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

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www.surrey-constabulary.com
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Police House Signs
From former Surrey Constabulary officer Tony Collman

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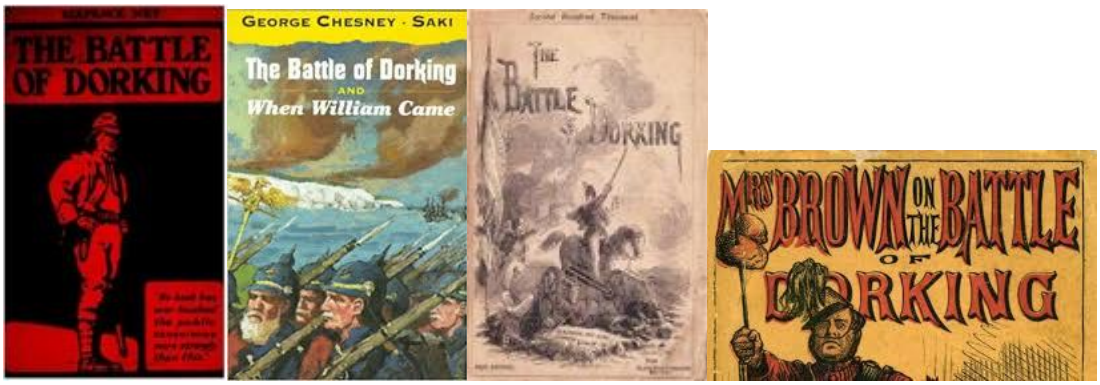
Invasion First World War
The threat to the Home front

Robert Bartlett

Invasion literature (also the invasion novel) is a literary genre that was popular in the period between 1871 and the First World War (1914–1918). The invasion novel first was recognized as a literary genre in the UK, with the novella "The Battle of Dorking: The Reminiscences of a Volunteer" (1871) an account of a German invasion of England, which, in the Western world, aroused the national imaginations and anxieties about hypothetical invasions by foreign powers. By 1914 the genre of invasion literature comprised more than 400 novels and stories.

As political literature, the invasion novel influenced British politics and national policies, and thus Britons' popular perceptions of the peoples of the world. In the period before the First World War, much of this fiction was written by military officers or were ghost-written for geopolitical experts who believed that their nations would be saved if their national governments adopted the strategies and tactics they proposed in fiction. It could well be this was the origin for the invasion scare and preparations in the early stages of the First World War. [1]

1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Battle_of_Dorking



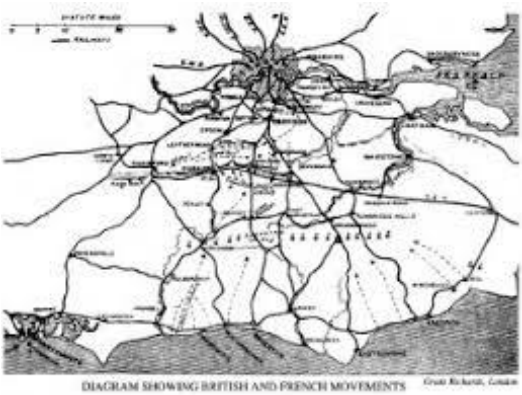


DIAGRAM SHOWING BRITISH AND FRENCH MOVEMENTS

Nearly a century before the invasion literature became a true popular phenomenon after the publication of The Battle of Dorking, a mini-boom of invasion stories appeared soon after the French developed the hot-air balloon. Poems and plays that centred on armies of balloons invading England could be found in France, and even America. However, it was not until the Prussians used advanced technologies such as breech-loading artillery and railroads to defeat the French in the Franco-Prussian War in 1871 that the fear of invasion by a technologically superior enemy became more realistic.

The Battle of Dorking by George Tomkyns Chesney, was first published in Blackwood's Magazine, a respected political journal of the Victorian era. The book describes the invasion of England by an unnamed enemy (who speak German), in which the narrator and a thousand citizens defend the town of Dorking, with neither supplies, matériel, or news of outside world. The narrative of the story then moves forward fifty years in time, and England remains devastated.

The author, like many of his countrymen at the time, was alarmed by Prussia's successful invasion of France in 1870, defeating Europe's largest army in only two months. The Battle of Dorking was initially meant to shock readers into becoming more aware of the possible dangers of a foreign threat, but unwittingly developed popular anxieties. The story was an immediate success, with one reviewer saying, "We do not know that we ever saw anything better in any magazine... it describes exactly what we all feel." It was so popular that the magazine was re-printed six times, a new pamphlet version was created, dozens of spoofs were created, and it was for sale throughout the British Empire.

Between the publication of The Battle of Dorking in 1871 and the start of the First World War in 1914 there were hundreds of authors writing invasion literature, often topping the best seller lists in Germany, France, England and the United States. During the period it is estimated over 400 invasion works were published. Probably the best known work was H. G. Wells' "The War of the

Worlds" (1898), bearing plot similarities to The Battle of Dorking but with a science fiction theme. This work was also based on Surrey, the much smaller then, Woking. [2]

Between 1870 and 1903 the majority of these works assumed that the enemy would be France, rather than Germany. This changed with the publication of Erskine Childers's 1903 novel The Riddle of the Sands. Often called the first modern spy novel, two men on a sailing holiday thwart a German invasion of England when they discover a secret fleet of invasion barges assembling on the German coast.

William Le Queux was the most prolific author of the genre; his first novel was The Great War in England in 1897 (1894) and he went on to publish from one to twelve novels a year until his death in 1927. Le Queux's most popular invasion novel was " The Invasion of 1910"(1906) which was translated into twenty-seven languages selling more than a million copies world-wide. Le Queux and his publisher changed the ending depending on the language, so in the German print edition the fatherland wins, while in the English edition the Germans lose.[3]

Were there any plans to invade the United Kingdom? Imperial German plans for the invasion of the United Kingdom were first conceived in 1897 by Admiral Eduard von Knorr, commander of the Imperial German Navy, against a background of increasing Anglo-German rivalry and German naval expansion. Acknowledging the inferiority of the small German fleet, his concept called for a pre-emptive strike against the Royal Navy to establish temporary naval supremacy. This would be followed by an immediate landing, before British naval reinforcements re-established command of the sea. Subsequent studies determined that the shortest possible sea-crossing would be a prerequisite for success, requiring the use of port facilities seized in Belgium and the Netherlands to embark the expeditionary force. Reconnaissance of the English east coast was completed and potential landing sites in East Anglia were selected.

Comments were invited from Alfred von Schlieffen, Chief of the German General Staff, who regarded an invasion to be impractical. His staff estimated that it would require up to 320,000 troops to defeat the British home defences and capture London, and that a quick victory would be necessary if the expeditionary force was not to be cut off and forced to surrender. The plans were opposed throughout by Admiral Alfred von Tirpitz, State Secretary of the German Imperial Naval Office. They were shelved in 1899 when it became apparent that the German navy and merchant marine were not sufficiently strong to accomplish an invasion without compromising the secrecy considered essential for success.[4]

Intelligence about German future plans were either lacking or ignored by the planners. It could be as simple as those with authority were convinced by invasion literature that there would be an attempted invasion and therefore made military and home front plans to meet that threat.

The threat of German invasion was taken very seriously and in November 1914 the government issued instructions for measures to be taken in the event of a hostile landing. These measures were to be carried out at the direction of the military authorities and under the guidance of the police. In

2 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invasion_literature
3 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invasion_literature
4 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial_German_plans_for_the_invasion_of_the_United_Kingdom

Surrey, the Surrey Central Defence Committee coordinated planning, with area emergency committees in each petty sessional division and parish emergency committees under the area committees. The local committees drew up detailed plans for the removal of vehicles and livestock, the destruction of supplies, and the disabling of bridges, railways and electric power. Surrey local authorities were also involved in the defence of London, for which elaborate plans were prepared by the War Office. Dorking Urban and Rural District Councils, among other local authorities, were requested to draw up lists of men and equipment for trench digging and the construction of emergency defences. This scheme continued in force for the duration of the war though the threat of invasion had long since receded.[5]

British fears of invasion have been interpreted widely. What is far less clear is the relationship between these fears and official policy. Were they, as Niall Ferguson has observed, "completely divorced from strategic reality"?[6] The answer depends on what one considers strategic reality to be. We now know that neither the Germans nor the French formed any serious plans for the invasion of Britain between 1900 and 1914. However, this was not the impression held by many British strategists at the time. (Influenced by the novels?)

Indeed, by degrees, the decade before the outbreak of the First World War witnessed a collapse in the Royal Navy's confidence in its ability to prevent an invasion of the British Isles. For a series of operational and infrastructural reasons, Britain's naval leadership devoted more and more time, attention, and resources, to the increasingly urgent task of defending her eastern seaboard. Even as Admiral Sir John "Jacky" Fisher was encouraging an audience in London to "sleep quiet in your beds, and not to be disturbed by these bogeys — invasion and otherwise" in 1907, he was presiding over top-secret plans to use the Navy's newest warships — including HMS *Dreadnought* — in an ambitious and risky plan to forestall a German landing. By the outbreak of War in 1914, one officer in the Admiralty planning section complained at the extent to which the need to safeguard the east coast was obliging the Navy to run risks with the British Fleet, lamenting "the very powerful and insidious reaction on our naval strategy" which the situation had produced.[7]

This crisis in naval confidence was the product of the shifting balance of power and operational conditions in the North Sea, which made observing German movements extremely difficult. In an age before radar or effective aerial spotting, the "castles of steel" of the British Fleet were blind over the horizon — a fact which, it was felt, gave the Germans a chance at slipping out of port and across the North Sea undetected. Yet it was also the product of failings at the highest level of government.[8]

It was the General Staff's ambition to enlarge the expeditionary force, and to rely on second-line troops of the Territorial Force to repel any invaders who did make it past the Fleet at sea. The widespread lack of faith in the efficiency of these troops — "a mass of cotton wool instead of a quarter-inch plate" according to Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty, left the Navy

[5] https://www.surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk/subjects/defending/counter-invasion/

[6] https://blog.oup.com/2017/09/invasion-fears-britain/ David G Morgan-Owen 2017

[7] https://blog.oup.com/2017/09/invasion-fears-britain/ David G Morgan Owen 2017

[8] https://blog.oup.com/2017/09/invasion-fears-britain/ David G Morgan Owen 2017

feeling under the utmost pressure to adopt a defensive stance and to prevent *any* landing, no matter how small, at the expense of plans to use the Fleet in a more aggressive manner. No foreign army set sail for British shores in 1914 but preparing to meet one exercised a crucial role in shaping how the nation prepared itself for War.[9]

Interesting evidence of this can be found at local level in Surrey in early 1915. As a large county situated next to some key southern coastal counties, the authorities in Surrey had to develop detailed contingency plans for how the whole area would deal with the impact of fighting on the south coast, and the potential mass movement of people and livestock this might entail. The plan appeared to give priority to ensuring successful evacuation of livestock (thus securing valuable food supplies), but minimising the movement of ordinary civilians, thereby avoiding clogging up major county roads or the main Surrey railway stations. On January 20th, 1915, for example, the Surrey Comet newspaper, based in Kingston-on-Thames, published a lengthy article on 'The Defence of the Realm', which described for readers "How Surrey Would be Affected by Invasion".

The Comet noted that a 'preliminary notice regarding prospective measures to be taken under the Defence of the Realm Act in case of emergency' had been issued and published in the press in the previous month. Moreover, said the newspaper, the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey was now of the opinion "that further information as to the measures being taken should now be communicated to the public".[10]

The measures, as the Comet summarised them, involved possible interference with "the normal routine of the population, the vehicular traffic, and the livestock of the County", and this necessitated "careful preparation beforehand", with "precautionary measures" taken in advance. As the newspaper explained: "The County of Surrey can only be affected by a raid on the Kentish or Sussex coasts accompanied by a landing of the enemy's troops. Even then it will not be immediately affected, but the first probable result might be a movement of population, vehicles and livestock from the Coast Counties into Surrey'.

The prospective measures would also involve an important role for the police: "Should it be necessary at any time to clear any portion of the county for military operations, notices will be sent through the police to individual owners in regard to various types of vehicles or live stock, etc., giving them orders for removal or destruction."

Readers were also informed that 'special routes' had been laid out in these plans, "avoiding main roads for the removal of cattle", and arrangements had been made for "local guides", with "billeting stations fixed, and areas into which livestock will be removed selected." Owners of animals, it was added, 'would furnish their own herdsmen'.

9 https://blog.oup.com/2017/09/invasion-fears-britain/ David G Morgan Owen 2017

10 https://historyatkingston.wordpress.com/2018/05/30/wake-up-invasion-fears-in-surrey-during-early-world-war-one/

As for the county's civilian population more generally, a firm but also reassuring tone was struck in the official guidance, possibly designed to avoid creating mass panic in the event of nearby fighting: "The public are not required or advised to leave their homes when an emergency arises, but if any person contemplates doing so, it will not be wise to leave it to the last moment, as the railways may not be available for the movement of civilians and road traffic may be interfered with owing to military requirements". The guidance added: "A general exodus of the population of Surrey would appear to be impracticable."

Civilians were also warned that the actual defence of the county was to be in the hands of authorised forces only: "The civil population will not be allowed to bear arms unless duly enlisted in a Volunteer Corps which has been recognised by the War Office. A register of affiliated Volunteer Corps is being made."

Unsurprisingly, the same issue of the Surrey Comet which carried this official guidance also devoted its editorial column to commenting on the advice: "However unwilling most people are to contemplate invasion or an air raid as imminent, and however we may hope the event will prove that such confidence is well-placed, prudence suggests preparations and adequate arrangements beforehand, less the unexpected happens."

The Comet editorial argued that, just for that reason, the public "are advised to study carefully" the official notice issued by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey and also by the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

It is difficult to know or to measure to what extent local people in Surrey did indeed study such advice, but it is also worth noting that, just a few weeks later, the possibility of invasion by the Germans was still being raised by local officials in the county in order to keep people fully alert. In March 1915, for example, the Mayor of Kingston, Alderman C.H. Burge at a special screening of the War Office recruitment film Wake Up! in Kingston, commented that the film dealt with 'the question of invasion. Burge said that the purpose of the film was "to bring home to the minds of a certain section of the community the very real danger that would follow invasion of this country." He said that "those who thought everything would be all right", and who thought that there was no need for special preparation, were "the dreamers upon whom ruin might descend", and: "He wanted them to realise that the German armies were as near to them as the town of Bristol…"[11]

On 8 August 1914, the House of Commons passed the Defence of the Realm Act (DORA) without debate. During the war the Act was amended, and its scope was expanded. The Act gave sweeping powers to the Government, including press censorship over troop movements and criticism of the government itself. Imprisonment without trial was also introduced. It was also illegal to:

> Talk about naval or military matters in public places.
> Spread rumours about military matters or take photographs of military bases.
> Buy binoculars.

