseback by the side of the canal, about 9 o'clock in the morning, when I saw something in the

[11] The Morning Post (London, England), Thursday, March 28, 1844; Issue 22841. 19th Century British Library Newspapers: Part II.

water, which at first thought was apiece of tarpaulin. I dismounted and threw stones for my dog to go into the water, but he would not do so. I made some enquiries and obtained assistance, and returned to the spot. At this time the body was out of the water, and I recognised it to be that of the deceased, who was in his usual dress. He appeared to be have been very much beaten. The head was wounded in several places.

I examined the ground near the canal, particularly on the Lynarsh side, and on that side it rises up to the edge of the canal from a distance of two feet. I observed a large pool of blood, and from the spot it is five or six yards to the edge of the canal. There is some furze about two yards from the canal, which is used as a preserve for game. I examined these furze bushes, and saw some small portions of human flesh on parts of them, and a pool of blood lay on the ground below the furze. I also saw the marks of heels and toes of shoes near the bank of the canal; and a few yards nearer to the lock of the canal I saw other marks of the same size and description; and I there found the hat and stick of the deceased, which I now produce. (The hat bore an indentation on one side, evidently occasioned by a very violent blow. The stick was a very slight one.)

Cross-examined: It is dead water in the canal except when the lock is let off. At the place where the body was found there is about three or four feet of water. The furze may be about two or three yards from the bank of the canal. At the open part of the furze a person might easily get into the canal. There is a good deal of traffic at times on the canal.

Charles Jenkins in evidence said: “I am the inspector of police stationed at Shere, near Guildford. On Saturday the 6th of January in consequence of what I heard I went to Bramley and from there thence to a place called Rim Common where I found the prisoner working for a person named Tickner, and took him into custody. I conveyed him to the Jolly Farmer at Bramley and left him in charge of a parish constable whilst I searched the prisoner’s house. I found in the house a short smock-frock with spots of blood upon it and which appeared to have been partly washed and hung to the fire to dry. The blood was upon the breast and upon both the sleeves. I took the frock back to the prisoner and he told me in answer to a question I put to him that it was his own frock. I then told the prisoner I should take him on suspicion of the murder of the keeper and he replied, “Thank God I am innocent!” Shortly after this I searched the prisoner and found a powder horn and a clasp knife in his pockets. I then examined the prisoner’s person but could not discover any bruises or other marks of violence. I made a further search at the house of the prisoner on the next day and found a large quantity of chisels, planes and tools of every description.”

Mr Charnock then addressed the jury for the prisoner saying it a melancholy thing that in order to enable persons in the position of Lord Grantley to enjoy their pleasures and preserve their game the lives of the poorer classes were to be sacrificed and he expressed his opinion that it would be much better if there were no game and

that such lordly pleasures should be altogether abolished, rather than that such dreadful cases as the present assizes should have taken place. He then went on to contend that the statement of the prisoner was the real truth of the transaction and that the violence had been done upon the unfortunate deceased under the impression entertained by the prisoner that his own life was in danger; and that under such circumstances the offence would only amount to manslaughter.

Mr Baron Alderson summed up, and went minutely through every portion of evidence, commenting in his usual clear and admirable manner upon the more important points as he proceeded, concluding by leaving the matter in the hands of the jury. The jury retired, and, after being absent about 20 minutes, returned into the court and delivered their verdict, finding the prisoner Guilty of manslaughter. The prisoner was immediately called up for judgement, and the learned Judge, after observing that the prisoner had reason to be extremely grateful for the lenient view the jury had taken of the case against him, sentenced him to be transported for life.[12]

Homeless and unemployed

A further aspect of the Hungry Forties was the homelessness and unemployed who tramped the roads relying on parish support. These men became so desperate they committed damage knowing they would be imprisoned and therefore fed!

1845 January 21 Sussex Advertiser: Daring Outrage: on Thursday last three young men and a boy named severally John Brown, William Johnson, Thomas Pegg and William Pegg were brought up in custody at the town hall before the mayor, WE Holland and Richard Balchin charged with breaking the windows of Mr Clark the relieving officer for the Godalming district.

Mr Clark on being sworn deposed that all four prisoners came together to his house about two hours previous to the examination and demanded relief. He offered them the usual mendacity ticket on the Guildford Union, but they refused it, and said they were tramping in an opposite direction namely to Portsmouth. As they would not take the ticket or go away Mr Clark proceeded to the house of the chief constable Biddlecombe (a few doors off) with a view of ordering them to tramp and on returning, not being more than a minute absent the prisoner Thomas Pegg was engaged in demolishing his windows having taken off his shoe for that purpose.

Pegg smashed 22 squares – none of the other prisoners were seen by Mr Clark breaking the windows. Mr Biddlecombe deposed to his having seen the four prisoners together during the day, in the town begging, and having ordered them to go away if they did not wish to go into the cage. The prisoners, particularly Thomas Pegg only

[12] The Times. March 28th 1844 (Pages 7 And 8)

persisted in begging and seemed anxious to be locked up. The prisoners were all four, wretched looking objects – the Peggs alleged they were brothers.

The magistrates being anxious to make a severe example of the prisoner Thomas Pegg under the Godalming Town Act, which enacts that for such offences as the one named and proved against him a fine of £5 may be levied or in default a committal of six months in the county gaol. The prisoner was accordingly committed to the gaol at Kingston upon Thames for six calendar months. The other three were committed under the Vagrant Act for one month each to the Guildford house of correction[13]

Feloniously in their possession at Woking

1845 February 25 Felony: Police Office Saturday 22 inst., before three county magistrates Charles Wells a master wheelwright and William Chapman labourer were brought in custody by Chief Constable Biddlecombe of Godalming charged with having feloniously in their possession at Woking a large number of deal and elm boards the property of George Marshall Esq., of Godalming as well as certain sheep nets the property of the Rt. Hon Earl of Lovelace. Mr Biddlecombe said he did not wish to go at length into the evidence as the case was not quite complete and he should therefore request that both prisoners be remanded until next Saturday. Mr Biddlecombe said that acting on information received on Thursday 20 inst., he proceeded to the premises of the prisoner William Chapman who lived in the parish of Woking and on searching the house found a number of concealed elm boards, which were identified as the property of George Marshall. Remanded until next Saturday. The case excited considerable interest in consequence of the extent of the alleged felony and the respectability of the prisoner Wells who for some time has been in business as a carpenter and wheelwright. [14]

1845 March 4 Sussex Advertiser: **Petty Sessions** Saturday 1 March Magistrates present: The Right Honourable the Earl of Lovelace, Chairman, G Best, H Drummond, F Mangles, E Bray, S More Molyneux Esqrs and the Rev A Onslow.

Felony: Charles Wells and Thomas Chapman brought up on remand from the Police-office charged with felony. Mr Henry Marshall of Godalming appeared as the principal prosecutor, Mr George Marshall and Mr Neale attended on behalf of the prisoners.

Thomas Luxford deposed, " I am a sawyer and I live at Wisburn Green in Sussex. At present I am in the employ of Mr George Marshall of Godalming and lately have been working for that gentleman at Woking. I have been engaged with my father in cutting

[13] Sussex Advertiser 21 January 1845
[14] Sussex Advertiser 25 February 1845

elm boards and on the night 19th of February several of these boards were stolen from the sawpit. I saw them safe on Wednesday night and missed them on Thursday morning. All the boards were race-marked (sic) with G.M., Mr Marshall's initials. We missed a great number, eleven out of one lot. On the afternoon of Thursday the 20th February I went with constable Biddlecombe in search of the boards to the house of the prisoner Charles Wells, and was present when five of them were found in his turf stack. The elm boards now produced are some of those found in the prisoner's house and belong to those I missed from the sawpit. I assisted to cut them, and I know by peculiar marks upon them that the work is mine."

James Luxford the father of the first witness deposed "I am in the employ of Mr George Marshall as a sawyer and have been working with my son at Woking. I know the boards produced to be the property of Mr Marshall, my employer and I know them to be from the first stock I cut for him at Woking. I know we left the boards safe on Wednesday evening the 19th February and then on Thursday morning they were gone."

William Henry Biddlecombe chief constable of Godalming deposed, "On Thursday 20 February I received information of Mr Marshall having lost some elm boards and I obtained a search warrant and proceeded to search the house of the prisoner Charles Wells who lives at Woking about twelve miles from Godalming. In a turf heap on his premises I found five elm boards one of which I produce and on comparing these boards with the one I have brought with me from the sawpit find the correspond in every particular, (the witness here matched the boards and the resemblance was perfect as regards knots, spokes etc. On the following day Friday I went again to Well's premises and on going into his bedroom I found 24 boards, 9 feet long, of fir deal, beside six in his pig sty of the same dimensions, making in all 30 boards and 240 feet of timber.

Committed for trial at the Assizes[15]

1845 March 4: Sussex Advertiser: Second Charge: Mr JB Dalby superintendent of the South Western Railway police now came forward to press a second charge of felony against the prisoner Thomas Chapman, deposed: From some information I received I proceeded to the house of the prisoner Thomas Chapman to search there for some nails, which had been stolen from the railway. The nails were of a peculiar construction and were known a galvanised clout nails and used solely in erecting the apparatus connected with the electric telegraph between Nine Elms and Gosport Stations. On searching the garden I found a jar of nails concealed under a heap of wood. In answer to a question from the Chairman Mr Dalby stated that Mr **Biddlecombe** the Godalming constable had informed him in the first instance of the

[15] Sussex Advertiser *04 March 1845*

nails being on the prisoner's premises. Thomas Rann from Poplar was engaged in erecting the telegraph and gave evidence that several thousand nails were lost all in the parish of Pirbright (Woking). Mr Dalby added that several of the nails were were driven into boards and walls in the prisoner's house. Committed to the assizes his legal adviser declining as before to say anything.

The Surrey and Sussex Burglars – should have avoided Biddlecombe's area!

This is a tale of three burglars who committed their crimes in Sussex and the Surrey. For some time it was known that Biddlecombe pursued the burglars across north Hampshire and Berkshire and it was not until recently when Henry Pelham a direct descendant of Inspector Donaldson uncovered a press report that linked the Susesex crimes with a series at Wonersh and Bramley, that it became clear why Biddlecome was involved in their detention.

