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

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www.surrey-constabulary.com

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Believed to be a very early photograph of PC77 a member of the Surrey Constabulary. The helmet is known as coxcomb and was the style worn by the Surrey Constabulary after 1862. It is difficult to make out what is on the left sleeve. It is not certain if the Surrey Constabulary ever wore duty bands. The photograph was taken by a photographer in Guilford.

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Surrey Constabulary Badges and Helmet Plates

A Hard Job as Police Sergeant James Bishop well knew after a lifetime of service

Police officers may frequently rail against their chosen career but one thing it was not, predictable. The following was recently found in "Hard Times" written by Charles Dickens a great supporter of the early Metropolitan Police.

> It contained several large streets all very like one another, and many small streets still more like one another, inhabited by people equally like one another, who all went in and out at the same hours, with the same sound upon the same pavements, to do the same work, and to whom every day was the same as yesterday and to-morrow, and every year the counterpart of the last and the next.

Boring it may not have been but dangerous it could be.

Police Sergeant James Bishop
Surrey Constabulary 1856-1884
B 1833 Oxfordshire – D 1900 Caterham

Badly Beaten by Poachers and forced into retirement

Family History from Henry and Jean Pelham

Parents: Robert Bishop (Father) and Elizabeth (Mother)
Married: 1859 to Celia Comford in Godstone

1841 Census: Living with parents, aged 7, brother and sisters, Elizabeth aged 3, John aged 2 and Hannah aged 1. Living in Oxford.

1851 Census:

1861 Census: Living Harriet Cottage, Cottage on Common, Chelsham, Godstone, Surrey, with James Comford – Head aged 45, Susan L Comford aged 52, W Comford – Nephew aged 26, James Bishop – Lodger occupation Police Constable, Celia Bishop – Lodger aged 32 wife, James R aged 1 son and Hannah aged O daughter.

1871 Census: Living Prospect Cottage, Capel, Dorking, Surrey with wife Celia, and children – Priscilla, Elizabeth, Francis, Alfred, Lucy E Comford – Sister-in-Law. Occupation Police Sergeant.

1881 Census: Living – Cottage, Caterham, Surrey, With Celia his wife and children. Occupation – Police Sergeant.

1891 Census: Living – Cross Road, Caterham, Surrey with wife Celia and daughter Minnie. Occupation Retired Police Sergeant.

1900: Death recorded James Bishop aged 66 in the December quarter of 1900 registered in the Godstone registration district

1901 Census: Celia is listed as a widow

Surrey History Centre Archive June 2014

A search has been made in the census and death records available on the family history website Ancestry and it appears likely that the sergeant who was attacked in Chelsham in 1884 was not the same man who was reported as dying in 1908.

In the 1881 census there is a James Bishop, police sergeant living in Caterham, born in Oxfordshire, aged 47, living with his wife, Celia, and six children. In the 1891 census he is listed as a retired police sergeant. I am assuming this was the Sergeant James Bishop who was so brutally attacked. In the next census for 1901 Celia is listed as a widow and a subsequent search of the General Register Office index of deaths found an entry for James Bishop aged 66 in the December quarter of 1900 registered in the Godstone registration district, which includes Caterham.

The defaulters (appointment) register do not give dates of death for the police listed, the last entry is when they left the force. The only James Bishop found is listed in the first volume we hold, for 1851-1866 (9152/1/2/1/1) and the place of birth and age tally with the information given in the census, as do the places he served. James joined the force in 1856 aged 23 and was promoted to Sergeant in 1865. His date of removal from the force was on 1 April 1885.

Press cuttings

1866 July 16 Surrey Advertiser: Cattle Plague: Matthew Napper, Holmwood, Dorking farmer, was summoned for de-pasturing a cow and calf in the Holmwood Common without a licence by one of the magistrates for that purpose but did not attend. PC (sic) Sergeant Bishop[1]proved the offence. Ordered to pay a penalty of £5 and 12s 6d.
Edward Tullett, Holmwood, victualler was charged with a like offence which was proved by PC Sergeant Bishop. The defendant tried to excuse himself by saying the cattle got out and were on the common by accident but the constable stated that he saw the defendant turn them out. Fined 2s and costs.

[1] The rank of sergeant was new and this obviously confused the reporter

1866 August 11: Surrey Advertiser: This is not the same offence as reported above 16 July 1866. This report has PC Bishop (in the same report Sergeant Bishop) giving evidence that he saw the animals twenty yards from the turnpike road at Holmwood. He spoke to Matthew Napper who was abusive towards him. Superintendent Page said Napper admitted to him that they were his animals. Fined £5 and 12s 6d costs, again.

1866 December 29: Dorking Sessions: John Ansell of Coldharbour a labourer charged with stealing ten turnips. He was stopped by PC Bishop Surrey Constabulary and found to be in possession of the turnips. Cautioned because of previous good character and released by the court.[2]

1867 December 3: Reigate County Bench: George Charman of Betchworth a labourer was summoned for being on certain lands at Betchworth **with a gun in pursuit of game** on the 14th November. Police Sergeant 5 Bishop Surrey Constabulary stationed at Holmwood said he was at **Brockenhurst in the parish of Betchworth** about half past ten at night when he heard the report of a gun. He waited and Charman and another man came out and when they saw him the two men ran off. The officer ran after Charman and stopped him and on searching him found a gun that had recently been discharged. Policeman Argant stationed at Leigh corroborated the evidence. As it was a first offence a mitigated penalty of 10s would be imposed and 15s costs or 7 days.[3]

1869 August 21 West Surrey Times: William Dowland, of Dorking, a labourer, was charged with being drunk and riotous behaviour at Capel on the 4 July last. PC Potter heard the defendant and four or five others at about half past twelve at night making a terrible noise, singing, swearing and blowing a whistle. He and Sergeant Bishop turned their light upon the men and Potter took hold of the defendant but having at the same time two of the others in custody, the defendant made his escape. Sergeant Bishop corroborated the evidence. The defendant said he could prove he was elsewhere but produced no evidence. The Bench were satisfied that the defendant was one of the party the others of which had been sentenced to seven days in the House of Correction. The defendant had at the last bench been convicted of furious driving and leniently dealt with and on the following morning he was found with others in a drunken and riotous state, and evidently a desperate row would have occurred if the police had not been on the alert. £5 and 13s 6d costs or two months in default. He was removed as the penalty was not paid.

1870 August 13: Dorking County Bench: Edward Mayheir (?) of Coldharbour was summoned for ill-treating a horse but did not attend the court when Police Sergeant Bishop proved the case and a warrant was issued.[4]

[2] 1866 December 29 Surrey Advertiser
[3] 1867 December 3: The Sussex Express, Surrey Standard Weald of Kent Mail, Hants and County Advertiser
[4] 1870 August 13: The Surrey Advertiser and County Gazette

1870 October 8 Surrey Advertiser: James Farebrother, Josh Farebrother, Solomon Farebrother and George Brooker of the Holmwood were charged by Police Sergeant Bishop with being drunk and riotous near the Norfolk Arms at the Holmwood on 21 September. They pleaded guilty and were fined 5s each and 18s 6d costs to be divided between them.

1870 October 8 Surrey Advertiser: William Jenner, Peter Ede and William Finch labourers were charged by Sergeant Bishop with being drunk and riotous in front of the Plough Inn at Blackbrook at one o'clock on Sunday morning the 25 ult. They were drunk and fighting amongst themselves. Fined 5s and costs.

1873 October 4 Surrey Advertiser: Charge of stealing a goose: Thomas Ede of Holmwood was charged on remand with stealing a live goose the property of John Turner of Capel a brewer. The prosecutor bought 22 geese and four of them strayed. Three were subsequently found and on the 20 September, he went to the Fox at Norwood Hill where he identified a goose as his. The landlord bought the goose at the Norfolk Arms, Holmwood for 4s 3d. Sergeant Bishop went after the prisoner who had gone to Kent hop picking. On the appearance of the officer at the hop field the defendant ran away but was captured. He pleaded guilty and sentenced to a month's hard labour at Wandsworth.

1875 October 9 Surrey Advertiser: Too much beer again: Clement Gough for on 31 August drunk whilst driving a horse and cart at Newdigate. Case proved by Police Sergeant Bishop and PC BH Knight. Fined £1 and 13s 6d costs. A previous conviction was proved against the defendant.

1878 June 8: Surrey Advertiser: Dorking: Walter Goff a person of independent means possessing considerable property in this parish and residing at Sunnyside, Holmwood appeared at the Magistrates' Clerk's office charged with being drunk and disorderly and threatening bodily harm to Samuel Beagland and others. PC Fuller during the previous evening went with Police Sergeant Bishop to Wimbledon Cottage, Holmwood where he found the prisoner drunk and in an excited state. Mrs and Miss Goff the wife and sister of the defendant complained he had been knocking and kicking them about, and that he had taken his sister to the pump and pumped some water on her. The police were called and they saw that the outer door had been smashed with extreme violence and a large plate glass window was also broken. Mr Goff was arrested and went quietly for about 150 yards when he began to struggle whereupon he was handcuffed he continued to say to the officers they were "dead men." Eventually he was taken to Dorking police station. Police Sergeant Bishop corroborated the evidence. In evidence Mr Beagland said he heard Miss Goff screeching "murder" as she came to the door of his house entreating him to save her. The prisoner rushed after his sister but was thrusted back and closing the door. He returned and with some tremendous blows with an immense sledgehammer broke the door down and came in forcing Beagland and his sister to make a hurried exit and run for their lives into a neighbour's house. He thought that if the prisoner had caught his sister, he would have killed her. The prisoner had acted almost as bad earlier that week during a mad drunken fit. The prisoner

declined to ask questions of the witnesses and said he would fix all the damage and that he did not have the slightest recollection of the damage.