[11] Surrey History Centre Written by Dr Steven Woodbridge, Senior Lecturer in History at Kingston University

Trespass on railway lines, tunnels and bridges, or loiter near them.
Light bonfires or fly a kite, which might attract enemy aircraft or Zeppelins.
Ring church bells.
Feed bread to animals.
Write with invisible ink.

There were odder prohibitions like whistling for a taxi, in case it was mistaken for an air raid warning or buying brandy or whisky at railway refreshment rooms. Later in the war there were restrictions on public house opening times, to prevent drunkenness.[12]

Surrey was divided into areas, which corresponded to the Petty Sessional Divisions of the county. The South Eastern Area covered the parishes of Betchworth, Buckland, Burstow, Chaldon, Charlwood, Chipstead, Gatton, Horley, Kingswood, Leigh, Merstham and Nutfield. Within each parish a committee was to be appointed to oversee local anti-invasion measures.

In November 1914 the government issued instructions for measures to be taken in the event of a hostile landing. These measures were to be carried out at the direction of the military authorities and under the guidance of the police. In Surrey Area Emergency Committees were set up in each petty sessional division, with local parish Emergency Committees under them, in order to make detailed contingency plans and to set up machinery which, in the event of an emergency, would supplement the existing police organisation. These were to be co-ordinated by a small Central Organising Committee formed by the Lord Lieutenant, of which the Chief Constable and the General Officer Commanding in Chief were to be members. The plans made by local committees were to cover the removal of vehicles and livestock without hindrance to troop movement, the destruction of supplies and forage, and the disabling under specific military direction of bridges, railways and electric power and similar plant.

The Surrey Central Defence Committee was clerked from Caxton House, Westminster (the London offices of Surrey County Council), Henry C Baggallay acting as Hon Secretary. Special Constables were appointed to assist the police in carrying out the local plans.

The minutes and papers of the committee appointed in Horley have survived[13] and provide a very detailed account of the work of the committee in the early years of the war. George Freeman JP of Pickets was chosen as chairman and Edward Blundell of the Chequers Hotel appointed secretary. The others committee members were Henry Webber JP, of Elm Cottage, Bernard W Parson JP, of Hookwood, the Rev. H J Lewis, vicar of Horley, Walter J Hallett of Oakwood Road, Adolph Brandt of The Chequers Hotel and the Rev R P E. Cheeseman, vicar of Salfords.

The first meeting of the committee took place on 26 November 1914 at Albert Road School, but subsequent meetings were held at the Committee Room at the Constitutional Club, Horley. Lewis,

[12] www.surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk/story/horley-and-the-defence-of-the-realm-act/ Laurence Spring
[13] SHC ref 6296/1/1/39-40

Hallett, Jennings, Brandt and Cheeseman were also special constables within the parish. [14]

On the committee meeting at Horley on 3 December 1914 it was agreed to compile a list of all those who owned cars and bicycles. This was later followed by a census of all livestock within the parish. The census discovered that 109 people owned 536 vehicles, ranging from motor cars to horse and carts; Mr Edward Brocklehurst of Kinnersley Manor had the largest number of vehicles, although what these 17 vehicles were is not recorded, whereas Richard Cook, the fishmonger, had just one 'vehicle' and Mr Jones the butcher had five vehicles. There were also 779 bicycles in Horley at this time, including 20 bicycles at the cycle shop run by Mr A. H. Waters and 12 at the cycle shop in Victoria Road, owned by T. A. Wyatt.[15]

The livestock in the parish was recorded as follows: horses (including ponies and asses), 338; sheep, 1,577; cows, 551; pigs, over 756; goats, 2; neat stock etc, 626 (including 1 donkey). In the event of an invasion the special constables were to divide the animals into herds of not more than 150 head of cattle and lead them to the designated rendezvous where another special constable would take charge of them.[16]

To enforce these regulations there were 25 special constables divided into five parties under a committee member, plus an additional 24 special constables, some of whom were assigned specific duties. Some were in charge of a certain area, for example A S Jennings, with H Buckle and W J H Church as assistants, were in charge of the Burford Farm area, although both Jennings and Buckle later joined the army. By 2 November 1917 they had been succeeded by C E Wiggins, who was in charge and F Sargeant, E Gallup and J Bussell were his assistants.[17]

Similar DORA activities to those undertaken at Horley would be implemented across the county**.** The Act called for the securing of public property, which might be of use to an enemy invader. Therefore, on 23 November 1914 a meeting was held at Cecil Hall, in the Colman Institute, Redhill, to organise Surrey's reaction to the Defence of the Realm Act and determine how 'to secure the civil populations and to assist the military in case of hostile invasion'. It was reported that 'in the event of the landing of a hostile force on the south or south east coast that military authority would issue orders to denude Kent, Sussex and Surrey (possibly not the north portion) of all cattle, sheep horses, vehicles (both horse and motor), consumable stock suitable for man or beast and all commodities which may be considered of use to an invading force and at the same time they would call upon civilian labour to prepare earthworks etc.' A man was to be chosen to tour each parish daily to inspect the cattle and any which that were found to be unfit to travel were to be destroyed. However, in the event of an enemy landing, on no account were bridges, railways, electricity and telephone lines to be destroyed unless permission had been received from the military authorities.[18]

[14] www.surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk/story/horley-and-the-defence-of-the-realm-act/ Laurence Spring
[15] www.surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk/story/horley-and-the-defence-of-the-realm-act/ Laurence Spring
[16] www.surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk/story/horley-and-the-defence-of-the-realm-act/ Laurence Spring
[17] www.surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk/story/horley-and-the-defence-of-the-realm-act/ Laurence Spring
[18] www.surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk/story/horley-and-the-defence-of-the-realm-act/ Laurence Spring

The considerations given by local councillors for Horley survive in the county archives at Woking. Invasion and evacuation was considered at length and complex plans made to remove people and resources from the enemy. Set places within each parish were to be chosen where the animals were to gather in the event of an invasion, before they were sent to a general rendezvous, although it would not be until 16 April 1915 that Court Lodge Farm was chosen as the collecting place for cattle in the south of Horley and Petridgewood Farm for those in the north. For sheep the collection point for the entire parish was Horley Lodge. On 26 October 1915 Greenfields, Meath Green Lane, was chosen as the collection point for cars and the cricket ground for horses and carts etc. Launders Farm was also chosen as the gathering place for those who were to work on fortifications etc. If the population of Horley needed to be evacuated then they were to gather at Salfords School, The Thorns, Victoria Hall, The Kings Head, and the Chequers Hotel. Boy Scouts were to be used as messengers.

A special constable, with two assistants, was appointed to each of these rendezvous to oversee the collection points. The Rev Henry Lewis, who had been vicar of Horley since 1890, along with six assistants, would be in charge of the population in the event of an invasion. Other special constables would be in charge of certain sections of roads.

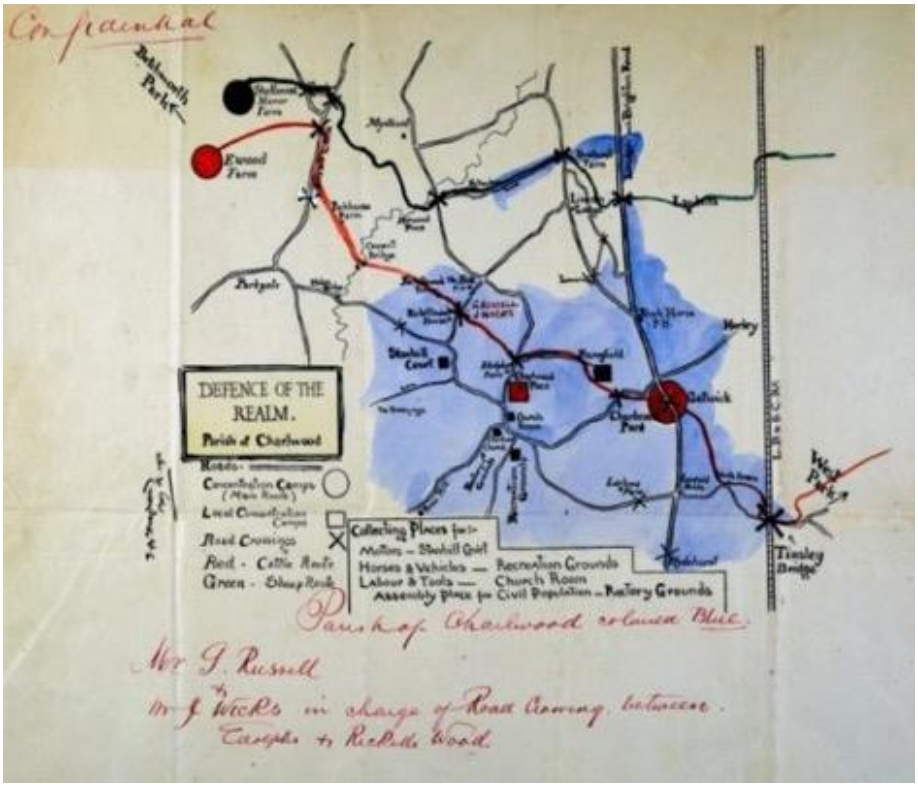
In a bulletin issued by the Divisional or Local Committee to the parish committees, it stated, "many of the atrocities in Belgium were perpetrated by German soldiers when drunk. It is important therefore, that no intoxicating liquor should be left in any area should a clearance order to be carried out." However, in December 1914 it was decided that the local committees should deal with the disposal of alcohol in the event of a German landing.[19]

On the outbreak of war there were two thousand Special Constables in the Surrey Constabulary. During the war some four thousand nine hundred and eighty-seven were sworn in many deployed to deal with the evacuation of the county should it be required.[20]

The newspapers were reporting that only one month after Great Britain declared war on Germany, fears of invasion and spying were affecting every part of the county.[21] Surrey and Sussex combined to plan to move people, farm animals and equipment north into west London. Surrey was in the danger zone and on any invasion route and arrangements were made to deal with the receipt and passing on of inhabitants, cattle, implements etc. from Sussex but also to arrange for the evacuation of the county itself. In order to carry out these duties the force of four thousand Special Constables was raised in addition to those on ordinary duty.[22] These special constables were earmarked for defence of the realm duties only and did no other work of a police nature. ------- The main requisite was to collect all persons, cattle, material etc., and move them by routes other than the main roads so as to leave the latter free for military use. --------- In villages Special Constables were detailed for the various duties, some in connection with the removal of inhabitants, others for cattle, etc., everything required to be moved being dealt with by the requisite numbers of Special Constables.

[19] www.surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk/story/horley-and-the-defence-of-the-realm-act/ Laurence Spring
[20] Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 Durrant page 46
[21] News item in the Surrey Advertiser, 31st August 1914
[22] Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 Durrant page 46

Others were detailed to keep order along the various routes selected and some were in place at every junction of the main roads to hold up refugees if necessary, to keep the roads clear for the military. The rendezvous for all cattle, etc., was Richmond Park. [23]



Counter-invasion plan drawn up by Charlwood Emergency Committee, 1916[24]

Plans were also made for the defence of London and a committee was appointed by the War Office from the Engineer and Railway Staff Corps, Royal Engineers (TF), for the organisation of civilian labour in the London District. Dorking Urban and Rural District Councils, among other local authorities, were requested to draw up lists of men able to undertake trench digging and assemble the necessary equipment so that in the event of invasion, emergency defences could be constructed. The scheme continued in force for the duration of the war and papers and correspondence relating to its organisation, including lists of those to undertake trench digging from Abinger, Capel, Dorking, Dorking Rural, Mickleham, Newdigate, Ockley and Wotton.[25]

In preparing for invasion in March, the Surrey Mirror reported:

[23] SCC Archives CC98/72 undated believed 1919 from Capt. Sant to Standing Joint Committee
[24] SHC ref SHC ref 734/1
[25] SHC ref LA4/23/40-296

Instructions in case of invasion

A placard will be posted in each parish stating:

> Careful plans have been made
> If a state of emergency is declared stay quietly at home.
> Many roads will be closed to all traffic.
> If you wish to move you will be given assembly points
> Conveyances will be provided for aged, infirm and young children.
> All others go on foot.
> Take only necessary clothing, boots, blankets and money
> It may be necessary to destroy certain property
> All movements will be directed by the Police.
> Lingfield residents will be directed to Blindley Heath.[26]

When the war was over the Chief Constable of Surrey Captain Sant in 1919 presented his learning points of the war. There were specific references to the response to an invasion. [27]

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

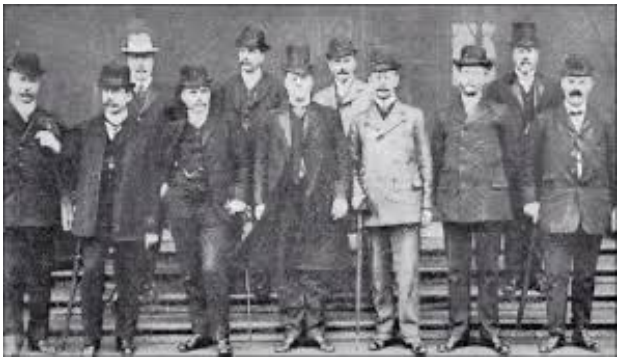
Invasion through Surrey from the south or east was anticipated, and arrangements made to deal with the receipt and passing of inhabitants, cattle, implements etc., and also arrange for the evacuation of the county itself. Four thousand Special Constables were raised to help with any evacuation; these numbers were an addition to those undertaking normal duties.[28] Special Constables were detailed to keep order in the villages and also along selected refugee routes. The rendezvous for all cattle was Richmond Park.[29]

[26] https://www.surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk/story/the-impact-of-ww1-on-the-lingfield-and-dormansland-area-in-1916/
[27] SHC ref CC98/7/
[28] Durrant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 46
[29] Off Beat April 1982

Camberley Special Constables, 1918 (SHC ref 9152/2/2/4/1

The Chief Constables' Association

The Chief Constables' Association was both for social purposes and providing services and a forum for senior officers of city and borough forces considering legal and operational issues. In order to encourage cooperation between the Association and a similar body the County Chief Constables' Club, in 1918 the country was divided into eight districts with every chief constable whether county, city or borough becoming a member of a district conference. The conference was also attended by officials from the Home Office and members of HM Inspectors of Constabulary. This was the basic structure until the formation of ACPO England and Wales in July 1948 following Lord Oaksey's committee



James Metcalfe Reigate Borough Police front right. Once a president of the Chief Constables' Association 1919 Manchester

A meeting of the Association took place in central London in May 1915 when the HMI gave a talk on the police response to invasion of the United Kingdom. As we have seen there was a considerable amount of work being undertaken establishing how local authorities and police to

respond to an invasion. There were private and secret communications with the military establishing their position and discussing the implementation of Martial Law. The police were seen as non-combatants but were clearly warned that if they took part in armed operations against the invader, they would lose the protection of being a part of the "peaceful population." There were so many unknowns, but one thing was clear, guidance was no matter what the dangers, the police should remain at their post to support their communities.

