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

October 2020

www.surrey-constabulary.com

Editor Robert Bartlett MA (Cantab) CF
938at938@gmail.com

Surrey Constabulary History 68

Girl Cadets with PS Chris Kay in the 1970s

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Richard Chase

To mark the 40th anniversary of Zimbabwe's Independence, Dick Chase has written an account of the background and the Surrey Constabulary's involvement in the election.

Background The UK had colonial responsibilities for Rhodesia and its peaceful move to independence. The UK Electoral Commission implemented an agreed polling process with the aim to allow 'Free and Fair' elections without intimidation at Polling Stations, which were situated in both towns and rural areas to allow easy access to the whole population.

UK Police Whilst the UK and Rhodesian Military were heavily deployed to provide security, UK Government decided that a 'British Bobby' would be present at each polling station to re-enforce the Free and Fair election concept. A total of 581 British police officers were required and a proportion of each county's establishment was agreed – which totalled seven for Surrey. Divisional Commanders sought volunteers and an overwhelming response arose. The following were selected:

Sgt 80 Richard (Dick) Chase	B Div.
Sgt 205 David Farrow	D Div.
Pc 196 Clifford Cox	A Div.

Pc 556 Malcolm Sutton	C Div.
Pc 791 Ian Mundell	G Div.
Pc 807 Eric Holt	HQ
Pc 1015 Michael Taylor	HT

The only criteria required was volunteers must be Authorised Firearms Officers (AFO's).

Travel advice was circulated by the Home Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, but it was anticipated specifics of in country travel, living conditions and polling station responsibilities were to be announced upon arrival in Rhodesia.

The group assembled at HQ and were seen by the then Chief Constable – Peter Matthews who emphasised the desire for good liaison with local police (then named the British South African Police – BSAP). Sgt Dick Chase was designated group leader and Surrey Constabulary plaques were made available for presentations. The CC also permitted the handing over of their uniforms as a good will gesture, anticipating a huge interest in particular the UK Policeman's helmet.

On the days of travel hundreds of police officers attended various briefings at Central Hall, Westminster, were the Home Secretary Willie Whitelaw spoke to all present, along with tropical medicine doctors and security experts. Anti-Malaria pills were issues along with a camp bed/sleeping bag and a mosquito net! Various contingents were then flown by BA from LHR to the capital Salisbury.

Arrival in Rhodesia The welcome received from the BSAP was memorable. The Surrey contingent were accommodated at Morris Depot, the Police training centre and no expense was

spared with unlimited supplies of beer and food. Daily briefings were held and Surrey officers were to be deployed to Gwanda in Matabeleland South province, which was near Bulawayo and the South African border.

The elections were to be held on the 27th, 28th and 29th February 1980 and 4 days beforehand the Surrey and South Wales contingents were flown by RAF Hercules to a dusty airstrip outside Gwanda. The flight was very turbulent as it was flown at tree top level to avoid any terrorist gun fire, but they landed safely, to be greeted by many of the local white population from the town.

Gwanda The welcome was over whelming with many questions about the UK, but generally the locals were pessimistic about the countries future, as the front runner to win was Robert Mugabe, who would form a single party state with potential for widespread violence against old adversaries.

The Surrey Officers were housed in a youth hostel for the next few days and these were taken up with briefings by the UK Electoral Commission reps and locals hosting spectacular feasts at BBQ's. It was noted that most of the white police officers had sent their families to South Africa, anticipating the aftermath to the elections to be very unpredictable.

Detailed briefings were held on polling station procedures and the main responsibility of each British Bobby was security and integrity of the ballot box.

Election Days Sgt Dick Chase recounts his personal experiences during the actual polling days. On the 26th February he met his polling station team, which consisted of 2 civil servants as clerks would run the election process; two Police Reservists and a small group of ten young junior soldiers. The ballot box was wooden and sized about 3 ft tall and 2 ft square, locked with a wax seal.

Dick's polling station was located in a Tribal Trust Land, which were very large areas designated for natives living in mud huts known as Kraals. Wenlock TTL was about 2 hours' drive from Gwanda and the team set off in armoured personal carriers, with Sgt Chase issued with a SLR rifle for personal protection! Their accommodation was a disused Army Camp and upon arrival found the Rhodesian Army dug in to form a secure perimeter. That day was concluded with setting up the actual Polling Station which was an isolated brick building about 100 yards from the camp. That evening was spent watching the African sunset over the bush, eating goat purchased from a nearby village.

Voting An early rise greeted the team with a loud hum of people queuing at the polling station in their hundreds. It was apparent they had walked through the night to vote and stewards had organised them into different lines of age groups. This region was very much Joshua Nkomo's country, so all appeared to vote for him. Each political party had a symbol and his was a picture of a soldier carrying a child. As many voters had poor eyesight or were illiterate, they would often just say "soldier and child" upon entering the building. No comprehensive voters list was apparent, so to avoid secondary voting a finger of each person was dipped in marker ink.
At the end of the first day of voting, once the poll was closed, many just disappeared into the bush to return early next morning. Sgt Chase literally slept with the ballot box by his side and no security issues arose during the 3 days of polling. On the 29th February the team returned to Gwanda, where debriefs were held by the Electoral Commission.

Return to UK It became evident that there was serious concern for a backlash or even a coup by the white led Rhodesian Army, so plans were in place to return the UK Police Officers back to the UK as soon as possible. After emotional farewells from the Gwanda residents and the BSAP, the Surrey contingent were flown by Air Rhodesia Dakota back to the capital for subsequent transfer onto the UK.

Conclusion The extent of hospitality in Rhodesia was fantastic, with no major security issues arising and all UK police officers had a sense of pride that they had contributed to the independence of a lovely country.

Robert Mugabe and his ZANU Patriotic Front Party won the majority vote and history now records the demise of a country once called the 'breadbasket of Africa'. During the following years Mugabe's hench men took revenge against Joshua Nkomo's followers, resulting in thousands of innocent civilians being killed or maimed and Matabeleland South suffered greatly.

Medals To acknowledge the UK police contribution, all officers were later awarded the Rhodesia Medal and Zimbabwe Independence Medal at a ceremony at Mount Browne.
Whilst Sgt Chase recounts here his personal official account, many other Officers experienced humorous incidents and events that formed fond memories for years to come.

Medal presentation by chairman of the police authority

10 DOWNING STREET

RECEIVED BY
11 MAR 1980
PRIVATE SECRETARY

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 March 1980

Dear Willie.

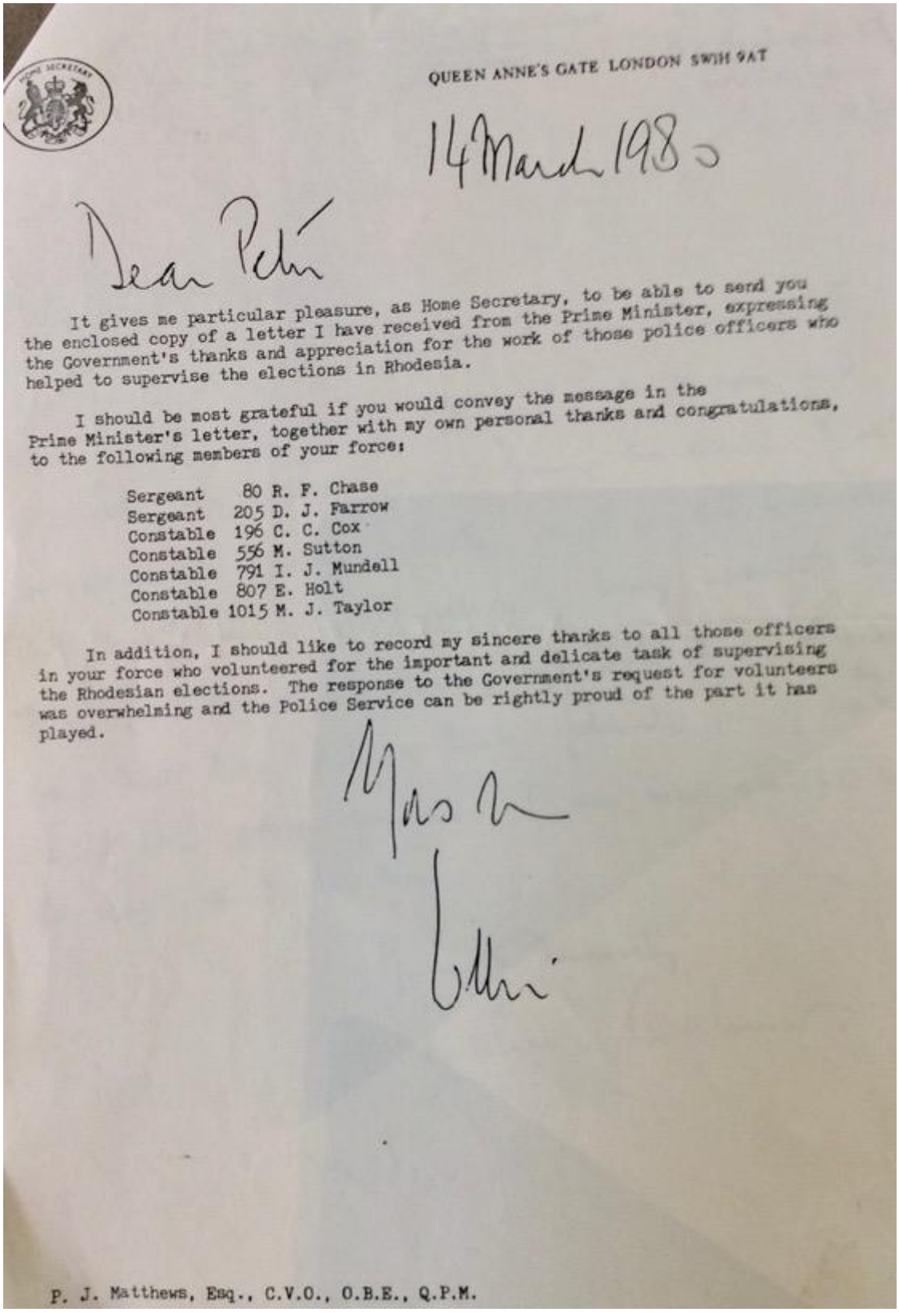
I have written to Lord Soames asking him to convey to all those concerned with the organisation of the recent elections the Government's thanks and appreciation for their work. I should like, through you, to thank in particular the members of British police forces who helped to supervise the elections.

It is quite clear from all reports, including those of the various international observers, that the conduct of the elections met the highest standards. The elections have been accepted universally as a valid expression of the wishes of the people; there was wide understanding of the secrecy of the vote; and the high level of turnout was virtually unprecedented. All served to put the results of the elections beyond any doubt and thus to secure for Rhodesia, soon to be Zimbabwe, a most convincing start to its new life as an independent state and accepted member of the international community. I know that this result was achieved only by devoted work, often under difficult and dangerous conditions, and in the full glare of publicity. On behalf of the Government, I wish to express admiration and gratitude to all those who contributed to this splendid achievement.

Yours ever,
Margaret Thatcher

The Rt. Hon. William Whitelaw, C.H., M.C.

Prime Minister to Home Secretary



QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

14 March 1980

Dear Peter

It gives me particular pleasure, as Home Secretary, to be able to send you the enclosed copy of a letter I have received from the Prime Minister, expressing the Government's thanks and appreciation for the work of those police officers who helped to supervise the elections in Rhodesia.

I should be most grateful if you would convey the message in the Prime Minister's letter, together with my own personal thanks and congratulations, to the following members of your force:

Sergeant	80	R. F. Chase
Sergeant	205	D. J. Farrow
Constable	196	C. C. Cox
Constable	556	M. Sutton
Constable	791	I. J. Mundell
Constable	807	E. Holt
Constable	1015	M. J. Taylor

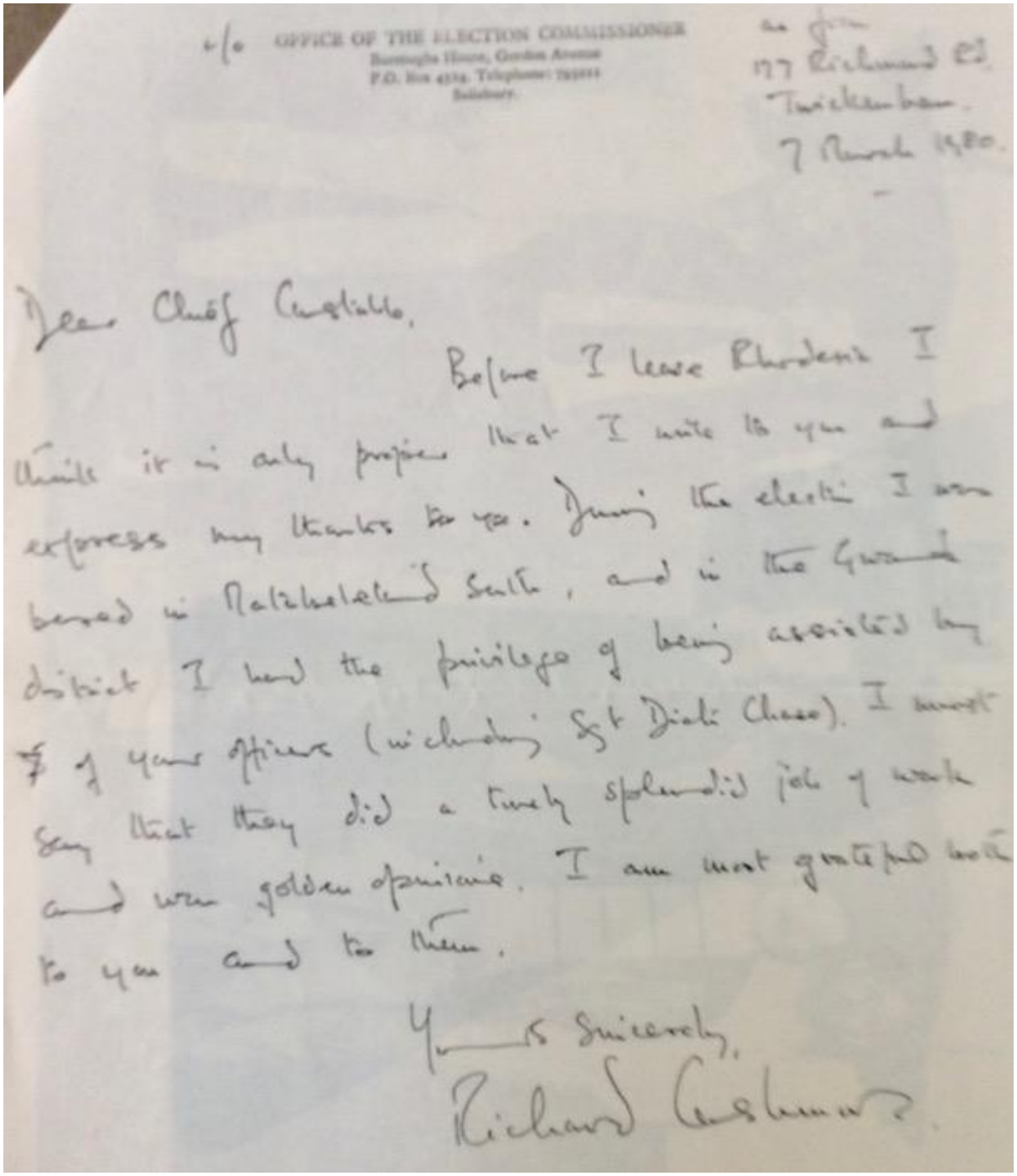
In addition, I should like to record my sincere thanks to all those officers in your force who volunteered for the important and delicate task of supervising the Rhodesian elections. The response to the Government's request for volunteers was overwhelming and the Police Service can be rightly proud of the part it has played.