He had been drinking cider and was not responsible for his actions. Miss Goff who was most respectably attired said she was not present to support the charge but to qualify some of the allegations against her brother who was much to be pitied having suffered great pain in his head and she asked on behalf of her aged father and herself that he be dealt with lightly. The Chairman reminded Miss Goff that he had only recently looked over some gross conduct of the prisoner in deference to the wishes of the family. Mr Beagland said protection from the prisoner's violence was essential. Miss Goff became excited and interrupted and was warned that she would be removed if she persisted. Sentenced to one month imprisonment with hard labour and at the expiration of that time to find two sureties for £10and further to be bound in his own recognisance of £20 to keep the peace for six months. The prisoner said he would never trouble the police or the magistrates again as he would take the pledge of total abstinence, adding that he bore no animosity against any person who had taken part in the case, he was then removed.

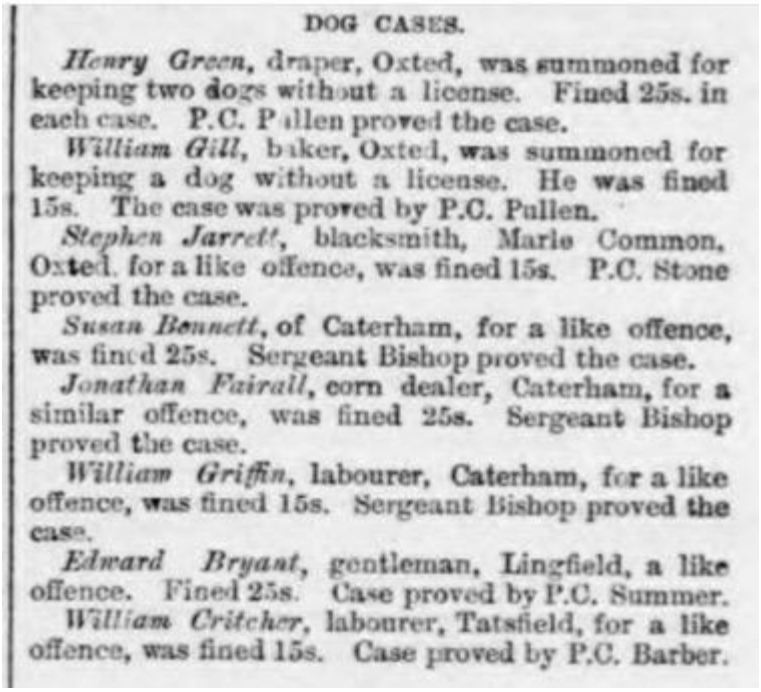
1880 October 30: Surrey Mirror: Marine Store dealing: At Godstone a store dealer was charged with having through his wife, purchased off William Barber a quantity of brass of less weight than 56ilbs. He pleaded guilty. Police Sergeant Bishop was a part of the investigation.

1881 Westcott: Frederick Broomer, a ragged little boy of 12 from Chapel Lane was accused of **stealing** 2½lb butter, 3lb currants, 1lb tea and a box of nightlights from Thomas Wood's van. Mrs Wilmott described how she was in her Summer House and saw him take things out of the van and give them to his sister, aged 5. PC Bishop made the arrest and after an altercation with Mrs Broomer, who struck him on the head with a copper stick, found the prisoner hiding in a bedroom between the mattress and the bed. Frederick was given 5 strokes with a birch rod, his mother was reprimanded and required to ensure that he attends school more regularly. [5]

1882 February 11 Surrey Mirror: A bad boy: Stephen Jones 15, and Rosina Jones 12, were charged with stealing 8ils of beef the property of George Ede at Caterham on the 2 February. The prisoners begged at Mr Ede's door and managed to get into the larder and take the beef whilst the girl watched outside. Police Sergeant Bishop apprehended the two and the girl admitted the boy stole the beef. The parents said the boy had been trouble since he was 9 years old. When he was eleven, he ran away and did not return for three years. He had been with the gipsies. He had now been home twelve months and gone away three times. Police Sergeant Bishop said the children were always begging in the neighbourhood but the father said it was never with his knowledge. He however admitted he ate a part of the beef. The girl was discharged and the boy sentenced to 14 days hard labour and five years confined to a reformatory.

[5] Terry Wooden Westcott Local History Society January 2012

1882 March 11 Surrey Mirror: Dog cases PC Pallen and Police Sergeant Bishop, PC Summer and PC Barber



DOG CASES.

Henry Green, draper, Oxted, was summoned for keeping two dogs without a license. Fined 25s. in each case. P.C. Pallen proved the case.

William Gill, baker, Oxted, was summoned for keeping a dog without a license. He was fined 15s. The case was proved by P.C. Pullen.

Stephen Jarrett, blacksmith, Marle Common, Oxted, for a like offence, was fined 15s. P.C. Stone proved the case.

Susan Bennett, of Caterham, for a like offence, was fined 25s. Sergeant Bishop proved the case.

Jonathan Fairall, corn dealer, Caterham, for a similar offence, was fined 25s. Sergeant Bishop proved the case.

William Griffin, labourer, Caterham, for a like offence, was fined 15s. Sergeant Bishop proved the case.

Edward Bryant, gentleman, Lingfield, a like offence. Fined 25s. Case proved by P.C. Summer.

William Critcher, labourer, Tatsfield, for a like offence, was fined 15s. Case proved by P.C. Barber.

1882 September 9: At Croydon bench a number of Metropolitan Police and Surrey Constabulary officers were presented with cash awards for their work in the **arrest of a gang** of burglars who committed their crimes at Whyteleafe. The money was a subscription from the residents of Caterham, Coulsdon and Whytleafe. After a trial at the Guildford assizes the gang were sentenced to 12 years penal servitude. There was a series of burglaries and officers of the Surrey Constabulary PC Richardson and Bishop were party to their detection and arrest.[6]

1882 December 23: Surrey Mirror: Licensing Business: An application was made for an extension of the license of the Railway Hotel, Caterham one evening last week. Superintendent Redford stated the house was badly conducted. The landlord had been heard shouting murder and, on the sergeant, enquiring what was the matter he asked the officer to feel his head, stating that the landlady had struck him there with a poker. Police Sergeant Bishop corroborated the statement. The landlord said he frequently had to seek shelter in the cellar from the violence of the landlady. The application was refused.

1884 February 25: Brutal attack on a Police Sergeant: The Croydon Police apprehended two notorious poachers named Charles Fairman and Eli Gambrell on a charge of murderously assaulting and robbing Police Sergeant Bishop of the Surrey Constabulary about seven miles from Croyden. The constable received two deep wounds in the back of his head, while his eyes were closed up and his cheek lay bare to the bone. He also recived a severe injury to his spine where he was kicked in his back. The unfortunate officer was on his way to visit one of his men when he saw three persons coming towards him. He turned

[6] 1882 September 9 The Surrey Mirror and General County Advertiser

on his bulls-eye towards them and had no sooner done so than one of them felled him to the groundwith a blow from a stick, and all three attacked him. [7]

1884 February 26: The Assault on a Police Sergeant at Godstone- Death of the Injured Man. Sergeant Bishop of the Surrey Constabulary who was murderously assaulted and robbed by three notorious poachers has died at his home at Caterham from the effects of the injuries received in the highway at Godstone. He was terribly knocked about and evidently left for dead. Two men named Gumbrell and Fairman are in custody and will now be charged with the murder, together with a third man when arrested.[8] The above proved to be wrong! (**1908 Sergeant Bishop:** A search has been made in the census and death records available on the family history website Ancestry and it appears likely that the sergeant who was attacked in Chelsham in 1884 was not the same man who was reported as dying in 1908. In the 1881 census there is a James Bishop, police sergeant living in Caterham, born in Oxfordshire, aged 47, living with his wife, Celia, and six children. In the 1891 census he is listed as a retired police sergeant. I am assuming this was the Sergeant James Bishop who was so brutally attacked. In the next census for 1901 Celia is listed as a widow and a subsequent search of the General Register Office index of deaths found an entry for James Bishop aged 66 in the December quarter of 1900 registered in the Godstone registration district, which includes Caterham. The staff appointment books do not give dates of death for the police listed; the last entry is when they left the force. The only James Bishop found is listed in the first volume we hold, for 1851-1866 (9152/1/2/1/1) and the place of birth and age tally with the information given in the census, as do the places he served. James joined the force in 1856 aged 23 and was promoted to Sergeant in 1865. His date of removal from the force was on 1 April 1885. [9])

1884 March 1 Surrey Mirror: Murderous outrage upon a Police Sergeant near Caterham: Last Thursday evening an assault so brutal was committed upon Police Sergeant Bishop of the Surrey County Constabulary at Chelsham-place a small village between Caterham and Godstone. Whilst doing his rounds in an unfrequented lane he saw three persons approaching him. He was suspicious and as they closed, he turned on his lantern. He was immediately struck with a heavy stick and fell to the ground. He endeavoured to rise and laid about him with a stick he was carrying. Before he got to his feet he was rushed and heavily kicked on the head and became insensible. He was then badly maltreated by the three men who then robbed the sergeant of his watch before making off towards Croydon. After some time, the sergeant partially recovered consciousness and despite the intense agony he was suffering he succeeded in crawling to a nearby cottage where a lady lived on her own. After getting over the shock of the sight of the sergeant she arranged help with the intention of getting him to his home in Caterham. His tunic and shirt were saturated with blood, which was flowing copiously from two large wounds to the back of his head and a deep cut on his cheek the bone of which was laid bare.