"The Duties of the Police in case of Invasion."

Leonard Dunning HM Crown Inspector of Constabulary addressed the AGM 14 May 1915 at the Westminster Palace Hotel, Victoria Street London on "The Duties of the Police in case of Invasion." The following paragraphs are a summary of his speech.

Policing any invasion was seen as a small part of the whole of police duties associated with the war. A great many of the duties of police in case of invasion had been the subject of confidential communication between the government and local authorities. The first consideration should be the law, but it is difficult to see that there is any law which can be discussed.

The duties of police at the time of invasion can be divided into three phases or periods. First of all, the police forces are working in rather water-tight compartments and in this case, you must remember there are 194 separate police forces in England and Wales. Each force may or may not be affected by a successful landing of German troops in one of the three phases or during one of the three periods.

> When the force lies behind our military lines – nothing can be said today as this is subject to confidential communications.
>
> Within the actual area of military operations. There is no law which governs the duties of the police though international law which is made up of agreements between countries.
>
> When the force lies behind the enemy lines in territory which is in the occupation of the enemy.

Within the area of military operations there are certain acts connected with hostile operations which may safely be performed by non-combatants. These acts are done at the request of the military commander and the police, as part of the peaceful population, may perform those acts without any risks of being treated by the enemy as combatants. My advice is they should put themselves entirely in the hands of the military commander, who knows what he may require to be done by the civil population and the police.

Under the laws of war, the inhabitants of a country in which actual military operations are in progress are divided into two classes, armed forces and peaceful population. It is one of the laws of war that an individual must choose to belong to one or the other and shall not be

permitted to enjoy the privileges of both. An individual shall not be allowed to kill and then, if subsequently captured or in danger of his own life, pretend to be a peaceful citizen.

His Majesty's Government have decided that the police do not constitute a part of the armed forces of the Crown, and do not regard them as combatants. It is plain therefore that the police are subject to those parts of the usages of war on land which deal with the conduct of the peaceful population.

If there is a spontaneous taking up of arms against an invader as a "levy en masse"[30], these people will come under the military commander. If this happens, I am certain there will be no policeman who hangs back, taking his share with fellow citizens, and by doing so, his duties as a policeman will be at an end.

The next phase is where the police have to perform their duties under occupation by the enemy. Possibly as a part of the military plan some areas of the country will be cleared of its population. If that happens by order of the military authority the police, as a part of the peaceful population would pass out of the area with the rest of the population. Therefore, we need not consider the question of the duties of police in an area which has been cleared of the population. The police are appointed for the protection of the people and with the people they will go to protect them. If no such order is made a number of the inhabitants will flee of their own accord and become refugees, but some will stand their ground and run the risk of what may happen.

We have to consider what is occupation. The rights of the enemy are purely transitory, and he should only exercise his powers for the maintenance of order and the safety and proper administration of the country. The examples of Belgium and part of the north of France show that in nearly every instance Germany has deliberately departed from the agreements of International Law. I am talking about things that may not happen; that we hope will not happen and we do not know what will happen if they do happen.

The laws of war imply that the police will remain at their post: "In case of necessity the inhabitants may be called upon to do police duty, to assist the paid police in the maintenance of law and order, the extinction of fires, and for the public good." In the absence of instructions from the Government it will be for the discretion of the local police authorities to decide. I think that the experiences of Belgium and parts of France suggest that the advantage to the population in an occupied area arising from the maintenance of order by the old Authorities will far outweigh any military advantage which will accrue to the enemy from the fact that he had not to devise machinery for keeping order, or to detach troops for the purpose.

The first duty of the police is to protect the public. We are taking it for granted that there will be people left in an occupied area. The lessons of the past few months are that there is no greater danger which has threatened the inhabitants of an occupied area than the danger of some

30 French term used for a policy of mass national conscription, often in the face of invasion.

individual, probably roused to it by the sight of some horrible atrocity, or possibly only a pretext, for the use of undue severity on the whole of the population in that area. It seems to me that the police will be performing a great and valuable service if they remain at their posts and restrain civilians from committing acts which will bring terrible consequences on the whole of the community.

Any enemy in occupation will find it easier and more effective to work through local people such as the police when seeking the services of the population to perform tasks. If the enemy find that their requests are more easily filled when worked through the police force, I think probably they would accept the services of the police. That, no doubt, will save te enemy a certain amount of trouble, but that is nothing if it saves the unfortunate population from oppression and suffering as I believe it would.

It seems to me the best way for the police to perform their duty is to remain at their post in the hope that an occupying enemy will be guided by the Laws and Usages of War. No doubt the police will expose themselves to great personal danger, but I have every confidence that the fear of danger will not prevent the police from doing their duty. (Applause)

Conclusion

It is most likely there never was a formal plan by the Germans to invade Great Britain during the First World War and that much of the horror of a possible invasion flowed from invasion literary genre. Such a view is supported by recent research. The following was received in late June 2020 from Dr David G. Morgan-Owen, FRHistS, Senior Lecturer in Defence Studies, Defence Studies Department, King's College London at the Joint Services Command and Staff College: "The short answer is: no the Germans did not have a plan (or at least not one that anyone has ever discovered any evidence of) after about 1905. That did not, however, preclude a lot of people in the UK from getting very worried. This escalated during the autumn of 1914 and resulted in various civil defence measures being taken."[31]

Invasion of the Home Front, Second World War

The threat of invasion during the Second World War was substantial particularly in the period immediately after Dunkirk with the withdrawal of the remains of the BEF. This time the Germans had a plan to invade England. Operation Sea Lion (Unternehmen Seelöwe) could only take place if the Germans had control of the channel on the sea and in the air something they failed to achieve. However, plans were made for the population should there be a landing.

31 Email from Dr Morgan- Owen to Robert Bartlett 24 June 2020 'The Fear of Invasion' (Oxford University Press, 2017)

Bob Cozens a former Surrey Constabulary police officer recalled [32]: That when he was 13 and living in a cottage in Wonersh the leaflet below arrived on what to do if the Germans attacked Great Britain. It was produced in co-operation with the War Office and the Ministry of Home Security. The Government during Second World War constantly gave advice on how people should behave – be it regarding food, general behaviour in the war, evacuation etc. This government advice was an attempt to control the way people acted. The bulk of the advice came from the Ministry of Information.

If the invader comes: what to do – and how to do it. The Germans threaten to invade Great Britain. If they do so they will be driven out by our Navy, our Army and our Air Force. Yet the ordinary men and women of the civilian population will also have their part to play. Hitler's invasions of Poland, Holland and Belgium were greatly helped by the fact that the civilian population was taken by surprise. They did not know what to do when the moment came. You must not be taken by surprise. This leaflet tells you what general line you should take. More detailed instructions will be given you when the danger comes nearer. Meanwhile, read these instructions carefully and be prepared to carry them out. When Holland and Belgium were invaded, the civilian population fled from their homes. They crowded on the roads, in cars, in carts, on bicycles and on foot, and so helped the enemy by preventing their own armies from advancing against the invaders.

You must not allow that to happen here. Your **first rule**, therefore, is:

If the Germans come by parachute, aeroplane or ship, you must remain where you are.

The order is "stay put".

1

If the commander-in-chief decides that the place where you live must be evacuated, he will tell you when and how to leave. Until you receive such orders you must remain where you are. If you run away, you will be exposed to far greater danger because you will be machine-gunned from the air as were civilians in Holland and Belgium, and you will block the roads by which our own armies will advance to turn the Germans out.

II

There is another method, which the Germans adopt in their invasion. They make use of the civilian population in order to create confusion and panic. They spread false rumours and issue false instructions. In order to prevent this, you should obey the **second rule**, which is as follows:

[32] Former Surrey Constabulary chief superintendent and later, Chief Constable of West Mercia email to Robert Bartlett September 2015.

2) Do not believe rumours and do not spread them. When you receive an order, make sure that it is a true order and not a faked order. Most of you know your policemen and your ARP wardens by sight; you can trust them. If you keep your heads, you can also tell whether a military officer is really British or only pretending to be so. If in doubt, ask the policeman or ARP warden. Use your common sense.

III

The Army, the Air Force and the Local Defence Volunteers cannot be everywhere at once. The ordinary man and woman must be on the watch. If you see anything suspicious, do not rush round telling you neighbours about it. Go at once to the nearest policeman, police station or military officer and tell them exactly what you saw. Train yourself to notice the exact time and place where you saw anything suspicious and try to give exact information. Try to check your facts.

The sort of report which a military or police officer wants from you is something like this:

"At 5.30 p.m. tonight I saw twenty cyclists come into Little Squashborough from the direction of Great Mudtown. They carried some sort of automatic rifle or gun. I did not see anything like artillery. They were in grey uniforms."

Be calm, quick and exact. The **third rule**, therefore, is as follows:

3) Keep watch. If you see anything suspicious, note it carefully and go at once to the nearest police officer or station, or to the nearest military officer. Do not rush around spreading vague rumours. Go quickly to the nearest authority and give him the facts.

IV

Remember that if parachutists come down near your home, they will not be feeling at all brave. They will not know where they are, they will have no food, they will not know where their companions are. They will want you to give them food, means of transport and maps. They will want you to tell them where they have landed, where their comrades are, and where our own soldiers are.

The **fourth rule**, therefore, is as follows:

4) Do not give any German anything. Do not tell him anything. Hide your food and your bicycles. Hide your maps. See that the enemy gets no maps. See that the enemy gets no petrol. If you have a car or motor bicycle, put it out of action when not in use. It is not enough to remove the ignition key; you must make it useless to anyone except yourself.

If you are a garage proprietor, you must work out a plan to protect your stock of petrol and your customers' cars. Remember that transport and petrol will be the invaders' main

difficulties. Make sure that no invaders will be able to get hold of your cars, petrol, maps or bicycles.

V

You may be asked by Army and Air Force officers to help in many ways. For instance, the time may come when you will receive orders to block roads or streets in order to prevent the enemy from advancing. Never block a road unless you are told which one you must block. Then you can help by felling trees, wiring them together or blocking the roads with cars.

Here, therefore, is the **fifth rule**:

5) Be ready to help the military in any way. But do not block roads until ordered to do so by the military or LDV authorities.

VI

If you are in charge of a factory, store or other workplace, organise its defence at once. If you are a worker, make sure that you understand the system of defence that has been organised and know what part you have to play in it. Remember that parachutists and fifth column men are powerless against any organised resistance. They can only succeed if they can create disorganisation. Make certain that no suspicious strangers enter your premises.

You must know in advance who is to take command, who is to be second in command, and how orders are to be transmitted. This chain of command must be built up and you will probably find that ex-officers or N.C.O's, who have been in emergencies before, are the best people to undertake such command.

The **sixth rule** is therefore as follows:

6) In factories and shops, all managers and workmen should organise some system now by which a sudden attack can be resisted.

VII

The six rules, which you have now read, give you a general idea of what to do in the event of invasion. More detailed instructions may, when the time comes, be given you by the Military and Police Authorities and by the Local Defence Volunteers; they will not be given over the wireless as they might convey information to the enemy. These instructions must be obeyed at once.

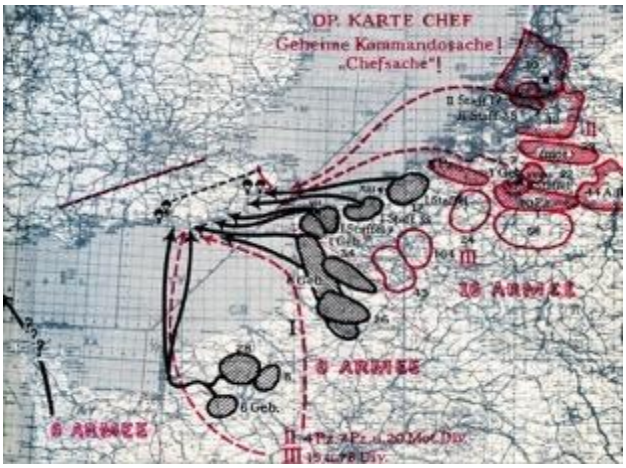
Remember always that the best defence of Great Britain is the courage of her men and women.