Yours

Willie

P. J. Matthews, Esq., C.V.O., O.B.E., Q.P.M.

Home Secretary Willie Whitelaw to Chief Constable



c/o OFFICE OF THE ELECTION COMMISSIONER
Borough House, Gordon Avenue
P.O. Box 4324. Telephone: 783111
Salisbury.

as from
177 Richmond Rd.
Twickenham.
7 March 1980.

Dear Chief Constable,

Before I leave Rhodesia I think it is only proper that I write to you and express my thanks to you. During the election I was based in Matabeleland South, and in the Gwanda district I had the privilege of being assisted by 7 of your officers (including Sgt Dick Chase). I must say that they did a truly splendid job of work and were golden companions. I am most grateful both to you and to them.

Yours Sincerely,
Richard Cranborne.

Letter of appreciation from UK Electoral Commissioners Office to Chief Constable

Retirement of Inspector William Thomas Hardy

From Henry Pelham

Kelly' Directory 1913 Dorking Division

Superintendent George BOON Inspector T HARDY Sergeant and 10 PCs

1919 September 12: Retirement of Inspector Hardy[1]: Many of our readers will interested to learn that Police Inspector Hardy of the Surrey Constabulary stationed at Woking, and who for several years was sergeant in charge at Merstham, has retired on a well-earned pension after twenty-seven and a half years' service.

It was whist he was at Merstham that he enabled the authorities to break up the gang of thieves responsible for bringing about the famous breakdown in the telephone service. It will be recalled that miles of telephone wire were continually disappearing, an expert gang being at work, nipping the wires and stopping the service nightly.

The Merstham area was a favourite haunt of this gang. One night he saw a man busy at work. When the thief found he was discovered he gave a signal to the other members of the gang and endeavoured to escape. Sergeant Hardy as he then was at once closed with him and after a rough and tumble fight the sergeant's superior weight told and he had his man under lock and key. Sergeant Hardy visited the railway station and there found several packages which appeared to be motor tyres. One being unwrapped however, over a thousand yards of telephone wire coiled so as to represent a tyre was discovered. Sergeant Hardy was specially commended for his capture.

1919 September 19: Inspector Hardy retires: [2]Inspector Hardy who for many years before his promotion was sergeant in charge of Merstham has retired from the Surrey Constabulary after 27 ½ years' service. To mark the occasion the tradesmen of Woking entertained the police of the district at dinner following upon a cricket match which was won by the police by 86 runs to 78. Mr J Hutchinson-Driver JP. CC presided at the dinner and his supporters included Mr AM Samuel MP, Supt Marks. During the proceedings Inspector Hardy was presented with a handsome illuminated address and a substantial cheque, the address stating that the residents and traders of Woking and district asked his acceptance of the gifts in recognition of the valuable work and his invariable courtesy in carrying out his duties.

The Chairman in making the presentation said he did so on behalf of all traders and residents in addition to the taxi drivers (hear, hear). Inspector Hardy was retiring after 27 ½ years'

[1] Surrey Mirror 12 September 1919

[2] Surrey Mirror 19 September 1919

service, and he had served the force honestly, conscientiously and faithfully. He trusted he would live for many more years to enjoy the rest he had earned.

In handing him the address, a cheque for £70 and a 10s piece, the Chairman expressed the hope that he would get a house in which to place the address (laughter). Inspector Hardy in briefly returning thanks said he had always tried to do his duty and he would always prize that address that would be handed down to his son.

Old Comrades:

Mr William Hardy was to be one of the founding committee of the Old Comrades Association now known as Retired Comrades Association.

Old Comrades Association Formed[3]

The inaugural meeting of the Surrey Constabulary Old Comrades Association was held at St Saviour's Hall, Guildford on Monday. Seventy-seven pensioners were present some of whom had not met for twenty years, and there was much enthusiasm for the formation of the association.

Captain ML Sant DL JP the late Chief Constable presided and the following officers and committee were appointed: President and treasurer Capt. Sant; hon. Secretary Mr AW Daws of Gwenles, Worplesdon Road, Guildford; committee Messrs A Sawyer (headquarters division) JH Tamplin (Dorking), AE Arney (Chertsey), T Mears (Farnham), G Pearce (Godalming), AR Davis, (Oxted), G Harris (Hersham), WT Hardy (Woking).

It was decided to meet for luncheon in April and October of each year the first meeting being in Guildford.

Death of Ex-Insp W.T. Hardy[4]

The Biggest Man in the Surrey Constabulary

We record with regret the death of ex-inspector William Thomas Hardy, which occurred on Wednesday of last week after an illness of eight months. Ex-Insp Hardy who since his retirement from the Surrey Constabulary in August 1919 had lived in Portugal Road, Woking, was Inspector at Dorking from 1910-1914 during which time he made a host of friends in the town and district. He was 67 years of age and leaves a widow. His son is Sergeant Hardy who

[3] Surrey Advertiser 10 January 1931 Henry Pelham 20 September 2020

[4] Surrey Mirror 21 September 1934

until recently was stationed at Dorking, while his daughter, the wife of ex Inspector Pharo still lives in the town.

Described as the biggest man in the Surrey Constabulary, Mr Hardy was a splendid policeman and made himself tremendously popular wherever he went. He commenced his career in the Headquarters Division at Guildford, and served as a constable successively at Woking, Pirbright, Stoke Hill and Stoughton. He left Stoughton when the Guildford Borough Police extended its boundary and was transferred to Albury. He was then promoted sergeant at Merstham at about the time of the famous Merstham Tunnel murder was committed. It was during Mr Hardy's period at Merstham that the first London to Brighton motor-car run took place – an event he was never likely to forget as he was knocked down and injured while controlling the traffic.

He left Merstham in 1910 on his being promoted to the rank of Inspector at Dorking and a public presentation was made to him from the people of the village. The general public of Dorking also subscribed to make him a presentation when Mr Hardy was transferred to Woking in 1914, where he completed the remainder five years of his 28 years' service.

It is particularly interesting to mention that Mr Hardy was made an Inspector the day his son, Sergeant Hardy, joined the Surrey Constabulary on May 10th, 1910.

Son PS William George Hardy

1934 June 7 PS Hardy to retire: [5] PS Hardy who was transferred from Dorking to Godstone in April 1934 is retiring on pension from the Surrey Constabulary on June 22 after 25 years' service. On joining the force, he was stationed at Egham Hythe. He was then transferred to Farncombe and being in the Army Reserve was mobilised at the outbreak of war.

Returning to duty he was stationed at Hookwood in 1919 and was transferred to Leatherhead four years later. In 1926 he was promoted sergeant and moved to Chipstead. He later served at Brookwood and went to Dorking before making his final move to Godstone last year.

Mr Hardy's father who died last year, was an Inspector in the Surrey Constabulary and during his service was the biggest man in the Force.

From Barrie Friend, Military Historian:

William George Hardy was born in Godalming 1889 the son of William Thomas Hardy (1867 -1934) Mother Eleanor Mary Tingley died July 1889.

[5] Surrey Mirror 07 June 1934

Census shows William George 1901 Stoke next Guildford and 1911 in Egham. William married age 23 to Martha Emily Turner7 September 1912 at Ewhurst. Died Dorking 1968.

Served in the First World War in the RAMC from being in the Army Reserve called up at the start of the war until 1919. At one stage was reported as sick but re-joined the army. [6]

Chief Inspector Jack Gower
6 March 1914-2006

Chief Inspector Jack Gower

PC Jack Gower PC 46: This is a copy of note made by Jack Gower for a researcher into the history of the Guildford Borough Police:

[6] [6] SAC CC98/1/4-5 Chief Constable reports to Standing Joint Committee Robert Bartlett 28 Aug 2018

Mr.Jack GOWER PC:46

23 Avenue Road, Lymington, Hants.
Phone: 0590/76841

Born: Woking, Surrey D.O.B: 29 6.3.1914
Previous occupation: Building industry.

Date of Joining Metropolitan Police: 29.10.1934

Stationed: Cannon Row Police Station.

Date of transfer: 24th August 1935

Pc Gower applied to join Guildford Boro Police having seen an advertisement in the Surrey Advertiser. (July-Aug 1935)CHECK
He was not able to transfer direct from one Force to another, so he had to apply to GUildford first, and then when accepted, resign from the Metropolitan Force. This was not easily done, and he had to be rather persistent in his efforts to resign!.
In June 1937 he was posted into the Office on Clerical duties and enquiries. Others in the office at that time were Loveridge, Whyman, Ferguson and himself.
He recalls that the Beats in 1935 were as follows:-
No:1 Beat - High Street.
No:2 - North Street to the Byepass.
No:3 - Pewley Hill (Cycle patrol)
No:4 - Onslow Village (Cycle patrol)
No:5 - Stoughton (Cycle patrol)
No:6 - Burpham
No:7 - Merrow.

There was an additional High Street patrol from 1800-0200 am responsable for checking the rear of the shops.

Meal breaks were of ½ hour duration and were taken in North Street Station, with the exception of No:7 Beat (Merrow) where the PC was permitted to take his meal brake at the Police house due to the illness of his wife. This house is still in existance, in Merrow, near the A.265, and originally had cells. (CHECK)

In 1942 he was promoted PS (Check No. believed No:6); in 1943 on merger with Surrey Constabulary, he was employed as liason Officer for Civil Defence with the S.C. and this continued until 1950.
In 1951 he was transferred to Walton on Thames as PS439 Surrey Con.
In August 1953 he was promoted Inspector and became Training Officer for the Force at Mount Browne.
In January 1956 he was appointed War Duties Officer and served under Chief Constable Simpson. He later attended Police College course No: B 57/1 from January to March 1957. He was then posted to Chertsey as Sub-Divisional Inspector. In June 1963 he was promoted Chief Inspector and became Deputy to Supt. i/c Oxted Division. He retired in 23.10.1965

Sports: Swimming and cricket, and athletics.

Hobbies: Golf from 1952 onwards.
Further anecdotes:- During WW11 there was another Police Station at St Michael's Rd(off Epsom Rd) where the C.C. had his office, North St. was under an Inspector. The Boro area was split into inner and outer rings. There was a lookout tower on the top of the Abbotts Hospital, for tracking bombs, it was manned by a PC. Each PS had a large book where he entered references to all reports handed in by men on his relief and also details of points made with the men. These were inspected and initialled every morning by the C.C. All original notes being entered by the PC in his notebook.

PC Gower was one of the few men to successfully ask for and get an extra allowance ~~of~~ of sixpence per week for "zeal, efficiency, and smartness"(Check this story for exact details)

Jack Gower alongside Chief Constable Simpson and Sergeant Dick Noad

Frank Kennison is in this picture third row from the front second from right. Danny Shaw is there along with Roy Wakefield.

Front row PS Dickie Noad and Doug Hayball with Inspector Jack Gower. Photograph probably taken when the officers fresh from training school in 1952. The Chief Constable is Joe Simpson. WPC unknown

Jack Gower alongside Chief Constable Simpson

Guildford Borough Police Reunion about 1993
Back: ?,?, Jack Gower, Jack Woodford.
Middle: Bill Leahy, Jim Rook, Charlie Barham, Digger Field
Front: Wilf Sivill, Stan Harland, Joyce Turner (CID clerk), ?, Mick Feehan

The History of the Two Minutes' Silence – in Farnham and elsewhere

Farnham War Memorial

John Francis Moss

John Francis Moss writes: I served in the Surrey Constabulary as a PC and Sergeant from 1975-1986 – at both Oxted and Caterham. I then transferred to one of the Yorkshire forces and never looked back – I dare not, because I realised how much I missed working in Surrey! Near the end of my service, I surreptitiously read the letter my headmaster had sent the Chief Constable of Surrey back in 1975 before my interview at Mount Browne. It certainly wasn't a letter of recommendation, and I realised how lucky I was to have been accepted nearly thirty years earlier – although

> my colleagues at the time may have felt less fortunate! When I retired, I started studying part-time at university (partly to prove my headmaster wrong – as he said I would never go there), and my current research interests include the liturgy and music of the Church of England associated with the First World War – prompted, no doubt, by having to make regular 4 a.m. points at Chaldon Churchyard set by sergeants less-disposed towards Sir Peter Matthews' decision to recruit me!

This year is the centenary of the unveiling of the Cenotaph in Whitehall, and the burial of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey. As we gather at our war memorials on or around 11th November, have you ever wondered why we commemorate our war dead with an act of communal silence, or how it was decided that silence should be two minutes long – and not three minutes or five?

The armistice came into effect on Tuesday, 11th November 1918 – the First World War didn't formally end until Saturday, 28th June 1919 when the Treaty of Versailles was signed (which is why some war memorials show 1914-1919). The main event to celebrate the signing was a victory parade through the streets of London – which included troops marching past a temporary Cenotaph in Whitehall, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, but made of wood and plaster, and not intended to be a permanent memorial.

In anticipation of these celebrations, an Australian journalist working in London, Edward George Honey, wrote to *The Evening News* on Thursday, 8th May 1919:

> Can we not spare some fragment of those hours of Peace rejoicing for a silent tribute to these mighty dead? Individually, yes! Too many of us know we will for our own kith and kin, for the friend who will never come back. But nationally? I would ask for five minutes, five little minutes only. Five *silent* minutes of national remembrance. A very sacred intercession!

Honey's suggestion was based on the silence held across the transport and communications network in Great Britain on Friday, 20th May 1910, the day of the funeral of King Edward VII, when the train he was on came to a halt for five minutes and all the travellers in his compartment removed their hats and stood in silence. Honey's suggestion was not taken up; however, in the lead-up to the first anniversary of the Armistice on Tuesday, 11th November 1919, a South African diplomat, Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, wrote to the War Cabinet, suggesting a silence based on the 'Three Minutes Pause' held in Cape Town during the war, where:

> At noon each day all work, all talk and all movement were suspended for three minutes that we might concentrate as one in thinking of those – the living and the dead – who had pledged and given themselves for all that we believe in...[7]

[7] Cabinet Paper, CAB/24/92, p. 2, found on-line at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk - the National Archives website.