[7] 25 Feb 1884 Pall Mall Gazette
[8] 26 Feb 1884 Pall Mall Gazette
[9] Email Surrey History Centre 25 June 2014 to Robert Bartlett

With some difficulty the bleeding was stopped but the injured man was in such a condition it was impossible to move him and he rested for some time stimulated with some brandy. He was eventually taken home where a medical man was soon in attendance who also found injuries to the spine and ribs where he had been violently kicked. His head was swollen to an enormous size and his eyes were totally closed. The injuries were serious and the doctor ordered the officer to be kept quiet. Enquires for the guilty parties were immediately made with suspicion falling on three notorious poachers one of whom was a resident at Croydon. He had previously threatened Surrey Police Bishop who had previously had him convicted of robbery. He is well known to the police. The two men named are Charles Farriman and Eli Gambrell both resident at Croydon who have previous convictions for various offences, poaching in particular. The men had been drinking at the Bull's Head, Chelsham. Superintendent Redford reported the case to Sanderstead police station a part of the Croydon district of the Metropolitan Police. Other evidence was obtained and warrants for arrest of the three menwere obtained.

On Saturday morning before daybreak, Police Sergeant Moss 34W Metropolitan Police accompanied by Constables Bock and Whatling went to the Brighton Road where they arrested Farriman. They then went to Gambrell's house and demanded admission which was refused they burst open the door and after a short struggle took their prisoner. On being charged both men admitted being at Chelsham on the night in question but stated they left there at 9.30 which was an hour before the outrage was committed. They were taken to Croydon and searched but as to the watch, an old-fashioned silver hunter with double case and a piece of the dial chipped off and replaced could not be discovered and it is supposed that the third man had it. This man had decamped immediately after the assault. The prisoners were taken to Godstone police station on Saturday afternoon and on Monday appeared before the magistrate and remanded for a week.

The injuries to Sergeant Bishop became known to the public and a great deal of excitement was caused all along the road from Croydon to Redhill when on Tuesday morning it was currently reported that he had succumbed to his injuries. The public felt indignation against the cowardly perpetrators. The rumour was borne out when the London papers reported Bishop had died. This was not the case and it was found he was recovering but the spinal injury probably means he will be permanently lame. Bishop had been in the police for more than 30 years and if he is now compelled to retire from active duty, the force will lose a valuable officer, for during his career he has always borne an excellent character and has =more than once rendered material assistance in bringing offenders to justice.

Quite recently he took part in the arrest of a gang of burglars at Whyteleaf and the serious nature of that duty is shown by the fact that several of the gang were sentenced to periods of 12-14 years penal servitude.

It is intended, if Bishop is well enough to take his evidence at his house before Monday in the presence of the prisoners, whom he will be called upon to identify as the men who assaulted him and it is possible thereafter that they will at once be sent for trial at the Assizes.

1884 March 1 Sheffield Weekly Telegraph: The report that Sergeant Bishop of the Surrey County Constabulary has died of his injuries caused by three men supposed to be poachers at Godstone is now contradicted. The officer is slightly better.[10] [11]

1884 March 4 London Daily News: Redhill: Eli Dumbrell and Charles Fairman were charged on remand with assaulting Police Sergeant Bishop of the Surrey County Constabulary with intent to commit murder on the night of 21st February and stealing his watch value £3. The prisoners pleaded not guilty.

Mr Superintendent Redford stated on the previous Friday he took the two prisoners before Bishop who identified them as two of the three men who had assaulted him.

A certificate from Dr Eady at Caterham stating Bishop was still in a very critical condition and totally unable to give his evidence was put in and Mr Superintendent Redford asked for a further remand of a week which was granted.

The third man Brooks had not been arrested. He was seen at Croydon on Saturday last and the police have been upon his track for some days.[12]

1884 March 22: Surrey Mirror: The proposal to raise a pecuniary testimonial to Sergeant Bishop of the Surrey County Constabulary is one that will commend itself not only to residents in the Caterham and Godstone districts but to the County at large. The officer has suffered severely in pursuit of a duty which he knew to be dangerous and which he might easily have shirked; and he must have necessarily suffered in pocket as well as in person.

The police are naturally a popular body notwithstanding that when we are in trouble or difficulty, we invariably look to them, and to the law they represent for assistance. Nevertheless, the English people recognise an act of devotion and pluck wherever they might find it, and if there ever was such an act it is that for which it is proposed to reward Sergeant Bishop. A letter from Mr Hall in another column will give the requisite information to those wishing to subscribe.

1884 March 29 Surrey Mirror: Sergeant Bishop: We have pleasure in acknowledging the receipt through Lt. Col. Mackinnon of a cheque for £7 14s 2d on account of the fund being raised for Police Sergeant Bishop of Caterham. The amount has been raised amongst the Guards stationed at the Depot in Caterham and reflects greatly on them in every way. (His pay would have been about 25 shillings a week so £7 14s would be well received)

[10] Surrey Advertiser 1 March 1884
[11] Weekly Dispatch (London) 2 March 1884
[12] Surrey Mirror 8 March 1884

1884 April 21: Central Criminal Court; Eli Dumbrell aged twenty-eight and Charles Fairman aged twenty-two for robbery on James Bishop, and **stealing from his person** a watch and chain, his property, and beating and striking and using other **personal violence** to him.

James Bishop. I am a police sergeant in the Surrey Constabulary, and the prosecutor in this case. On the night of 21st February, I was on duty on the high road at Chelsham at 10.30 when I met the two prisoners and a third man on the highway. They had two dogs with them, and one of the dogs had white about his neck. The men were coming in a direction from Ledger's Lodge; and as they were passing me Dumbrell said to me "Can you tell us where this road leads to?" I said "Yes, it leads to Farley, Gilston, and Croydon; if you don't want to go there, turn to the left when you get to the bottom of the town" I turned my light full on their faces thinking it was a curious question to ask me, and I have no doubt that I saw these two prisoners. The third man was close behind them and he came up and struck me on the back of my head and knocked me down. The two prisoners then commenced kicking me about my head and body, one hitting me with a stick, and I became insensible. When I came to myself, they were gone. I searched my pockets and found that my watch and chain were gone. I had laid there over half an hour. I had seen my watch safe about five minutes before I was attacked, I pulled it out and looked at it at 25 minutes past 10. When I turned my light on, I saw that Dumbrell had quite a black moustache and I noticed that Fairman was cross-eyed. I got up and went to a cottage, and a woman washed me and bathed my wounds, and I had to stop there till about 5a.m. I gave a description of the men, in consequence of which the two prisoners were apprehended.

The witness was then c**ross-examined by Mr. Avery:** I saw the two prisoners eight days after the occurrence at my house, where I was in bed. They were brought to my house. No one else was brought. I did not pick them out from others. I was unable to get out of bed and these two prisoners simply were brought to my bed. Before I turned my lamp on, I saw Fairman's face, because he brushed close to me. There were no lights in the road, and I could not see their faces to swear to them without my lamp. I stood there about two minutes looking at them with my bull's-eye, staring them in the face. As soon as they asked me the question, I turned my bull's-eye on them directly. That was after they asked me the question. I told them the way, and immediately afterwards I was struck by a man on my eye. I mean to say that they stood there looking me in the face for two minutes; they seemed to be waiting for the other man to come up. I say that they walked by asking me the way to go. I also say that the man who I identify as Dumbrell had quite a black moustache and it was heavy. I am quite certain about the time; it was 10.30 within one minute. I am as certain about one prisoner as I am about the other if I am mistaken about one, I am just as likely to be mistaken about the other.

The witness was c**ross-examined by Mr. Lilley:** I had seen the prisoners before that night. The spot where I was attacked was, as far as I can say, about five miles from the Brighton Road at Croydon. I mentioned at Godstone about Fairman being cross-eyed. I have not seen my depositions and I do not think they were read over to me before I signed them. I know

that they are read over as a matter of certain practice chiefly, but I have no recollection of it. I was suffering from illness at the time I was examined. I had only been out of bed two days. The name of the woman to whose cottage I went is Richardson. I told her how I had been treated. I did not in the course of my statement to her say that I did not know the men. I have not seen her here today. I remained at the cottage till about 5 o'clock in the morning. The men had dogs with them; a great many people have dogs in the country. I told the Magistrate about Fairman's eyes. My watch was a silver hunter, and it had a steel chain; it cost me over three pounds but I have had it over twenty years. I have not identified it; I have not seen it since. I know that it is usual to advertise in the Police Gazette, but I have been laid up and unable to do anything. I gave information to the superintendent.

Re-examined*:* I gave information to one of the other constables, and he went and looked for my watch. I am quite sure I mentioned the fact of Fairman being cross-eyed before the Magistrate at Godstone.

George Stephens (Surrey Constabulary 192). I am stationed at Chelsham. On 21 February I was on duty near Ledger's Lodge, Chelsham, and just before I reached the lodge, I met three men with two dogs. It was about 10.25 or 10.30 p.m. One of the dogs appeared to be dark, and the other had white on the side of his neck as I passed on the left. The three men were walking in file one after the other, and as I passed, I said, "Good night," and the front one replied, and as he did so he turned his face towards me, and to the best of my belief it was Dumbrell. When they met me, they were going in the direction of Croydon and in the direction of the place where Sergeant Bishop was assaulted. They were about a quarter of a mile from the Bull, or a little more. I heard of this attack the next morning and went down to the cottage where the sergeant was staying and stayed there with him till, I took him home with assistance. He said that he had lost his watch. I went and searched for it, but could not find it, but I found his hat. There was lots of blood about.

William Moss (Metropolitan Police Policeman W34). On the morning of 22nd February, I received information of this attack on the 21st. The prosecutor gave me a description of three men, in consequence of which I went in search of someone and apprehended the prisoner Fairman at 9.20 p.m. on 22nd February. I took two constables with me, and went to the Purley Arms, where I saw Fairman, and told him I wanted him. He said, "What for, Moss?" I said, "Come along, and I will tell you," and when he came outside, I said, "There has been a highway robbery with violence at Warlingham, and I shall take you on suspicion of being concerned with two other men" He said, "I don't know where Warlingham is; I was at the Bull at Chelsham at 20 minutes to 10" I said, "Well, it was at Chelsham where it occurred. they are adjoining villages." I then took him in custody and went in search of Dumbrell and about an hour and a half afterwards we went to his house and knocked at the door for about a quarter of an hour. His wife answered and said that he was asleep. After knocking for about a quarter of an hour off and on, we burst the door open and found Dumbrell on the top of the landing by the bedroom door dressing. It was then about 12 o'clock at night as near as possible. He said, "I don't know what you want with me." I said,

"You will be charged with Fairman with a highway robbery at Chelsham with violence" He was not wearing a moustache.