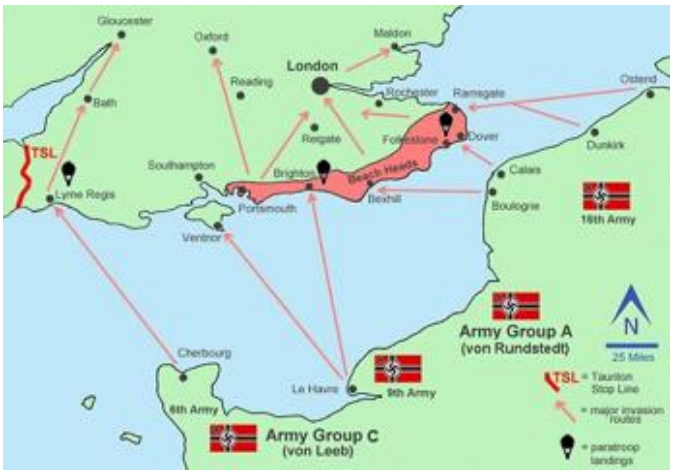
Here is your **seventh rule**:

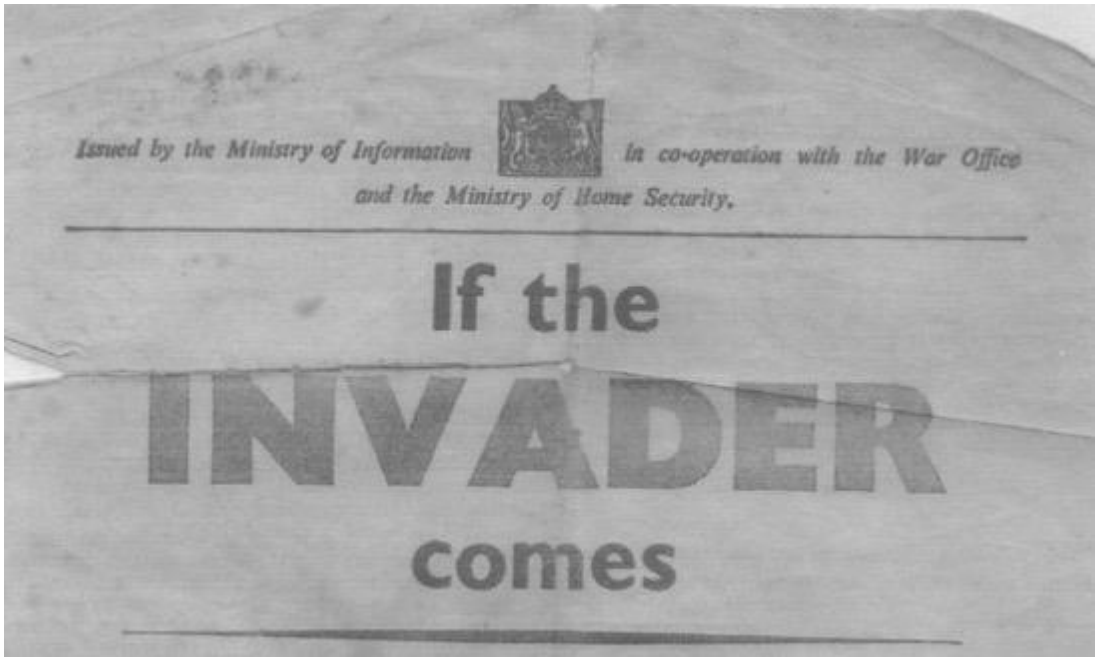
7) Think before you act. But think always of your country before you think of yourself.

A copy of the flyer can be found at:

http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/world-war-two/world-war-two-in-western-europe/britains-home-front-in-world-war-two/the-home-front/







Issued by the Ministry of Information in co-operation with the War Office and the Ministry of Home Security.

If the INVADER comes

WHAT TO DO — AND HOW TO DO IT

THE Germans threaten to invade Great Britain. If they do so they will be driven out by our Navy, our Army and our Air Force. Yet the ordinary men and women of the civilian population will also have their part to play. Hitler's invasions of Poland, Holland and Belgium were greatly helped by the fact that the civilian population was taken by surprise. They did not know what to do when the moment came. *You must not be taken by surprise.* This leaflet tells you what general line you should take. More detailed instructions will be given you when the danger comes nearer. Meanwhile, read these instructions carefully and be prepared to carry them out.

I

When Holland and Belgium were invaded, the civilian population fled from their homes. They crowded on the roads, in cars, in carts, on bicycles and on foot, and so helped the enemy by preventing their own armies from advancing against the invaders. You must not allow that to happen here. Your first rule, therefore, is :—

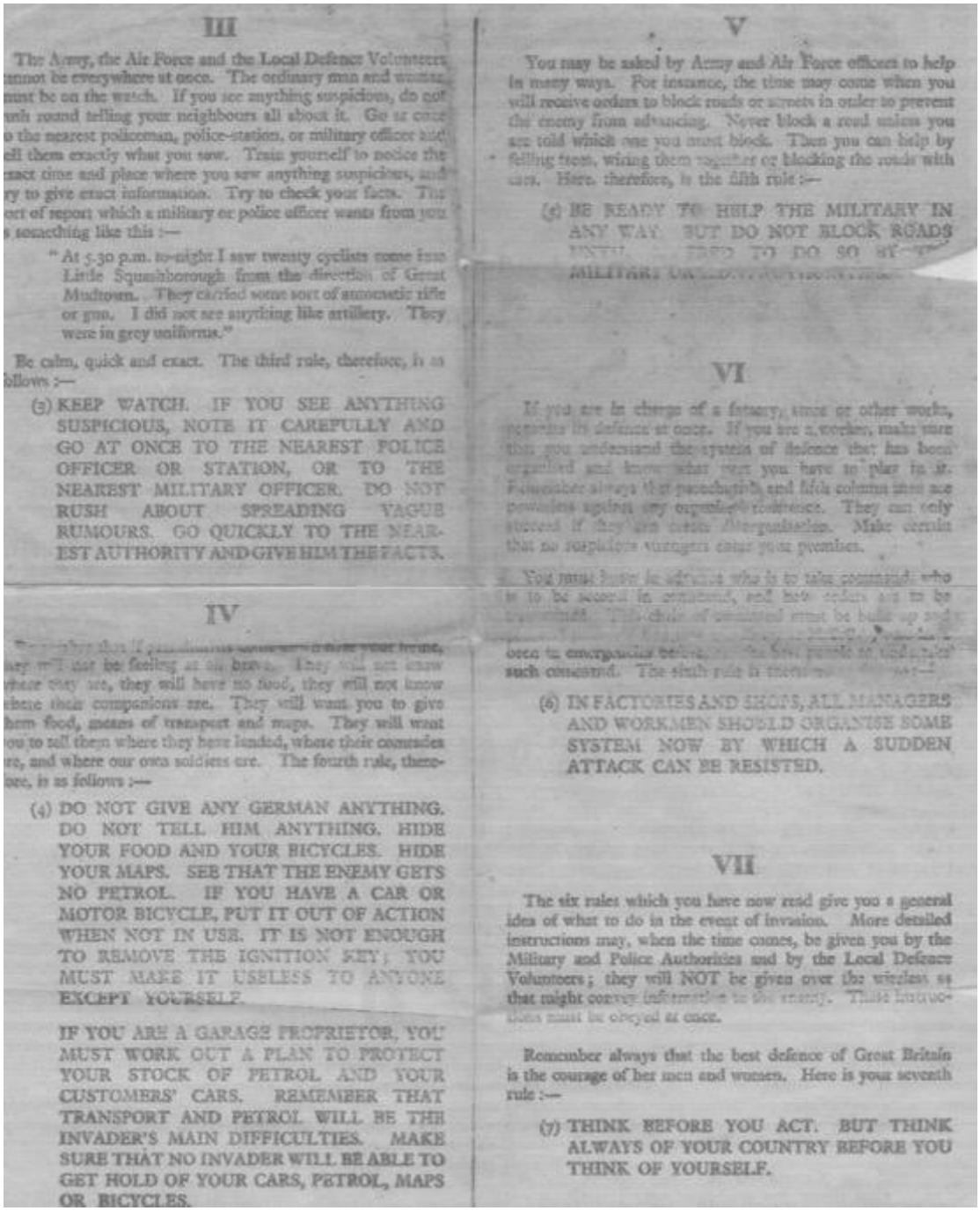
(1) IF THE GERMANS COME, BY PARACHUTE, AEROPLANE OR SHIP, YOU MUST REMAIN WHERE YOU ARE. THE ORDER IS "STAY PUT".

If the Commander in Chief decides that the place where you live must be evacuated, he will tell you when and how to leave. Until you receive such orders you must remain where you are. If you run away, you will be exposed to far greater danger because you will be machine-gunned from the air as were civilians in Holland and Belgium, and you will also block the roads by which our own armies will advance to turn the Germans out.

II

There is another method which the Germans adopt in their invasion. They make use of the civilian population in order to create confusion and panic. They spread false rumours and issue false instructions. In order to prevent this, you should obey the second rule, which is as follows :—

(2) DO NOT BELIEVE RUMOURS AND DO NOT SPREAD THEM. WHEN YOU RECEIVE AN ORDER, MAKE QUITE SURE THAT IT IS A TRUE ORDER AND NOT A FAKED ORDER. MOST OF YOU KNOW YOUR POLICEMEN AND YOUR A.R.P. WARDENS BY SIGHT, YOU CAN TRUST THEM. IF YOU KEEP YOUR HEADS, YOU CAN ALSO TELL WHETHER A MILITARY OFFICER IS REALLY BRITISH OR ONLY PRETENDING TO BE SO. IF IN DOUBT ASK THE POLICEMAN OR THE A.R.P. WARDEN. USE YOUR COMMON SENSE.



III

The Army, the Air Force and the Local Defence Volunteers cannot be everywhere at once. The ordinary man and woman must be on the watch. If you see anything suspicious, do not rush round telling your neighbours all about it. Go at once to the nearest policeman, police-station, or military officer and tell them exactly what you saw. Train yourself to notice the exact time and place where you saw anything suspicious, and try to give exact information. Try to check your facts. The sort of report which a military or police officer wants from you is something like this :—

"At 5.30 p.m. to-night I saw twenty cyclists come into Little Squashborough from the direction of Great Mudtown. They carried some sort of automatic rifle or gun. I did not see anything like artillery. They were in grey uniforms."

Be calm, quick and exact. The third rule, therefore, is as follows :—

(3) KEEP WATCH. IF YOU SEE ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS, NOTE IT CAREFULLY AND GO AT ONCE TO THE NEAREST POLICE OFFICER OR STATION, OR TO THE NEAREST MILITARY OFFICER. DO NOT RUSH ABOUT SPREADING VAGUE RUMOURS. GO QUICKLY TO THE NEAREST AUTHORITY AND GIVE HIM THE FACTS.

IV

Remember that if you [illegible] your home, they will not be feeling at all brave. They will not know where they are, they will have no food, they will not know where their companions are. They will want you to give them food, means of transport and maps. They will want you to tell them where they have landed, where their comrades are, and where our own soldiers are. The fourth rule, therefore, is as follows :—

(4) DO NOT GIVE ANY GERMAN ANYTHING. DO NOT TELL HIM ANYTHING. HIDE YOUR FOOD AND YOUR BICYCLES. HIDE YOUR MAPS. SEE THAT THE ENEMY GETS NO PETROL. IF YOU HAVE A CAR OR MOTOR BICYCLE, PUT IT OUT OF ACTION WHEN NOT IN USE. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO REMOVE THE IGNITION KEY; YOU MUST MAKE IT USELESS TO ANYONE EXCEPT YOURSELF.

IF YOU ARE A GARAGE PROPRIETOR, YOU MUST WORK OUT A PLAN TO PROTECT YOUR STOCK OF PETROL AND YOUR CUSTOMERS' CARS. REMEMBER THAT TRANSPORT AND PETROL WILL BE THE INVADER'S MAIN DIFFICULTIES. MAKE SURE THAT NO INVADER WILL BE ABLE TO GET HOLD OF YOUR CARS, PETROL, MAPS OR BICYCLES.

V

You may be asked by Army and Air Force officers to help in many ways. For instance, the time may come when you will receive orders to block roads or streets in order to prevent the enemy from advancing. Never block a road unless you are told which one you must block. Then you can help by felling trees, wiring them together or blocking the roads with cars. Here, therefore, is the fifth rule :—

(5) BE READY TO HELP THE MILITARY IN ANY WAY. BUT DO NOT BLOCK ROADS UNLESS ORDERED TO DO SO BY [illegible] MILITARY [illegible]

VI

If you are in charge of a factory, mine or other works, organise its defence at once. If you are a worker, make sure that you understand the system of defence that has been organised and know what part you have to play in it. Remember always that parachutists and fifth columnists are powerless against any organised resistance. They can only succeed if they are [illegible] disorganisation. Make certain that no suspicious strangers enter your premises.

You must know in advance who is to take command, who is to be second in command, and how orders are to be transmitted. This chain of command must be built up and [illegible] once to emergencies before [illegible] such command. The sixth rule is therefore [illegible] :—

(6) IN FACTORIES AND SHOPS, ALL MANAGERS AND WORKMEN SHOULD ORGANISE SOME SYSTEM NOW BY WHICH A SUDDEN ATTACK CAN BE RESISTED.

VII

The six rules which you have now read give you a general idea of what to do in the event of invasion. More detailed instructions may, when the time comes, be given you by the Military and Police Authorities and by the Local Defence Volunteers; they will NOT be given over the wireless as that might convey information to the enemy. Their instructions must be obeyed at once.

Remember always that the best defence of Great Britain is the courage of her men and women. Here is your seventh rule :—

(7) THINK BEFORE YOU ACT. BUT THINK ALWAYS OF YOUR COUNTRY BEFORE YOU THINK OF YOURSELF.