However it might also have been the rewards that drove the enthusiasm to arrest the burglars as it can be seen from the list below that £40 a burglary would soon add up to a small fortune. These early police officers were entitled to receive and retain awards. They were significant sums of money when a week's pay was less than a pound! In the time of the Surrey Constabulary the reward of a pound for the detention of a deserter was claimed and there was a form making application to the chief constable for permission to keep the reward money.

Highway Robbery	£50
Burglary	£40
Housebreaking – daytime	£50
Counterfeiting gold or silver coin	£40
Counterfeiting copper coin	£10
Stealing from premises over 5/-	£10
Horse stealing	£20
Stealing cattle or sheep	£10
Wounding or killing a Revenue Officer	£50
Person returning from transportation	£20
Apprehending a deserter from the Army	£1
Apprehending idle and disorderly person	£0 5s [16]

The following letter gives some understanding how the process of rewards operated and the amounts of money involved in this case, well over £100 or more than two years pay. Morton worked tirelessly with Hollington and Biddlecombe to arrest the Isaacs gang in 1850/1851 and when considering the large sums of the rewards involved the cynical may say it is simple to see where the drive and enthusiasm came!

[16] A History of Police in England WL Melville-Lee 1901 Kessinger Rare Reprints 2012 page 213

This is an extract from a much longer letter from the superintendent at Tonbridge Wells who worked with Biddlecombe and Hollington on rolling up the Isaac's Gang, to the Editor of The Standard:

To the Editor from Superintendent Morten June 1851

> So you will perceive that I have been the cause of detaining and apprehending eight of that gang of desperate characters who have so long infested the counties of Surrey and Sussex and other counties. I think the following rewards and gratuities, which have been received by men in conjunction with Mr Dadson will, I trust, be sufficient to suffice and to show to whom the credit is due.
>
> In addition to a reward we received from the judge at the trial a subscription was raised in my district and the sum of £45 was presented to me and £25 from the Uckfield Prosecution Society; £25 from the Rev Owen Emerie Vidal of Upper Dicker, Horsebridge near Hailsham, Sussex; £5 from the Misses Farncombe of Uckfield, in addition to the reward they offered through the society; £5 from Mrs Hurat of the Five Bells Inn, Chorley; £2 from Mr Wood, butler to the Misses Farncombe who it will be remembered was so near to being murdered by the gang; £2 from Mr Baker of Portslade, Sussex who also was a sufferer; and £1 from Captain Wetherall of Forest House, Hartfield, Sussex and a promise of other rewards from societies that have not yet had their meetings.

I remain Sir, your obedient servant
W M Morten, Superintendent of Police,
Tunbridge Wells, Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells, Kent June 6 1851 [17]

The Surrey Burglaries: 1845 March 11: Some particularly daring burglaries have been committed in this neighbourhood of late and if suspicion proves correct by a distinguished gang of thieves. The first two were perpetrated on Tuesday night the 25th ult., but we forbore to mention them last week because some clue having been obtained as to the whereabouts of the burglars it would have been injudicious to do so. On the night in question the thieves broke into the house of Mr Boughton, Shamley Green in the parish of Wonersh and succeeded in getting off with a quantity of eatables amongst which was three stones of bacon. They also took a copper kettle and other articles.

Nearly a mile from Shamley Green they entered the house of Mr Smithers and were helping themselves when that gentleman heard them and making some noise induced

[17] 1851 9 June: The Standard Monday

them to make off with only a pair of boots. Mr Smithers saw them going off and shot at one of them but though he is confident he hit his man all three escaped. On Saturday night the first instant, or early on Sunday morning two other houses were entered and apparently by the same gang, as a glove stolen from on of the previously robbed houses was on one of these occasions left behind. Mr Sparkes of Gosden also in the parish of Wonersh was this time one of the sufferers. The thieves got in and succeeded in making off with a flat silver snuff box, a gold ring with an amethyst set in the middle and a garnet on each side, a Macintosh cloak and coat, a cloth great coat, a hat and several bottles of Marsah wine brandy and gin. It is supposed that the burglars made rather free with the latter articles for though they found their way up stairs they fortunately passed by unobserved a basket of plate, which had been forgotten by the servants on one of the landings. On going upstairs they turned the handle of one of the doors and the noise woke Miss Sparkes who gave the alarm and the thieves took flight.

At a considerable distance from the residence of Mr Sparkes a house was broken open and a great quantity of miscellaneous property stolen, amongst which we may name sundry articles of wearing apparel a college gown, a set of chimory (sic) ornaments, tea and ???? service, spouts etc., and a quantity of provisions besides several gallons of old ale. The house is that which was recently occupied by Major Stapylton and is now undergoing alterations and improvements for an agricultural college school to be opened shortly by the Mr James Abbot AM, to whom the property belonged and who has offered a reward of £20 for the apprehension and conviction of the offenders.

Intelligence of these several robberies were immediately communicated to the police who have every reason to suppose that the perpetrators are none other than the notorious "Sussex Burglars". As yet they have not been captured but the police are actively engaged in tracing the depredators. There are several; handsome rewards offered for the apprehension of the men; amongst the rest the sum of £50 by Her majesty's government and there is little doubt they will shortly be in custody. The man Longhurst is a native of Wonersh, and if he is one of the gang engaged in the robberies detailed he must have concealed himself since his escape from Brighton somewhere in the neighbourhood. I will be in the remembrance of most of our readers that we stated in the gazette of the 18th ult., that Longhurst and two other men answering the description of Patching and Burgess were seen passing through Wonersh on Sunday evening the 1st of February so that it is possible that they have ever since been in the neighbourhood. [18]

Further Particulars; Apprehension of the burglars. Since the above was written the notorious "Sussex Burglars" have been captured and the suspicion stated above is found to be correct that they are the parties who have been engaged in all the robberies there detailed, and two others which were reported in the Advertiser a few

[18] Sussex Advertiser 11 March 1845

weeks since; one at the house of Mr Norris at Shalford Common and the other at Mr Green's at Bramley.

At an early hour on Sunday morning 2nd inst., information of the burglaries at Wonersh during the previous night was conveyed to that very active officer chief constable Biddlecombe of Godalming, and shortly after intelligence reached him that three men who were strangers in the neighbourhood had been seen near Busbridge within half a mile of the town, very early that morning. They were described as being all tall men and each having in his possession a large bundle. Mr Biddlecombe immediately started on horseback accompanied by a couple of assistants likewise mounted and speedily reached the place where the men were said to have been seen. Here he made inquiry and found that the intelligence he had received was correct and further, the men had stopped at a little cottage on the top of the hill and requested permission of the old woman who occupied it to cook some bacon for which permission they gave her a slight gratuity. She stated to the police officers that they had a large quantity of bacon and also pointed out a copper kettle which they had sold her; and both these facts tended to convince him that the men were the same who had entered the house of Mr Boughton of Wonersh, as described above, from whence they must have taken the bacon and kettle; while the direction from which they came that morning, as was evident by their tracks, connected them with the two robberies on the previous night.

It would appear that the men on leaving the cottage still kept on in the same direction across the country, and the officers immediately set out in pursuit towards Hambledon. All trace of the thieves was here lost and though their pursuers scoured country in all directions throughout Sunday, no clue whatever could be found of the fugitives. Mr Biddlecombe was however to sanguine as to the identity of the Surrey with the Sussex burglars, to be easily daunted in his important undertaking; so accompanied by assistants as before he still persevered in riding about from place to place throughout the whole of Monday and Tuesday going down as far as Plaistow in Sussex, and taking the whole of the wild country homeward to Wonersh and Godalming. Success however did not attend his exertions and Tuesday night found him still without tidings of the burglars. He arrived at Godalming late on that night and gave up the pursuit as hopeless unless he was able to obtain some further clue/ Luckily this clue was not long wanting, for about noon on Wednesday intelligence was received that three men answering the description of the burglars were seen some time on the afternoon of Sunday making towards Headley in Hampshire.

Mr Biddlecombe immediately prepared to set forth again determined not to return without the men o matter what time or expense he might require to come up with them. He forthwith procured the assistance of two men named Miles and Woods of Hambledon and all three set out well mounted and proceeded at once to Headley. No tidings of the burglars however welcomed the pursuers on their arrival at Headley so without loss of time they set out for Liphook and finding no satisfactory trace there

they returned through Headley to Farnham. All this time they were still off the right track but Mr Biddlecombe fully determined to persevere still held on and last succeeded in getting scent of the burglars at a little village about three miles from Farnham. Here he learned that three men answering the description of those he sought had breakfasted on Monday morning early and that on leaving the village they took the road towards Blackwater and Windsor.

Off the pursuers set in that direction but after travelling some ten or a dozen miles and gaining no information as to their men they took circuitous route back again to Odiham in Hampshire from thence on to Hartley Row but still without being able to recover trace of the burglars. Wednesday night had now become Thursday morning and still the pursuit continued and at length the persevering officer succeeded in learning at a village some eight or ten miles on the road to Reading in Berkshire, that three men had been there the day before passing themselves off as smugglers, corresponding precisely with the men sought for, but the officer found they had changed their apparel when comparing the present with the previous descriptions of their dress. On leaving the village it seems as if the three fugitives took the road to Newbury whither their pursuers at once proceeded but learning noting of them there they kept on for Reading. From Reading where they could obtain no tidings Biddlecombe and his assistants set out for Maidenhead but there they were also at fault.

On Friday morning Mr Biddlecombe got again into the neighbourhood of Reading and at a village about four miles from the town on the road to Basingstoke he learned that three men still pretending to be smugglers had been there the previous day and were disposing of some brandy as before, they had taken the road to Basingstoke and thither in all haste pursued them. On arriving at Basingstoke he found that they had been there on the previous evening and on further enquiry that they had slept there and changed their clothes, quitting the town that (Friday) morning about nine o'clock; they still kept up their assumed character as smugglers. All this was highly satisfactory, but strange to say, no clue could be obtained as to what road they taken on leaving the town. Fortunately this time Mr Biddlecombe took the right direction for on proceeding about twelve miles on the road to Alton he found that the soi-disant [19]smugglers were only about three hours ahead of him. Biddlecombe at once called in his assistants whom he had from time to time during the pursuit dispatched by different roads always fixing some central point as a rendezvous all three set out in hot pursuit towards Alton.