Fitzpatrick describes the noonday gun which gave the signal for the silence to start, and the sirens and hooters used for the same purpose across the Rand Goldfields. In the centre of Cape Town, the silence was started by a bugler playing 'Last Post' from a balcony. He concludes that the 'the call at the hour would come from gun or belfry, from mine, factory or ship' – a reminder that there was no national time signal in 1919.

Honey's proposal was for five minutes of silence; Fitzpatrick's was for three: however, the Cabinet, who on Wednesday, 5th November 1919 considered only the latter proposal, concluded:

> That a pause of three minutes would involve too great a strain and inconvenience, and that a pause of one minute, as adopted in the United States of America on the occasion of President Roosevelt's funeral [on Wednesday, 8th January 1919] and on other occasions, would be more impressive.[8]

There's a totally uncorroborated story that following the Cabinet's recommendation, there was a rehearsal of the silence involving King George, a guardsman and a stopwatch, at which the King decided that one minute was too short – so he decided to have two! What is known is that following the Cabinet meeting, Lord Curzon, the Foreign Secretary, lunched with the King where 'His Majesty's pleasure' was sought – and given, concluding a process whereby, in the space of two days and at the highest level of government, the proposed period of silence had been altered successively from three to one, and finally to two minutes – which it has remained ever since.

Although this would be the first ever national memorial silence for the war dead, some earlier local examples have come to light – one of the most interesting being held in Castle Street, Farnham, Surrey on Wednesday, 10th May 1916. It took place as part of the opening ceremony of a country fair organised by a local auctioneer and estate agent, James Alfred Eggar, to raise funds for the local British Farmers' Red Cross Society.

The programme makes clear the nature and purpose of the silence…

> 11 a.m.—The OPENING CEREMONY will take place at the bottom of Castle Street. After the Bugles have sounded, there will be silence for 2 minutes as a token of respect to the memory of those who have fallen in the War, to the Wounded, to the Prisoners, and to those who are fighting for their Country.
>
> The National Anthem will be sung.[9]

[8] Ibid.
[9] National Archives: HO 45/11557.

…while the sounding of bugles immediately beforehand, and the singing of the National Anthem afterwards, impose an additional military and patriotic setting – the experience of silence is always highly influenced by its context.

Farnham [10]

A number of photographs of the event exist, showing a platform erected outside 74, Castle Street (once Eggar's offices, now a Pizza Express) with about thirty people standing on it, surrounded by a crowd of about 200. Everyone is standing to attention. Some of the men in uniform are saluting, while all the men not in uniform are standing bare headed. Eggar is identifiable on the platform standing in front of a chair and wearing a wing collar, with Canon Bertram Keir Cunningham, the Warden at the Bishop's Hostel, Farnham, next to him, with his hat under his arm and holding what appears to be a copy of the programme in his hand.The hostel was an Anglican training college for clergy in the grounds of Farnham Castle, the official residence of the Bishop of Winchester. However, it had closed for the war, and Cunningham had been helping out in the parish as well as chaplain to Waverley Abbey Hospital. With both the Bishop and the Rector of Farnham (Rev. John MacLeod Campbell Crum) away, Cunningham was ideally placed to represent both the local church and the British Red Cross at this civic event. While Eggar and two representatives from Waverley Abbey spoke from the platform after the silence, it was Cunningham who introduced it.

> Canon Cunningham, in opening the proceedings, said after the bugles had sounded there would be two minutes silence, during which they would think with thankfulness

[10] Photograph courtesy of the Museum of Farnham, Farnham Maltings.

> before God of those who laid down their lives for their country, the sick and the wounded, and those who were now fighting for King, Country, and Cause.[11]

His words, as recorded, are very similar to those printed in the programme, but arguably change the already complex nature of the silence from 'a token of respect' to prayer.

So, whose idea was the silence – an auctioneer, a clergyman, or someone else? Evidence that Eggar suggested the idea for the country fair is unambiguous, while correspondence after the war shows that he also claimed to be the originator of the silence. However, there are a number of examples of silence being used in the Church of England's wartime liturgies and rites – such as church bells being rung at noon each day, encouraging people to stop and pray silently for those fighting. At face value, Cunningham seems the more likely candidate. Sadly, no records of the meetings held before the fair which might have answered that question still exist. Eggar's post-war correspondence also corroborates that the only proposal considered by the Cabinet in November 1919 was Fitzpatrick's – a three-minute silence based on that held in Cape Town, rather than a two-minute silence held in Castle Street, Farnham. Nevertheless, the citizens of Farnham can be proud that they held what could well have been Britain's first civic two-minute silence – 3½ years before it became a national institution.

The King's Proclamation announcing the first national/imperial silence was published in newspapers across the British Empire on Friday, 7th November 1919. Although this was less than two days after his 'pleasure' had been sought, it was only four days before the event itself.

> TO ALL MY PEOPLE.
>
> BUCKINGHAM PALACE.
>
> Tuesday next, November 11, is the first anniversary of the Armistice, which stayed the world-wide carnage of the four preceding years and marked the victory of Right and Freedom. I believe my people fervently wish to perpetuate the memory of that Great Deliverance, and of those who laid down their lives to achieve it.
>
> To afford an opportunity for the universal expression of feeling it is my desire and hope that at the hour when the Armistice came into force, the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, there may be, for the brief space of two minutes, a complete suspension of all our normal activities. During that time, except in the rare cases where this may be impracticable, all work, all sound, and all locomotion should cease, so that, in perfect stillness, the thoughts of every one may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the Glorious Dead.
>
> No elaborate organization appears to be necessary. At a given signal, which can be easily arranged to suit the circumstances of each locality, I believe that that we shall all

[11] The Farnham Herald, Saturday, 13th May, 1916, pp. 4 & 5.

> gladly interrupt our business and pleasure, whatever it may be, and unite in this simple service of Silence and Remembrance.
>
> GEORGE R.I.[12]

The intention was that people should keep the silence just where they were – a suspension of activity for two minutes in the middle of the working day, rather than a ritual activity in itself. However, from the very start, individuals felt the need to gather together in the open air rather than indoors, and for that gathering to be focused in an appropriate place. *The Farnham Herald* comments that 'no official arrangements had been made', and during the morning 'work proceeded as usual', however:

> ...a few minutes before 11 o'clock a small crowd gathered at the bottom of Castle Street, and when the clock struck the hour and the signal was given by the fire hooters at the Brewery and the Water Works, the men present bared their heads and all stood in silence for the space of two minutes.[13]

This fits in moderately well with the tone of the proclamation. However, the article also reports the presence of the Chairman and members of the Urban District Council in Castle Street, which had already been acknowledged as having 'become the spot to which all turn on such occasions', as well as giving the names of the police officers[14] in attendance, and those of the two trumpeters from Aldershot who sounded the 'Last Post' to mark the end of the silence. Later, the newspaper reports how the silence was kept at the Parish Church at the end of a short service of intercession conducted by the Bishop of Winchester and the Rector, as well as details of how the silence was kept in other churches and the schools in Farnham – all indicating a degree of organization beyond that originally inferred in the King's Proclamation.

Yet the same phenomenon was experienced elsewhere. In London, the temporary Cenotaph in Whitehall became an even greater focus for the silence, and a year later, re-built in granite as a permanent memorial to 'The Glorious Dead', immediately became the primary commemorative site for the whole British Empire. Yet, for most people, the focus would remain local, at an ever-increasing number of war memorials in cities, towns and villages throughout Great Britain, where the warriors from that place who marched away to fight and had died for their country were known and remembered by name. One hundred years on, neither those physical memorials nor the silence have lost their impact but exist in a vastly changed world. Pausing for those two minutes on or around the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month remains one of the few means by which we can express a real sense of continuity with the men and women who experienced the First World War first-hand.

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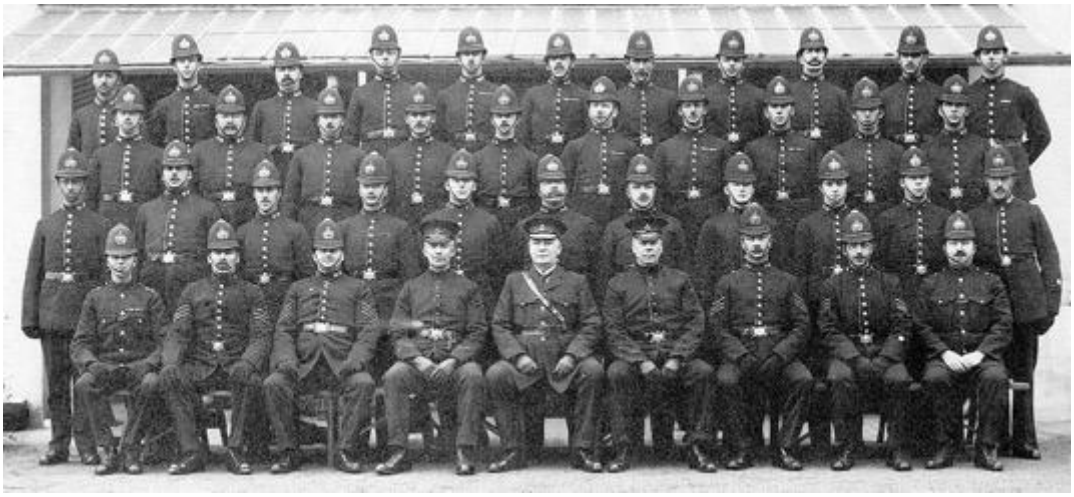
[12] This was carried in most national newspapers that day, including The Times, Friday, 7th November 1919, p. 12.

[13] The Farnham Herald, Saturday, 15th November 1919, p. 5.

[14] The article mentions that 'Supt. Simmons was also present, and Inspector Lucas was in the vicinity, whilst in the road were PS. Vigar and a constable'.

Supt Simmonds Farnham, Surrey Constabulary



1922 Supt Lucas who was on duty as an Inspector in 1916

Alfred Benjamin Hughes
1816-1888

Late Supt Surrey Constabulary

Research by Jennifer Tuffs late Surrey Constabulary

This is the story of an ambitious family man who was a very successful police officer until he allowed his desire for a position in society to have him spend more than he was paid. This always leads to catastrophe as it does in this case. The ambitious young man is sacked from his position of chief of police, spending periods of unemployment, as a private detective and an attendant in a museum. Such a tragedy has been repeated throughout time.
Alfred Hughes was one of the first superintendents of the Surrey Constabulary. He did not serve for long as he was appointed chief of police for Bath.

On formation of the Surrey Constabulary in 1851
Recruits sought from

1. Men who had already served in a county police force
2. Men from HM Forces
3. The parish and borough constables

Honest sober under 30 least 5-foot 7 inch; no minimum age one appointed aged 14 and another 15. (Probably because it was difficult to get clerks – early cadets!)

1851: In the list of appointments to the Surrey Constabulary Hughes was number 4:

Alfred Benjamin Hughes appointed 9 January 1851 sworn in 25 January 1851; age 35, 5 feet 8ins tall, Metropolitan Police, "D" Division, and Alnwick Police Association 1837-1851, Northumberland appointed on £85 resigned 16 Nov 1851 to become chief of Police Bath

Alfred Benjamin Hughes was born 26th September 1817 and baptized along with four of his siblings, Charles Hugh born 1805, Rosa Catherine born 1813, Edmund Stephen born 1815 and Clara Anne born 1820 on 5th November 1825 at St George Bloomsbury. They lived at Brownlow Street St Giles in the Field and their parents were Charles Waring Hughes a coach ironmonger and Ann.

1836 21 March, Alfred married Sarah Carter at St George Bloomsbury.

Alfred Benjamin Hughes of this Parish
Bachelor
and Sarah Carter of this Parish
Spinster
were married in this Church by Banns
this twenty first day of
March in the Year One Thousand eight hundred and thirty six
By me Mayow Wynell. Mayow Curate
This Marriage was solemnized between us { Alfred Hughes / Sarah Carter
In the Presence of { Charles Hugh Hughes / [illegible]
No. 1259

1837: Daughter Helen Eliza Hughes was born.

1**841** Census for Princess Street Marylebone lists Alfred Hughes aged 24 years, a policeman living with Sarah Hughes aged 27years, Charles Hughes aged 1 year and Rosa Hughes aged 3years.

City or Borough of Marylebone 14
Parish or Township of St Marylebone Enumeration Schedul

PLACE	HOUSES Uninhabited or Building	HOUSES Inhabited	NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX Males	AGE and SEX Females	PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born: Whether Born in same County	Where Born: Whether Born in Scotland, Ireland, or Foreign Parts
Princes St			Sept Lind		25	Servant	Y	
do		1	Edward Adkins	25		Carpenter J	Y	
			Martha do		24		Y	
			Emma do		2		Y	
			Edward do	10 months			Y	
			Margaret Nibland		50	Independ	N	
			Jane Reave		65		Y	
			Elizabeth Reed		40	Brushmaker	Y	
			Emma Rees		12		Y	
			George do		8		Y	
			Alfred Hughes	24		Policeman	Y	
			Sarah do		27		N	
			Charles do	1			Y	
			Rosa do		3		Y	

1841 Census Hammersmith daughter Ellen (sic) Hughes aged 5years was living with Richard and Eliza Sibley (Richard is her uncle having married Eliza Hughes)

1842 1st June son Charles Waring Hughes of Princess Street Marylebone born about 1840 was buried at St Mary's Paddington Green aged 2years.

1843 15th November at Christ Church Marylebone, Rosa Catherine Hughes born 22nd June 1838 and Alice Sarah Hughes born 23rd June 1843 were baptized. Their parents were Alfred Benjamin and Sarah Hughes of 27 Earl Street. Alfred was a Police Constable.

1845 April /June quarter Kensington registration district Emily Clara Hughes was born.

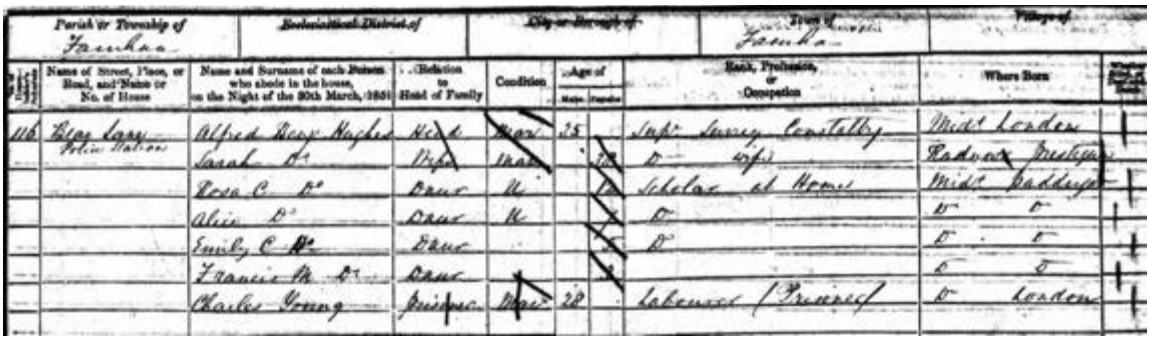
1848 January/ March quarter Kensington registration district Frances Mary Hughes was born. Sometime before **1850**, Alfred moved to Northumberland as the Durham County Advertiser 25 October 1850 reported Alfred Hughes a Police Constable at Alnwick apprehended a poacher who had escaped capture the previous December when two of his accomplices had been tried and subsequently transported.