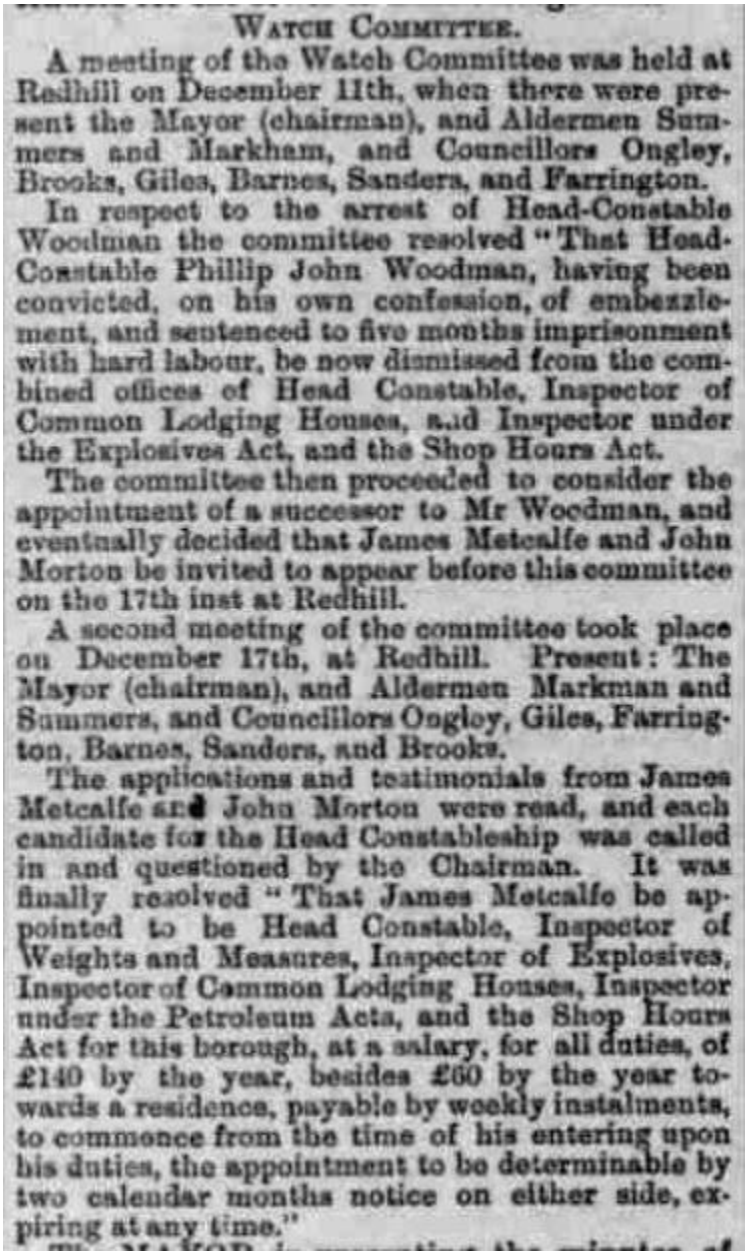
Chief Constable Reigate Borough Police James Metcalfe

1894 William Morant left the post of Head Constable to be replaced by Philip Woodman from Bradford Police.

1894 10 December: Charge of **embezzlement:** At the Bradford Borough Police Court, Phillip John Woodman the **Chief Constable of the Reigate** Borough Police and until recently the chief clerk in the Bradford Borough Police was placed in the dock on charges of embezzling

monies – about £200 - from Bradford Corporation. He was found guilty and sentenced to five months in prison. [33]

1894 17 December James Metcalfe became head constable and remained in office until 1930, when it is recorded that on retirement,[34] he was permitted to retain his uniform and bicycle. [35]



WATCH COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Watch Committee was held at Redhill on December 11th, when there were present the Mayor (chairman), and Aldermen Summers and Markham, and Councillors Ongley, Brooks, Giles, Barnes, Sanders, and Farrington.

In respect to the arrest of Head-Constable Woodman the committee resolved "That Head-Constable Phillip John Woodman, having been convicted, on his own confession, of embezzlement, and sentenced to five months imprisonment with hard labour, be now dismissed from the combined offices of Head Constable, Inspector of Common Lodging Houses, and Inspector under the Explosives Act, and the Shop Hours Act.

The committee then proceeded to consider the appointment of a successor to Mr Woodman, and eventually decided that James Metcalfe and John Morton be invited to appear before this committee on the 17th inst at Redhill.

A second meeting of the committee took place on December 17th, at Redhill. Present: The Mayor (chairman), and Aldermen Markman and Summers, and Councillors Ongley, Giles, Farrington, Barnes, Sanders, and Brooks.

The applications and testimonials from James Metcalfe and John Morton were read, and each candidate for the Head Constableship was called in and questioned by the Chairman. It was finally resolved "That James Metcalfe be appointed to be Head Constable, Inspector of Weights and Measures, Inspector of Explosives, Inspector of Common Lodging Houses, Inspector under the Petroleum Acts, and the Shop Hours Act for this borough, at a salary, for all duties, of £140 by the year, besides £60 by the year towards a residence, payable by weekly instalments, to commence from the time of his entering upon his duties, the appointment to be determinable by two calendar months notice on either side, expiring at any time."

Woodman sacked and Metcalfe appointed [36]

[33] 1894 10 December: The Times
[34] "A short Centenary History of the Surrey Constabulary" Supt Durrant 1951
[35] "A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary" Gerry Middleton Stewart gives 22 December 1894
[36] From British Police History 22 July 2020 admin@british-police-history.uk Michael

Believed James Metcalfe

James Metcalfe

Ash Section Farnham Division 1935

Looking through the Surrey Constabulary photographic collection amassed over the years it was noticed that one of the special constables, had a cross to the right of his row of medals. Fortunately, those in the photograph were named and the Special is S. Froud. Barrie Friend a battlefield tour guide and supporter of police research soon uncovered the fact that Mr Froud had been awarded Military Cross during the First World War. Every time you turn a stone, there is a story to be told.

SPC Young, Mansfield, Ward, Ward, Berry, Smith, Jeffrey, Harrison, Jones, Stephenson, Fenn, Nixon, D/Sec Leader Young, Div/Leader Loe, PS Budd Surrey Constabulary, Section Leader Gilbert, SPC Hillary, Flynn, S. Froud MC

Just look at the medals worn by D/Sec Leader Young with his corporal's stripes. Special Constable Fenn front left has seen some service. What stories they had to tell and it is likely they are all lost.

WO1 later Special Constable S Froud MC

From Barrie Friend Battlefield Tour Guide, Brockham

Surname: Froud
Rank: Company Serjeant Major
Rank (2nd): Acting Mechanical Serjeant Major
Service Number: M/21038
Gazette Info: Gazette Number 29886, M.C., The King has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following the award of the Military Cross in recognition of his services.
Gazette Date: 01/01/1917

Born 1876 Twickenham

MC awarded in King's birthday honours list so there will be no citation
He's on the 1922 Army List as Mechanist Sergeant Major

2nd Cavalry Divisional Signal Company Army Service Corps	Company Serjeant Major	T/21038
2nd Cavalry Divisional Signal Company Army Service Corps	Warrant Officer Class 1	T/21038

Shamley Green Publicity Photograph about 1976

1	CC	Peter Matthews	HQ
2	PC 90	Ken Dixon	Cranleigh Section
3	Det. Sergeant	Ian (Fred) Page	Drug Squad
4	Det. Constable	Tony Luff	Drug Squad
5	PC	Colin Bridger	Underwater SU
6	WPC		
7	Superintendent	Peggy Sandford	
8	Det. Sergeant	Ken Lynn	Scenes of Crime Officer
9	Det. Sergeant	Brian Carroll	Crime Bureau
10	Sergeant	Charlie Dobinson	Photographic Dept.
11	Det. Constable	David Hart	Fraud Squad
12	Det. Sergeant	Keith Portlock	Fraud Squad
13	Inspector	Bob Young	War Duties
14	PC	Leslie Gillingham	Traffic Dept.
15	PC	John Tyrrell	Ops Dogs
16	PC	Peter Morley	Ops Dogs
17	Chief Superintendent	David Harding	Incident Commander
18			
19	Sergeant	Bernie Buck	PRO
20			
21			
22	PC	Dave Bowden	Traffic Dept.
23			

Leigh Police House, Dorking Division

This photo previously published is thought to be Leigh from Tony Collman

WH Beacher Chief Constable
Reigate Borough Police

Rotarian

From Tony Collman former Surrey Constabulary

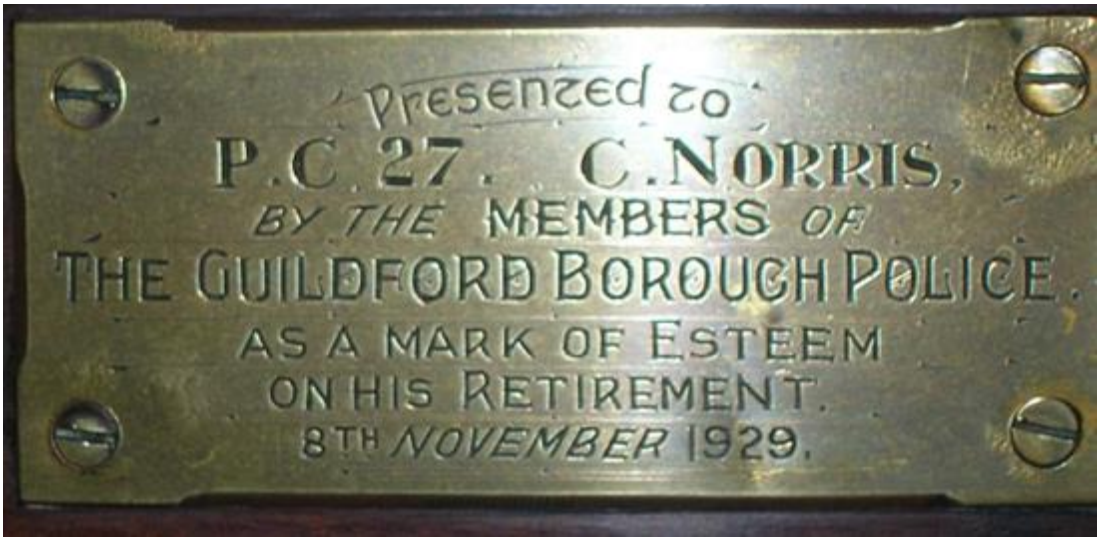
PC 27 Charles Norris Guildford Borough Police

Born 1880 Retired 1929

GUILDFORD BOROUGH POLICE FORCE, 29 NOVEMBER 1911.

PC P. Punter PC E. Lawrence PC W.V. Mynett PC T. Oliver PC A. Manfield PC W. Oliver PC A. Rickman
PC H. J. Gascoyne PC H. Linton PC R. Holt PC J.P. Marshall PC C. Norris PC F. Hatcher PC G. Taylor PC S.C. Macey PC R. Demount
PC J. Gascoigne PC C.A. Emery Sergt. G. Read Sergt. G. Clarke Inspr. C.W. Uttley W.V. Nicholas, Esq. Det-Sergt. W. Bias Sergt. H. Haskins Sergt. H. Springate PC J.J. Turner
(Chief Clerk)
PC W.J. Vesnd PC G. Fuller PC A. Pinner PC H. Gascoyne

PC Norris Standing by the right shoulder of the Chief Constable of the Guildford Borough Police Mr WV Nicholas



The plaque is placed on the drop-down leaf of a writing bureau given by Pc Norris" Guildford Borough Police comrades

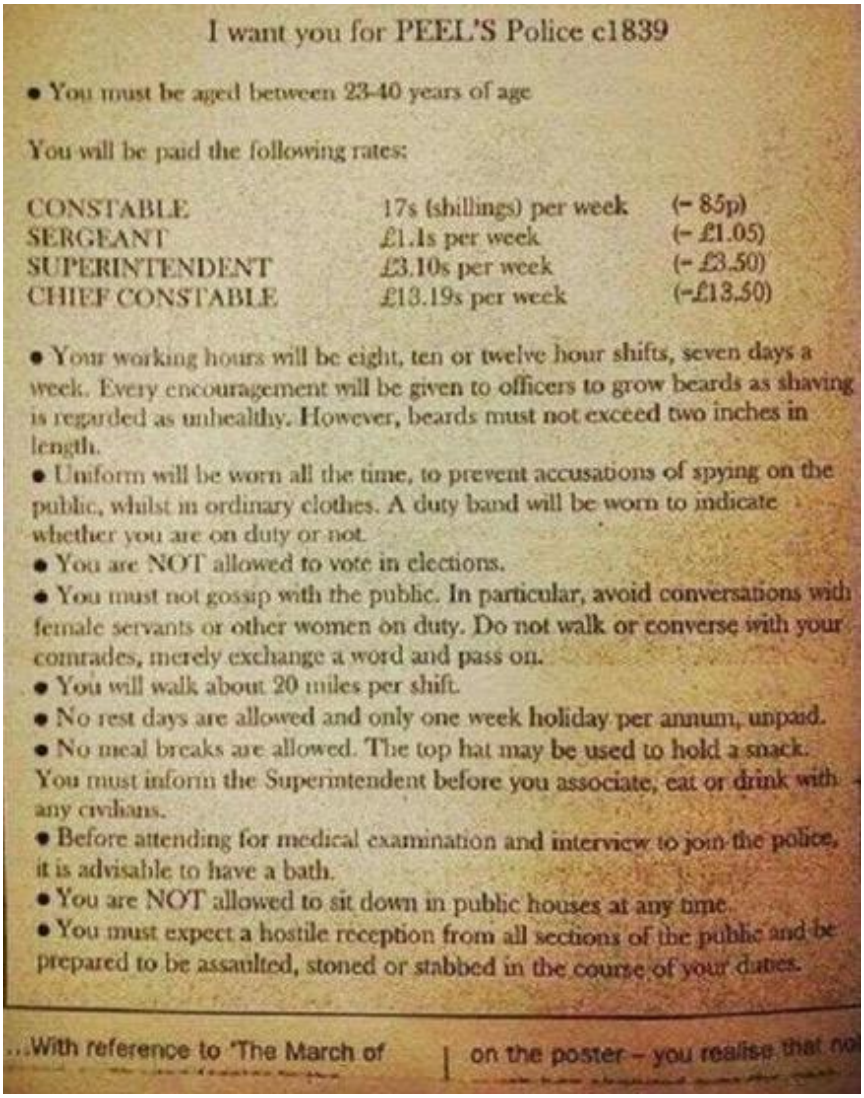
Advertisement for Peel's Police

The origin of the second document is shown as Gloucestershire Police archives and an enquiry has been made as to ask is it genuine. Using Peel's Police are Peeler in the title seems wrong. The below has 1839 but the second document has 1830. Of course, the tinted document also has the modern equivalent pay in decimal currency.

The Sue Webb the archivist at Gloucester says in an email to the Editor:

> This document was added to the force archives many years ago and unfortunately there is no record of where it came from. As the archives were set up over 20 years ago by retired officers I would suggest that it is a tongue in cheek representation of the original advertisement which would have appealed to retired officers. As you say the language is not right for the time.

Sorry that I do not have a definitive answer to your query but hope this helps.