At a village called North Wanborough the joyful information was obtained that the long sought for party were only about half an hour in advance. On the pursuers sped and speedily caught sight of the three men near the public house known by the sign of the Golden Pot about three miles from Alton. The Chief Constable now cautioned his

[19] So called

assistants to keep the men closely in view and determined when turning off the high road himself and by taking a circuitous route getting before the burglars leaving instructions with his two men to close upon them as soon as they saw him advancing in the opposite direction. This movement was quickly and by this stratagem the burglars were safely apprehended. When secured and handcuffed Biddlecombe called them by their several names and informed them of the charges against them. They each of them carried a bundle and the great proportion of the missing property belonging to Mr Sparkes and Mr Abbott was found in their possession as well as some nine or ten shillings in silver, and a small quantity of eatables. They were dressed in long smock frocks, buttoning before and appeared to have disposed of very little of the property taken the previous Saturday night except the wine and spirits.

They were all three armed with long knives and had they been aware of the charges against them or the mission of the officer, they would doubtless have used them to the danger of him and his assistants. They had no firearms in their possession. The Chief Constable at once procured a vehicle and conveyed his prisoners to Godalming where he arrived with them late on Friday evening.

The excitement created by the report that the notorious Sussex and now equally notorious Surrey Burglars were captured kept the town in ferment throughout the whole evening and it is still the talk of the whole neighbourhood. In Guildford the capture has been as fully canvassed and seems to have afforded quite as much satisfaction as in Godalming. Before concluding this notice of the apprehension of these very daring and successful burglars we must add a few words of commendation to those through whose exertions a period ahs been put to their career of crime. Certainly all praise is due to Mr Biddlecombe who has laboured so energetically in pursuing them having during the week travelled about 400 miles in pursuit and from Wednesday to Friday alone little short of 250 miles being during the whole of that time scarcely out of the saddle having completely knocked up four horses. The merit of such an undertaking deserves an ample reward and we hope that in Susses and Surrey it will be fully appreciated.

What the united force of Sussex have been unable to effect one man by persevering exertion and energy accomplished in Surrey. We may add that Captain Mackay cc of the East Sussex force wrote to Chief Constable Biddlecombe on Wednesday to be on the look out for Messrs Longhurst and Co., and then when Mr Biddlecombe returned home with the men in custody on Friday night he found the letter in question awaiting him. The gang evidently contemplated other robberies for they asked many questions of the old woman at whose house they had their bacon cooked as before mentioned as to whether Mr Wilder's (of Busbridge) family was at home, how many servants lived in the house etc. It does not appear that they for a moment thought they were pursued nor did they know until after they were in custody whether it was for their misdeeds In Sussex or Surrey that they were apprehended

1845 March 12 The Sussex Burglars: Considerable excitement has prevailed in the town of Lewes in the last 24 hours in consequence of information having been received at an early hour on Sunday morning that the three individuals connected with the Sussex burglaries, Patchig, Burgess and Longhurst, had been captured in Hampshire by Mr Biddlecombe the chief officer od police at Godalming after five days hard chase. Immediately on receipt of the information we lost no time in conveying it to the proper authorities and this morning's post enabled us to lay before the same parties a full account of the proceedings adopted by Biddlecombe the active officer by whose exertions the burglars were secured, accompanied by the information that the burglars would arrive at Lewes in custody of their captor this (Monday) afternoon. In accordance with information about half past 5 this afternoon Biddlecombe with his assistant arrived in charge of the prisoners whom he lodged safely in the station house.

At the moment we write they are before the magistrate Mr H Blackman. The prisoners left Godalming this morning early. They were conveyed handcuffed in carts to Guildford thence by the coach, which runs to Red Hill, where they were placed in a railway carriage and brought by train to Brighton. On arriving at Brighton they were at once placed in a fly and driven without loss of time to Lewes. Their conduct since their capture has been perfectly quiet, and on the whole they appear little affected by their situation. This remark does not apply however, to the prisoner Longhurst who since the news of his wife's death has materially altered his demeanour. To use the expression of the officer he appeared considerably "cut up" by the melancholy intelligence. (Sussex Advertiser)

When secured and handcuffed, Biddlecombe called them by their several names and informed them of the charges against them. They each of them carried a bundle and the great proportion of the missing property belonging to Mr Sparks and Mr Abbott were found in their possession as well as some nine or ten shillings in silver and a small quantity of eatables. They were dressed in long smock frocks, buttoning before, and appear to have disposed of very little of the property taken on the previous Saturday night except the wine and spirits. They were all three armed with long knives and had they been aware of the charges against them or the mission of the officer, they would doubtless have used them to the danger of him and his assistants. They had no firearms in their possession.

The chief constable at once procured a vehicle and conveyed his prisoners to Godalming, where he arrived with them late on Friday evening. They were subsequently conveyed to Lewes, examined before the magistrates on Monday and remanded for further examination. On Thursday the three male prisoners, Amos Patching, Thomas Burgess and John Longhurst and two female prisoners, Mary Ann Houndsell and Jane Burgess were brought up for further examination. Five cases were gone into viz, those of Sir Page Dicks of Preston, the Rev WB Staveley of Falmer, Mr Napoleon Baker junior of Edburton, the Rev H Fearon of Cuckfield and Mr George

Goldsmith of Bevendean. After the first or second witness had been called, Houndswell became greatly affected and agitated; she was suffering from St Vitus's Dance to a great degree, so much so that the worthy magistrate ordered her to be taken into the yard; she shortly after returned but some time elapsed before she became calm and collected. The prisoners were fully committed for trial at the assizes, which commenced on Monday (yesterday).[20]

Sheep stealing – a crime of poverty or just villainy?

1847 February 16 Sheep Stealing: William Pollard 33 was indicted for feloniously stealing at Cranley one ewe sheep the property of Thomas Killick. Mr Locke appeared for the prosecution. Thomas Killick the son of the prosecutor deposed that on Monday evening the 1st February there were seventy sheep in his father's field and on the following morning one was missing. At the lower corner of the field he saw footmarks, which he traced to a ditch where he found the entrails, skin and head of a sheep, also marks of corduroy trousers, as though some person had been kneeling there. The skin had the same mark as his father's sheep.

John Whitburn deposed that he saw the prisoner come out of his house on the night in question; he went towards the well and appeared to have something under his frock, which did not appear to be the case when he returned. Street deposed that he saw the prisoner and three others going towards prosecutor's farm on the night of the 1st February. Prisoner had a sack. A witness named Crewsley deposed finding the mutton in prisoner's well also the footmarks corresponding with the prisoner's shoes.

Mr Biddlecombe chief constable of Godalming searched prisoner's house on the 4th February found a round frock with blood on the sleeve and front, also a chopper with a quantity of mutton fat on it. On going upstairs he found a small screw on the riser of the eighth stair. On drawing out the screw he discovered a secret cupboard under the stairs and over the oven; in it was some mutton fat, wool, and small pieces of flesh, also marks of blood. He then procured "grapples" with which he drew the hind quarters, neck, ribs and two shoulders of a sheep from the well. They matched the skin produced. Prisoner had a pair of corduroy trowsers (sic) on, on the front of which were spots of blood.

The jury immediately returned a verdict of guilty. Fifteen years transportation. The chairman complimented Mr Biddlecombe for his setivity (activity?) and tendered the thanks of the county to him for his exertions. [21]

1846 October 27 South Eastern Gazette:[22] Biddlecombe – burglary Ash plus theft of sheep: William Glazier, William Smallpiece and Charles Dawes for having

[20] The Derby Mercury Wednesday March 26 1845
[21] South Eastern Gazette 16 February 1847

on the night of 13th October feloniously stolen in the parish of Ash and Normandy a pair of pincers and a quantity of nails, the property of John Stedman the elder.

Superintendent Biddlecombe said he had a clear charge of burglary against the whole of the prisoners, who were a part of a gang of seven thieves well known to him. The case of burglary did not come under his notice until last evening, and he had no opportunity to prefer a bill of indictments previous to the discharge of the Grand Jury. Three months hard labour

William Glazier, John Paine and Charles Denyer for having on the 14th October feloniously stolen at Worplesdon one ewe sheep the property of John Collins. Transported fifteen years.

The following case is very interesting as it shows that in 1846 Biddlecombe was active in northwest Surrey from where the Isaacs gang were to come to prominence. It is interesting to consider that from this time Biddlecome and Hollington were aware of the formation of the gang and followed their activities locking them up when the opportunity arose.

1846 November 10: Mayford: Biddlecombe and Hollington sheep stealing[23]
Mayford – on Wednesday last Mr W H Biddlecombe, superintendent of the Godalming borough police, in consequence of information he had received, searched the river running from Mayford to near Guildford and by the aid of sticks and poles pointed with iron, he found one of the large coppers recently reported to have been stolen from the premises of Mr John Marratt and for the discovery of which a reward of £15 was offered. On the morning of the following day Mr Biddlecombe accompanied by Mr Constable Hollington, superintendent of Guildford police proceeded to Farnham and searched the broker's shops there. They succeeded in finding several parts of the other copper but the greater part had been forwarded to Southampton. Mr Biddlecombe is in possession of information which implicates some persons already undergoing punishment for another offence; and to who a portion of clothing was found which had been taken from a shop at Bisley which was entered and the articles in question, with a quantity of provisions stolen.

They also formed a party belonging to a regularly organised gang of sheep stealers of whom three were tried at the last Kingston Sessions and convicted, and all of them were sentenced to fifteen years transportation. They had long infected the neighbourhood of Woking, Weybridge, Worpleson and the western parts of Surrey, and by the confession of one of the parties implicated they had stolen two sheep every week for the last eight weeks before their apprehension by Mr Biddlecombe. In fact this fellow has confessed that half the stolen sheep in the county of Surrey were stolen

[22] 1846 October 27 South Eastern Gazette
[23] South Eastern Gazette 10 November 1846

by this gang. Great credit is due to Mr Biddlecombe for his activity in searching out these midnight depredators, who were a pest to the farmers of Surrey.