Henry Redford: I am superintendent of police for the Godstone division. I saw the two prisoners at Croydon in custody on Saturday, February 23, and conveyed them to Godstone. On arriving I read the charge, which was "Unlawfully and feloniously assaulting Police Sergeant James Bishop in the execution of his duty, thereby causing him grievous bodily harm; also stealing from his person a silver watch and a steel chain, value 2 pounds, on the highway at Chelsham, on the 21st of February 1884." They both said, "I know nothing about it" On Friday, the 29th, I spoke to Dumbrell at the cell door, and said "I see, Dumbrell, by the description you were wearing a moustache that night". He replied, "Yes, I had it cut off." When I received him in custody, he was wearing no moustache, his upper lip was clean shaved.

Cross-examined by Mr. Avery: It was on 29th February that I had that conversation; eight days afterwards; it was at the cell door. The door was shut and I spoke through the trap door; my object in doing so was because the description did not answer. I thought it seemed strange that he should be wearing a moustache that night and the next day it should be off. It was no business of mine; I had no object. I mean to say that I did not do it for the purpose of getting something out of him. As to my discussing his identification with him I simply said, "You had a moustache that night." I knew that by the description, which I had in my pocket. The description I had did not agree with the man at that time. The description I had agreed with the man who was in the cell except the moustache. I did not think I could reconcile the two by a little judicious conversation with him; as I said before, I had no particular object.

Q. Then it was for the mere pleasure of having a little conversation with him?

A. I cannot give any other reason. I wanted it cleared up; and I wanted him to clear it up. It is not my practice on the contrary, when I want a thing cleared up, to go to a prisoner and get him to clear it up. I had cautioned the prisoner eight days before. What I said to him was "I see by your description, Dumbrell, that night you were wearing a moustache." He said "Yes, I had it cut off," and I think he said to the other prisoner "I suppose I can't go to a barber without a permission." When I made the observation to him about his moustache he did not say "My moustache would only be about a month's growth"; but he did a day or two afterwards. That was not at the cell. I cannot recollect when it was. I cannot recollect whether it was at the cell, but if I speak rightly, I think it was on the road to Caterham. I cannot swear that he did not make that observation at the cell, but I do not think so. I will not swear now that he did not make it at the cell on the occasion when I first spoke to him. I do not mean to swear before the Jury that when I asked him to reconcile those two things he did not say, "Why my moustaches have only been about a month's growth." I say that his answer was "Yes, I had a small moustache, but I cut it off." I do not recollect anything about the month's growth. It was the prisoner Dumbrell himself who cross-examined me on that subject before the Magistrate, and I said in answer "I think you said, “My moustache would only be about

a month's growth." I did not say a word about that observation being made to me till several days afterwards; I was not asked.

Mr. Eadie: I am a surgeon, of Caterham Valley. On 22nd of February I was called to see Sergeant Bishop between 6 and 7 o'clock in the morning. I found him in a very weak state from loss of blood. His right eye was black and closed, and his left eye nearly closed, and twenty-four hours after both eyes were completely closed. His cheeks were very much bruised, and one cheek was cut; the blow of a boot might do that. In forty-eight hours, there were several bruises on his body and he was ill for a week, but he has mended very much in the last two or three weeks. His life has been in danger.

Guilty: The police stated that both prisoners had been several times convicted of offences under the Game Laws and sentenced to 7 years Penal Servitude each.[13]

1900 November 9 Surrey Mirror: Funeral of ex Police Sergeant: On Thursday afternoon the funeral took place in St Mary's churchyard of Mr James Bishop who died on Sunday in his 67th year. He was for many years in the Surrey County Constabulary and held the rank of sergeant. Some time since, he was attacked and seriously injured by some men in the neighbourhood of Chelsham and, being unfit for further duty, retired on pension. A detachment of the county constabulary under Police Sergeant Southcott attended and there was a wreath from the officers and men of the Godstone division

1908 Thursday 6 August: The Cornishman newspaper: reported that a Sergeant Bishop, of the Surrey County Constabulary, who was murderously assaulted and robbed by three poachers, has died at his home. (This is so obviously wrong!)

1932 December 21: Wireless for the police: A Surrey Experiment: Experiments in the use of wireless by the police in Surrey included an exchange of Christmas greetings between the Chief Constable of the county Major G Nicholson and the Chief Constable of the Reigate Borough Police Mr WH Beacher, who communicate with each other over a distance of 19 miles. Major Nicholson spoke from his garden where a transmitter had been set up with power-supplied form a motorcycle engine. Mr Beacher tapped back his reply in Morse in a police detector van, which was being demonstrated to the Reigate Borough Force. The demonstration was a success and Mr Beacher proposes to seek consent for the use of wireless by officers in his area. He stated, "I shall probably fix a receiving and transmitting set to my car with similar apparatus at Redhill and Reigate police stations. "I am strongly in favour of the idea and think every force in the country should have wireless for the speedy detection of bandits. The criminals of today have taken to the quickest forms of travelling and we have to cope with that." It is understood that further experiments are to take place in Surrey." [14]

[13] Illustrated Police News May 3, 1884
[14] The Times (London, England), Wednesday, Dec 21, 1932

John Lawrie
Surrey Constabulary and Surrey Police
Metropolitan Police

John G Lawrie 1982

John is living in Scotland and working busily as a contractor.

Breakfast at Godstone Mike Eaton, John Lawrie, Brent Ashwood, (both FST) George Dobson, Bernie Boscombe Geoff Roper

Robert Scott
Surrey Constabulary
City of London Police
Surrey Police

Limited arbitrary cases and deliberations

My association with Surrey Police is about to come to a close at the end of March 2021, when my “short term,” three-month, part time contract to “help out", taken out in early March 2019 and since regularly extended, expires. Leaving aside the 1991 to 2001 period, when I “jumped ship” for the City of London, this equates to 44 years battling on behalf of Surrey in one role or another. I have put together a few memories of my service, which obviously include stories from my time with Surrey.

Memories of an old (now) Redhill Police Station

In 1967, having spent that time sailing around the globe on merchant ships, I found myself back at Redhill Police Station sitting the written exam for entry to the constabulary. The maths was easy (I ended up on the fraud squad) and the essay bit wasn’t too hard either (judge for yourself) and within weeks I ended up sitting in front of Herman Rutherford telling him why I wanted to be a police officer. The fact that the pay (whilst not good) was substantially better

than what I was then getting and "the Job" would allow me far better access to a rather lovely young lady (from Horley) who had by then entered my life didn't seem to be a winning argument, so I came out with the usual platitudes, i.e., the words "service" and "community" featured. It obviously worked, because I was one of those who the recruiting sergeant pulled to one side and made arrangements for us all to be sworn in.

Sandgate was a blitz. The merchant navy has loads of clowns but prospective coppers are not much different. Bernie Startup from Hampshire was a good example and I won't embarrass the Surrey ones. I'll just mention (in no particular order) a few from Surrey who happened to feature:

Mick Mello (who subsequently worked with me on the Drug Squad and is still a good mate of mine), Jeff Hemmings (ex RAF Police and one of the drill pigs) and still in my general social circle, Roy Harrison, Paul Hickman, Jerry Martin, Keith Foote (who, amongst other things, was my transport on Sunday evenings), John Blades, Geoff/Jeff Beck who took his attributes to Thames Valley and Bob Ball, who rose into the stratosphere and departed eventually to Devon and Cornwall

Some 20 weeks or so later, I ended up back at Redhill Police Station, fully equipped (ha!) for the next 30 years. Two weeks of tutor constabling left me out there on my own, which meant mostly cycling/walking the beat and being required to visit unoccupied houses as a matter of rigour. Afternoon patrols in burglary rife areas were the norm and my sergeants, Geoff Breckell, Bill Murray, Dick Smith, Dave Maughan and "Harry" Worth would all check the unoccupied house register with a vengeance, largely (I think) because the chief inspector told them to.

This requirement became even more earnest and I found myself on Panda 1 dashing from house to house each early turn in order to get them all done. This policy came in for a rethink as one afternoon DS Bill Spencer called me in and wanted to know why the houses I'd visited in the morning were getting burgled in the afternoon. When you think about it, a little white Mini with Police written all over it pulling into a nice house and staying for a minute or so tends to give something away. My first introduction to Police surveillance.

Each sergeant seemed to have his own bugbear. Bill Murray had a thing about noisy motorcycle exhausts caused by the owner deliberately poking a rod through the baffles (Bill was the last, actually only police officer I knew that got wound up about this, more's the pity) and a local idiot who drove around with a blue light on his car but was never (to my knowledge) caught turning it on.

Others would insist that the night beat officers should go round the side roads sticking "NIPs" on unlit cars. Parking on the "wrong" side of the road led to the same outcome. The lighting policy led to the mysterious removal of red oil lamps from road works and their subsequent reappearance hanging from the offside windows of parked cars. Those were the days when (a) policemen actually walked around at night and (b) there were enough of them to do so.

Another knock-on effect of the NIP policy was a disgruntled early turn station officer. He had to deal with the queue of unhappy locals all bearing their little pink slip and vehicle documents.

"Harry" was responsible for the duties and wasn't above introducing a double-quick changeover from nights to lates to earlies in three days if it suited him. Keep "Harry" sweet was the mantra. Moaning didn't help.