1851 Alfred Benjamin Hughes is number 4 on The Surrey Constabulary Defaulters (Enrolment) Register which is held at Surrey County Archives. He is described as age 35year and 5ft 8in. He left after 10 months on promotion to Chief of Police at Bath.

Name and former police force	Rank	No	Age	Height	Place of birth	Date joined	Previous Occupation	Resign	Dismissed	Length of service
Alfred Benjamin Hughes Metropolitan Police, Alnwick	Superintendent	4	35	5'8"	Northumberland	9 January 1851	Police	16 Nov 1851	Promoted Chief of Bath City	10 months

1851 South Eastern Gazette Alfred Hughes of Northumberland appointed Superintendent at Surrey Constabulary on a salary of £85.

1851 Census Alfred Hughes and family are living at Police Station, Bear Lane, Farnham with a prisoner in the cells Charles Young a 28-year-old labourer. (Wife Sarah with Rosa, Alice, Emily, Francis and Charles)



Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Males	Age of Females	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born
Bear Lane Police Station	Alfred Benj. Hughes	Head	Mar.	35		Supt. Surrey Constably	Midx London
	Sarah Do	Wife	Mar.		28	Do	Radnor Pretypool
	Rosa C Do	Daur	U		12	Scholar at Home	Midx Paddington
	Alice Do	Daur	U		7	Do	Do Do
	Emily C Do	Daur			5	Do	Do Do
	Francis Ch Do	Daur			2		Do Do
	Charles Young	Prisoner	Mar	28		Labourer (Prisoner)	Do London

1851 Census Helen Hughes living in St Botolph, Cambridge with Eliza Sibley who is now widowed.

Application for Bath City Police

1851 Bath Chronicle 6th November- **Bath Police** – No less than 15 men have applied for the post of Chief of Police at Bath and after their testimonials were examined by the Watch Committee it was reduced to five. On 12th November the Watch Committee selected Mr Hughes Superintendent of the New Surrey Constabulary, previously of the Metropolitan Police as their new Chief of Police.

1851 December, **Murder at Piston near Bath**. A quiet and inoffensive man named George Bush was murdered at Piston and several persons were arrested on suspicion of the murder but released, the police were completely baffled by the case, when unexpectedly a clue to the murderer was obtained by his own confession. In July 1852 an Irish pedlar known as John alias Christopher Smith alias Hasley was in Dorchester Gaol under the Vagrancy Act when he confessed to a murder in Somerset to a fellow inmate. Further enquiries led to Mr Hughes, Chief of Police at Bath arresting Smith for the murder. When arrested Smith said he should make a clean confession and gave Mr Hughes full details of the incident finishing by saying he was sorry as it was a cold-blooded deed and he was perfectly prepared to die for it. At his trial in August 1852 after evidence from two surgeons the jury said they considered Smith insane, and he was ordered to be detained during Her Majesty's pleasure.

1852 Devises and Wiltshire Gazette 19th February – **A hoax-** On Saturday evening, intelligence was received at Bath Police by Mr Hughes, the chief officer, that the Prince of Wales had died suddenly. The news was said to have been received at Swindon by telegraph and had then come by train. Mr Hughes immediately informed the Mayor and other authorities with the news rapidly spreading throughout the community .The statement was carried on to Bristol where it caused much excitement and early the next morning a crowd surrounded the Post Office eager for news and it became necessary to post a bulletin contradicting the rumours. It appeared the clerk of the telegraph at Paddington had signalled Swindon and asked if he had heard the rumour of the Prince of Wales death. Someone at Swindon overheard this and repeated to people on the arrival of a train, amongst these people was Sir John Hare who questioned the guard but was informed it was a rumour and no reliance could be placed on it. However, Sir John and a lady with him declared it must be true as it had been telegraphed, adding that the Prince was a weakly child who was likely to die suddenly. The report was soon contradicted from Paddington but the train had gone and as the telegraph had not reached Bath or Bristol the report spread before the contradiction could overtake it.

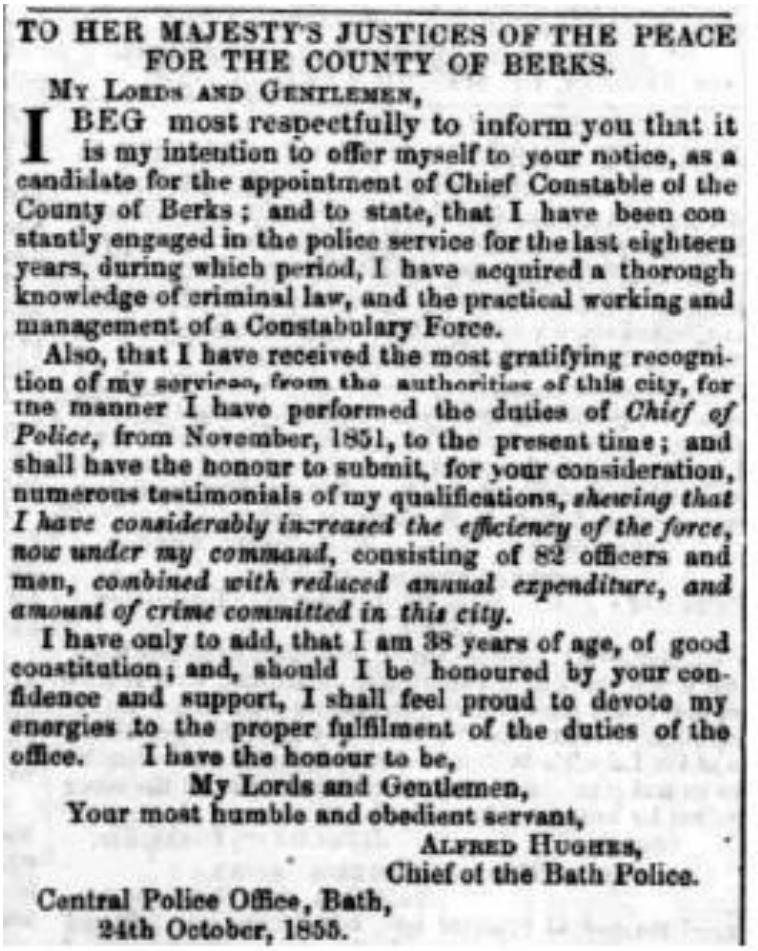
1853 Morning Chronicle 26th July – Recent reports of the Select Committee of the House of Commons seriously threatened the role of **Parish Constables.** The committee had reports from several people including Mr Hughes, the chief of Bath Police and formerly a superintending constable in Northumberland who stated he found them so corrupt that he was obliged to have nothing to do with them and act entirely on his own. He had found some were convicted of felony and others were drinking in the company with most notorious thieves and poachers. They also had relatives who did likewise and were also licensed dealers in game. Even when

the officer was honest, active and skilful other obstacles to his efficiency interposes. The committee believed that expense was the only serious obstacle to the establishment of an effective police force throughout the kingdom and they affirmed the necessity of a legislative measure for the adoption of an efficient police force throughout Great Britain.

1855 17th May Bath Chronicle -Bath and Somerset **County Races** – the newspaper stated that order of the course was admirably maintained by Mr Hughes and a body of Bath Police, some of whom were mounted.

1855 Seeking appointment as Chief Constable Berkshire: Berkshire Chronicle 27thst October and several other Berkshire newspapers. A letter addressed to Her Majesty's Justice of the Peace for the County of Berks.

(Note: This is unusually ambitious of Hughes as chief constables of counties were usually gentlemen, on a social par with the magistrates. As a former police constable from a working-class background his appointment was very unlikely. He would have known that and it is likely he had a "sub plot.")



TO HER MAJESTY'S JUSTICES OF THE PEACE FOR THE COUNTY OF BERKS.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I BEG most respectfully to inform you that it is my intention to offer myself to your notice, as a candidate for the appointment of Chief Constable of the County of Berks; and to state, that I have been constantly engaged in the police service for the last eighteen years, during which period, I have acquired a thorough knowledge of criminal law, and the practical working and management of a Constabulary Force.

Also, that I have received the most gratifying recognition of my services, from the authorities of this city, for the manner I have performed the duties of *Chief of Police*, from November, 1851, to the present time; and shall have the honour to submit, for your consideration, numerous testimonials of my qualifications, *shewing that I have considerably increased the efficiency of the force, now under my command*, consisting of 82 officers and men, *combined with reduced annual expenditure, and amount of crime committed in this city.*

I have only to add, that I am 38 years of age, of good constitution; and, should I be honoured by your confidence and support, I shall feel proud to devote my energies to the proper fulfilment of the duties of the office. I have the honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your most humble and obedient servant,

Alfred Hughes,

Chief of the Bath Police.

Central Police Office, Bath,

24th October, 1855.

Is this the sub plot:

1856 Bath Chronicle 20th March – Bath Town Council – **Increase in salary** for Chief of Police. A letter was read from Mr Alfred Hughes Chief of Police addressed to the Watch Committee soliciting an increase in salary and promising that if his request was acceded to, he would make no further efforts for improvement of his position. A report from the Watch Committee was also read which contained a resolution of recommending that Mr Hughes salary be increased by £50 per annum taking it to £250 per year.

1856 3rd May Exeter and Plymouth Gazette Mr Hughes, Chief of Bath Police, is to have the management and sole discretion of the Police at the ensuing show of the Bath and West of England Agricultural Society at Yeovil

1856 October/December quarter Bath registration district **Amy** Sempill Hughes is born.

1857 10th September "**The Leigh Woods murder"** was committed. The victim was a young woman named Charlotte Pugsley and the murderer was a butler named John William Beale. Beale, although was a married man, took the deceased from her employment with all her property, under the pretence they were going to be married. They were seen together near the woods and after the murder it was found Beale had taken her boxes of belongings from the railway and they were later found in his possession. Mr Hughes and Inspector Norris of Bath Police were fortunate in discovering and arresting Beale in Daventry Northamptonshire. He was tried and found guilty at Taunton Assise in December 1867 and executed there the following January. A full description of the case can be found in The Taunton Courier of Wednesday October 7th, 1857 and also in the book published by Alfred Hughes in 1864.

1858 4th February Bath Chronicle Obligations were expressed to Mr Hughes, chief of police for the manner in which he had got up a case before the magistrates. He had supplied every link in the chain that was necessary to convict the prisoner. It was entirely due to Mr Hughes vigilance, assiduity, and care that the detection and prosecution of the prisoner had been accomplished The Mayor said, the magistrates were always glad to receive any testimony to the efficiency of their officers and he hoped Mr Hughes and the force under him would continue to deserve the character which had been given to them.

1858 15th April Devises and Wiltshire Gazette - **Burglary** in Old Bond Street Bath- A case that proves the perils in which the police undergo at the hands of desperadoes came before the magistrates. One of the individuals assaulted was Mr Hughes, chief of Bath Police, who appears to have been indefatigable in his exertions to apprehend the burglars. On 20 January a burglary was committed at the premises of Mr Edwin Fisher, Old Bond Street Bath, and a large amount of property was stolen. Mr Hughes along with a detective from M Division Metropolitan Police went to the Blue Anchor public house Bethnal Green, where the accused William Richardson was landlord. Mr Hughes spoke to Richardson and told him he was from Bath police and had information that he had purchased some diamond rings recently stolen from Bath. Mr Hughes noticed that he had a diamond ring on one of his fingers, he also mentioned a fight that had taken place on the premises five or six weeks previously. This made Richardson rush from the room Mr Hughes being unable to stop him and the door was held tight shut for a few minutes

then Richardson was seen darting up the stairs and entering a room, Mr Hughes followed and wedged his foot in the door. Richardson called a woman to bring him tongs and a sword which she did and then the door opened and he made a heavy blow at Mr Hughes with the tongs, swearing to have the policemen's lives. Mr Hughes stepped back to avoid the blow, which fell upon Detective Hewlett, missed his footing and fell down the stairs, cutting both his hands with the glass of a window. Richardson followed aiming repeatedly at him until Detective Hewlett dragged him from the house and called for assistance. Shortly after the door opened and the police re-entered and it was noticed that Richardson no longer was wearing the diamond ring or an albert chain on his waistcoat. He was taken to the police station where he again threatened Mr Hughes. The prisoner denied the charges and bail was refused.

1859 4th August Bath Chronicle – Extraordinary Charge, **Anonymous letters.** Col. John Alexander Forbes had been apprehended under a warrant accused of on 23rd June 'unlawfully and wickedly utter and publish an obscene and indecent letter, with intent to debauch and corrupt Adelaide Lucy Fenton , and with intent to incite her to commit a breach of the peace 'and was brought before the Mayor at the Guildhall. Miss Fenton had been subjected from time to time, over a long period to the receipt of letters of an indecent and disgusting nature. The letter to which the charge referred was handed to the Chief of Police who had also been given the earlier letters. The writer of the letters was a complete stranger to Miss Fenton who was well known in fashionable circles, and much esteemed in Bath.
For a considerable time, there was no clue to the author of these letters, then a gentleman called Llewellyn Watling from London sent the Chief of Police at Bath some letters he had received with a disgusting tone, the letters coming from Bath. The previous December Mr Watling had advertised in 'The Times' for a situation as professor of languages and teacher of writing. A person signing himself Francis York applied and asked for his mail to be sent to him at the Post Office Bath, as the correspondence continued, the letters on the part of Francis York disclosed a spirit of vindictiveness and feelings of an indecent character. The correspondence was then broken off. In July Mr Watling found it necessary to advertise again in 'The Times' and received more letters from Francis York with a disgusting tone, these he sent to the Chief of Police at Bath who at once noticed the similarity in handwriting with the letters to Miss Fenton. In order for Mr Hughes to prove these letters were written by the same person, he wrote a letter to Mr Forbes, Inspector Bond took it to Forbes who wrote a reply which he gave to Inspector Bond. Both Mr Watling and Mr Hughes believed it to be the same handwriting as their letters, there were similar misspellings of the same words and a similarity in the formation of the sentences. After much deliberation Forbes was committed to the next Assize and granted bail with sureties of £800. The Bath Chronicle for 18th August 1859 advertised a £50 reward for any information leading to the apprehension of John Alexander Forbes who had failed to appear at Wells assize on 10TH August, the warrant being held by Alfred Hughes, Chief of Police at Bath.