Charles Hollington
Head Constable and Inspector Guildford Borough Police

For many years the Guy Riots blighted Guildford mostly in November as much damage and violence took place around Guy Fawkes night or other opportunities to celebrate with excessive drinking. Over the generations many police officers were injured and considerable damage done to property in and around the High Street where bonfires were lit, fireworks discharged and police attacked.

A further view of events associated with the Guys came from Charlotte Burn, "The Guys were often joined by normally otherwise peaceful, Guildford citizens, who often found to their horror that some of the woodwork they were helping to destroy, came from their own premises! The rioters called themselves "Guys", and caused absolute chaos in the town, ransacking buildings, letting off fireworks, insulting anyone they came across and burning their "spoils" on the bonfire. Rioters wore masks. In 1854, the wooden racecourse grandstand on Merrow Downs was pulled down and burned outside the church. The rioters were fearless and even attacked the magistrate's house!" [24].

Magistrates made repeated attempts to suppress the Guys and in 1843 two ringleaders were fined, their payments raised by public subscription and were led from custody by a cheering crowd. The following court cases resulted from that night.

1843 November 13th Fireworks in Guildford: Magistrates Office Guildford: William Chennell and George Lee were summoned for letting off fireworks in the public street in disguise on the 6th inst.

Charles Hollington Inspector of police deposed: I was on duty on the evening of the 6th inst., saw W Chennell over the bridge in the parish of St Nicholas in disguise, let off a serpent; did not see Lee. Cross examined by Mr Vincent: "In my belief it was between one and two o'clock; certain it was between hours of twelve and two; did not see W Chennell do any mischief."

Jeremiah Campbell policeman examined - I was on duty in the evening of the 6th inst., between ten and eleven o'clock when I saw Lee against the Upper Church and spoke to him; he was letting off serpents and had on a soldier's cap and coat with a corporal's strips across the sleeves. Cross examined by Mr Vincent- there were a

[24] Charlotte Burn Folk-Lore, 1912

great many others letting them off; I afterwards saw him on The Mount dressed in a frock coat.

Charles Mandeville policeman examined - On the evening of the 6th inst., I saw Lee sitting on a carpenter's bench, which he had been attempting to be brought to the fire but was stopped; he had on a frock coat, the same as he has on at present.

Thomas High policeman examined - I saw Lee sitting on the bench. He said, " Let us have it and we will pay for it.

Mr Vincent then called for the defence. G Peters a carpenter, who said I was at the Queen's Head at a quarter past eight o'clock in the evening of the 6th inst., Police No 2 (High) came in and put his hand on Lee's shoulder and said "Don't be too fast, I have orders for you to let them off if you keep out of mischief" Lee answered all right, very well."

Mr Vincent addressed the Magistrates hoping they would take into consideration that although bills had been issued every year warning them of its illegality, yet no one had been convicted for the last 14 or 15years; and as the police had informed them that no notice would be taken this year, they had a right to suppose such would be the case. The Magistrates having consulted said they had determined to put it down therefore should make an example by fining each of the defendants the penalty of £3.[25]

1843 November 21 Guildford Magistrates: George Ketcher, James Lovel and Hugh Moth Keene and John Barker (?) was summoned for assaulting and resisting police in the execution of their duty on the evening of the 6th inst.

Charles Hollington sworn - Between ten and eleven on the evening 6th inst., I went to help put the fire on the Mount out and was prevented by a number in disguise; I had my hat knocked off; at last I broke through the ring and kicked the fire out but finding the mob was too strong for us, we walked away down the hill, when we were knocked down several times and pelted with fireworks; Loveland and Ketcher were there and held them in my face I got out my staff and struck Loveland when they cried "muster" and we were surrounded and I received a severe burn which continues to get worse. Cross examined by Mr Vincent – Did not see Keene do anything; he was only with the crowd.

Charles Mandeville stated – About eleven o'clock I saw parties over the bridge squibbing.

[25] Sussex Advertiser 21 November 1843

Hollington. I took hold of Loveland when several stones were thrown at me, and could not tell by whom, being afraid to look round, fearing they would hit me in the face.

Jeremiah Campbell saw Bowler at the fire taking an active part. Thomas High, examined, they threw stones and pushed us about and tried to get us on the fire.

The magistrates convicted Ketcher and Loveland in the penalty of £5, the latter in default of payment was committed to the House of Correction to hard labour for one month. Keene and Bowler after being admonished and warned as to their conduct another year were discharged. [26]

1843 November 21 Guildford Magistrates; Sussex Advertiser: John Jackson, Charles Wheatly and James Ketcher were summoned for assisting in making fire, commonly called a "bonfire" on the 6th instant. C. Hollington sworn – Saw Jackson and Wheatley carrying some tow dipped in oil or turpentine and slung to some wire, up and down the High Street; they laid it down opposite the Wheat Sheaf where I saw the fire break out; I afterwards saw Jackson with 13 or 14 other disguised, loaded with wood which they placed on the fire.

Mr Vincent – tell me what you saw Wheatley do? I saw him with Jackson when tow tow was placed, but cannot say which placed it.

Twenty years on the problems continued and escalated to the point when the military aid was summoned in support of the civil power.

1863 6 November: Guy Fawkes Day at Guildford: (A report on the 5th before the events of the day from The Times) Steps had been taken to prevent the previous years rioting but the "Guys" had resolved not to be deprived of their accustomed bonfire and procession. The mayor had arranged for: fifty Dragoons who came by road and one hundred and fifty men who came by special train from Aldershot, and then marched to their quarters in various public houses in the town. Upwards of one hundred and fifty special constables and two local corps of the Rifle Volunteers the 13th and 24th were ordered to be ready to assist the public peace. The County Constabulary under Superintendent Parr and Mr. Inspector Barker have had supplementary forces of seven constables to prevent any outbreak beyond the jurisdiction of the borough authorities. Today the town is in a state of great excitement. [27] [28]

Everyone wondered what would happen when the soldiers departed. But this wasn't to be Mayor Piper's problem. While the troops remained, for the next week or so, his

[26] 1843 November 21 Sussex Advertiser
[27] 1863 6 November: The Times
[28] Durrant page 69

term of office came to an end and the new mayor, Philip Whitington Jacob took up the reigns. He was determined to put an end to the riots.

1863 November 18: 151 special constables were sworn in to relieve the troops. Mayor Jacob grouped them into zones placing them in parts of the town where they could easily be summoned if trouble broke out. The Guys arrived two days later. In the violence that ensued they savagely beat up a policeman and Jacob had to intervene by reading the Riot Act. The mayor persuaded the town council to employ an extra nine constables, plus a new superintendent. He was John Henry Law and one of the first changes he made was to arm his men with cutlasses.

1863 29 December: Guy Riots: PC William Sutton of the Guildford Borough Police standing at Tunsgate close to the police station entrance was approached by three or four men in disguise who knocked him down. He got up and endeavoured to defend himself with his staff but was knocked down again and struck on the body and head. "I heard one of the men say "Murder the ---". I then became insensible and remember no more." PC James Marshall found three bludgeons, formidable weapons, spokes from a cartwheel weighted at one end. PC Sutton was badly injured when he was thrown onto a bonfire. [29]

1864: Guy Riots: On **Boxing Day** about 20 Guys entered the town and attacked PC Stent. He ran up the High Street but they gave chase, knocked him to the ground and savagely beat him with sticks and clubs. More officers arrived and further scuffles took place. Four Guy's were arrested and later appeared at Kingston Assizes. Two were found guilty of rioting and causing bodily harm and each was sentenced to three months' hard labour.

PC Stent was attacked and seriously hurt on Boxing Day a Sunday and the last and most serious of the Guy riots. Four men were sent for trial. County officers assisted the Borough in countering the rioting. This was the last serious disturbance/riot PC Stent was brutally attacked in a determined attempt to murder him. About 14 other officers armed with cutlasses initially formed a line outside the White Lion, rescued him. There was a violent battle during which PCs Davis, Watts, Marshall and West were injured but the police won the day. Three rioters William Nugent, George Stevens and Edwin Reeves were sent to prison for their part in the riot. PC Stent a former Royal Marine Artilleryman recovered from his injuries but did not remain long in the force. Several years later at the age of 61 he was found drowned in the River Wey near his home in Stoughton.

1865 4 October: "Tap Up" Sunday at Guildford Fair at St. Catherine's Hill. The Sunday preceding Bonfire the term Tap Up believed to come from the right for

[29] 1863 29 December: The Times

anyone to set up a tap and dispense beer. From this event disturbances develop culminating in the Guy Riots.[30]

1865: An even bigger riot took place in 1865, when another policeman was almost killed. Jacob's response was to arm the police with cutlasses, and send for a detachment of Lancers, who cleared the streets. This was the last serious riot. When the Guys tried to retake the town, in 1866 and 1868 cavalry quickly dispersed them. By 1870, according to a report, there was "scarcely a squib" in the whole of Guildford.

1866 The strength of Guildford Borough Police was 15 and in addition a further PC was paid by the railway company but under the command of Head Constable Law [31]

More problems with drink!

1844 November 19 Sussex Advertiser: George Penton one of the railroad excavators was brought up in custody charged by Inspector Hollington with having been **drunk and disorderly** and with assaulting him in the execution of his duty. Inspector Hollington deposed: "I heard a disturbance on Saturday night and on going to the spot I found the prisoner and several others fighting. I tried for above half an hour to disperse the crowd that was gathered and succeeded in getting them all away but the prisoner, who told me he had as good a right to be there as I had.