"Harry" once made me chuckle when I turned up for a summer night shift and, because I was the only beat officer (it occasionally happened), he thought it would be a good idea to give me individual "points," rather than a prescribed beat. He reeled off a series of "TKs" that stretched hourly from one side of the Redhill area to the other (i.e., Earlswood station to the Jollffe at Merstham). Others on the shift looked at each other but it didn't seem to register with Harry that I was a mere 20 and had already cycled from Horley (remember?) to get to work. He met me at all of the points, except the last. I smile at the thought, even now.

On that subject, I also smile happily at the thought of PS "Jammy" Jenkins, a Reigate sergeant who on occasion got co-opted to help out at Redhill, much to his evident disgust, especially when it was a night shift. One rainy night, he drew his car alongside me at the Warwick Hotel TK, wound down the window, muttered "book me ten," drove off and then gave me a funny look when he later asked for my pocketbook to sign it and noted that I'd "booked him one." It all came back to me years later as a sergeant at Dorking when I saw him collecting my glass from the bar of the Dolphin in Betchworth. Yes, I was working. I was a DS. Remember those days?

Rainy nights. I was there on the night of the rainiest one. I knew it was going to rain, so I was wearing my wellies, leggings, long mac and silly helmet to keep me dry – none of them did. Don't laugh, as I've already said, these were the days when Surrey Constabulary were able to put out not one, but two beat officers in a relatively small-town centre such as Redhill and my compatriot that night was PC 189 Arthur Delves (funny how one remembers these things). We trudged our various areas, chatting occasionally as we retreated into shop doorways but as the rain fell, we kept an eye on how the Colebrook stream (the one by the station) was rising. It certainly was and by the time our shift had ended the water was coming over the top and the same applied to my wellies (or so it felt). I went home, took my now and present wife (i.e., the lady from Horley) to work at Gatwick airport and returned with a stuttering engine (remember, Mini distributors faced forward, into the airstream), went to bed and then woke up for a 6-2 late crewed up as observer on Bravo 1 with Dave Tame. We didn't go far as Redhill and Reigate were cut off from the rest of the county.

The year 1969 was a funny one for me. Whilst early shifts were a pain (post runs, vehicle maintenance, unoccupied houses) and so were lates (more unoccupied houses, mutual aid enquiries and domestics), every night turn was a chance to do something positive and, in my case, seemed to trigger a good result, i.e., a driver I tried to stop would give me a clue by not stopping and then leading me a merry dance around the area until we could gather together enough vehicles to pull the plug on the music and literally stop him. Most of them eventually

ended up being transferred to Metropolitan Police District police stations, which was the norm in those days (although the Metropolitan Police didn't seem to appreciate the fact).[15]

And so, I ended my days at Redhill, i.e. I was posted as far away as possible to Camberley.

1969 Gatwick air crash

I was night duty that night, driving Panda 1, the Reigate area beat vehicle and was accompanied by Tony ** the town beat officer as we had been told by the section sergeant we could team up after meal break. It was a cold and foggy night and as I felt our way gingerly through the murk on Wray Common Jock Donaldson's voice came over the air from the Redhill Station Office. "All units go to Horley Police Station, there's been an air crash," he yelled and we could tell from his voice that it wasn't an exercise. We made our way to the A23 and headed south, adding to the line of blue lights going that way and soon turned up at Horley Police Station. Confusion reigned for a while and eventually we were dispatched to the scene, where the final casualties that could be retrieved were being dragged through the hedge onto the road and into waiting ambulances. At that stage, although these people were still alive, they were clearly beyond hope. Tony and I helped with the traffic for a while and were then told to go to the St Johns Ambulance Brigade hall opposite the police station, where we were to assist with mortuary duties.

On our arrival, Tony and I, together with a sergeant, were joined by local brigade members who helped us get the hall ready. Someone had obtained large tarpaulins and we covered the floor with them (I think the hall was quite new at that time and someone who knew about these things had felt this to be wise – it was).

On a macabre note (not surprisingly), I have a rather clear memory of the brigade guys making a big thing of their anticipated role, i.e., "this is what we're here for; to help out at times like this." When we had sorted things out and announced our readiness, the ambulance crews waiting outside started to bring in the fatally injured casualties. One thing no one had thought of was a smoke extractor – a pity. Stretcher after stretcher was placed in rows down the hall and us police officers started the process of noting as much detail as we could. After a while, we looked up and found we were all alone (well, sort of). All the brigade members had retreated to the kitchen, where they were busy making tea. This aspect of the tale gets better. As the day wore on, we learned that BUA (the airline based at Gatwick) was sending over hot food for the troops. In due course it arrived and was taken into the kitchen with much cheer from everyone. Shortly afterwards, a brigade member came out with a large tray containing, wait for it, three mixed grills (including kidney) and plonked it down on a table at the side of the hall. The three of us looked at each other and said that if they didn't mind, we'd join everyone else in the kitchen.

[15] Email Robert Scott to Robert Bartlett 30 January 2018

As the day wore on and passenger lists became available, it appeared we had an extra body. Closer inspection of one of the more charred ones revealed that it was, in fact, a red setter dog – the family pet of the household that had been destroyed.

After a twelve-hour shift in the mortuary (on top of the night shift) we were relieved and sent home. It took quite a few days to get rid of the smoky smell that clung to us – or perhaps we just thought it did.

There was also a little bit of intrigue when the inspector dealing with the casualty list (Kingsford–Curram was the name) let it be known that there was an extra casualty to those on the official list and uttered the dread words "illegal immigrant." That was an error and after much huffing and puffing that subject went quiet.

Another aspect of this event that doesn't appear to have been mentioned is the traffic chaos in the area that day caused by people who fancied a day out to drive by the scene and gawp. That was repeated a year or so later at Staines.

And no, no one ever gave or offered any of us counselling. The Chief Constable did give us a mention at some stage but all those in between seemed to think it was all part of the job – which it was.

1969 One example of life on the Tilly was an attempt to stop an old Vauxhall, four up, heading north up the A23. I pulled in front, blue lighted and stopped in front only to find it barrelling past me. I was up behind it before it reached the town, yelling into my new-fangled PR. Through the town we went and it then turned left into the drive leading to St Anne's, the elderly people's home behind the railway station. "Ah", I thought, "he's not going far now". Sure enough, he ended up at the end of the drive, screeched to a halt and they all scattered. Off I galloped and tackled the driver, holding him to the ground until backup arrived. He was carted off and I turned back to my Panda. For some reason, its headlights were pointed at the top floor, illuminating all the residents leaning out, gazing at events. Why? In my haste, I hadn't set the handbrake properly and the Panda had rolled gently down the sloped lawn into a tree. My first polac (police vehicle accident) but I didn't get too hard a time over it.

The major world event of 1969 of course was the moon landing. Again, I was working nights. Whilst the rest of the world was attached to a TV, two nerds decided that would nick a Mini parked outside the shops in Woodhatch. Unbeknown them, the daughter of the owners saw them do this and phoned in. I was dispatched and after an unsuccessful scout round the locality knocked at the lady's door to take details. I sat there listening to the steady beep from mission control and made a remark that history was being made and whilst it all happened, I would be driving round the empty streets of Reigate. "Why don't you stay here and watch it?" was the response. The lady happened to be two years or so younger than me, rather pretty and, it transpired, her parents were in Spain on holiday. As my pregnant wife was fast asleep only half a mile away, I did the right thing, declined the offer and left. As it happened, the night sergeant summonsed everyone to Reigate club, from where we watched the night's events. When mum

and dad returned and I was finalising the enquiry, their gentle enquiries about my marital status confirmed my suspicion that my personal Eagle could have landed about the same time as Neil's. Such is life.[16]

1974 July 7 Murder of PC John Schofield: As a junior DC, teamed up with Dennis Gray (sadly, no longer with us for some time now), I was given a bunch of TIE (trace, identify, eliminate) to deal with. In due course we fetched up at an address in Hither Green Lane where we banged on the door of a man called Egon Von Bulow, who had been propped up as a likely suspect by a Metropolitan Police constable. The PC had been to see Von Bulow on a firearms certificate enquiry and had opposed the application. This resulted in Von Bulow taking quite a dislike to us all and, as he fitted the suspect's description, his name had been put forward. Thankfully, he wasn't in (or didn't answer the door) and Den and I put that TIE to the back the pile and got on with others. There, perhaps, but for fate, went I (and for a while at least, Den). I often wonder what might have happened had he answered the door.

It was also Den and I who interviewed and took a statement from the motorist driving to work through Whyteleaf who stopped when Von Bulow jumped out of the railway line hedge and flagged him down and then gave him a lift to Purley station. That's how he managed to disappear so quickly.[17]

Setting it out neatly

Those who have known me over the last few years will be aware of my tendency to the place the facts of an event onto a schedule, latterly an Excel spreadsheet. It's a strange thing but I've always liked the concept of creating a grid and filling in the spaces with useful information. I don't know when it started but perhaps it was back in 1966 when I was a navigating apprentice in the Merchant Navy. When you have six weeks at sea ahead of you as you depart Western Australia for the UK with a cargo of wheat and one of your jobs is to take the morning and evening position sights, you see the advantage in organising your data management.

Evening star sights have to be taken at twilight, when both the horizon and the brighter stars are visible, so you only get 10 to 15 minutes and have to plan ahead (it's even shorter in the tropics). The process involves identifying a star, taking its altitude (angular height above the horizon) with a sextant, noting the exact time, applying numerous corrections, extracting data from the nautical almanac and then applying a standard formula to each of the readings (it's called the haversine formula if you really want to know). The accepted system was to create a pre-determined grid, add the data and then start the calculation process. Each item in the formula had to be looked up in books of trigonometric and logarithmic tables, entered into this standardised calculation (no calculators then) and you would come up with a series of position lines to plot on the chart.