1860. Alfred Hughes was to have a role as set out below, in this investigation. Sometime during the night of 29th June and 30 June, Francis 'Savillle' Kent, almost **4 years old disappeared from his room** in his father's house called Road Hill House in the village of Road in Wiltshire. His body was found in the vault of an outside privy. He was still dressed in

his nightshirt and wrapped in a blanket, he had knife wounds on his chest and hands and his throat was slashed so deeply that the body was almost decapitated. The boy's nursemaid, Elizabeth Gough reported him missing at 7.15 to Mrs Kent and a search began but Mr Kent personally drove to Trowbridge to inform Superintendent Foley rather than relying on the local Police to pass a message. He also seemed to have more details of the crime than he later admitted. A controversial inquest took place, in which the coroner first restricted the witnesses to servants of the house, police officers and medical practitioners and it needed the jury to insist the family be questioned. The coroner went to the house but only questioned his 16year old half-sister Constance and brother William. Mr and Mrs Kent were never formally examined. Elizabeth Gough, the nursemaid was arrested but discharged and Jonathan Whicher, an original member of the detective branch at Scotland Yard and the most celebrated detective of his day was brought in to help. He started his enquiries by concentrating on a missing nightdress belonging to Constance, and he established Constance had an opportunity to remove items of nightwear from the laundry basket and blame it on the local woman who did the household laundry. He passed his suspicions along with other circumstantial evidence to the magistrates who directed the arrest Constance and gave Whicher seven days to prepare a case against her. Mr Kent provided a barrister for his daughter and he dominated proceedings. Constance was released without trial owing to public opinion against the accusations of a working-class detective against a lady of breeding. The case was later dropped and Whicher's reputation never recovered. (This murder is the subject of a book by Kate Summerscale – 'The Suspicions of Mr Whicher or The Murder at Road Hill House')

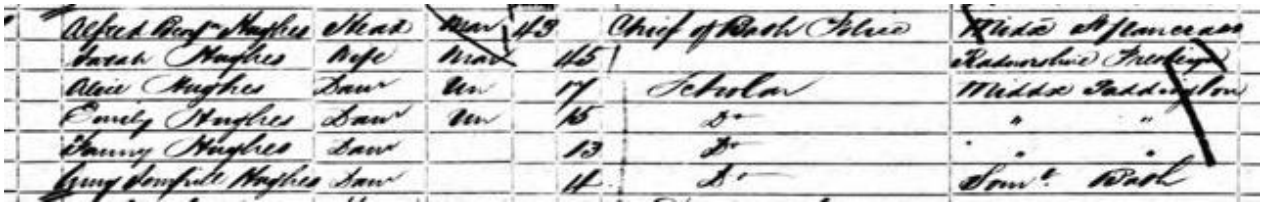
In December 1860 it was reported that this deeply mysterious murder was being revived in consequence of the diligent and searching inquires being made by Mr Hughes, the chief and Mr Norris of Bath Police (These men had earlier been responsible for the arrest of Beale - The Leigh Woods murder). They have gathered additional evidence which to an extent was fragmentary but is hoped to clear up some matters. They made repeated visits to the neighbourhood and saw some thirty witnesses, some of whom had not been previously interrogated. The Huddersfield Chronicle of 15th December stated Inspector Norris and Superintendent Hughes were in a position to establish a case against a certain person and in a few weeks they hoped their case would have matured so that they could apply for judicial assistance and apply to Wiltshire Magistrates (under whose sanction they are acting) for a warrant of arrest.
Wiltshire Police have also been pursing enquiries and were believed to be in possession of a clue which may lead to important discoveries.

1861 Early July several newspapers reported that a London detective visited Trowbridge and it was understood he was still diligently prosecuting the case. Mr Alfred Hughes, Chief of Police at Bath, visited Road but the precise object of his visit was not ascertained. Grave rumours were afloat respecting this mysterious murder, but at the time it was not prudent to give currency to them. In January 1861 newspapers reported that Mr Hughes of Bath police was said to have so far succeeded in unravelling the mystery in which the Road murder was enveloped and relying on upon his assurances of these discoveries, the public had been expecting to hear of another examination before the magistrates but it turned out the discoveries

turned out to be a ‘mares nest’ and no fresh evidence was obtained to fix guilt on anyone so the whole affair was still shrouded in mystery.

In 1865 Constance confessed her guilt to a clergyman and at the Assizes pleaded guilty and was sentenced to death but commuted to life due to her age and confession. Mr Hughes and Inspector Norris had collected certain evidence in the case which had remained in Mr Hughes’s possession, these documents were now applied for by Messrs Clark and Collins, Solicitors of Trowbridge who were conducting the prosecution where the facts will be of great service. Constance served 20years and was released in 1885 aged 41years and emigrated to Australia in 1886 she died in 1944 aged 100 and it was always believed that Constance admitted the crime to shield another person either her brother or father but she never recanted her confession.

1861 Census Alfred Hughes is living at Woodland Cottage, Walcot, Bath.



1861 Census for Blackburn lists both Helen Eliza and Rosa C Hughes living at the premises of Oliver Rylance, a draper.

1861 Bristol Times 3rd August. A **testimonial** has been presented to Mr Alfred Hughes the Chief of Police at Bath. It consisted of a purse containing 160 sovereigns and a handsome gold watch, of the value of £20.On the inside plate of the watch the following inscription was engraved “Presented with a purse of 160 sovereigns to Mr Alfred Hughes by the citizens of Bath in testimony of his zeal and uniform attention to his arduous duties as Chief of Police during a period of ten years- July 23rd 1861”

1862 Bath Chronicle 3rd July The Chief of Police and the Board - A man named John Norris had applied for a **license to drive a fly** and was at court a week later in order that the police checks to his character could be made. Mr Hughes had neglected to fill in the customary paper and when questioned stated he had not filled it because the Board had previously licensed parties whom the police had reported as not good characters, although nothing was known against the present applicant. Mr Jolly, a board member said it was for the Police to give the information and the Board to act on it how they pleased. It was not for Mr Hughes to say whether a man should be licensed or not. Mr Hughes said he had not refused the information and had no objection to give it, but the point was that the Board licensed irrespective of the police report. He said if the Watch Committee ordered him to give a certificate, he would do so. It was then agreed that The Watch Committee instruct The Chief of Police to make enquiries and report to the Board on the characters of applicants for licenses.

1864 Bath Chronicle 3rd March. Mr Alfred **Hughes is about to issue a book** in which he will relate his experience in most of the remarkable cases that have come under his notice during a

period of 26 years in the Metropolitan and Bath Police. The publication will be edited by the learned Recorder of Bath. The book "Leaves from the notebook of a Chief of Police" consists of nineteen chapters, each being a narrative of some case in which Mr Hughes was directly or indirectly concerned and will no doubt obtain a large circulation amongst the citizens of Bath.

1864 21st April Bath Chronicle - James Smith appeared before Bath magistrates for the offence of **begging** in Prospect Place and was committed for fourteen days with hard labour. He had called at the house of Mr Hughes, Chief of Police and asked for some money, and upon Miss Hughes refusing threatened her with a stick and threatened to poison her dog, which frightened her very much. Subsequently he left, and Mr Hughes on being informed went after the prisoner, and when he reached him the prisoner asked for a few shillings in order that he might get a new wooden leg. Mr Hughes then took him into custody.

1866 Bath Chronicle 23rd August – The **Conduct of The Chief of Police** -The Watch Committee heard that statements have been made that the conduct of Chief Superintendent Hughes has been of such nature as to bring scandal upon the office he holds, they had met twice to inquire the truth, but they have not had any evidence brought before them of any circumstances beyond the fact of his pecuniary embarrassments, of which there is no dispute. The committee felt there was not sufficient grounds to warrant his removal from office but felt it right to report the matter to the council.
Several allegations had been made but no proof brought forward- nothing beyond the fact Mr Hughes was in considerable pecuniary difficulties, and from which he was attempting, as every honest man would, to extricate himself. He had set aside some twelve months since a portion of his salary (£100 per year) for the payment of his debt but he believed that this £100 would pay about 1s 3d in the pound so it would take several years to get over his difficulties and if he was dismissed from the service the debts would never be paid.

The Watch Committee discussed the case further and decided there was no evidence of any baneful effects upon the police force consequent upon Mr Hughes's conduct. He had been 29 years in the police service, for 15 years he served in London without a mark against his name. He had filled the post of Chief of Police at Bath for 14 years and seven or eight years previous had his salary increased from £200 to £250 a year but like others he had lived beyond his means. In March 1865 the Watch Committee decided that if he made an arrangement with his creditors, they would not discharge him. Mr Hughes had had yearly visits from the Government Inspector since he had been chief of police and they had been satisfactory, in fact the force was spoken of as almost a model force. Mr Hughes took care in selecting men for the force and maintained he did all they could expect from him. The watch committee agreed that if his private affairs impaired his efficiency or that of the force he would go before the council.

1865 Bristol Times 18 February Mr Hughes, the Superintendent of Bath Police force, **fractured his leg** the previous Thursday by an accidental fall. On 1st June Bath Chronicle stated Mr Hughes, the Chief of Bath Police, has so far recovered from his late severe accident as to be able to attend the meeting of the Watch Committee and resume his official duties.

1867 Dublin Evening Post 4th December, **Death** - November 27th in this city Miss **Helen** E Hughes daughter of Alfred Hughes esq.

1867 12th December Bath Chronicle 12th December, Death – November 27th in Dublin Helen E Hughes daughter of Mr Alfred Hughes Chief of Police at Bath aged 31years.
During his time as Chief of Police at Bath Alfred Hughes conducted many cases before the local Justices which were recorded in the local newspapers.

1868 Bristol Times 21st July- Bath- The **Superintendent of Police apprehended for debt.** On Wednesday on conclusion of Police business Mr Hughes Superintendent of Bath Police was arrested at the suit of creditors and failing to satisfy the demand was conveyed to Taunton Gaol the same day. At the Watch Committee meeting on Friday he was reported as "absent without leave "and a resolution was passed to suspend him from duty until the next committee meeting or on his release

The Bath Chronicle for 23rd July added a little more to this item --- In the meantime Insp Cook will take over the duties of the Superintendent. Some time ago Mr Hughes financial difficulties were discussed at a Council meeting, when the majority present agreed to no action in the matter in the hope that he would be able to make arrangements with his creditors but they were disappointed.

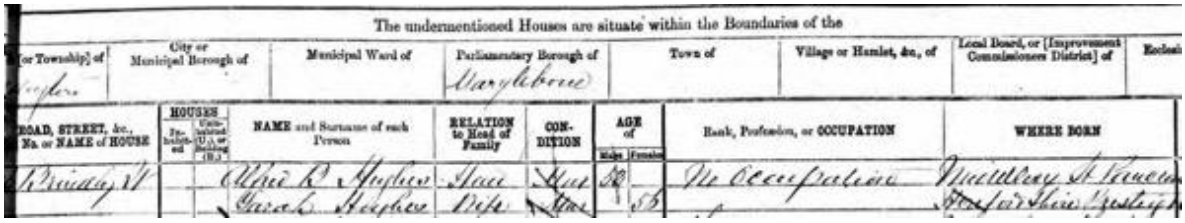
1868 Shepton Mallet Journal 7th August- Bath - **Chief of Police dismissal.** The Watch Committee were engaged for some time investigating the affairs of Mr Hughes, the Chief of Police who is still in goal for debt. It was found several sums of money which had been received by Mr Hughes and which should have been paid to the Borough Fund had been appropriated by him, or at all events had not reached their proper destination. Under the circumstances Mr Hughes thought it prudent to tender his resignation and there was a disposition on the part of some members of the committee to accept it but the majority passed a resolution to dismiss him from public service.

1868 September 25th London Gazette - **List of Bankrupts** included - Hughes A B Chief of the City and Borough of Bath Police.
Several stages of the Bankruptcy hearings for Mr Hughes were held during October and November.

1868 27th November Shepton Mallet Journal – The case of A Hughes late Chief of Police of Bath came before Mr Commissioner Hill at Bristol Bankruptcy Court. No creditor appeared to oppose the application of the bankrupt to pass his last examination and receive an order of discharge but it appeared to His Honour from an examination of the accounts that some of the debts had been contracted without reasonable or probable expectation of payment and he therefore the censure of the court by suspending the discharge order for 3 months with protection.

1869 13th May London Evening Standard – Private Agency Office (Note: Private detective) 16 Beaufort Buildings Strand. Mr Alfred Hughes late Chief of Police Bath undertakes divorce cases and other legal matters on the most reasonable terms, 31years experience.

1871 Census 26 Brindley Street Paddington lists Alfred Hughes, no occupation and Sarah his wife.

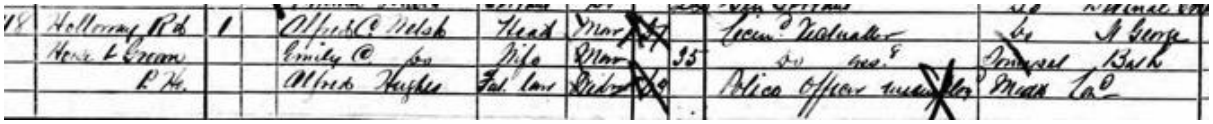


The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

[or Township] of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Village or Hamlet, &c., of	Local Board, or [Improvement Commissioners District] of	Eccles
Paddington			Marylebone				

ROAD, STREET, &c., No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited	HOUSES Uninhabited or Building	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CONDITION	AGE of Males	AGE of Females	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
Brindley St			Alfred B. Hughes	Head	Mar	58		No Occupation	Middlesex St Pancras
			Sarah L. Hughes	Wife	Mar		55		Somersetshire Yeovil

1876 2nd May -- Emily Clara Hughes married Alfred Charles Welch at St Stephens Paddington. Her father Alfred Benjamin Hughes is described as attendant at a museum.
It appears **Sarah** the wife of Alfred Hughes **died** sometime between 1871 and 1881 as the1881 census for Horse and Groom Holloway Road Islington lists Alfred and Emily Welch with her father, Alfred Hughes a widower, Police Officer, unemployed and Frances Hughes, her sister.



	Holloway Rd	1	Alfred C. Welch	Head	Mar			Licensed Victualler		St George
	Horse & Groom		Emily C. do	Wife	Mar		35	do do		Somerset Bath
	P.H.		Alfred Hughes	Father in law	Widr	79		Police Officer unemployed		Middx Lond

In **January 1880** the licence of Horse and Groom, Holloway Road, Islington was transferred from Jarvis Henry Clifton to Alfred Charles Welch (Islington Gazette 12th January).

Alfred Welch was still at Horse and Groom in August 1883 when along with his sister in law Rosa Hughes he was executor to the will of Eliza Sibley (aunt to Rosa and Emily). Alfred Welch died April/June Quarter 1885 Luton Registration district. After Alfred Welch died the licence of the Railway Hotel, Houghton Regis was transferred to Emily Clara Welch (Luton Reporter 4th July 1885) In March 1888 Emily Welch left The Railway Hotel and the licence was transferred to Thomas Chadwick (Luton Reporter 234th March 1888)

1888: Alfred Benjamin Hughes died October/December quarter 1888 in Uxbridge Registration district and was buried on 12th November at Ealing and Old Brentford Cemetery.