At length I persuaded him to depart and he seemed to go along towards Woodbridge but returned and became very violent. I found that it was necessary to lock him up and on taking him into custody he was very violent, and put one of my fingers out. He was drunk at the time. The prisoner denied having created any riot and said that the policeman pushed him about. He had only had two pints of porter. He had never been before the magistrates before and promised to be careful not to be so again. Inspector Hollington said he did not wish to press the charge of assault if the prisoner would promise not to offend again in future. This promise having been given the Magistrates fined him the sum of 5s cautioning him that in assaulting the police in the execution of their duty he made himself liable to a penalty of £5 or 3 months imprisonment." [32]

1845 March 4: South Eastern Gazette: Offences against the Game Laws: James Dallen was brought up in custody by Inspector Hollington charged with an offence against the game laws in the parish of Albury, on the 22 December last. The prisoner had been summoned before the magistrates but having neglected to attend a warrant was issued for his apprehension. Edmund Hook deposed that on the 22 December last he saw the prisoner in the company of another man whom he did not know beating about for game. On Albury Downs; the prisoner had nets with him which he placed

[30] 1865 4 October: The Times
[31] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[32] 1844 November 19 Sussex Advertiser

over places where the hares were likely to run, and then went to the opposite side and beat the furze so as to drive them into the nets. Witness watched him for up to an hour and after he left the downs he met him and challenged him with the offence. The prisoner did not deny it but told the witness if he had found a hare he would have killed it. The prisoner said in defence that he had gone onto the downs to get a little holly for Christmas and denied having told the witness he would have killed a hare had he seen one. When Hook met him and accuse him of having flams (nets) in his possession he (the prisoner) asked him to search for them as he had none but Hook would not do this and only gave the information to "spite" him. The bench considered the case proved and fined the prisoner 20s including costs, or, in default to be committed for 14 days to the house of correction. The prisoner could not pay the fine and was removed in custody.[33]

Larceny Servant

1845 April 8 Sussex Advertiser: Felony: On Saturday a young woman named Ann Bicknell was brought up at the police office before the Mayor W. King Esq., charged with having robbed her master Mr Peter Austen of 18 High Street. Mr Austen on being sworn deposed I am a grocer residing and carrying on business at 18 High Street, Guildford in the parish of Holy Trinity and the prisoner was employed by me as a servant. On the 27 instant, she was sent on an errand to exchange some money and on her return a shilling was not accounted for. In consequence of this misunderstanding I thought it better to discharge her from my service and I dis so. I paid her what wages were due to her and she went away leaving behind her box and a bundle which were called for during the day by some man but I refused to let them go – thinking it desirable to have them searched as the key was missing. Inspector Hollington was called and when the girl arrived and her property searched a number of items belonging to her employer were found. Inspector Hollington deposed that on the 28th that in the presence of the prisoner he searched the box and found two cotton kerchiefs, a waistcoat a piece of cariet (?) a pocket book and a parasol all of which I produce and which have been identified by Mr Austen as his property. There were also in the box a piece of cheese, some bacon, sugar, four eggs and a bottle of wine. The prisoner had nothing to say in her defence and was committed for trial at the ensuing sessions. Bailed with sureties.[34]

More problems with sheep in Guildford

1845 April 22 Sussex Advertiser: Sheep worrying in Guildford: Thursday before W King Esq., mayor, C. Booker and J. Hayden Esqs. A man named John Jones was brought up in custody under the following circumstances. Inspector Hollington deposed that on the previous night about half past eleven o-clock he was attending to

[33] 1845 March 4: South Eastern Gazette
[34] Sussex Advertiser 08 April 1845

his duty down the Woodbridge Road near the gate lodge of Mr RD Mangles, when police constable Jeremiah Campbell and two young men in the service of Mr Lyon, butcher, of High Street came up to him and questioned him if he had seen a lamb run by, pursued by a large black and white dog. He had seen neither and asked Campbell the particulars.

The constable informed him that some short time previously he had observed a large black and white dog running after some sheep and lambs belonging to Mr Lyon and that he (the constable) had entered the field to drive the dog away but in the meantime the animal had contrived to single a lamb out from amongst the flock and gave it chase around the field. By the time the constable had crossed the field both lambs and dog had disappeared he knew not wither. Upon this he had gone and informed Mr Lyon of the circumstances and with the assistance of two of his men they had been making a search. Nothing more was seen of the missing lamb.

A little before one o'clock Hollington was passing up Chertsey Street and observing a light in a cellar belonging to a butcher names Stainton he looked down and there he observed the prisoner very busy skinning a lamb which had been recently slaughtered. Suspecting that all was not right the placed a constable on the watch and proceeded for one of Mr Lyon's men who on peeping into the cellar said he thought that the skin being taken off was marked like is master's sheep. Upon examination it proved to be the one, which had been lost in the field that night. Mr Lyon attended to identify the skin, which was produced. PC Campbell corroborated the evidence of Inspector Hollington.

The prisoner urged in defence that he was in the taproom of The Bell public house at 11 o'clock on the previous night when someone came in and said there was a lamb in the yard. He went out and found the lamb in question there. It was bleeding very much as though it had been worried by a dog. He then turned it into an outhouse where it remained until Stainton the butcher came into the tap to whom he told what had happened. They went together and looked at it and they agreed that if it was not killed shortly it would bleed to death. Stainton agreed to kill it and asked the witness to go and assist him, which he forthwith agreed. In this statement the prisoner was borne out by Stainton and by Mrs Chamberlayne the landlady of The Bell who heard a female acquaintance of hers named Oliver tell Jones of the lamb in the yard. The police also produced the dog which was somewhat notorious for his night walking habits and belonged to a person who lived on Shalford Common. Found not guilty but the prisoner and Stainton cautioned to be more careful in future. If their statement was true in all its points still they acted wrongly in killing the lamb for they should have informed the police of the circumstances. It did not appear either that the lamb was in such great danger of bleeding to death as there were but two or three spots of blood

visible in the Bell yard. The owner of the dog was also cautioned not to let him be at large in future as there was no telling what mischief may result.[35]

Stealing a coat – Biddlecombe and Hollington

1846 January 13 South Eastern Gazette: Trial for Theft: Thomas Cowdery aged 20 was charged with stealing a coat the property of Richard David Kidd at Godalming on the 22nd December. Mr Locke conducted the prosecution.

Charles Hollington Chief Constable of Guildford deposed he went to the shop of Mrs Butcher in High Street, Guildford when he saw the prisoner exchanging the coat, which he for some shoes; knowing it to have been stolen, he took the prisoner into custody.

Richard Driver Kidd, being a Quaker, affirmed that himself and some friends went to the house of Mr Keene at Godalming on the evening of Monday 22 December last, he left his coat and hat in the hall; when about to depart they were both missing. The coat produced was his property. Six months Hard Labour.

1846 January 13: Edward Smith a sickly looking youth was charged with stealing a coat the property of Frederick Smallpiece and a hat the property of Richard Driver Kidd from the house of Mr Keene at Godalming on 22 December last. The case was very similar to the last, the hat belonging the prosecutor in the last case and the coat to Mr Smallpiece. They were stolen from the hall of Mr Keene where the prosecutors had been visiting on the night in question.

William Henry Biddlecombe Inspector of police deposed that having received information of the robbery he went to the house of the prisoner's father who kept a marine store shop at Leatherhead. Saw the prisoner and his mother who denied they had such a coat or hat in their possession Upon looking round the room however he discovered the hat and on searching the bedroom fond the coat concealed in the bed clothes. He took the prisoner into custody. Cross examined: Leatherhead is 17 miles from Godalming.

Charles Hollington corroborated the evidence and Messrs Smallpiece and Kidd identified the coat and hat as their property. The defence was that Smith was at home on the night of the robbery and the coat had been purchased by way of trade by his father. The Chairman commented that after hearing the evidence the charge should have been receiving and the jury acquitted the prisoner.[36]

[35] Sussex Advertiser 22 April 1845
[36] 1846 January 13 South Eastern Gazette

Stolen tools from his employer

1848 November 28: Stolen Guildford: Tuesday 21st before Guildford Borough Police Court: George Brisk was charged with having in the parish of Stoke in the borough of Guildford stolen one saw, one carpenter's plane and one crowbar the property of his employer Mr William Strudwick. Having missed the tools Mr Strudwick went to the prisoner's lodgings next to the yard where he found the missing property. Superintendent Hollington was informed and traced the prisoner to Sutton about four miles from Guildford. He was committed for trial . [37]

Uttering counterfeit coin

1849 November 13 Uttering counterfeit coin: County Magistrates Court: John Fisher, John Canefield and William Purchase three men respectably attired were brought up in custody by Inspector Hollington charged with uttering counterfeit coin.

Mary Ann Hill sworn: My husband keeps the Rose and Thistle public house at Frimley. On Thursday last at about twelve 0'clock at noon the three prisoners drove up to my house with a horse and gig and put up there; they bought some mutton chops in and asked me to cook them; I did so and they all partook of them; Canefield had some ale and a pipe and tobacco. They kept going out into the yard and stable one or other of the; they ordered tea to be ready for them at four o'clock; Canefield and Purchase then went to put the horse in as they were going a little way, Fisher went into the garden; Fisher and Canefield came into the house when the horse and gig were ready at the door.

Fisher asked what there was to pay; Canefield was in the bar with him. I told them three shillings and two pence. Fisher threw down a bad crown piece, which I took up, and gave him one shilling and ten pence I change. It was then between one and two o'clock. Canefield was to remain in the house and the others were to return to tea at four o'clock. Canefield however got up into the gig and drove away with the others. I put the crown piece into my pocket and about 25 minutes after the prisoners had gone Mr Minis a farmer at Frimley came into the house and asked me if any persons had been here with a grey horse and gig. I said "yes" he then asked me if I would look at the money I had taken from them. I did so and I then discovered that the crown piece was a bad one. I had no other crown pieces either in my pocket or in the house. On the following morning I gave the crown piece to Mr Minis and the one now produced is the same.

Mr John Minis gave evidence that he was a farmer at Frimley and he had been in the Jolly Farmer at Frimley when the landlady Mrs Crocker showed him a bad half crown

[37] Sussex Advertiser 28 November 1848

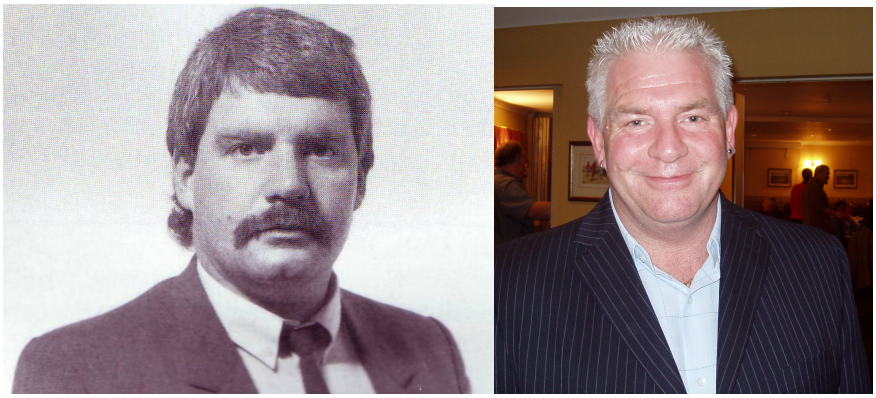
given her by three gentlemen with a grey horse and gig. He took his horse and cart and went after the three men and when he got to the Rose and Thistle he found Mrs Hall had taken a bad crown piece. He came into Guildford to Hollington's the policeman and they went in search of the prisoners who were apprehended in Cobham.