I want you for PEEL'S Police c1839

- You must be aged between 23-40 years of age

You will be paid the following rates:

CONSTABLE	17s (shillings) per week	(= 85p)
SERGEANT	£1.1s per week	(= £1.05)
SUPERINTENDENT	£3.10s per week	(= £3.50)
CHIEF CONSTABLE	£13.19s per week	(=£13.50)

- Your working hours will be eight, ten or twelve hour shifts, seven days a week. Every encouragement will be given to officers to grow beards as shaving is regarded as unhealthy. However, beards must not exceed two inches in length.
- Uniform will be worn all the time, to prevent accusations of spying on the public, whilst in ordinary clothes. A duty band will be worn to indicate whether you are on duty or not.
- You are NOT allowed to vote in elections.
- You must not gossip with the public. In particular, avoid conversations with female servants or other women on duty. Do not walk or converse with your comrades, merely exchange a word and pass on.
- You will walk about 20 miles per shift.
- No rest days are allowed and only one week holiday per annum, unpaid.
- No meal breaks are allowed. The top hat may be used to hold a snack. You must inform the Superintendent before you associate, eat or drink with any civilians.
- Before attending for medical examination and interview to join the police, it is advisable to have a bath.
- You are NOT allowed to sit down in public houses at any time.
- You must expect a hostile reception from all sections of the public and be prepared to be assaulted, stoned or stabbed in the course of your duties.

...With reference to 'The March of | on the poster – you realise that no

ADVERTISEMENT FOR POLICE OFFICERS (PEELERS) 1830

I want you for Peel's Police

You must be aged between 23/40 years of age.

You will be paid the following rates:

Constable 17s per week
Sergeant £1.1s per week
Superintendent £3.10s per week
Chief Constable £13.10s per week

Your working hours will be eight, ten or twelve hour shifts, seven days a week. No rest days are allowed and only one week holiday, per annum, unpaid.
Every encouragement will be given to officers to grow beards, as shaving is regarded as unhealthy. However, beards must not exceed two inches in length.
Uniform will be worn all the time, to prevent accusations of spying on the public whilst in ordinary clothes. A duty band will be worn to indicate whether you are on duty or not.
You are not allowed to sit down in public houses at any time.
You are not allowed to vote in elections.
You must not gossip with the public. In particular avoid conversations with female servants or other women while on duty.
Do not walk or converse with your comrades, merely exchange a word and pass on.
You will walk about 20 miles per shift.
No meal breaks are allowed. The top hat may be used to hold a snack.
You must inform the superintendent before you associate, eat or drink with any civilians.
Before attending for medical examination and interview to join the police, it is advisable to have a bath.
You must expect a hostile reception from all sections of the public and be prepared to be assaulted, stoned or stabbed in the course of your duties.

Possibly 1830; Gloucestershire Police archive reference 1484 – sent by chance by both Bernie Buck and Peter Wickens on the same day

The Illustrated Police News, Saturday, August 18, 1883

From: https://thepolicemagistrate.blog/tag/metropolitan-police-act-1829/

Another dreadful attack on the police and an echo of PC Culley, the first officer to be killed 'in the line of duty

It was claimed recently by the Daily Express that assaults on the police had risen to '28 attacks a day on officers in crime epidemic'.

With recent events in mind it is easy to suggest that our policemen and women are at a greater risk of harm than ever before but as one independent fact checking organization has shown, it isn't really possible to compare rates with those in recent years because reporting criteria has changed.

The reality is that from their very inception, in 1829, members of the public have subjected the police to attacks. It has not become then a dangerous occupation, it always has been. The first officer to die to be killed in the line of duty was PC Robert Culley. He signed up for Peel's new force in September 1829, joining C Division. On 13 May 1833 he was part of a team sent into break up a demonstration of the National Union of the Working Classes (a group of radicals demanding parliamentary reform). The gathering at Coldbath Fields in Clerkenwell descended into violence as the police moved in to disperse it and PC Culley was fatal wounded in the affray.

Hundreds of officers have died since Culley, with PC Andrew Harper being the most recent. Many thousands more have been injured and it is unlikely that we would ever have a true figure for this because statistics for common assault are notoriously unreliable. During the first 20-30 years of policing in England the police were deeply unpopular in working class areas. Seen as 'class traitors', and busybodies their use to suppress Chartism or demonstrations against the hated Poor Law won them few friends. Nor did their efforts to close down markets or stop street gambling endear them to working-class communities.

While they enjoyed gradual acceptance by the end of the century it would be fair to say that the public still saw the police as a 'necessary evil' rather than the 'lovable bobby' that 1950s and 60s television dramas like to depict.

In 1883 William Aldis was brought before the magistrate at Thames Police court in the East End of London. Aldis was a costermonger – a small trader who sold goods from a barrow. Costers were always being asked to 'move along' by the capital's police and they resented these attempts to interfere with their traditional way of life. They saw the police as their enemies. On the 2 August 1883 PC James Simpson (135K) was on duty just after midnight on Salmon's Lane in Limehouse. He noticed Aldis and a group of 'roughs' standing outside the Copenhagen pub. They were drunk and rowdy, and making quite a noise so PC Simpson moved over to tell them to go home.

Aldis saw his opportunity to 'serve out a policeman' (as one coster had famously boasted to Henry Mayhew) and punched the officer in the face, blackening his eye, and sending him crashing to the pavement. The other roughs steamed in and rained down blows and kicks on the stricken policeman as he lay helpless on the ground. When they'd finished their work, they ran off before help could arrive.

William Aldis was arrested later but it took a while for the case to come to court because PC Simpson was too sick to attend. Even two weeks later he was still unable to appear to give evidence in person. Evidence was obtained however, which satisfied Mr Lushington that the costermonger was to blame for the assault and he sentenced him to six months at hard labour.

So, before we carried away in thinking that we have a 'crime epidemic' on our hands today and that something different is happening in society it is worth remembering again that violence towards the police and others is nothing new. That may not be very comforting but it is the reality.

Not Through Strength But Guile

Heading from Old and Bold Number Three July 2003:

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER FOR RETIRED MEMBERS OF THE SURREY CONSTABULARY (POLICE)

"NOT THROUGH STRENGTH BUT GUILE"

Number Three July 2003

When your editor unleashed Old and Bold on the unsuspecting retired of the Surrey Constabulary in July 2003 a motto appeared as a banner at the top of the opening page. That motto "Not through strength but guile" was that of the Long Range Desert Group an organisation I have respected and read about for many years. (Later adopted by the Special Boat Service) Translated from the Latin, Non vid sed arte, this short motto encapsulated for me a philosophy of life for the retired and of course older people whose strength was not as it was. But when you consider these four short words, they have a resonance for the modern police officer. Guile is to be preferred to strength, but the use of strength or force as in Police Force must be retained and used proportionately and with discretion.

An Incident from February 1968 Virginia Water

Graham Richings

Between early 1968 and February 1970 I was stationed at Chertsey Traffic Centre, (HTC - before being posted as a Traffic Sergeant to Godstone), and in the early part of my days at Chertsey I worked with PC 202 Roy Coole. We used to take it in turns daily to either drive or observe and do the paperwork. We tended to take RTA's in turn irrespective of who was driving.

I lived in Christchurch Road at Virginia Water next to PC 304 Denis Smith and Roy lived in Chobham Road at Ottershaw. Whoever was driving would drop the other off for meal break at our respective houses. The driver would then go for his meal break, maintaining radio watch, and subsequently pick up his colleague. One day in February 1968 I, (then PC733 Richings), was driving and had dropped Roy off at Ottershaw for his lunch. As I drove to Virginia Water and was turning left from Wellington Avenue into Christchurch Road, cross-roads in those days, I noticed a red Rover 2000 JUM 992E parked and unattended on the grassed area on the left and adjacent to Spring Woods, a small road leading into Wentworth Estate. Not a normal place to see a car parked in this locality of up market houses. I had my meal break and was returning to collect Roy when I noticed that the Rover 2000 was still parked in the same spot.

In view of the expensive properties in this area I stopped and had a closer look at the car. It was generally untidy inside and certainly did not fit in with the locality in which it was parked. The vehicle was taxed in Leeds. We were of course in pre-PNC days as far as checking vehicles was concerned and to obtain any details of the vehicle would have meant a phone call to Yorkshire County Council. It is not relevant to this incident but in those days, we used to be issued with small A5 sized forms on a weekly basis detailing locally stolen vehicle. The chances of spotting one of those always seemed a bit remote! Having made a note of the vehicle's details I carried on and picked up Roy.

I mentioned the car to him and good policeman that he was he suggested that we go back and have closer look. We returned to Christchurch Road and we managed to open the vehicle and saw that the ignition switch wiring had obviously been tampered with. The boot contained a large suitcase, two brief cases and numerous items of clothing. The whole situation was clearly not right. I removed the rotor arm from the vehicle's distributor and Roy suggested that he hide in the bushes and that I drive to Egham Police Station and make some telephone enquiries about the car and talk to the CID. Enquiries at the police station revealed that the Rover 2000 was stolen.

In the meantime, Roy was by now hiding in the nearby rhododendron bushes and just after 3pm a young man approached the car from the direction of Callow Hill and got into the driver's seat and attempted to start the engine. Roy went to the passenger door and let himself in and sat in the passenger seat. He saw a bunch of keys on a ring hanging from a key that was in the ignition switch and the ignition was on. The driver was wearing a pair of woollen gloves and trembling slightly. Roy used to have that effect on the guilty! The fuel gauge showed empty. Initially the driver gave his name as Alan Stanley Frost but his correct name was Alan Stanley French, (born 1948), from Exeter, Devon. He was allegedly a trainee airline pilot. French had a length of hose on his lap and when asked by Roy what this was for, he said he had been siphoning petrol into the car from a can. When asked where he had just come from, he said from a hotel up the road, pointing to Callow Hill, and had been trying to find somewhere for he and his wife to stay. He had apparently left his girlfriend in Staines earlier in the day to do some washing at a launderette. The car he said was owned by his father but he did not know the index number and had no means of identification.

Roy's intention now was to arrest French for theft of the car on my return from Egham Police Station. He gave his alleged wife's name as Susan Frost. He claimed to have stayed at Blackbush Airport the night before and slept in the car because a friend of his who lived there was not at home there. It was at this point that I returned with DC Reilly from Egham CID. French was told by DC Reilly that the car was reported stolen from Leeds and he was arrested and taken to Egham. When searched in the police car he was found to have two screwdrivers in his pockets and a number of cuff links.

Now for the interesting bit: About 24 hours before this incident the headlines in the national press had reported that a light aircraft had been stolen in France and had crash-landed on a

beach at Westgate-on-Sea in Kent. When Roy questioned French further at the police station, he admitted to being the pilot who had crashed the stolen aircraft on a beach in Kent. His girlfriend Susan Palmer had been with him all the time. Initially they had stolen a car from London Airport and driven to Southampton where they abandoned the car and made their way to France. In France they subsequently stole a car and drove to Abbeville where they abandoned that vehicle and stole the aircraft eventually crashing on a beach at Westgate in Kent. They then hitch hiked to Salisbury where French stole an 1100 car and they drove to Birmingham where he stole some car radios. These were found in the boot of the Rover.

When Roy Coole arrested French he had just burgled "Wessex House", a newly built upmarket house on the corner of Callow Hill and Christchurch Road, directly opposite where the car had been parked. In fact, he had stacked his haul outside the house near the front door ready to drive over and load it into the Rover. His intention was then to go to Staines and pick up his girlfriend after he had loaded the car up at Virginia Water with the goodies. Detective Inspector Phillips and WPC Joan Blackburn went to Staines located the girl and brought her back to the police station at Egham. In 1965 French had been convicted of housebreaking and unlawful taking and sentenced to Borstal Training having been released thirteen months previously.

Both were charged with various offences, including housebreaking, and appeared at Chertsey Magistrates Court on 23rd February 1968. Interesting to think that at the time of writing this article he is now 64 years of age! Up until being based at HTC I had worked the Virginia Water, Wentworth and Sunningdale areas, mostly on a Lambretta Scooter, (Alpha 29), and pedal cycle and so had a feel for what was right in that area. But most of the credit for this job/arrest must go to Roy Coole and his tenacity. At that time, I was relatively young in service and I learnt a

lot from Roy who apart from being an excellent policeman was also a very good 1st class driver. He was always a delight to work with. There are probably not many of us that can say that we had someone in custody for the unlawful taking of an aircraft!

Old Comrades Formation Meeting 5 January 1931

From Fred Smith late secretary Old Comrades and Retired Comrades as published in Old and Bold July 2020

A Record of Proceedings

Surrey Constabulary Old Comrades Association.

Formed
5th January 1931.

The Circular Letter.

Surrey Constabulary Old Comrades Association:

In 1930 the then retiring Chief Constable of Surrey Capt. M. L. Sant had the Happy Thought of forming such an Association

In due course all men who were then Pensioners received a letter asking if they were in favour of an Association.

Later in the year a second letter was received saying that a Meeting was arranged to take place at St Saviours Hall. Guildford on the 5th January 1931.

The letters above mentioned are to found on the file of the Association together with the replies received.

Jan 5th 1931

The Inaugural Meeting

What a Meeting it was! How pleased everyone was to meet 'Old Pals' What hearty hand-shakes? What light in the eyes when two real old Comrades met! But what changes time had wrought in the features of many and one had to ask sometimes the name of each other. How this golden opportunity of meeting was enjoyed was reflected in the faces of all and no one appeared happier than did Capt Sant who had arranged the event It was really sometime before the Meeting settled down to the actual business.

Capt Sant was unanimously elected to the Chair and proceeded to explain the reason for meeting & the Aims and Objects of an Old Comrades Association.

After hearing Capt. Sant the Meeting unanimously decided to form Surrey Constabulary Old Comrades Association. The First Police Association of Old Comrades there came into being.

SURREY CONSTABULARY OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION.

The first meeting of the Surrey Constabulary Old Comrades Association was held at St. Saviour's Hall, Guildford, at 2.30 p.m. on 5th January, 1921.

Capt. M.L. Sant opened the proceedings by explaining the object of the meeting, which was for the purpose of electing a President, Hon. Secretary and Committee, and to discuss the affairs of the Association generally.

The meeting then proceeded to elect a President. It was proposed and seconded that Capt. Sant should be President. This was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Capt. Sant then took the Chair and the meeting proceeded with the remaining business.

It was proposed and seconded that Mr. A.W. Daws should be elected Hon. Secretary. This was put to the meeting and carried.

It was proposed and seconded that Capt. Sant should be Treasurer, and this was carried.

It was proposed and seconded that the Committee should consist of eight members, one for each Division of the Surrey Constabulary; this was agreed to and the following were elected.