Shamley Green Group Photograph

Colin Longley Section Officer 190 Surrey Special Constabulary (Retd)

Looking back through some old paperwork in my filing cabinet, I have found a front cover of the local magazine at the time, "Cranfold Life", dated July 1975 not 1977 as you have stated. This magazine is no longer in publication.

Surrey Police Male Voice Choir

Roger Chamberlain: Surrey Police Male Voice Choir, early 1990's, Mike Blencowe, Fred Creagh, John Gladwell, Dave Morris, Paul O'Sullivan, Tony Richardson, John Hoey, Nick Hewitt, Geoff Pickett, Paul Holt, Jerry Lewer, Ron Stone, Brian Potter, Ray Orgill, Terry Bawden, Les Bell, Roger Chamberlain. At the front are Harry Porter, conductor, and our accompanist at the time whose name, I'm ashamed to admit, escapes me. There were many choir members over the years who managed to evade publicity photographs, one of whom was our recently departed Ex-PC 408 Pete Morley.

James Jarvie "Jock" Robertson

20 September 1883 Hamilton – January 1972 1, Riverside, Horley

Police Constable Reigate Borough Police 1906-1936

RAMC and Lance Corporal Military Foot Police 1915-1919

Compiled with the help of Jean and Henry Pelham, Barrie Friend, Dee Hutchinson and Richard Callaghan

JJR: "One drawback here is being so far away and no chance of getting a leave to visit the old country, but we must keep smiling and carry on the good work." 1916 Egypt

From Richard Callaghan RMP Museum: In the Surrey Mirror 10th October 1916 has a letter posted to Police Sgt Taylor from a Reigate Borough Policeman – Jock Robertson. He states he is serving/attached to the MFP. I have a few J Robertson, and if possible, I'd like to get a

definitive match. Have you come across this chap, and do you know if he was actually transferred to the Corps? I couldn't find him in your book, but I may have totally missed it. I suspect he might only have been attached, but any additional information is always helpful.

Family History Research: James Jarvie Robertson was born in 1884 Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland. Parents Robert Robertson and Margaret Robertson. James had two brothers John and Robert.

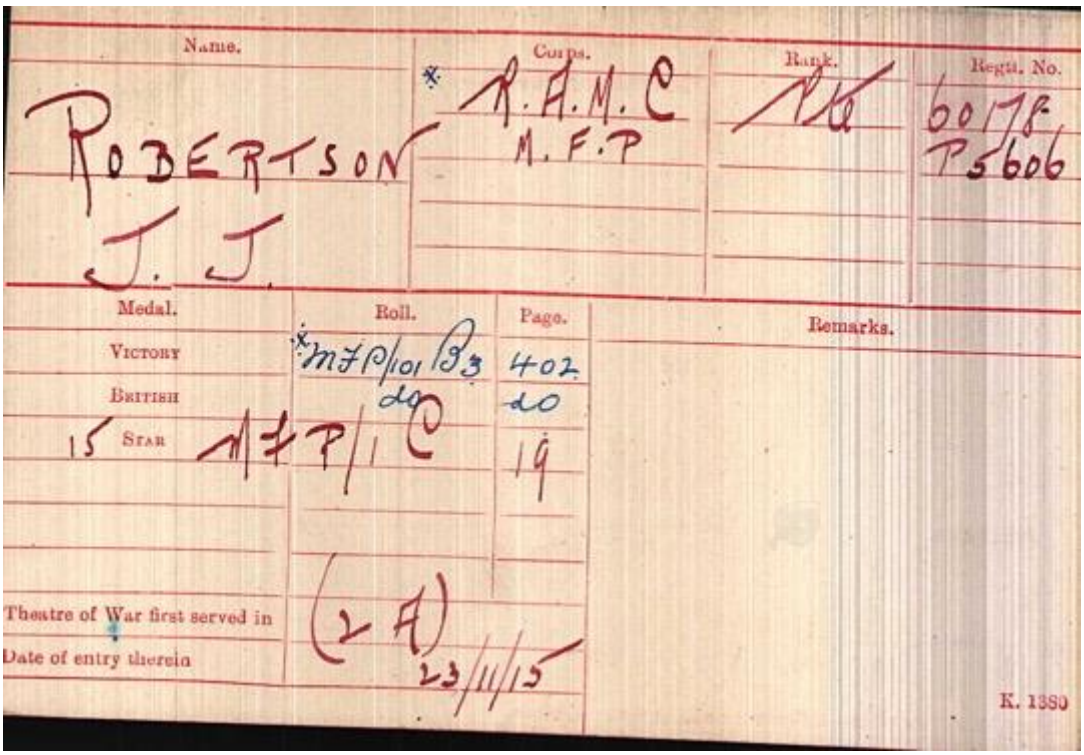
1911 Census – shows James living, as a lodger with Charles William Stannard a police constable and his wife Rhoda Stannard at 33 St Marys Road, Reigate

James was 27 years old, single, occupation Police Constable.

Marriage: James married Rose August 1915 in Farnham as he went to war.

Death: James Jarvie Robertson died in January 1972 when living at 1 Riverside, Horley, Surrey. He was 88 years old.

From Richard Callaghan RMP Museum September 2020: Private 60178 RAMC, who transferred to MFP on 1 October 1916, and was given the new Corps Number P5606.



Pte James Jarvie Roberston 60178/P [15]

[15] Dee Hutchison LLB(Hons), BSC, Dip APP Soc Sc Secretary Friends of Surrey Infantry Museum and QRS

1939 Register

11 Bramblye Park Road, Reigate

Robertson James J M 20 Sept 83 Police constable (retired)

First Police Reserve PR4 Reigate Borough Police

Robertson Rose F 5 March 1885 M Unpaid domestic duties

Robertson Herbert J M 29 March 20 S Surface building (?) operator monotype (?) – now on requisition

Robertson Rosemary F 22 April 27 S At School

Surrey Mirror 10 October 1916

Interesting letter from a Policeman

A Reigate Borough policeman Lance-Corporal Jock Robertson, of the Military Foot Police, who is with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, sends quite a newsy

letter to Police Sergeant Taylor. "Having a few spare moments" he writes, "I thought I could not do better than write you a few lines just for old time's sake. It is just about ten months since I bade good-bye to the old country, and since then I have seen a little of life in the Near East. I left Aldershot on November 23rd last year and embarked on the hospital ship and after nine days' passage reached our destination Mudros[16]. We had a splendid passage out and spent nearly two days at Naples coaling, but were not allowed ashore. The view from the ship was grand. In fact, it reminded me very much of Folkstone, only it was prettier.

After two days in the rest camp at Mudros, I became attached to a hospital for duty, and remained there some time. It was a very nice, but quiet place, and in spite of all drawbacks I had a very decent time. Whilst with the hospital I had a Reigate visitor in the person of the Rev. Mousley, who is I now believe somewhere in Mesopotamia. We had a pleasant chat for nearly an hour concerning Reigate news.

I left Mudros with the hospital on the 24 January this year for Egypt, and on arrival there your humble (sic) and a great many more were struck off the hospital staff and sent to a detail camp a few miles outside Alexandria. I was nearly seven weeks there before I became attached to a unit somewhere on the Suez Canal. Whilst at the detail camp I met three boys from the town, amongst them was young Berry of Redhill who I see from the Surrey Mirror has gone "west" during the Big Push in France.

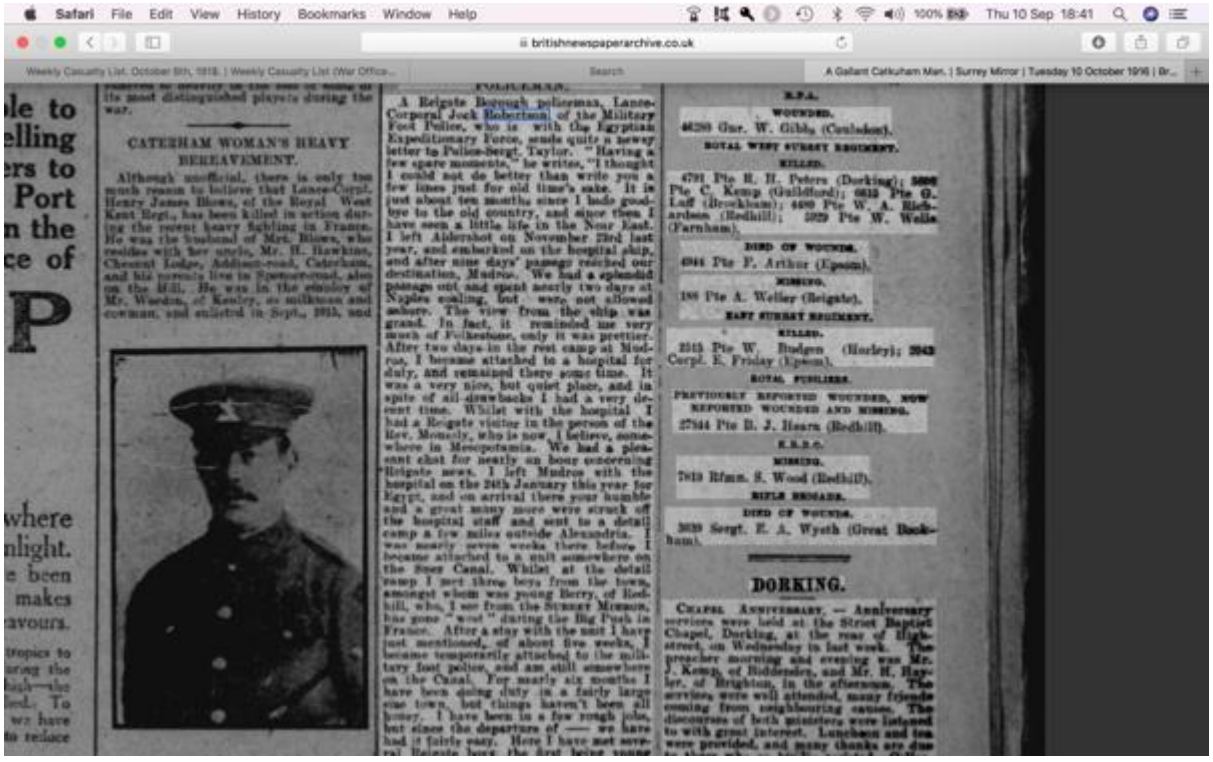
After a stay with the unit I have just mentioned of about five weeks, I became temporarily attached to the military foot police, and I am still somewhere on the Canal. For nearly six months I have been doing duty in a fairly large size town, but things have not all been honey. I have been in a few rough jobs but since the departure of ---- we have had it fairly easy. Here I have met several Reigate boys, the first being young Wilson, formerly of the Municipal Buildings. Subsequently I met Jack Gurnett formerly valet to the late Mr Joyce St. David's, and from him I got many little tit bits of Reigate news. Later I met young Holman from just above the station, and last but not least about a fortnight ago I met Morse and you can imagine our tongues were not idle for some little time. The hospital with

[16] Mudros comprised a small Greek port on the Mediterranean island of Lemnos. It gained wartime significance with the determination of the Allies - chiefly the British and largely through the enthusiasm of Winston Churchill - in the early part of 1915 to attempt to seize control of the Dardanelles Straits, some 50km away

which he is doing duty is in the same place as I am in, so we see each other daily. Owing to there being no dentist in the hospital to which he belongs, he has gone to Cairo to have all his teeth out, and consequently will be away for two or three weeks---.

Since coming out I have had the best of health with the exception of six days in hospital with tonsilitis. The heat here for several months past has been far from comfortable, and in consequences I have lost over a stone in weight. We used to grumble when we had a hot day at home, but how would you like to do duty with the heat over 100? Should we all be spared to return I think you will find us a trifle more contented than we were before.

One drawback here is being so far away and no chance of getting a leave to visit the old country, but we must keep smiling and carry on the good work. I notice from a recent Surrey Mirror you had been commended by the Watch Committee for arresting a lady burglar. More power to your elbow."



CATERHAM WOMAN'S HEAVY BEREAVEMENT.

A Reigate Borough policeman, Lance-Corporal Jock Robertson of the Military Foot Police, who is with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, sends quite a newsy letter to Police-Sergt. Taylor. "Having a few spare moments," he writes, "I thought I could not do better than write you a few lines just for old time's sake. It is just about ten months since I bade good-bye to the old country, and since then I have seen a little life in the Near East. I left Aldershot on November 23rd last year, and embarked on the hospital ship, and after nine days' passage reached our destination, Madros. We had a splendid passage out and spent nearly two days at Naples coaling, but were not allowed ashore. The view from the ship was grand. In fact, it reminded me very much of Folkestone, only it was prettier. After two days in the rest camp at Mudros, I became attached to a hospital for duty, and remained there some time. It was a very nice, but quiet place, and in spite of all drawbacks I had a very decent time. Whilst with the hospital I had a Reigate visitor in the person of the Rev. Mounsey, who is now, I believe, somewhere in Mesopotamia. We had a pleasant chat for nearly an hour concerning Reigate news. I left Mudros with the hospital on the 24th January this year for Egypt, and on arrival there your humble and a great many more were struck off the hospital staff and sent to a detail camp a few miles outside Alexandria. I was nearly seven weeks there before I became attached to a unit somewhere on the Suez Canal. Whilst at the detail camp I met three boys from the town, amongst whom was young Berry, of Redhill, who, I see from the SURREY MIRROR, has gone "west" during the Big Push in France. After a stay with the unit I have just mentioned, of about five weeks, I became temporarily attached to the military foot police, and am still somewhere on the Canal. For nearly six months I have been doing duty in a fairly large one town, but things haven't been all honey. I have been in a few rough jobs, but since the departure of —— we have had it fairly easy. Here I have met several Reigate boys, the first being young

R.F.A.

WOUNDED.

46280 Gnr. W. Gibbs (Carshalton).

ROYAL WEST SURREY REGIMENT.

KILLED.

4791 Pte H. H. Peters (Dorking); 5895 Pte C. Kemp (Guildford); 6813 Pte G. Luff (Brockham); 4490 Pte W. A. Richardson (Redhill); 5929 Pte W. Wells (Farnham).

DIED OF WOUNDS.

6944 Pte F. Arthur (Epsom).

WOUNDED.

198 Pte A. Weller (Reigate).

EAST SURREY REGIMENT.

KILLED.

2515 Pte W. Budgen (Horley); 2043 Corpl. E. Friday (Epsom).

ROYAL FUSILIERS.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED WOUNDED, NOW REPORTED WOUNDED AND MISSING.

27944 Pte B. J. Hearn (Redhill).

K.R.R.C.

MISSING.