The prisoners were remanded in custody till Saturday week to allow time for communication with the Mint authorities. [38]

1986 Incident Log

1985/1986: A large **number of burglaries** occurred on building sites in and around Ashtead. Local enquiries resulted in the arrest of three people and the recovery of stolen property in excess of £200,000. A total of 127 offences were detected. Three men were convicted.[39]

1986 January 10: Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct: Constable Simon Lane, Surrey Constabulary [40]



Simon Lane

The incident took place in 1984 September: PC1415 **Simon Lane** awarded the **Queens's Commendation for Brave Conduct** when he tackled a gunman whilst off duty. Despite being sprayed with CS gas PC Lane managed to hold onto the offender until assistance arrived.

1986 12 January: A **serious disturbance** at Worplesdon involving youths who had left a party. Police were attacked and a sergeant hit with a dog chain and a constable knocked unconscious. Six people were arrested and dealt with at court.[41]

[38] Sussex Advertiser 13 November 1849
[39] Annual Report 1987
[40] 1986 January 10: The Times

1986 January 21: 0920: An **armed robbery** occurred at Byfleet when three armed men attacked a cash in transit vehicle. They had shotgun, handgun and a wooden stave. They forced their way into the vehicle and stole £17,500 in postal orders and stamps. The driver was hit on the head. As the cash van was being driven away it was involved in an accident and abandoned. No arrests were made.[42]

1986 February 24/25: Arson at a restaurant in Blindley Heath was destroyed at a cost of £340,000. No one was arrested.[43]

1986 March 25: A group of Millwall football supporters arrived in Haslemere at 2130 and went to the Swan public house. A fight with locals followed and considerable damage caused to the pub. Two constables attended and arrested eight youths who were charged with affray.[44]

1986: The Branch Board are concerned at the number of officers retiring from the Force due to **stress** related problems. The Board are also concerned over the continued **lack of officers** available for operational duties with many employed on motorway duties, and look to the Home Office for a realistic establishment.[45]

1986 March 27: During a discotheque at Dormansland a **serious disturbance** took place resulting in eight arrests of youths from Edenbridge. A significant amount of baseball bats and other offensive weapons were recovered.[46]

1986 April 17: Murder at Horsley of Maartje Tamboezer aged 15. Maartje was on a cycle ride. Following a search by friends and police first her cycle was found and then the following morning her body. **The SCPU were to spend nine months investigating the murder of Maartje Tamboezer** at West Horsley and played a key role in identifying and interviewing John Duffy.

A fifteen-year-old Dutch girl was raped and murdered by strangulation. Operation Bluebell was established led by Detective Superintendent John Hurst. The Metropolitan Police were investigating a linked murder and another officer was investigating a number of rapes in and around London; possibly thirty. A further linked murder occurred and a combined operation involving a number of forces was established led by Detective Chief Superintendent Vince McFadden of Surrey Constabulary.

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[41] Annual Report 1986
[42] Annual Report 1986
[43] Annual Report 1986
[44] Annual Report 1986
[45] Letter Robert Knowles Deputy Secretary Surrey Joint Branch Board to the HMI 28 July 1986
[46] Annual Report 1986

The biggest manhunt since the Yorkshire Ripper enquiry was underway with five thousand suspects soon reduced to one thousand nine hundred and ninety nine. As one on the suspect list Duffy was invited for interview and came with a solicitor and refused to give a blood sample. John Hurst working with David Canter of Surrey University, developing offender profiling, was concentrating on this case with Surrey Detective Constables Rupert Heritage and Lesley Cross. The profile was produced in September 1986 and this confirmed that the police should concentrate on Duffy.

1986 April 20: A **serious fire** in a block of flats, caused by discarded cigarette, at Knaphill required police to attend and rescue 79 people.[47]

1986 May: Denis Turner: 1986: Bomb kills 21 in Sri Lanka Twenty-one people have been killed and 41 injured after a bomb exploded in an airliner at Colombo airport in Sri Lanka. There were 128 passengers on board - among them 25 Britons, five of whom were injured. It is believed Tamil rebels seeking a separate homeland on the island state planted the bomb. The Air Lanka Tristar had come from London's Gatwick airport, stopping at Zurich and Dubai on the way to the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo.

About ten days before this bomb, I, with several other Surrey explosive dog handlers were sent to assist Gatwick in searching an Air Lanka flight that was about to take off when a bomb threat was received. The aircraft was sent to a quiet part of Gatwick where we searched it and after we gave the negative it then took off. I held my breath for about eight hours but was shocked to hear of this later bomb. It was said that the plane we searched was a dry run to see the reaction and there was talk that the explosive was hidden in meat on this plane because dogs had been used in the first instance. I don't suppose we will ever know but it has stuck in my mind. [48]

1986 April: Following a serious fire in a prison in Sussex a number of prisoners were transferred to Send prison where a significant number of police were engaged for two days containing a **very violent situation**.[49] This is probably the same event as that below from Paul Yearwood.

1986 May 2: Paul Yearwood: **Send prison revolt:** I was working a late shift as a uniformed PC at Guildford. Shortly after the shift started we had a call from Send Prison to the effect that a number of prisoners were revolting and prison staff was having trouble getting the prison back under control. I initially attended the prison with Chief Inspector Rand.

By 3.00 p.m. the prison was back under control. The prison authorities decided to transfer about forty of the troublemakers to Pentonville Prison. Surrey Constabulary

[47] Annual Report 1986
[48] http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/may/3/newsid_2481000/2481291.stm
[49] Annual Report 1986

was asked to provide officers to help escort the prisoners. A PSU serial under the command of Inspector Walters was pulled together from Woking and Guildford officers. We travelled in two transit vans following two coaches containing the prisoners and prison officers. Just past Tolworth, on the A3, we saw that a fight had broken out on the coach in front of us. The coach pulled over and stopped. We went to assist the prison officers. There was a lot of fighting and scuffles. The prisoners did not welcome our presence. I saw one prisoner start kicking one of the coach windows. On the third kick the window fell out. Eventually all the prisoners were subdued and a decision was made to transfer them all to vehicles with individual cells.

Two very large prison vans arrived about an hour later and all the prisoners were transferred from the coaches to these vans. We followed the vans to Pentonville. At the prison the PSU remained outside. I went in with Inspector Walters, as I had to identify the prisoner who had kicked the window out of the coach. Both vans were parked in the prison yard. The vans were surrounded by at least 40 prison officers. I went into the vans and identified the offender. Each prisoner was removed from their cell and taken to the back of the van and then pushed into the crowd of prison officers. We were all given a meal at the prison and then returned back to Guildford.

1986 July 2: A Hawk aircraft took off from Dunsfold and after executing a number of manoeuvres the it **hit the ground**, killing the pilot and breaking up the plane.[50]

1986 July 22: Reed charged: A charge against Oliver Reed aged 48, the actor who was accused of actual bodily harm on a journalist who called at his home in Pinkhurst Farm, Horsham Road Dorking last December was dropped at Dorking Magistrates Court yesterday.[51]

1986 September 20: A commuter has given police a new description of the man believed to have murdered thee women. Guildford police have issued an artist's impression.[52]

[50] Annual Report 1986
[51] The Times 22 July 1986
[52] The Times (London, England), Saturday, September 20, 1986

Adrian Russell: I was on the Burglary Squad at the time, and we spent 9 months on the enquiry. Towards the end, we were all sent out to Metropolitan police stations to search their intelligence records for sex offender suspects but since we were supposed to be working with the Metropolitan Police on the enquiry, we had to do it without telling them why we were doing it. We were, in effect checking their system, 'undercover'. Neil Boon and I found Duffy in their system and then discovered that the Met had interviewed him but because he had no alibi for any of the murder dates, he had to stage a loss of memory, following a set up assault and had been admitted to Frian Barnet hospital. They had therefore written him off as a suspect. He had been charged with the rape of his ex wife, but because he had not denied having intercourse with her but claimed it was consensual, his DNA samples had not been submitted to the Lab. That is why he had not been identified from our checks there. If they had submitted his DNA samples, there would have been match. However, in their eyes it was detected, there was no dispute over identity so taking DNA was not thought necessary. This was a decision that has terrible consequences for several victims.

We were told to hand over the copy of the Met 'action' on him, that we had acquired from their system, which showed he had been ruled out and recorded NFA, because our bosses, rightly I suppose, believed that if the truth got out that the Met had not pursued him, the press would not have blamed it on the Met, they would have said “The Police” in general.

The Metropolitan Police detectives let him go but they know we retrieved the case from their ineptitude. The Metropolitan Police papers we retrieved showed that they recommended No Further Action on him and that is what their Senior Investigating Officer ruled.

The Metropolitan Police understood that Duffy was an “In patient” at a mental hospital and therefore could not be responsible for the continuing rapes that they were

investigating. However our enquiries at the hospital, showed that he was in fact an "out patient" and on each of the dates of the continuing rapes he had not attended at the hospital.

John Hurst, (a man I have the utmost respect for as an SIO), decided that we should concentrate on him and put 24 hour observation on him. I wonder why, I was picked, to go into the mental hospital, posing as a patient, to keeps observation on his movements at the day centre. It was an experience I would not wish to repeat.

Following his arrest, Neil Boon and I undertook several interviews with Duffy on tape. They were the first taped interviews conducted in Surrey. At that time, the training school were just starting training on the newly to be introduced, taped interview procedure but we hadn't had it. So we got ordinary tapes and went into interview. When one side of the tape ran out, we simply turned it over and continued recording on the other side (knowing no better) - but since tape recorded interviews were in their infancy, they were accepted in court and the outcome was a conviction of Duffy.