Chertsey:	Mr. Arney	Godalming:	Mr. Pearce.
Dorking:	Mr. Tamplin	Hersham:	Mr. G. Harris.
Farnham:	Mr. Mears	Oxted:	Mr. A. Davis.
Guildford:	Mr. A. Sawyer	Woking:	Mr. W. Hardy.

The President suggested that 2/6 should be the amount of subscription for the first year. Mr. Upfold thought 1/- would be sufficient. Mr. Vigar suggested 2/-. It was then proposed and seconded that 2/- should be the amount. This was put to the meeting and carried.

It was proposed and seconded that the Association should meet once a year. An amendment was proposed and seconded that the meeting should be twice a year. This was put to the meeting and carried.

It was proposed and seconded that the Association should meet in April and September. An amendment that the meetings should be in April and October was put to the meeting and carried. It was suggested the Railway Company be approached with a view to getting cheaper fares for members attending the meeting.

It was proposed and seconded that the members should meet at a luncheon; this was put to the meeting and carried. It was proposed and seconded that at the first luncheon the place of the next meeting should be arranged; this was carried. It was proposed and seconded that the cost of the luncheon should not exceed 3/6; this was put to the meeting and carried

It was proposed and seconded that a Badge should be issued to members; this was put to the meeting and carried.

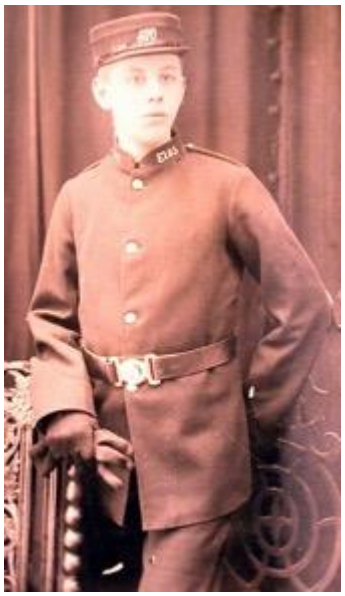
It was proposed and seconded that when it becomes known that a member of the Association has died, the Hon. Secretary should be informed and authorised to send a wreath from the Association, the cost to come out of the funds. This was put to the meeting and carried.

It was proposed and seconded that a vote of thanks should be passed to Insp. Back of Head Quarters for his great assistance, time and trouble which he took in connection with the starting of the Association; this was put to the meeting and carried.

The meeting then closed with an unanimous vote of thanks to the President.

Who is this Young Man?





The Police History Society circulated the lad on the left with the clear collar number TS asking if the uniform could be identified. I am certain it is not a police officer but a telegram boy. It seems in London they had like divisions, post office identification letters i.e. in this case TS. In the other photos found online there is also the braid on the shoulder and in others the pouch for carrying the telegrams is obvious. (Editor: After being an army apprentice I worked for the post office whilst waiting to join the police – motor-cycle messenger or telegram boy was a brilliant job. There are tales to be told! By the time I was a 17 police cadet my third uniform not counting cubs and Air Training Corps!)

Prosecuting Thieves

With apologies to Charles Thompson who wrote the piece, but your editor has no idea where it came from! Beare Green is a village a few miles to the south of Dorking on what was once a main route from the coast into London.

PROSECUTING THIEVES By Charles Thompson

The Encyclopaedia Britannica tells us that at the end of the 18th century "robbery and violence were rampant everywhere, highwaymen infested the roads, footpads lurked in the streets, whilst, but too often, both watchmen and innkeepers were accessories to the commission of crime." Such was the state of affairs when, in 1829, Sir Robert Peel laid the foundation of the modern police force, although it was not until 1856 that the provision of an adequate force was made compulsory throughout the country.

It was in this context that in June 1779 a group of local people met at the Duke's Head Inn in Beare Green to establish "A Society for the Prosecution of Thieves". It was later also called the Beare Green Prosecuting Society. A set of rules governing the management of this society was drawn up and in 1911, when Frederick L.Crow of Shellwood Manor, Leigh, was chairman these were republished. A copy is now in the possession of the Newdigate Society.

There were 28 members in 1911, each of whom had paid ten shillings as his entrance fee on election. There seems to have been no annual subscription. This money was to be placed in "some Savings' Bank or other place of security in the treasurer's name; and the interest, proceeds and profits of such money shall be to and for the benefit of the society." No doubt over the 132 years that the society had then existed there had been many such entrance fees, adding up to a sizeable fund. However, there were to be calls on this money from time to time, so another rule stated "The Stock of the Society shall not be reduced below an amount which shall be equal to the aggregate entrance money of the members for the time being of the society and such amount shall be called the 'Fixed Stock' of the society; but all sums belonging to the society in excess of such 'Fixed Stock' shall from time to time be applicable for and towards the payment of claims against, and the expenses of, the society."

The funds could be used in two ways, both being clearly defined by the rules. The first stated "Every member of the society, who shall be robbed or defrauded of his property (except by gaming) shall use all due diligence in seeking for any prosecuting the offender or offenders, and shall produce the bill of expenses incurred by him, at the next Annual Meeting, when the members present (if they think the same proper) shall determine on the payment by the society ..... and the sum so determined to be paid out of the Stock in excess of the Fixed Stock ..... or in case the sum standing in excess of the Fixed Stock ..... shall be insufficient to pay, shall be paid by all the members of the society in equal sums."

The second stated "For the discovery of offenders, the following rewards shall be offered to any person or persons, who shall give information of any offender or offenders, accomplice or accomplices, murdering, robbing, or defrauding any member of this society of his property (except by gaming) to be paid after the conviction of such offender or offenders.

On the conviction of any person or persons :-

+ wilfully murdering any member of the society	£20	0s.	0d.
+ breaking or robbing any dwelling house belonging to any member of the society	5	0	0
+ maliciously setting fire to any dwelling house, barn, building, stacks of corn or hay belonging to any member of the society, or stopping any member on the highway, robbing or with an attempt to rob him	5	0	0

+ stealing or maiming any horse, mare, gelding, sheep, ox, cow or heifer, belonging to any member of the society	5	0	0
+ stealing any other property not herein before enumerated, belonging to any member of the society	2	0	0
+ receiving stolen goods, or knowing the same to be stolen, being the property of any member of the society	2	0	0

However this applied only in respect of property stolen within a radius of twenty miles of Beare Green, except in the case of highway robbery.

The members met annually on the third Friday in May at the Duke's Head Inn at two o'clock for the purpose of transacting the business of the society, but this lasted only one hour, because the rules declared that "dinner shall be prepared for the members punctually at three o'clock", for which every member, whether present or not, had to pay five shillings and sixpence.

The members in 1911 were :-

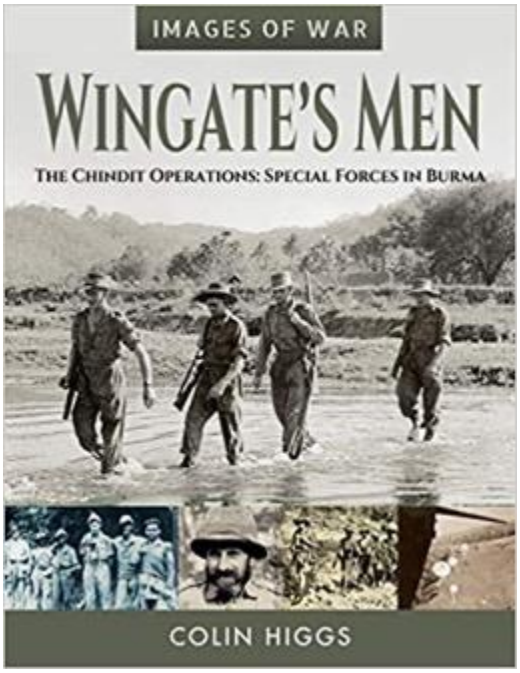
His Grace the Duke of Norfolk, for Newdigate and Capel
Sir Alex.Hargreaves Brown, Broom Hall, Ockley
H.C.Lee Steere Esq. Jayes Park, Ockley
E.Murrey, Esq. Mickleham
Messrs.Hart, Scales & Hodges, Solicitors, Dorking
Mr.F.L.Crow, Shellwood Manor, Leigh
Mr.Mark Rose, Goodwyns Farm, Holmwood
Mr.Benjamin Rose, Petersfield Farm, Capel
Mrs.Pledge, Holly and Laurel, Holmwood
Mr.Turner, White Hart, Capel
Mr.William Sanders, Holmwood Farm, Dorking
Mrs.Fowler, Duke's Head Inn, Beare Green
Mr.Walter Barker, Holmwood , Dorking
Mr.Walter Jay, High Street, Dorking
Mr.James Short, Harthurst Farm, Ockley
Mr.John Horley, Park Gate, Newdigate
Mr.William Brown, Bregsells Farm, Capel
Mr.John Chart, Dorking
Mr.E.L.Trower, Pipp Brook, Dorking
Mr.C.H.Howard, High Street, Dorking
Mr.John Harkett, Park Gate, Newdigate
Mr.James Atkinson, West Street, Dorking
Mr.James A.Atkinson, Vincents Lane, Dorking
Mr.John Young, Chaffolds farm, Newdigate
Mr.Walter Smithers, South Street, Dorking
Mr.Hamelton, Stylehurst Farm, Capel
Mr.John Rusbridge, Newdigate
Mr.Percy Watts, Broad Lane, Newdigate

So the members were a mixture of wealthy landowners, farmers, publicans and shopkeepers. The Newdigate members were one farmer (John Young) one wood merchant (John Horley of Rose Cottage, Broad Lane), a wheelwright (Percy Watts, who was John Horley's son-in-law) and the butcher at the Forester Villas (John Rusbridge), plus John Harkett, whose profession is not known. All had property to safeguard from thieves and presumably regarded this society as a means of insuring themselves against potential loss.

Book Review

Wingate's Men: The Chindit Operations: Special Forces in Burma

Images of War



frontline BOOKS
Series: Images of War
Pages: 117
ISBN: 9781526746672
Published: 23rd October 2019

About the Author

Colin Higgs has more than twenty-five years' experience in the broadcast and home entertainment industries and for much of that time has co-produced, written and researched aviation documentaries together with Bruce Vigar of Leading Edge TV. Colin s business, A Flying History, was created to make accessible the unique Peter Keating and John Stroud aviation photograph collections and Colin and Bruce's extensive archive of first-hand interviews with RAF veterans.

Synopsis

Possibly the most famous fighting formations of the Burma campaign during the Second World War were the Long-Range Penetration Groups, more commonly known as the Chindits. Colonel Orde Wingate was given permission to attempt long-range operations deep within Japanese-held territory with the aim of sowing alarm and confusion amongst the enemy and disrupting Japanese plans for the invasion of India. For this, Wingate was given the Indian 77th Infantry Brigade.

In February 1943 this force crossed into Burma on its first Chindit operation, codenamed Loincloth. The Chindits took the Japanese by surprise, putting one of the main railway lines out of order, but the Japanese responded quickly, interdicting supply drops to the Chindits who soon began to suffer severely from exhaustion and shortages of water and food. With three brigades chasing them, the Chindits headed back to India, being forced to break up into small groups to avoid capture. By the time the 77th Brigade crossed the border, it had lost a third of its strength.

Despite the heavy losses, Wingate had shown that British troops could operate successfully against the Japanese in inhospitable terrain. Promoted to acting major general Wingate was granted permission to undertake another Chindit operation, but this time on a far greater scale. In Operation Thursday Wingate aimed to fly a force of 10,000 men, 1,000 mules, equipment and supplies into clearings in the heart of Burma behind enemy lines. The operation proved a considerable success, the Chindits causing mayhem amongst the Japanese forces.

Wingate, though, did not live to see the end of Operation Thursday, as he was killed when the aircraft in which he was being transported to one of the Chindit bases crashed into the jungle. In this wonderful collection of photographs, drawn in large part from one-man's photograph albums, we see the harsh conditions in which the Chindits had to operate, and the terrible physical state of many of the men who survived the jungles, the dry plains, and the ferocious Japanese enemy.

Review

Most of these photographs will not have been seen before even by the dedicated follower of the Chindits. All but very few of the photographs were taken by the author's father. What a family heirloom to be passed down the family! How brilliant that Colin Higgs has been prepared to share this personal and wonderful archive.

This is not an history of the Chindit operations, though a brief history is included, but a tribute not only to the Chindits who trekked and fought but to all the soldiers, sailors and airmen who fought in this dreadful campaign. The book though limited in pages, 117, nevertheless contains a significant number, 134, of extremely vivid photographs of the campaign.

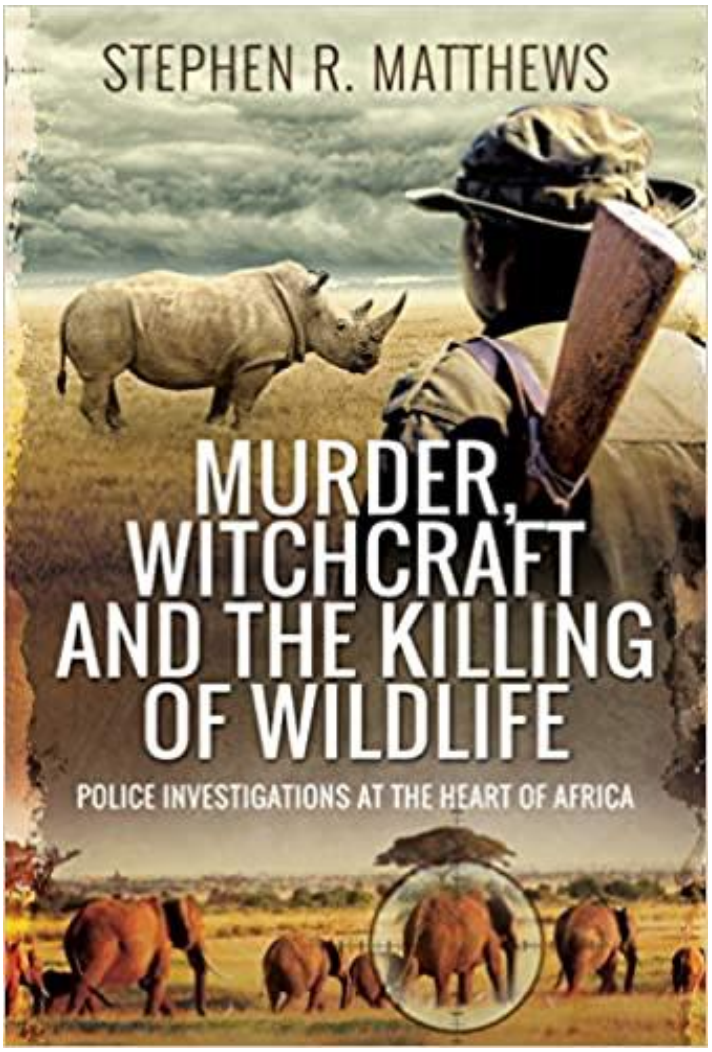
Many of the black and white photos are crisp and sharp and evocative of the operation and life in the jungle. Photos taken of close friends and comrades. Other photos have that operational

edge, ever so slightly fuzzy so obviously taken under difficult conditions. That the photos survive is a small miracle given the conditions the Chindits faced and the jungle environment impacting on the camera and film. A wonderful survival, a brilliant source for historians and maybe the families of those on the incursions.