7819 Rfmn. S. Wood (Redhill).

RIFLE BRIGADE.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

3039 Sergt. E. A. Wyeth (Great Bookham).

DORKING.

CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY. — Anniversary services were held at the Strict Baptist Chapel, Dorking, at the rear of High-street, on Wednesday in last week. The preacher morning and evening was Mr. J. Kemp, of Biddenden, and Mr. H. Hayler, of Brighton, in the afternoon. The services were well attended, many friends coming from neighbouring towns. The discourses of both ministers were listened to with great interest. Luncheon and tea were provided, and many thanks are due

Surrey Mirror 10 October 1916

Surrey Mirror 3 April 1936: Thirty Years in Borough Police

It was reported at Reigate Town Council on Monday that PC JJ Robertson had been granted permission to retire on pension as from Thursday April 2nd. PC Robertson has been a member of the Reigate Borough Police Force for thirty years when he retired yesterday. A native of Hamilton Scotland "Jock" Robertson as he was widely known joined the Force in 1906. I June 1915 he enlisted in the RAMC and served until June 1919.

In 1931he was congratulated by the Chief Constable (Mr WH Beacher) upon his attention to an inmate of Farmfield Institution and during the same year he was commended by the Chief Constable for his action in regard to a larceny case.

His long Service and efficiency were rewarded by receipt of pay increments. These are made under the regulations after 17 and 22 years service.

Jock's son, not a police officer, was to serve as a pilot in the RAFVR during the Second World War

Surrey Mirror 28 July 1944 Herbert Robertson: News has come to hand that Herbert James Robertson, only son of Mr and Mrs "Jock" Robertson of 11, Brambletye Park Road, Redhill who has been training with the RAF in South Africa has been awarded his "wings" and promoted to the rank of Sergeant-Pilot. Son of a popular member of the one-time Borough Police Force, who came out of his well-earned retirement on the outbreak of war and donned the blue uniform again.

Herbert Robertson was educated at St-John's School, Reigate attending the latter for five years. In the early stages of the war he worked in a war factory but the moment he was de-reserved he volunteered for service, and was accepted into the RAFVR, in August 1942. After about a year in this country he went to South Africa under the Empire Air Training Scheme and on receiving his "wings" he had been posted to another station in South Africa.

While training out there he met quite by chance, one of his father's younger colleagues of the local police force PC Parsons, who formerly worked in the office of the late Chief Inspector Ash. He heard to from another Reigate policeman PC Jenkins, who like PC Parsons was doing his air training.

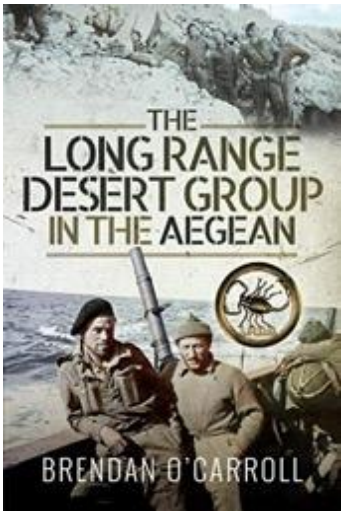
Sergeant Pilot Robertson has not been so remote from his home ties as some of his fellow trainees for has relatives in South Africa, with whom he has been able to spend his leaves.

Book reviews

The Long Range Desert Group in the Aegean

Author Brendan O'Carroll

Brendan O'Carroll lives in Auckland, New Zealand and recently retired from the New Zealand Customs Service. With a long-time interest in military history, the Long Range Desert Group has become his speciality. He has interviewed over 30 veterans while writing 'The Kiwi Scorpions: The Story of the New Zealanders in the LRDG' (2000), 'Bearded Brigands' (2002) and 'Barce Raid: The LRDG's Most Daring Exploit in World War Two' (2005). This book is his first under the Pen and Sword Military imprint. He has numerous other published works and articles to his credit. In 2006 his work was recognised by awards from the New Zealand Military Historical Society



Date Published: December 2020
Pen and Sword
16 black and white illustrations
Binding: Hardback
ISBN: 9781526777379

Shortly after the invasion of Sicily and to distract German attention from the Italian campaign, Churchill ordered the occupation of the Dodecanese Islands in the Aegean.

The Long Range Desert Group, retraining in Lebanon, were now part of Raiding Forces,

Middle East, along with the Special Boat Service and No 30 Commando. In support of 3,000 regulars in 234 Brigade, the LRDG landed covertly on Leros establishing observation posts, reporting movement of enemy shipping and aircraft.

In October the LRDG were ordered to assault the island of Levitha losing forty highly skilled men killed or captured. The Germans invaded Leros with overwhelming force on 12 November 1943, five days later the battle was over. While many British troops were captured most of the LRDG and SBS escaped. Their individual stories make for enthralling reading.

A measure of the intensity of the fighting is the fact that the LRDG lost more men in three months in the Aegean than in three years in the desert operating behind enemy lines.

The author, an acknowledged expert on the LRDG uses official sources, both British and German, and individual accounts to piece together the full story of this dramatic, costly but little-known campaign. It is a valuable addition to the history of special forces in the Second World War.

Review

For those of us who have a long interest in the LRDG, their deployment in the Aegean after the Germans were driven from North Africa has always been difficult to understand. The British involvement in the fight for the islands in the Aegean at this time remains perplexing. The move was not supported by our Allies but Churchill insisted that the British and Empire troops would go it alone. Another of Churchill's follies? Was it a side show detracting from the main attack on Italy?

The LRDG were high quality, special forces operators who had spent most of their war so far, discreetly in the background, slipping in and out through enemy lines, navigating, recording, watching; leaving most of the rough and tumble of the secret war in the desert to the SAS once they were formed. The war in North Africa came to an end and it was decided that there was still a role for long range reconnaissance. To watch and wait. To go where the enemy was and watch over them, radioing back dispositions and activity. From 1,000-mile vehicle journeys to silent landings, carrying full kit and military stores to an OP up in the mountains or on cliff tops. This took a new skill set for those LRDG troopers who were up to the challenge of special forces training including for many, parachuting. Others were unable to make the transition and reverted to their parent regiments. The newly trained unit retaining their name LRDG, deployed into specialist roles, miles from the desert, but at times unfortunately deployed contrary to military doctrine, sustaining significant casualties and losses.

Brendon O'Carroll is the "go to man" for the history of the LRDG particularly the New Zealand contribution, which of course was significant. Not unexpectedly given his level of contacts, some material has come from LRDG Associations in New Zealand and Britain, supported by many interviews with veterans over the years. Most are now dead. O'Carroll acknowledges guidance on the Aegean battles from Anthony Rogers the author of a number of works on this

aspect of the Second World War. Though a specialist on the role of the New Zealanders, O'Carroll found that the Patrols and nationalities became so mixed during the fighting on the Dodecanes, he decided to write a comprehensive, inclusive study. That was an excellent decision.

British forces began to occupy the Dodecanes Islands in the Aegean Sea between Greece and Turkey. Churchill believed it was "an immense but fleeting opportunity" cabling senior officers "This is a time to play high. Improvise and dare." This became Operation Accolade, to tie down German forces in the eastern Mediterranean whilst the invasions of Sicily and Italy got underway. The islands were occupied by Italian troops and it was hoped they would work with the Allies against the Germans. The large strategic gamble that the occupation of the islands might provide encouragement for Turkey to join the war. A route to the Balkans via the Dardanelles; memories of Gallipoli!

The 200 men of the LRDG received their orders in September 1943 as a part of the Raiding Forces, Middle East which included 150 men of the Special Boat Service and 30 Commandos. These were to support the 3,000 regular troops of 234 Brigade who were holding the islands. On Leros there were 5,000 Italian army and navy personnel who it was believed would support British activities. Five LRDG patrols were to set up OPs at coastal battery positions on Leros whilst others set up watches on outlying islands astride the sea and air routes. The plan was to stiffen the resistance of their new Italian allies. However, on some of the islands there were German ground forces so covert activities remained vital.

This therefore is the ground covered by this comprehensively researched and detailed work that is a significant contribution to the history of the LRDG. It is a must for anyone interested in Second World War special forces. This is another part the extraordinary story of the men of the LRDG that proved their adaptability to the extremes of covert, desert operations and later small-scale reconnaissance and raiding.

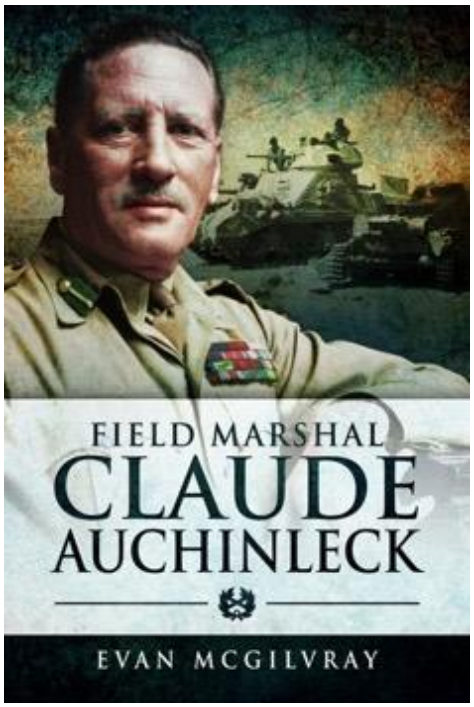
The tragedy was that the LRDG lost more men in one day on a small Greek island than in three years of reconnaissance and combat behind enemy lines. These losses resulted in the New Zealand government withdrawing their troops from the LRDG, disbanding "A" Squadron, leading to loss of capability requiring further Aegean raids to be undertaken by the SBS and the Greek Sacred Squadron. The remainder of the LRDG re-configured and underwent special forces training before deployment. The new base for the still named LRDG, was Bari, working initially in OPs behind the lines in Italy, Yugoslavia, Albania and Greece. Proud owners of two large fishing vessels capable of moving men and stores to drop off and pick up points on the coast. The LRDG with its own navy still operating their own WACO aircraft. In June 1945 the LRDG were ordered back to the UK to train for operations against the Japanese but following surrender it was decreed that the Group would be disbanded; ceasing to exist after 5 years and 14 days.

The author uses extracts from the LRDG Association Newsletters and the LRDG war diaries. There must be many people who would wish to be able to access published versions of these incredible archives.

Brendon O'Carroll has written an excellent book adding a detailed chapter to the extraordinary history of the men of the LRDG. He has clarified how and why the LRDG came to be deployed in their new role, their training and preparations have clearly been established. This is very useful and aids understanding of not so much a change of role but a need to develop new techniques of surveillance to establish sea and air watch. The book is highly recommended and all the detail contained in the work is dependable, given the extensive knowledge and research of the author. For him it is a labour of love and that is obvious.

Field Marshal Claude Auchinleck

By Evan McGilvray
Imprint: Pen & Sword Military
Pages: 264
Illustrations: 16
ISBN: 9781526716101
Published: 7th August 2020



Evan McGilvray specializes in 20th century military history. His previous works include Hamilton & Gallipoli: British Command in an Age of Military Transformation (2015), Ander's Army: General Wladislaw Anders and the Polish Second

Corps 1941-1946 (2018), and Poland and the Second World War 1938-48 (2019). He lives in Leeds, Yorkshire.

Synopsis

Field Marshal Claude Auchinleck is a study not only of the individual but also of how the British Army, Indian Army and the Empire were transformed during his long military career. Auchinleck was commissioned into the Indian Army from 1904 and served with distinction against the Turks in Egypt and the Mesopotamian campaign, earning a DSO. Between the wars he was involved in the pacification of the Northwest Frontier (now Pakistan).

In the Second World War he briefly led a division in the ill-fated Norway campaign before being appointed Commander-in-Chief, India. He is best remembered for his controversial stint in command in North Africa, where he replaced Wavell in July 1941. He halted Rommel at the First Battle of El Alamein but was then replaced by Montgomery and resumed as C-in-C India, where his logistical support for Fourteenth Army was vital to success in Burma. Post-war he planned and oversaw Partition and British withdrawal from India. Here, as in North Africa, interference from his political masters added to the burdens of command. Evan McGilvray appraises Auchinleck's long and varied career in its entirety.

Review[17]

The author is a practised military historian with a number of published books concentrating mainly on the activities of the Polish military during the Second World War. A biography of Auchinleck is therefore a change of direction but there are no clues why McGilvray chose this particular subject. However, it is easily argued that Auchinleck was one of the great men of the Second World War was has possibly not received the attention he deserves. So, who was Field Marshall Sir Claude John Eyre Auchinleck? (21 June 1884 – 23 March 1981)

One of the great commanders listed on the National Army Museum website with his papers deposited at the University of Manchester, Library. Shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War, Auchinleck was recalled from India to England to form, train and command 4th Corps in readiness for the war in France. Allied operations in Norway were going badly and in May 1940 Auchinleck was appointed commander, (the youngest Lt General in the Indian Army) of the Anglo-French land and air forces in the north of the country. He did not have a chance to exert his authority as a commander as the whole concept of the operation was flawed and set on a course before his arrival in theatre. Unsurprisingly, the Norwegian campaign, a Churchill folly, went very badly and along with Dunkerque led to evacuation with the loss of men and equipment.

[17] University of Manchester, Library https://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/about/search/?client=Library&site=Library&output=xml_no_dtd&proxystylesheet=Library&sort=date%3AD%3AL%3Ad1&ie=latin1&numgm=5&oe=UTF8&proxyreload=0&q=Auchinleck#stq=Auchinleck

In July 1940 Auchinleck was appointed General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, a key role planning coastal defences against the expected German invasion In November 1940, when the immediate threat of invasion had receded, Auchinleck was promoted to full General and appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army. He soon impressed Churchill by dispatching a force to help put down the rebellion of Rashid Ali al-Gaylani in Iraq. His area of operations and responsibility was vast. After only six months Auchinleck was transferred again, this time to replace General Archibald Wavell as Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, in the wake of the failure of the 'Battleaxe' offensive in the Western Desert and the advance of the Axis forces under Field Marshal Rommel. Early gains at Rommel's expense in the 'Crusader' offensive were quickly reversed during the first half of 1942, and Auchinleck's forces suffered a series of defeats, culminating in the loss of Tobruk in June 1942.

In the immediate aftermath of this disaster Auchinleck removed Lt.-Gen. Neil Ritchie as Commander of the 8th Army and assumed direct control himself. He succeeded in stabilizing the defensive line in the First Battle of El Alamein in July. Auchinleck was continually urged by Churchill to take early offensive but he would not be “bullied” into action, requiring time to train and re-equip. Despite halting the Axis advance, Auchinleck was dismissed in August 1942 and replaced as Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, by General Alexander, with Lt.-Gen. Bernard Montgomery appointed Commander of the 8th Army.