[16] Email from Robert Scott to Robert Bartlett 30 January 2018
[17] Email to Robert Bartlett

If the sights were accurate and you'd done the calculations properly, the lines all crossed at the same point and you knew where the ship had been half an hour previously. If they didn't, the size of the "cocked hat" represented the extent of your failure and gave you a margin of error. The officer of the watch's interest in the ship's location made you keen to get it right, so you prepared the grid and ran around with a sextant, yelling out the readings to the officer, who was good enough to write them down and note the time (his role was the simple one as he already knew how all this was done and I was learning).

Having returned from Oz, I gave up sailing the oceans and, instead, found myself plodding a beat in the county of Surrey. Six years later, after I had completed a six-month attachment to CID, it seemed that all that was about to come to an end when I was informed by those who decide these things that they considered I had some potential as an investigator. I was told I was on the list for a DC vacancy and just needed to be patient until one arose. In the meantime, I returned to uniformed patrol duties. Soon afterwards, I was sent to a sudden death at Deepcut army camp, where army contractors were building a new residential complex. A young labourer had collapsed in the middle of the compound and was clearly no more. Having established this and spoken to numerous fellow workers, all of whom told me that he had grabbed his chest and collapsed with no one near him, he was taken to the mortuary at Farnham Hospital.

I was then called by the station officer at Camberley, who told me the Detective Inspector wanted to know whether he could go for lunch without fear of being disturbed. I said that he could as there were no suspicious circumstances, i.e., a heart attack was very much the likely cause of death. Half an hour later, I was informed by the station officer that the mortuary assistants had prepared the gent's body for a post-mortem examination and found a stab wound in his chest. The DI had been called from his lunch and was on his way to Farnham, which gave me the feeling that my prospects as a budding detective might be fading fast. An hour or so later the news came through that the pathologist had found a 9mm bullet in the gent's heart. It eventually transpired that the bullet had originated from a Bren gun training session at the army range some 3 or 4 miles away. It had minimal velocity by the time it reached Deepcut but that was enough to penetrate the poor man's chest between two ribs and lodge in his heart. Anywhere else would probably have been survivable.

My initial actions and reports were therefore deemed justified and before long I became a new, inexperienced but nevertheless keen detective at Dorking.

A schedule required

One day in early June 1975, I turned up for work and was bid to go with the Detective Chief Inspector in his tatty old Skoda (this was in the days when ***all*** Skodas, old or not, were tatty by their very design and build quality) to a farm in Leigh, on the outskirts of Dorking. En-route, I learned that on the previous spring bank holiday Monday, Whitsun as it was known then, the farmer had left the farm unattended to attend the county show at Guildford. On his return, he found that fifty-six head of cattle had been removed from a covered barn next to the farmhouse.

The burning question that the DCI wanted to ask the farmer was whether they were insured. That question was soon answered in the affirmative, so after a few more questions about the identity of the insurer (it was the NFU), why the cattle were in the barn (they were going to be ear-tagged on the Tuesday, prior to being sent to market), how much they were worth (about £30k) and whether the farm animal movement book was available (it was) we left with the movement book, after assuring the farmer that the matter would be investigated.

On our way back, I enquired what the DCI thought our next move should be. "None" was the response. "We wait to see what the insurance claim says." And so, it came about that a few days later I found myself in the DCI's office, where an insurance assessor from the NFU was sitting, having been asked to attend after his visit to the farm. In his briefcase was a signed claim form that corresponded with the crime complaint. This was given to me to place on the brand-new photocopier the station had just acquired. That done, I returned to hear the DCI ask whether the assessor was happy with the claim. He was. It was quite apparent that this wasn't the view of the DCI, so I took the hint.

My first port of call was the PC who had first attended the scene that Monday evening. It just so happened that this officer was a farmer's son who had been brought up on a farm and therefore had some idea about the general habits of cattle. His first comment was that cattle shit and when they're worried, they shit a lot and being loaded onto a cattle truck tends to worry these creatures quite considerably so they shit even more. Strangely, these particular creatures had left the barn and yard clean and dry. The thought occurred to me that any bullshit on this farm was to be found in the farmhouse, not the barn.

My next port was the immediate neighbour to the farm, whose garden fence was about 30 feet from the barn and yard. This lady had spent the day (it had been a glorious, sunny one) in the garden with her children, no more than 20 feet from the fence. Strangely, she hadn't heard anything unusual happening 50 feet away.

By then, I could definitely see where the DCI was coming from, so a few judicious chats to farming neighbours established that the "farmer" in question hadn't been at it for very long. Just how do you spirit away fifty-six head of cattle was my query and the answer was, "In a large truck five times or in five large trucks once". One truck can't go far five times in a day and just who has five trucks (and drivers) available just the once on a bank holiday?

A close inspection of the claim form and movement book seemed called for. The movement book showed several arrivals of pedigree and crossbred cattle over the past few years and no departures. At first sight, it seemed to tie up with the claim form, i.e., the assertion that fifty crossbred steers formed fifty, of the fifty-six and had been bred over the previous two years. A germ of a theory began to form, so I thought, "We need to know how many he has left and what they are." My knowledgeable PC and two other officers from farming stock were given the task of assisting me to conduct a herd count. The farmer seemed very happy with the request as I had promised him a copy of the list and us four officers subsequently spent a whole day

pushing the remaining herd through a cattle-crush whilst I also made notes of the ear-tag numbers.

Armed with all this paperwork, I sat down and scratched my head. The figures didn't tie up. Fifty steers, by the very laws of nature, meant fifty heifers and a hundred mums - or fifty mums two years running. As my theory suggested - the count showed there weren't that number of heifers (or mums). How could I make the point? In those days, spreadsheets didn't exist, so several sheets of lined exercise paper were fed into a typewriter, painstakingly lined up and details of the herd copied in from the movement book - one line per animal and vertical timelines drawn across the top. It was then obvious that it would be more than helpful for me to know a bit more about the history of each cow or steer.

I had ascertained that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food (MAFF as it was then) conducted separate routine tests of herds in order to check for brucellosis and TB. A visit to the local office established that such records existed but access to them might be problematic. In those days court production orders for evidence were not an option, so a formal request for assistance met with much bureaucratic head scratching but, eventually, an acceptance that there was sound justification for the ministry to assist. After the data had been provided and my "spreadsheet" updated it became clear that many of the itemised missing cattle hadn't actually been seen for some time. So, where were they? Further enquiries revealed that the local hunt and knackersmen (ever on the lookout for dog food) had made several visits to the farm to remove dead animals. Witness statements were taken and there was the general realisation that we had a viable job.

There were a lot more "missing" animals than we could account for as dog food. A neighbour said that he had seen a digger at work on the farm so we wondered whether some of them had found their way underground. A phone call to the Forensic Science Laboratory caused a keener response than we anticipated as there was a project underway at the time to identify graves in open land by virtue of the disturbance at the surface or the existence of, shall we say, nutrients a little lower down. I found myself seeking permission for a gyrocopter (half aeroplane, half helicopter) to take off from a local field and then swoop over my farm to take infrared aerial photos. These photos came up with some suggestions as to hopeful digging sites but all this didn't turn up anything animal or vegetable and definitely not fruitful. At least it was a practical exercise with some scientific potential. The scientists were happy but we now had to rely upon the evidential material we already had.

By this time the spreadsheet amounted to four A4 sheets stuck together with Sellotape and showed, I thought, that the cattle in question had (a) died or (b) never existed. If so, the insurance claim was an attempt to defraud and this conclusion resulted in what was known in those days as a DPP's report, painstakingly typed up and copied before transmission via HQ to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Happily enough for me, the DPP took the same view about the insurance claim, authorised proceedings and we ended up at trial at Kingston Crown Court. There was an amusing day or

so when a farming expert for the defence tried to convince the jury that it was possible for nearly all the cows in a herd to bear only males - a feat that beef (and dairy) farmers over the years would have dearly loved to be able to achieve. The expert underwent quite a rigorous cross-examination along these lines and, not surprisingly, when it came to the farmer's turn to give evidence, he told the court that the expression "steers" was a generalised term for both sexes. At the end of a two-week trial our "farmer" was convicted of insurance fraud.

Just before the trial, Surrey Police recognised some potential in me and I found myself sat in the Chief Constable's office, where he asked me if I was interested in drugs (investigation, not consumption). Having been given a clue as to why I was sitting there, I lied and said, "Yes" and left his office thinking, "Promotion to Detective Sergeant without a spell back in uniform. Yippee." These were the days when CID overtime was available, uniformed officers' overtime was practically non-existent, mortgage rates were sky high and my wife and I had just bought our own house. Need I say more?

Drugs and fraud entangled

And so, I found myself as one of three sergeants working with three DCs from the Drug Squad's attic office at Surrey Police HQ. New as I was to the squad, I didn't immediately have much to do, so I enquired what the box of NHS prescriptions that was sitting on a fellow DS's desk was all about. It transpired that my colleague had asked the NHS prescription payment office in Newcastle for them as a local GP had come to his notice, due to the GP's exceedingly high rate of requests for amphetamines to a drug wholesaler that was supplying his in-house dispensary. My colleague wished to check where the amphetamines were ultimately going as at that time, they were a very popular misused drug.

It eventually transpired that the GP was the personal recipient of the amphetamines but I couldn't help but notice that the prescriptions had several alterations to them that didn't bear scrutiny. Prescriptions are generally written in the GP's consultation room and given to the patient, who presents them (in this case) to the GP's dispensary for preparation and dispensing. Why then, had many of these prescriptions been altered (with a different pen) to (a) double the amount of the first drug and (b) add an expensive drug. A few judicious enquiries with the patients concerned soon established that the original number had been dispensed, the additional drug was unknown to the patient and, just to round it off, the drug that had been actually dispensed was a generic version of the drug, not the proprietary (and much more expensive) version claimed for. All this meant the GP was being paid a lot more than he was entitled to, i.e., he was committing a deliberate and extensive fraud on the Health Service (i.e., the taxpayer). Time for another spreadsheet, on this occasion listing the prescriptions by exhibit number, content and nature of the "amendments" made.