Of course, there was much more evidence against Duffy, that was stronger than our interviews, which gained his conviction. There was much more happening behind the scenes that is never likely to be widely known, particularly in respect of the SCPU and all the work that they contributed to it, with 24 hour observation on Duffy, the professionalism over-coming the very difficult shadowing of him on the underground system and the final arrest.

In my opinion, it has to be the best investigation that the SCPU was involved in and one of Surrey's most successful murder investigations but one where little acknowledgement is given of the vital role of the SCPU.

Surrey officers kept Duffy under surveillance until it was decided to stop him and he was found to be carrying the range of articles he used when committing murders. Further forensic evidence was recovered from where he was living. [53]

A man was arrested in November charged with three murders and other serious offence.[54]

1986 September 18/19: Throughout the year the threat of disturbance at the TNT Depot at Byfleet where newspapers at the centre of a newspaper dispute were distributed. On occasions serious violence erupted. High numbers of police were involved, as at times there were 400 demonstrators. Overnight the 18/19th 150-200 **demonstrators forced their way** onto the Brooklands Industrial estate and attacked

[53] Email from Adrian Russell to Robert Bartlett 20 May 2015
[54] Annual Report 1986

the TNT premises. Bricks, flares, paint and other objects were used to attack vehicles and the premises causing considerable damage before the demonstrators disappeared into the night. Eight people were arrested.[55]

1986 September 27: National Front held a march of 150 supporters in Guildford although the organisers had thought many more would attend. There was a counter demonstration and a large number of police deployed which prevented serious violence.[56]

1986 November 22: Some forty-hunt saboteurs attended a meeting of the Old Surrey and Burstow Foxhounds at Lingfield. One of the vehicles contained a number of wooden clubs and one man was arrested and charged.[57]

1986 November 26: Man held in triple murder enquiry: Detectives investigating the murder of a schoolgirl and two young women in London, Hertfordshire and Surrey was last night questioning a man arrested on Sunday. Maartje Tamboezer aged 15 was attacked near Guildford in April, assaulted and strangled. The man behind the killings has also been linked to a long list of rapes and attacks in the London area. Surrey police refused to confirm that the man is a 28-year-old railway guard with an interest in the martial arts. Nor would they say whether a map of the southeast railway grid with a number of significant area marked out had been found.[58]

[55] Annual Report 1986
[56] Annual Report 1986
[57] Annual Report 1986
[58] 1986 November 26: The Times

1986 November 26: Detectives last night were **interviewing a suspect** arrested on Sunday. The arrested man has been linked to a long list of rapes and attacks in the London area. Yesterday magistrates at Guildford extended his time in custody for a further 36 hours.[59]

1986 November 27: Police quiz men over murders: Two men were last night being questioned by detectives in Surrey who were investigating the murders of a schoolgirl and two women in a series of attacks which have been dubbed the work of the "railway rapist." The murders have also been linked to some of a series of thirty rapes in London.[60]

1986 November 28: Schoolgirl murder remand: A man accused of the murder of a schoolgirl in Surrey and three rapes was remanded until Monday by Guildford magistrates yesterday. He was also charged with a number of rapes. A second man detained on Tuesday was released. [61]

1986 November: A **steer escaped** from a farm in Normandy and became a danger to the public. Two Firearms Support Team instructors were deployed and destroyed the animal as it charged them.[62]

1986 November: The Firearms Support Team was deployed to Bagshot to a report of a man in possessing shotgun acting unpredictably after a domestic dispute. Two children were in the house as members of the Firearms Support Team persuaded the man to open the door when he was quickly restrained and the shotgun recovered.[63] This is the anodyne account that was edited down to appear in the annual report but the real story again shows that the development of the Firearms Support Team and their view on dealing with incidents was not yet totally accepted by the operational police officer.

This case had a twist in that the man involved had served locally as a police officer and when the call came in his former sergeant attended the scene and was of course there some time before the Firearms Support Team could be mobilised. The Team's training would not have supported an officer going into the house and exposing himself to risk or become a hostage. However, Sergeant Gibbs used his policing skills and experience and made a judgement that proved to be the right one.

Matt Gibbs: The man involved came to Camberley as a probationer but despite my best efforts he was not going to make the grade and his probation was terminated. Eventually he moved to somewhere off Gloucester Road at Bagshot with his wife and

[59] The Times 26 November 1986
[60] The Times Thursday, November 27, 1986
[61] The Times 28 November 1986
[62] Annual Report 1986
[63] Annual Report 1986

two sons. I think it may have been Kepple Place but the memory is fading. At some point his wife left him for someone else and he was devastated. On the night in question his wife had come round and a dispute erupted. The man had been drinking which always makes such events far worse. His wife stormed off leaving the boys in the house with her husband (I think he had custody) and she then phoned 999 alleging he was in the house with the boys and a gun. He had a shotgun certificate and one shotgun lawfully.

Knowing him well I felt I could talk my way in and secure the weapon without recourse to the FST, as I didn't think he would shoot his old sergeant. Suffice to say I eventually secured the weapon and radioed that I had the gun and was going to open the front door. My intent was to get the weapon out of the house before the FST arrived and made an entry, as I did not want his boys see them take him down. As I opened the door the gun was snatched from my grasp and six FST came through the door and grabbed their ex-colleague. They trussed him up like a Christmas turkey and then for some reason carried him out in to the front garden where they dropped him on the lawn. His boys saw all of this and were very upset by it all. He was taken to Camberley where after interview he was released without charge. When I eventually got back to Camberley I got a rollicking for going inside the house as I might have been taken hostage. Which ever way you look at it, it ended well without anyone getting hurt and I received a chief constable's commendation.[64]

1986 December 1: Man faces murder charges: A man aged 27 from London will appear before Guildford magistrates today charged with two murders, one in Hackney and a woman in Hertfordshire. (Murder Day and Lock also Tamboezer) [65]

1986 December: Drug Squad: Following a join Hampshire and Surrey operation a man was followed to an address in Addlestone where he was detained and found to be in possession of two kilos of cannabis. The owner of the house was detained and a further five kilos found as well as £7,000. The street value of the cannabis was in excess of £15,000. The court forfeited the cash[66]

1986: Murder of Samuel Feiner

1986 December 4: Two men released another charged: Two men being questioned about the "railway killing and rapes" were released yesterday. A man aged 27 has been charged with the murders and three rapes.[67]

1986 December 9: Murders charge remand: A man charged with the murder of three young women and four counts of rape was remanded in custody for 24 hours

[64] Annual Report 1986
[65] The Times 1 December 1986
[66] Annual Report 1987
[67] The Times Thursday, December 4, 1986

yesterday. After a two minute hearing at Guildford he was taken to Paddington Green Police Station in the Metropolitan Police District. He would be brought back to Guildford court after the 24 hours. [68]

Mel Lewis: Operation Bluebell; where John Duffy was convicted, with the follow-on enquiry in 1998, Operation Marford, when David Mulcahy was convicted of three murders, eleven rapes and three conspiracies to rape - totalling three hundred and fifty years imprisonment! Ray Blythe and I were the Surrey officers sent to the Metropolitan Police to assist in 1999 - 2001. To my recollection Nigel McGoldrick and Jo Hayes were also in our team for a while. We re-interviewed almost all witnesses and police officers involved in the original job. That was when Ray and I were just a whisker away from a trip to Hong Kong to take a statement but the Metropolitan Police said it was too dangerous! We got as far as Amsterdam!

Firearms Support Team member: I took part in a Firearms Support Team deployment as we were the only people with camouflage equipment. We built hides near where her body was burnt, and did very boring shifts watching the site for anyone showing particular interest. We did this for about two weeks after the scene had been cleared but nothing came of it.

John Francis Duffy appeared at the Central Criminal Court and after an eight-week trial he was found guilty of two counts of murder, five of rape and one count of buggery. He was sentenced to life in prison.[69]

He was charged and found guilty of a number of murders and rapes but it was not until 1999 when he again appeared before the court that a range of other offences were finalised.

Police Support Unit Training and deployment

1986 Tom Burrell: I recall around April/May 1986 going on PSU to TNT depot somewhere due to problems with printer workers or something similar. I was a young probationer aged twenty-seven and taken with my tutor on the van with Inspector Richard (Oggy) Poulton. It was all a haze, but started me on PSU. I was asked to go on PSU there and then; how could I refuse. I remember going to Dunsfold for PSU training with the diving team as instructors. The only thing I really remember was barricades and being hit by a metal pole. I also recall health and safety wasn't an issue and several punches were thrown, between the divers and PSU. It was the days of three long shields and the rest had round. As the "New boy" you got stuck with long shields and if the middle shield, you were communications as well. I thought it was

[68] The Times 9 December 1986
[69] Annual Report 1988

the best place to be, behind the long shields, because they threw missiles over us, at the round shields. We also went training at Stoughton Barracks at Guildford. This was mostly in the dark and apples were thrown as missiles. We also moved on to the Metropolitan Police PSU training area at Hounslow. This was like a whole new world to us; buildings, streets all purpose built. Showers at the end and we then went to Sunbury section house to stay over night. Most of then went out for a "Few" drinks and a curry; breakfast at the section house and back to Hounslow. PSU was a fantastic break from everyday police work. Some of us were there by choice as we lived and breathed it, but a few were there against their will and were pressed men. I recall if I am right, females didn't come on to PSU for quite a while.

Christian Duckett: The TNT Depot was at West Byfleet by Brooklands, and this was the Rupert Murdock newspaper Sun dispute and part of the Wapping problems with the unions.