The series of Images of War published by Frontline Books have become a inspiring resource of photographic evidence of the hardships and comradeship of war.

This is a must have if you have an interest in the Chindits or the war in the jungle.

Murder, Witchcraft and the Killing of Wildlife: Police Investigations at the Heart of Africa



Hardcover: 248 pages

Publisher: Pen & Sword True Crime

Language: English
ISBN-10: 1526764075
ISBN-13: 978-1526764072

Author

Stephen Rabey Matthews: Stephen was born in Guernsey, Channel Islands in 1938 and following the barbaric German invasion of the Channel Islands, in 1940, he was illegally deported to Germany by late 1942, with his father and mother. After the being liberated by Free French forces in 1945, the family returned to Guernsey where Stephen was educated and then later completed his business training in London.

Having had such a dramatic childhood, Stephen has gone on to do some extraordinary things since. In 1960, He joined the British Colonial Police Force in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia,) and received many awards and commendations for his work, dedication and commitment in the aftermath of the Belgian Congo débâcle. This time in his life included the investigation of such things as witchcraft murders, making contact with the 'Wild Geese' mercenaries in the Congo, the tracking down of British army deserter and spy, and also taking part in the search for the crashed plane of UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld, still the subject of controversy today. Since his Colonial days, he was appointed a Director and General Manager for Shell Marketing in the Channel Islands and later as a Director for a major Insurance and Financial Services Company in both Guernsey and Jersey. He has since run his own international management consultancy company.

Having discovered his mother's war diaries and personal papers hidden away in an old family bible, he wrote the book ' The Day The Nazis Came,' documenting the family's traumatic experiences in various German concentration camps. Stephen has been busy writing his new book which is called 'Murder, Witchcraft and the Killing of Wildlife'. with a subtitle of 'Memoirs of a Police Officer in the Heart of Africa.' These days, he divides his time between Brittany in France and Southern China, whilst working on this and other writing projects.

Synopsis

This was the time of the Belgian Congo debacle, where ethnic cleansing coincided with Stephen R. Matthew's first police posting near the Northern Rhodesia border with the Congo. During this time, and at just 21 years old, Stephen was knifed, ambushed, stoned, wounded by bow and arrow and shotgun and had his hand broken several times. Action-packed, unadulterated stories of those frantic and dangerous years are meticulously detailed here. The young police inspector found himself confronted by fearsome actions and events well beyond his understanding, while serving in the elite police force in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia). He found that the police were fighting on two fronts; trying to protect the vulnerable citizens of the country whilst at the same time endeavouring to stop the slaughter of wildlife. A stand-out, unique and comprehensive book, Murder, Witchcraft and the Killing of Wildlife depicts

dramatic accounts of witchcraft-murders and cannibalism in all its repugnant forms. Highly dangerous solo investigations carried out by Stephen are detailed, including incidents of black magic, kidnapping, arson, gun-running and people trafficking.

Review

"Show me a hero and I will show you a tragedy" is certainly a truism in the context of this book. So many tragedies with brave responses by police officers from all backgrounds.

Let us get the important bit out of the way first. Yes, buy it! If you are a police officer or have been, this is policing that you will never have confronted. Those that have served will unfortunately have seen victims killed in many ways and by differing means but Stephen has tales that will make even the most experienced hang on his every word. This is different! A burglary is a burglary. A theft a theft no matter where in the world. They look the same and the end result is often the same though the level of punishment may vary. But these murders and levels of violence with the intermittent mix of witchcraft really are uniquely horrific.

There is a constant feeling of wanting to know a little more, particularly background of the main players mostly in the police station but also about the magistrate, the commissioner and others who had a direct impact on the police way of life. And how did Stephen get to be there? How was he selected, trained and introduced to a way of life more than a little different to Guernsey? How did the team of local men become police officers? What happened post-independence? The book is less than 250 pages long and would have benefitted with more background, some dates and possibly a few maps and an index. I never did work out what the DSI was! Detective Senior Inspector was best guess.

These few niggles did not detract from this illuminating, enthralling and often macabre and shocking, story of a young family man in what is now Zambia. A first-class memoir of a way of life long gone, a distant glimpse of life, when not only the British Army were deployed across the Empire but young men, some ladies, lived adventurous and frequently perilous existence policing well outside any comfort zone. Just read the story of the young inspector and local women saving children from a crocodile, the policeman losing a leg. They were both awarded the GM. It would be interesting to know where all these police officers, these adventurous souls, went as the Empire reduced with job opportunities disappearing. So many questions, so many opportunities for fascinating research and publications.

Addendum:

Having pondered why mostly young man go off to difficult parts of the world to forge a career I came across the following in the Times 11 July 2020.

> Sir Ralph Furse who devised recruitment policies for the Colonial Service described the type they were looking for.

"The challenge of adventure, the urge to prove himself in the face of hardship and risk to health, of loneliness often and not infrequently danger, the chance of dedicating himself to the service of his fellow men and the responsibility at an early age on a scale life at home could scarcely ever offer."

Second World War Through Soldiers' Eyes:

British Army Life 1939-1945

Hardback and Paperback

By James Goulty
Imprint: Pen & Sword Military
Pages: 208
Illustrations: 30 black and white
ISBN: 9781526781710
Published: 3rd June 2020

About James Goulty

James Goulty holds a masters degree and doctorate in military history from the University of Leeds, and he has a special interest in the training and combat experience of ordinary soldiers during the world wars and Korean War. His previous publications include Second World War Lives: A Guide for Family Historians, The Second World War through Soldiers' Eyes: British Army Life 1939-45 and Eyewitness Korea: The Experience of British and American Soldiers in the Korean War 1950-1953.

Synopsis

'What was it really like to serve in the British Army during the Second World War? Discover a soldier's view of life in the British Army - from recruitment and training to the brutal realities of combat. Using first-hand sources, James Goulty reconstructs the experiences of the men and women who made up the 'citizen's army'. Find out about the weapons and equipment they used; the uniforms they wore; how they adjusted to army discipline and faced the challenges of active service overseas. What happened when things went wrong? What were your chances of survival if you were injured in combat or taken prisoner? While they didn't go into combat, thousands of women also served in the British Army with the ATS or as nurses. What were their wartime lives like? And, when the war had finally ended, how did newly demobilised soldiers and servicewomen cope with returning home? The British Army that emerged victorious in 1945 was vastly different from the poorly funded force of 865,000 men who heard Neville Chamberlain declare war in 1939. With an influx of civilian volunteers and conscripts, the army became a 'citizen's force' and its character and size were transformed. By D-Day Britain had a well-equipped, disciplined army of over three million men and women and during the war they served in a diverse range of places across the world. This book uncovers some of their stories and gives a fascinating insight into the realities of army life in wartime.

Review

Hardback came out first in 2016. There is now a paperback version featuring a different cover. The work has a very large bibliography and list of sources but no references. There is a good index. A number of black and white photos are together in the middle.

Britain has rarely gone to war with a well-trained and equipped standing army, more usually the ranks are soon filled by mostly reluctant civilians quickly turned into soldiers. Many of these reluctant soldiers were very effective in their new role, bringing new blood to the tight gene pool of a peacetime army. Some argue that the officer corps needs the influx of civilian talent to strengthen the wartime army before early defeats become victories. Goulty agrees with this view, the army needed to cast its net wider in an effort to find sufficient personnel to be trained as officers. After Dunkirk new men with new skills came into the army such as bank managers, solicitors and schoolmasters. Usually in their late twenties and university educated these men often made excellent leaders, less hidebound than many regular officers who had known no life outside the army. These officers and all recruits had to pass through the hardship of basic training before undergoing further instruction for their future role allocated after some basic selection.

The author hopes that this book provides readers with a vivid impression of what it was like to be an ordinary British soldier, NCO or regimental officer serving with the wartime army. It achieves that aim. As the title suggests the book follows the lives of men and women as they moved from civilian to trained soldier on active service, and when it was all over, a gradual return to civvi street where much including the serviceman had been transformed beyond recognition. Everything had changed, but nothing had changed! Poor housing, low pay,

rationing, estranged wives and families. It was a lucky man who survived the war with an intact family life and a career to return to. Men who had exercised great responsibilities, being a man of status, now just a person in a queue. Men in a guarded moment who will admit the war was the best years of his life. Not everyone was up to their neck in mud and bullets, about 1.5 million never leaving the Home Front, although that had its dangers. For some surviving was enough, for other the war had shown what they were capable of. How now were they to lead a fulfilling life? The change from colonel to police constable, from major in Guards Armoured to PC on a bike in a village. The PC summoned to see the Chief Constable on his return from the war. He called the Chief Constable Mr to be told, "I prefer it if you use my rank, captain from the First World War" "Not a problem captain, you may call me colonel." The men who tried to use both police and commissioned ranks, Squadron Leader, Police Sergeant Bloggs DFC and Bar did not go well with the hierarchy and was soon dropped.

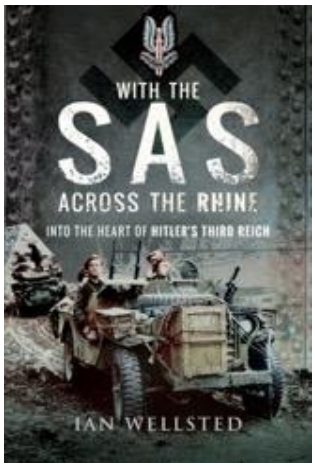
The book contains lots of facts and figures which makes it a small useful reference work. For example the wartime army grew to more than 3,000,000 men and 300,000 women of which around three quarters were conscripts, formed into 48 divisions each of about 18,500 all ranks. One other figure – from 1942 the UK attempted to buy the world's supply of tea with 30 million tons held in storage. No crisis there!

The author has undertaken a huge task of decanting an enormous amount of first-hand. accounts into headings and chapters. What a task that has been. How difficult at times to decide what to include and what to leave out. The book successfully reveals a considerable insight into being a serving soldier during the Second World War, is absorbing and therefore highly recommended.

The five chapters Call-Up and Training; Life on Active Service; Enduring Active Service; Prisoner of War Experiences and Casualties and Medical Matters will act as great background material for the general reader and detail for the more dedicated reader of military history.

With the SAS: Across the Rhine

Into the Heart of Hitler's Third Reich



By Ian Wellsted
frontline BOOKS
Pages: 248
Illustrations: 16
ISBN: 9781526745699
Published: 18th May 2020

Ian Wellsted
Having served with 'A' Squadron, 1 SAS during 1944 and 1945, and being wounded in April 1945, after the Second World War Colonel Ian Wellsted OBE remained in the British Army for a further twenty-two years. He served in Palestine, Egypt, Europe and the Far East. He died in 2002, aged 83.

Overview

With the SAS: Across the Rhine is the story of the latter part of Captain Ian Wellsted's military career with the Special Air Service, the first part of which was detailed in his well-received SAS: With the Maquis. This is a very personal account, revealing the many emotional as well as physical strains placed upon men in the fighting line.

The author takes us back to his time employed with the 79th Armoured Division (the famous 'Hobart's Funnies') preparing for D-Day and his desire for more exciting action, which led first to the Parachute Regiment and then the SAS. Whilst we learn a little of his time with the Maquis, the main focus of the story is his part in Operation Archway. A British special forces mission which involved the 1st and 2nd Special Air Service Regiments acting in support of the advance of Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery's Allied 21st Army Group in operations Varsity and Plunder, this crossing of the Rhine was one of the largest and most diverse operations ever carried out by the SAS.

In this offensive, the SAS teams were thrust deep into German territory, often having to battle their way through the enemy lines to get back to safety. 'I quickly learned that there was no way to control an SAS battle,' Wellsted wrote of his first major encounter in charge of a patrol. 'The din was deafening – seventy odd Vickers and half a dozen Brownings all chattering together. The screech of ricochets and the fire of the enemy made my voice sound like the squeak of a mouse against a church organ. I was helpless.'

In one of these encounters, as the war was drawing to a close, Wellsted's troop found itself surrounded. In the ensuing firefight, Wellsted was wounded, bringing his active front line career to an end.

Review

Ian Wellsted died in New Zealand in 2002. He wrote a first book on his time in the Morvan in France the SAS working with the Maquis. There is no obvious explanation as to why it has

taken twenty years to publish this excellent work on special forces in the Second World War. This second work offers a detail rich narrative of the final stages of the war. He is a fluid writer and his recording of the final days of Jeep warfare in all its intensity and violence is gripping stuff. Wellsted speaks to the reader. You warm to him and his troubles as he drops names into the script of some of the SAS Second World War greats such as Cooper, Seekings, Poat, Padre Mcluskey and of course Paddy Maine. Wounded in Germany and taken back to the UK though fit enough to participate in the SAS expedition to Norway to help disarm the Germans. That was an enjoyable time, a rest, a break from a hard end to the war.

Terence Gardiner, a retired Air Commodore in the New Zealand Air Force Wellsted's son in law, wrote the introduction and at the end of the book has a very informative chapter on The SAS in the Second World War: a perspective.

There is an excellent bibliography, a full index, photographs and maps/plans drafted by the author of major contacts with the enemy as the SAS fought their way into Germany.

This is an excellent book and an essential addition to the library of anyone interested in the wartime role of the SAS.