A file went to the force solicitors (that's how it was done in those days) and, sadly for the medical profession, the GP found himself before the local magistrates. Outside the court, I was subjected to snotty comments from defence counsel for having the temerity to instigate criminal proceedings against a professional member of the community. My colleague experienced the

same attitude when he was subsequently called before the medical discipline hearing. It seems that different rules should apply when you are a pillar of the community and not merely a member of it.

The subsequent five years on the Drug Squad and then the force surveillance unit involved the usual early starts, long hours and all the paperwork and hassle such work entails. In due course I found myself back at Dorking and then Reigate.

Back on schedule

While at Reigate, I became involved in the Acid House Party enquiry. In the summer of 1989, there was a desire by the swinging set to spend all night jumping up and down to crazy music at full blast (they also "did" other things - things that increased their ability to jump higher and for longer). The organisers of these events generally tried to conduct them under cover - in empty barns or warehouses but there needed to be a fall-back contingency plan if things went wrong. That night, the contingency plan was required as the planned warehouse venue somewhere near Weybridge found itself guarded by a specially formed group of Surrey officers who had been forewarned. Newly available mobile phones were brought into play, word went around and an advance party descended on a field beside the A217 at Woodhatch, Reigate. A long mobile column of would-be partygoers then snaked its way across Surrey to Woodhatch, where the Weybridge officers (supported by additional officers from Reigate) were trying to place a guard on a very large field. Not so easy. Even harder when a bunch of "security" men is determined to stop you doing just that.

Things got out of hand when a passing motorist had his car kicked as he crept past the stalled convoy. The kicker found himself under arrest in the back of a police van and the security staff then surrounded the van, demanding his release. When this request was refused, they attempted to overturn the van to make the point that they weren't at all happy. A number of officers were assaulted whilst protecting the van and a strategic retreat was decided upon. Joyous music then reverberated around Woodhatch all night, which kept the Surrey Police switchboards busy. This was brought to the attention of those in command of the area and it was decided that something needed to be done. Phones started ringing in the homes of numerous officers and we all got out of our beds.

As the sun rose, the music died and hundreds of revellers began to disperse. Being Londoners, none of them had the need, desire or intelligence to go south down the A217, which in the circumstances might have been a good idea. Instead, they headed home, i.e., north, and found it was Surrey Police's turn to form a blockade - at the Angel crossroads in Woodhatch. The officers who had been knocked about pointed out the security men and these people found themselves in the cells at Reigate Police Station.

A case file needed to be prepared and submitted and all eyes turned to me. One thing that hasn't been mentioned so far is that a BBC film crew was there all the while the conflict was raging. Excerpts of their recordings had been shown on the national news and copies of these were

available but, as every modern officer knows, there's always "unused material." The BBC made it clear that it had no intention of giving us access to it, so we had to turn to the new Police & Criminal Evidence Act. This being a matter that the BBC felt very strongly about (it would put their staff at risk was one of its weaker arguments), I found myself in front of a Crown Court judge in central London listening to two eminent counsel arguing what was or should be what. His Honour ruled in our favour and the tapes reluctantly came our way.

Having reviewed the tapes, I then needed to decide how to present them in evidential format and relate each officer's experience to what had been recorded. A series of time-stamped stills was made and sticky spots (blue, of course) with the officer's number were affixed to his image. Likewise, white spots and initials for the potential defendants. A sketch plan for each photo showed where the camera was in relation to the police van and where it was pointing and more spots were fixed to the plan. A rather large copying exercise created numerous booklets and we were ready to go with our file to the CPS.

This attention to case preparation went down well, Public Order Act charges were authorised and prison sentences eventually handed out at Kingston Crown Court.

That's my story. Here's another, i.e., the promoter's:

"Sunrise/Back to the Future"

Sunrise/Back to the Future were the most widely publicised Acid House promoters in the UK. They staged a series of large-scale events in venues such as aircraft hangars, equestrian centres and large warehouses. Run by public schoolboy Tony Colstonhayter, the organisation was front-page news in the United Kingdom for two weeks.

> *In September 1989, Sunrise held the largest Acid House rave ever, just outside Reigate in Surrey. In the fields adjacent to the school playing fields at Hartswood (between Woodhatch and Sidlow Bridge), the rave took place and lasted from 10pm on the Saturday night until late into Sunday night. It was estimated that nearly 20,000 attended during the weekend and car queues stretched from the top of Reigate Hill all the way to the field in question (4 miles!). It was widely covered by the Press and television and remains the largest rave ever, notable for the fact that it is the only time in British history that the police have retreated on mainland soil."*
>
> *Taken from their website*

Timing and attendee numbers wrong, never mind the last sentence but who cares about accuracy when you're blowing your trumpet?

PC 88 Charles Carpenter
Surrey Constabulary Appointment 259
May 1856-July 1859
Blinded on Duty and Superannuated

Research by Robert Bartlett, Robert Simonson and Henry Pelham

Those interested in the Surrey Constabulary history will be aware of this picture of PC Carpenter. This is probably the earliest photograph of a Surrey Constabulary constable though there are more from about the 1880s. However, there was a mystery as having joined in May 1856 he resigned in July 1859, superannuated at 14s a week. There is no mention of a medical pension, such a concept possibly did not exist in the Surrey Constabulary at that time. PC Charles Carpenter was described in 1857 as "an intelligent, inoffensive, young man who had his eye literally driven out of its socket by a large stone." Blind in one eye, and possibly losing the sight of the other he finally left on fourteen shillings a week. The average pay for a PC in 1851 was £49.10s with Carpenter receiving about £36.10s a year.

Photograph 1857 when appointed as village constable at Clandon on 18s a week.

Family History from Jean Pelham

Charles Carpenter was born 1836 at Wisboro Green Sussex (Now Wisborough) and died in October 1921 in Hambledon, Surrey. He was buried 1st November 1921 – St James Parish Church, Elstead, Surrey

Parents: Peter Dendy (Father) and Ruth Carpenter (Mother)

1841 Census: Living with parents – aged 4. Father was a coachman.

1841 February, Peter and Ruth married. Living East Street, Petworth.

1851 Census: Living with parents and sister Ellen Carpenter aged 9 East Street, Petworth.

1858 April 21: Charles Carpenter married Jane Blackman – Parish Church, Elstead, occupation police constable.

1861 Census: Living with Jane, his wife, and daughter Annie Blanche in Elstead. Occupation superannuated police constable, Surrey Police Force.

1871 Census: Living with Jane and daughters Annie Blanche and Millette in Elstead. Occupation superannuated police constable and assistant overseer.

1872 – Electoral Roll – Pot Common, Elstead.

1881 Census: Living with Jane and daughters, Annie B and Milliette. Address Pot Common, Thursley Road. Occupation superannuated police constable

1891 Census: Living with Jane and daughters. Occupation assistant overseer

1901 Census: Living with Jane and daughter – Annie B. Occupation assistant overseer

1911 Census: Living with Jane and daughters – Annie and Millette. Living Elstead, Godalming, Surrey. Now aged 73.

1921: Charles Carpenter died October 1921 aged 84. Buried 1st November 1921 – Parish Church, St James, Elstead, Surrey.

Press Cuttings

1857 November 14 West Surrey Times report makes it very clear how badly Carpenter was hurt:

> It was during the charge from Mount Street that PC Charles Carpenter received a blow on the left eye from a stone. Some person who happened to be next to the constable picked him up and took him to the Greyhound Inn where it was discovered that a portion of the poor fellow's eye was actually protruding from the socket. Mr H Taylor, surgeon, shortly after arrived and did all that was possible to alleviate the sufferings of the unfortunate man. Carpenter has entirely lost his left eye and the medical gentleman considers it extremely doubtful sight will be restored to the other.

This answers why poor Carpenter left the Job but it was not until July 1859 which means he was retained on full pay for about 20 months. I hope that was the case. One day when the

archives reopen maybe the quarter sessions committee papers can be found and there is a reference to PC Carpenter.

The following press cuttings have been found.

1857 August 22, Sussex Agricultural Express: Assaulting the police: Charles Thorne was charged with assaulting PC Carpenter at East Clandon. Pleaded guilty and said was in liquor at the time. PC Carpenter saw Thorne in East Clandon and he was very drunk and making a great deal of noise. Fine of 5s and 15s costs.

1857 November 7 West Surrey Times: George Rickets was charged by PC Carpenter with stealing at West Horsley on the 31st ult., a bird and cage value 1s the property of his brother. The prosecutor did not appear so the prisoner was discharged. (It is probable that Carpenter did not attend court as he was seriously hurt at a riot in Guildford)

1857 November 7 West Surrey Times: Guy Fawkes – most prominent desire of both police and the mob appeared to be the indiscriminate breaking of sculls by both and destruction of property by the latter. We regret to say that owing to the apparent want of courage to attack men in their prime, old men and children fell victim to the staves of the policemen and missiles of the populace. The shops in the town were closed about 6 o'clock, and the mob began to congregate. About twenty of the County Constabulary under the immediate command of Captain Hastings, the chief constable, who had offered them as an additional protection to the borough also commenced parading the town. Nothing of importance took place other than the letting off of a few squibs, to which an additional relish was imported if they could fire under the nose of the police, until 9 o'clock when fire balls were started and a fire lighted in front of St Nicholas church. This being considered a sort of challenge the police made an indiscriminate charge knocking down all who came in the way, both disorderlies, orderlies and evidently had the worst of it, for besides being pelted with large stones by the mob they were reprimanded by the Mayor for their impetuosity.