The speed and manner of his removal shocked Auchinleck and his supporters; the sense of injustice which was compounded by Montgomery's criticisms of his predecessor particularly in his memoirs published after the war. Auchinleck and Montgomery had failed to agree on almost every point of policy whilst in the UK post Dunkerque. Many see the decision to sack Auchinleck as unjust. Declaring him a failure seems unforgiveable. As Churchill said when he had to sack him, “like shooting a magnificent stag”. Some historians believe that the more senior he became the better general he was though much if this may be no more complicated than the gaining experience and senior followers. Correlli Barnet in his book “Desert Generals” describes Auchinleck’s contribution in the desert war and in particular on 17 July 1942:

> Auchinleck had won a historic battle. (The first Battle of El Alamein) It had been desperate, difficult and gallant as Wellington’s repulse of Napoleon at Waterloo -----. Nevertheless, Auchinleck had saved the Middle East --.

Auchinleck returned to India in August 1942, and in June 1943, was appointed Commander-in-Chief, India, for a second time. Auchinleck played a vital role as War Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council and as commander of the main staging-area for operations against the Japanese in Burma. William Slim, commander of the Fourteenth Army was later to write:

> It was a good day for us when he (Auchinleck) took command of India, our main base, recruiting area and training ground. The Fourteenth Army, from its birth to its final victory, owed much to his unselfish support and never-failing understanding. Without him and what he and the Army of India did for us we could not have existed, let alone conquered.

His background and prestige within the Indian Army were immensely useful in mobilizing enormous numbers of troops and supplies for service in both the European and Far East theatres of war. In June 1946 he was nominated Field Marshal in recognition of his wartime service.

Following the defeat of Japan, Auchinleck's last years in India were spent preparing the country's armed forces for the constitutional process of transferring power from Britain, which led to the formation of the independent states of India and Pakistan. When he realised that partition was inevitable, he worked tirelessly to ensure an orderly and equitable division of personnel, equipment and facilities, despite the worsening political situation and criticism by Indian nationalist leaders of his being biased towards Pakistan.

His hopes of completing the task were frustrated when Mountbatten, under pressure from local politicians and the British Government, brought forward the date of independence to 15 August 1947. Lord Louis Mountbatten was described by Lord Alanbrook as "quite irresponsible, suffers from the most desperate illogical brain, always producing red herrings." A difficult man to work with over such complex issues as the independence of India and the separation of Pakistan. Yet he did with his reputation enhanced.

Auchinleck stayed on as Supreme Commander of the two Dominions' armies for a short period, but in November 1947 his headquarters as Supreme Commander were closed and he left India before his work was fully done. He refused the offer of a peerage, despairing at the tragic events of Partition. At the end of 1967 he moved to Marrakesh, Morocco, where he died of influenza on 23 March 1981.

Philip Warner in John Keegan's work "Churchill's Generals" describes Auchinleck as:

> "one of the most capable generals of the Second World War but through a combination of misfortune was unable to stay to the end at the operational centres where the ultimate accolades were to be won. --- He was faced with virtually impossible tasks and then, having failed to complete them to Churchill's satisfaction he was moved out to what appeared to be a backwater appointment, that of C in C India. --- His presence in this post had a greater effect on the outcome of the war ---- he mobilised the resources of the sub-continent with great skill ---."

Philip Warner believes Auchinleck was a complete professional and highly talented. He would not compromise his principles or adopt methods which appeared to him to be dishonest. He lived and died according to his own code of honour.

McGilvray's book covers from cradle (and before) to grave encapsulating the extraordinary times of the first 50 years of the 20th century. The impact Auchinleck had on these events and they on him. It is a thoroughly researched work, the first biography of the Field Marshall for some years in a field not crowded with references. The author appears to lose his way when he strays from the main subject. The balance is not there to refer to Chamberlain's supporters as a "near traitorous clique", "effete British upper classes", being more "concerned with

Bolshevik threat from the Soviet Union as it threatened their way of life" while they "considered that Nazi Germany could well be beneficial to them." "So many of the political elites in the UK could not be trusted owing to their pro-German sympathies. Churchill would sort this group out and have them imprisoned. It takes character to imprison your friends to preserve one's country from a foe."

This start to chapter five is concerning in that it is all too simplistic, taking no account of the nuances, pressures and realities of politics of the 1930s. And who of Churchill's friends were imprisoned? It would be interesting to learn who of Churchill's friend were locked up. Mosely or Mosely supporters were hardly friends of Churchill? For all his authority imprisonment was not a power he exercised though habeas corpus was suspended and internment introduced by Parliament.

This is a very readable book, fully researched and well written. It is also a manageable size with about 230 pages of text as opposed to the 700-page biography blockbusters that are the current fashion. Auchinleck had a greater impact on the war than is recognised (he turned down a peerage) but as an individual he was more suited and therefore happier in his very senior roles in India and later Pakistan. Auchinleck's contribution to the defeat of the enemy in the Far East was significant and for this he will be remembered.

Commando

Memoirs of a Fighting Commando in World War Two

By Brigadier John Durnford-Slater
Greenhill Books
Pages: 240 - paperback

Illustrations: 32 black and white
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Synopsis

Commando is the real and exciting story of one of the most important units of World War II. The Commando units played an important role in Britain's successes and, here, Durnford-Slater gives his first-hand and unique point of view on everything that happened. Brigadier Durnford-Slater raised and trained the first Commando unit in 1940, and Commando tells the brilliant story of an outstanding leader and some of the most courageous exploits of the Second World War.

In 1940, 3 Commando was created to harry opposition forces in raids impossible for regular army units. Durnford-Slater led No. 3 Commando on an exploratory operation in Guernsey in summer 1940, and never looked back after that. From there, No. 3 Commando orchestrated raids on the Loften Islands and Vaagso in Norway and Dieppe, as well as operations in Sicily, Italy, France and Germany.

The commandos were so effective at creating destruction that Hitler personally ordered that all fighters captured during these missions be executed. Despite this immense threat, the commandos' spirit remained undented and extremely high. This excellent, first-hand account explains the creation of Commando, the nature of their operations, the high level of camaraderie between the men and the effect that they had on the course of the War. It is an exciting and instructive guide to what really went on with Commando.

Review

The book was first published in 1953 and several times since with this 2020 version based on the 1991 edition. For each generation of those with an interest in military history this is a seminal work. A must read. Police officers with an interest in their past, will learn of the large numbers of their predecessors who met the challenge and served in this very early special forces' unit.

It reads as a good old fashioned "Boy's Own" tale of risk and adventure establishing the Commando role as "the fighting and killing force we were intended to be." An expressed view of the colonel more bluntly put than his modern contemporaries would, "– the balance sheet made pleasant reading for me. We had killed 120 of the enemy and brought back 98 prisoners ---. Our casualties were reasonably light. Two ratings killed and two officers and four ratings wounded was the navy toll. Two officers and fifteen other ranks killed and five officers and forty-eight other ranks wounded was the military total. --- No 3 Commando had proved its worth as a raiding unit. The battle of Vaagso had been won against first class opposition by the utter ruthlessness and complete professional competence of our officers and men. They stopped for nothing." Nor does the book. It is so well written and such an adventure (for those that came

away unscathed) that moves speedily from campaign to campaign. Written in another age, 1953, reflecting values and bravura of a writing style of that time.

In 1940, shortly after the disaster at Dunkirk, the British Army commenced the formation of the Commando units. With Winston Churchill's enthusiastic blessing, volunteers were called for, men of "the hunter class", ...to form special raiding companies that would harass the German occupation forces in Europe. Volunteers were already serving in the army, to be the sort of men who had exceptional initiative, physical-fitness, and tenacity. This was a significant step in establishing modern military special forces, the Commandos' influence in that field still evident 70 years later. Durnford-Slater volunteered and was made commander of 3 Commando, the first such unit to be raised and Dunford-Slater's job was to recruit suitable men and train them for specialised operations.

As a prototype unit, many of the necessary skills had to be learned from scratch. There was a heavy emphasis on using boats and rock climbing to enable seaborn assaults. The standards were extremely high and many officers and men failed aspects of the demanding training and were returned to their units.

The first action was an abortive raid on Guernsey. Slater made a great point of learning from mistakes and the following actions in Norway at the Lofoten Islands and Vaagso were highly successful. The unit participated in the less successful Dieppe raid. There were then several significant battles in Sicily. Durnford-Slater is promoted to Brigadier and commanded a Commando brigade in Italy, with a particularly severe action at Termoli. He concludes his war as second in command of Commando forces in the invasion of Normandy and continues in this role to VE-Day.

Despite his rank Durnford-Slater takes a leading role in operations on the ground. The battles were bitter affairs as they frequently encountered first-class German units. While he does write of his personal deeds, most of these concern command matters. Indeed, the key value of this book, is Durnford-Slater's perspective on forming a commando unit and refining its techniques. His narrative is liberally furnished with anecdotes and reminiscences, both humorous and tragic, of the many exceptional and gallant men who served under his command.

What an epic tale told at a pace, of courage and determination establishing the very highest standards for all future special forces to follow.

But what of the involvement of the police. From the start, former police officers were selected for the Commandos with the early “policing of No3” by former police officers now ruling with practices learnt on a Saturday night on the town. Most infractions were dealt with by the Commando police without the need for paperwork, reports or appearance before the colonel. It worked well, along with tight selection, reinforcing high standards of behaviour both on and off duty.

Police officers serving in Army Commando units

By the spring of 1941 though policing remained a reserved occupation a limited number of men of a certain age were encouraged to apply for aircrew duties with the RAF and Fleet Air Arm. Within a few days volunteers came forward from across the country with 4,000 applications by Metropolitan Police officers resulting in 800 regular officers leaving that force alone in the course of 1941.[18] Many were to go to Bomber Command with some to Fighter Command with the numbers listed on Rolls of Honour including Surrey Constabulary show how dangerous such postings were.

By 1942 the threat of invasion had receded, air raids had decreased and a decision was made to release some 7,000 young volunteers from the police for duty in the armed forces, not especially air crew. As a result, all regular police officers under 25 and auxiliaries under 30 subsequently raised to 30 and 35 respectively were "de-reserved". [19]

(278 members of the police were killed as a result of enemy action whilst with their Forces and 1275 police officers died serving with HM Forces.)

No. 4 Commando's part in the Dieppe raid on 19th August 1942 was to knock out the Gun Battery at Varengeville. Their success became a training book example of how to assault a static gun emplacement. Charismatic Commando leader Lt. Colonel The Lord Lovat was the C.O. and No 4's Major Pat Porteus was awarded the Victoria Cross for his part in the operation.

The Commando Veterans website raises the number of policemen who became Commandos. [20]

> "Losses at Dieppe were replaced by a fine entry of former police officers who were to win many Commandos' respect for the high quality of men enlisted."

There is further evidence from Brigadier John Durnford-Slater DSO and Bar, No 3 Commando. In "Commando" he writes of the losses at Dieppe and replacements arriving.

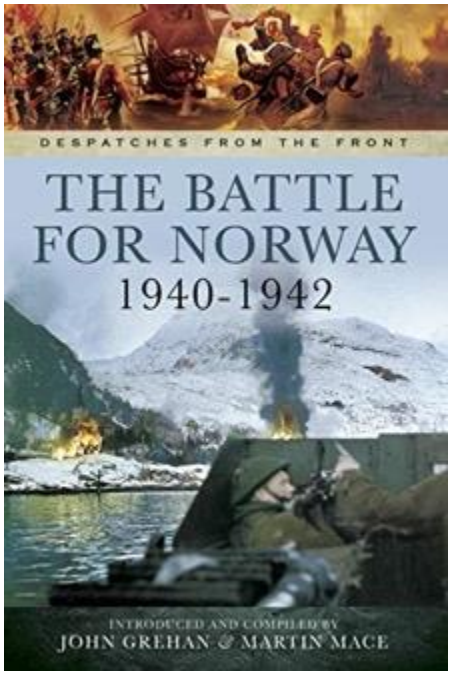
> "By this time the Commando depot at Achnacarry, Scotland was a very live place under the direction of Colonel Charles Vaughan, a tough guardsman. Charles at once set about the task of providing the necessary officers and men to bring us up to strength. He was in a particularly good position to do this, as he had just finished training a batch of 600 volunteers from the police.
>
> This intake of police was perfect Commando material. The men were big, strong and intelligent and had all their police discipline and training behind them. They were real volunteers keen for the contest. I had 120 of them posted to No 3 Commando. This was

[18] The Gentlemen at War Policing Britain 1939-1945" Roy Ingleton page 29
[19] The Gentlemen at War Policing Britain 1939-1945" Roy Ingleton page 30
[20] http://www.commandoveterans.org/

the best single intake we ever received, and every man was a potential leader; many of course were later commissioned and others exerted a fine influence as senior NCOs."[21]

The Battle for Norway, 1940–1942 (Despatches from the Front)

[21] "Commando. Memoirs of a fighting Commando in World War Two" Durnford-Slater page 109



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About John Grehan: John Grehan has written, edited or contributed to more than 300 books and magazine articles covering a wide span of military history from the Iron Age to the recent conflict in Afghanistan. John has also appeared on local and national radio and television to advise on military history topics. He was employed as the Assistant Editor of *Britain at War* Magazine from its inception until 2014. John now devotes his time to writing and editing books.

About Martin Mace: Martin Mace has been involved in writing and publishing military history for more than twenty years. He began his career with local history, writing a book on the Second World War anti-invasion defences and stop lines in West Sussex. In 2006 he began working on the idea for Britain at War Magazine. This publication has grown rapidly to become the best-selling military history periodical.

Synopsis

Despatches in this volume include that on the first and second battles of Narvik in 1940; the despatch on operations in central Norway 1940, by Lieutenant General H.R.S. Massy, Commander-in-Chief, North West Expeditionary Force; Despatch on operations in Northern Norway between April and June 1940; the despatch on carrier-borne aircraft attacks on Kirkenes (Norway) and Petsamo (Finland) in 1941, by Admiral Sir John C. Tovey; the despatch on the raid on military and economic objectives in the Lofoten Islands (Norway) in March 1941, by Admiral Sir John C. Tovey, Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet; and the despatch on the raid on military and economic objectives in the vicinity of Vaagso Island (Norway) in December 1941, by Admiral Sir John C. Tovey. This unique collection of original documents

will prove to be an invaluable resource for historians, students and all those interested in what was one of the most significant periods in British military history.

Review

This is a collection of military (including Generals Aukinlech and Mackesy) and naval despatches covering the entire Norwegian campaign, making it an invaluable compilation for historians and researchers. It is part of a series of books by the same compilers who published seminal research documents covering events from the Napoleonic Wars to the BEF in France. This work provides a consolidated resource for any reader or researcher of the war in Norway from April 1940 until December 1940. Each despatch is reprinted in its original format, and as such, they contain a wealth of detail, including some orders of battle and casualty figures.

This is the first time these documents have been easily available for the general reader and hopefully the detail will stimulate or consolidate interest in this controversial operation. The work is recommended to anyone interested in the Second World War at senior level as an extremely useful collection of primary sources.