A view from a picket of his contact with Surrey

Byfleet

The picket action was now spreading to all parts of the country with stories coming in of flying picket action everywhere. We decided to go on one of these to Byfleet. On arriving at the depot I was amazed at the turnout about 200 to 300 in the early hours of the morning. We have taken the Surrey police by surprise. There is only one officer on duty. We quickly take the road and decide to let nothing pass in or out that is anything to do with TNT or N.I. We stop all drivers and question them. Some admit to working for N.I. We ask them to go home, they do quite peacefully. One idiot from a security firm attempts to run us down with his car. It is set upon and demolished. By now more police have arrived. I call these police for they were the Surrey Constabulary, very, very different from the Met. They talk to us and even set up a roadblock to vet drivers and vans for us advising anyone from N.I. to turn back. Another idiot tries to ram his way through. The police stop him, take his particulars and he drives away. The police are across the entrance in front of us at this time holding us in the entrance where they should have been getting us out of. At this time a juggernaut TNT arrives full speed to break through our blockade only it is the police who are his first targets. It was a miracle that nobody got killed that night. But the inspector is in after him like a flash. I was told the driver would be prosecuted. That has never been confirmed. With dancing and singing, pushing and shoving we hold the entrance all night. The police have taken one prisoner and offer to let him go if we in turn let two vans out. It is a hard choice but we vote no. 6.30AM our job done we bid the constabulary goodnight and go home. A successful night's work. Although I have praised the Surrey police and believe me they are a far better force than the Met when it comes to dealing with people, a black mark must go against them for their Press conference the following day when they showed an array of weapons that were

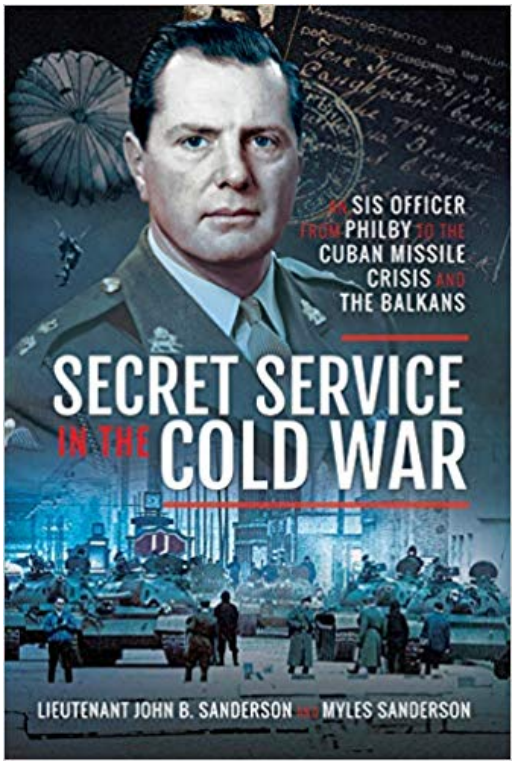
used, supposedly used that night. Fabrication inspector? Or did you have to justify our success?

In an incident at Dunsfold a man, who was the subject of a vendetta, was followed in his car by a group of men. Fearing injury, the man abandoned his car and ran for assistance. Meanwhile, one of the group of men fired several shots into the car. This crime remains undetected.

Annual Report

Secret Service in the Cold War: An SIS Officer from Philby to the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Balkans

Sanderson John (Author), Sanderson Myles (Author
Pen and Sword Books – Frontline Books 2018



About the Author Myles Sanderson

A graduate of London and Brunel universities, Myles Sanderson taught Design Technology in Australia and the UK. Myles spent his childhood in Turkey, Sudan, Egypt, Cyprus, Communist Bulgaria, France, Germany and Holland, where his father was posted in diplomatic, intelligence or military roles. Since 2006 he has lived in Paris, researching and writing history.

Commentary

The author the the son of the subject of this book, has accomplished an first-rate job in rescuing his father's extraordinary eventful life from obscurity and setting the man and his achievements in the context of his time. Obscurity and anonymity is normally assured following a life of action and great interest when working for the Secret Intelligence Service or MI6. This is therefore an unusual account of the experiences of a soldier who post war becomes involved in secret work with SIS working under the cover of military attaché. The milieu within which Sanderson operated as a member of the Security Service is covered in some depth, encompassing post war threats with ever increasing dangers that evolved into the Cold War.

Much of the source material for the book came from two well travelled and battered metal trunks found in John Sanderson's shed after his death. There were many photographs, letters and documents covering his military, personal and diplomatic life allowing a full history of events he witnessed could be told. These time capsules were

only noticed and opened after his death. Not surprisingly there are many gaps and silences simply because of the world of the SIS was by definition “secret”.

The work has been enhanced by the assiduousness of the Sanderson family in communicating their thoughts so clearly in letters to each other throughout the Second World War and the Cold War a source well used in the book.

Summary

The Second World War had been won, but relationships between the Western allies and the Soviet Union were becoming increasingly strained, as the nuclear arms race made world peace precarious. It was vital that Britain knew the Soviets' intentions and military capabilities, both offensive and defensive. As a Military Attaché in Sofia, and Commandant of an Intelligence Centre in the Balkans, it was SIS officer Colonel John Sanderson's job to find out. Sanderson handled agents who operated secretly behind the Iron Curtain at the height of the Cold War and organised hidden arms depots for stay-behind agents in case of a Red Army invasion. Based on Sanderson's letters and personal accounts of his time with MI4 (Central Interpretation Unit – photo reconnaissance) and MI6, he was to recruit émigrés for infiltration behind the Iron Curtain, into Communist Bulgaria. Fluent in French and Bulgarian, in 1949 Captain Sanderson was posted to Sofia as a Press Attaché with diplomatic immunity, reporting on the Communist show trials.

Colonel Sanderson returned there twelve years later as the Military, Naval and Air Attaché. In 1961, having been tasked by London with photographing the latest MIG fighter, he was driven at night to Sofia airport's perimeter by a CIA colleague. Closely followed by the Bulgarian secret police, he parachute-rolled, unobserved, out of the car with his camera. Arrested at daylight, he escaped to the border and drove across Europe, still pursued by the ruthless Bulgarian Security Services.

John Sanderson's early service life was equally challenging, from helping defend Britain's coastline in 1940, picking up shot-down pilots around Dover on a motorbike during the Battle of Britain, to fighting the Japanese in the Burmese and Indian jungles, before returning to London to join the Secret Intelligence Services.

In parallel with Sanderson's SIS career, living with Russian émigrés in Paris, posted to SIS headquarters in the Berlin Olympic stadium, and later working together in the Intelligence Division of NATO headquarters Paris during the Cuban Missile Crisis, was his SIS friend RAF Squadron Leader John Aldwinckle, a veteran of SOE wartime operations in Halifax bombers.

All Aldwinckle's agents were betrayed by the traitor George Blake, as were all Sanderson's by Kim Philby. In John Sanderson's biography we get the detailed inside story of the Berlin Air Lift, the Suez Invasion, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the fall

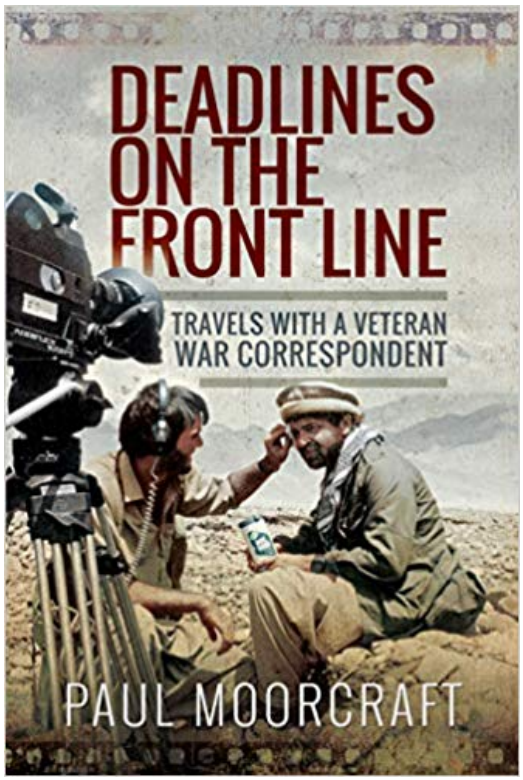
of the Berlin Wall. We see the results of Philby and Blake's treachery and the effects which the courageous actions of the two 'Olegs', the Russian Colonels Penkovsky and Gordievsky, had on the international politics of Khrushchev, Kennedy, Gorbachev, Thatcher and Reagan - and the consequences their decisions had for the course of world history.

For over thirty years, John Sanderson worked for the British Secret Services - with his last mission, aged 74, as exciting as his first, being helicoptered into Sarajevo with an SAS team at the height of the Balkan War.

Deadlines on the Front Line

Travels with a veteran war correspondent

Paul Moorcraft



About Paul Moorcraft

Professor Paul Moorcraft is a prolific author and war correspondent who served in the Rhodesian/Zimbabwean Police and worked closely with the British armed forces for many years. His book The Rhodesian War (Pen and Sword 2008) has been a huge success. Paul Moorcraft's book 'The Jihadist Threat' was one of six military titles shortlisted for the British Army Military Book of the Year 2016.

Paul Moorcraft lives in rural Surrey in peace and security now concentrating on writing after a lifetime of war and danger his life restricted by damaged eyesight when in a war zone. This is an author who has vast experience including teaching at ten universities, a senior instructor at the Royal Military Academy and Staff College and the author of over thirty books. He knows his subject very well and is highly regarded by all those who operate in the world of insurgency and small-scale wars. He has produced an interesting book even if it strays from war zones and if in parts reads more as a wide-ranging biography covering other aspects of his challenging and interesting life.

The book is therefore not all about war and reporting conflict. Some of the conflict Paul Moorcroft covers his time in academia including a lengthy piece on his time teaching at a university in Australia. Suddenly he is “Back in Europe – briefly” with a piece on time spent in Croatia avoiding Serb shelling and cannon fire in Sarajevo.

The author of this memoir has lived life to the full and fortunately has the ability to recall his experiences in a graphic and entertaining manner. As a war correspondent and paramilitary policeman, Moorcraft was a magnet for drama and action. His descriptions of sometimes tragic and often hilarious escapades in war torn countries literally from A (Afghanistan) to Z (Zimbabwe) are self-effacingly entertaining. His light-hearted approach disguises a thoroughly perceptive and analytical mind. The

reader will never be bored while accompanying Moorcraft reporting on wars in over thirty combat zones in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe. This is his book of hazardous travels to strange, often little-known places meeting even stranger people who were often all too keen to lock him up or try and kill him. Deadlines on the Frontline is a delightful and invigorating read which offers an intelligent insight into the turbulent world of the late 20th and early 21st centuries