Serious injuries were received by several of the police among whom were PCs Charles Carpenter, an intelligent, inoffensive, young man who had his eye literally driven out of its socket by a large stone. Roger Parks and Robert Bucket who both had their heads broken by similar missiles.

Several of the mob were also seriously injured. John Jelly a poor man about 60 years of age, and who had come for the purpose of taking his children away was knocked down by a policeman and could not reach home without assistance. A man named Downes, a foreman to Messrs Loe, was quietly returning home from his work when he was struck across the face by a policeman and had his upper lip mutilated dreadfully thereby. A man with his child in his arms was struck down, and two or three children became severe sufferers in the general melee. A pensioner named Linegar received injuries so severe that he was removed to the Greyhound Inn and a surgeon sent for immediately. A mason named Ede was knocked down three times. Stones and other missiles too flew so thick that very few escaped injuries of some kind.

Attacks were made by police upon the mob and the mob upon the police at intervals up to eleven o'clock when a general charge of the populace took place and the whole of the police were driven like rabbits up the High Street, down Market and North Streets to the County police station where they took refuge and the infuriated mob after breaking a few windows, returned to the fire which was replenished with gates and hurdles, railings and boards containing "cautions to trespassers" upon till one o'clock yesterday (Friday) morning. The county police did not show themselves again that night.

The Mayor and Town Clerk, whom Mr Superintendent Vickers attended as a bodyguard, continued however till between twelve and one o'clock.

1857 November 14 West Surrey Times: It would appear that with the exception of a few squibs in the street all was passing off very quietly until about nine o'clock when a mob of 50-100 were seen emerging from Mount Street and other places with faggots etc., which they proceeded to pile up in the centre of the road near the church, and speedily ignited them. The police on duty endeavoured to stop them but failed in doing so being assailed with flints and other large stones which knocked down two of the constables as mentioned in our last edition. Instructions were sent off for reinforcements of police which shortly after arrived making a force of between 3930 and 40 men under the direction of Mr Superintendent Parr. This officer led his men round by Quarry Street, Mill Lane, through the Bury Fields to the Portsmouth Road thence to the top of Mount Street the mob, meantime having increased to nearly a thousand people.

The police having formed at the top of Mount Street, charged down upon the mob below indiscriminately knocking down all who came in their way, and such was the force of the charge that for a moment all that were around the fire were dispersed, but before the police had passed over the bridge the mob had reassembled, and several skirmishes took place, until at last, armed with large stones pursued them up the High Street, throwing their missiles with terrible force and with almost fatal aim.

To say this was a retreat would perhaps be a misnomer, for the constables bolted helter-skelter and but for the seriousness of the matter, in a most ludicrous manner. The mob followed them, showering with stones and any other missile which came to hand, until the police station was reached, when the police took shelter, the mob contenting themselves with smashing the windows and doing other damage. Then they returned to the neighbourhood of the fire which being replenished without opposition continued until three o'clock on Friday morning at which time the mob quietly dispersed.

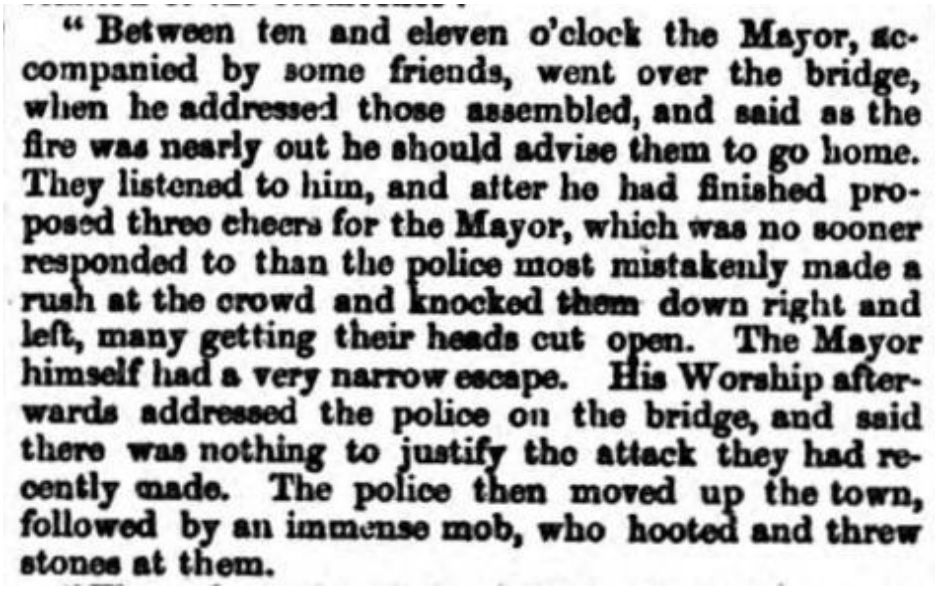
It was during the charge from Mount Street that PC Charles Carpenter received a blow on the left eye from a stone. Some person who happened to be next to the constable picked him up and took him to the Greyhound Inn where it was discovered that a portion of the poor fellow's eye was actually protruding from the socket. Mr H Taylor, surgeon, shortly after arrived and did all that was possible to alleviate the sufferings of the unfortunate man. Carpenter has

entirely lost his left eye and the medical gentleman considers it extremely doubtful sight will be restored to the other.

Several other constables were severely injured and it is indeed astonishing, considering the severity of the conflict that no fatal results ensued.

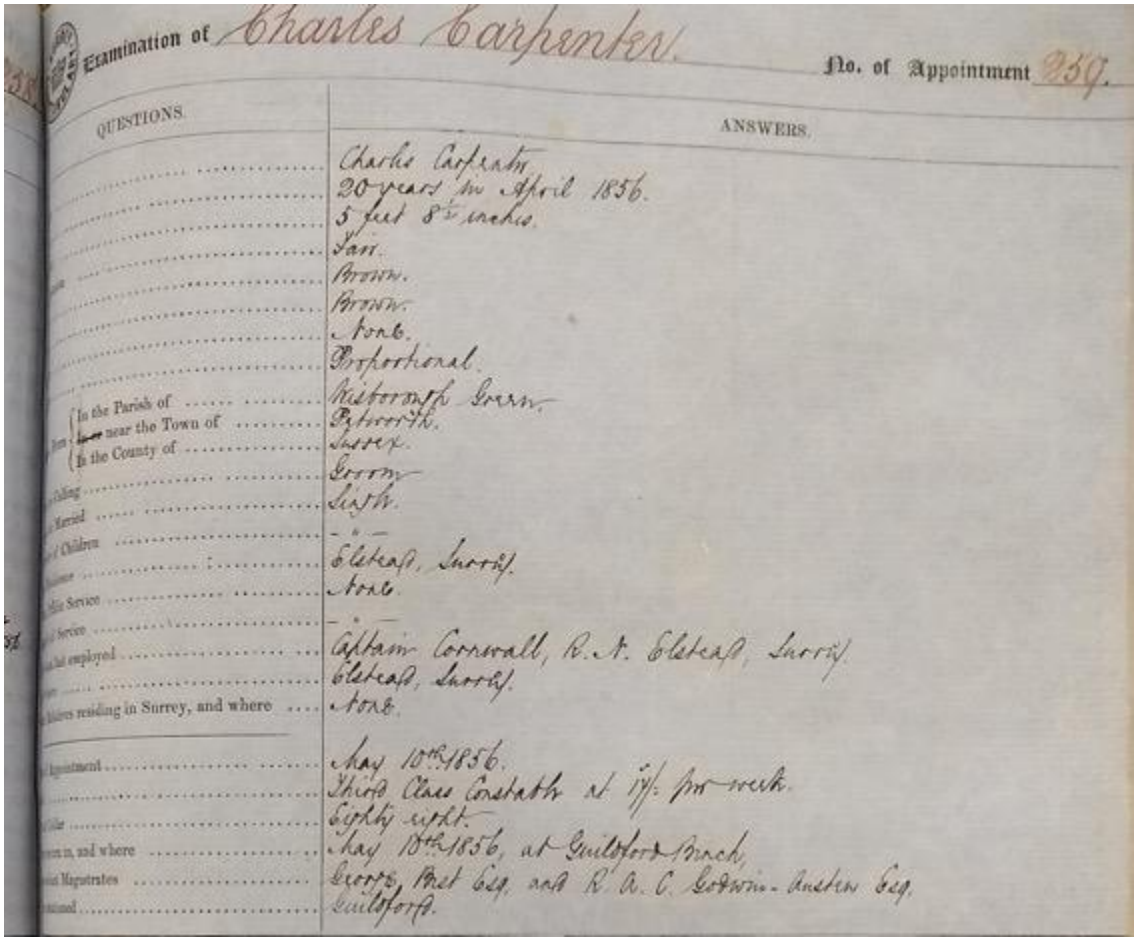
Several of the mob also received severe contusions from the staves of the policemen and in on cease a poor fellow who had been fearfully cut about the head has since died, but whether from the effects thereof or otherwise, has not been clearly proved.

1857 November 7 West Surrey Times



"Between ten and eleven o'clock the Mayor, accompanied by some friends, went over the bridge, when he addressed those assembled, and said as the fire was nearly out he should advise them to go home. They listened to him, and after he had finished proposed three cheers for the Mayor, which was no sooner responded to than the police most mistakenly made a rush at the crowd and knocked them down right and left, many getting their heads cut open. The Mayor himself had a very narrow escape. His Worship afterwards addressed the police on the bridge, and said there was nothing to justify the attack they had recently made. The police then moved up the town, followed by an immense mob, who hooted and threw stones at them.

"Throughout the whole of Friday the leading topic of conversation was the proceedings of the over night. As in other instances some were of opinion that sufficient force ought to have been provided or nothing done in the matter; but most certainly the prevailing feeling was, that but for the County Police all would have passed off very quietly. The attack made by them when the Mayor was addressing the people was most unjustifiable; and if anything is wanting to prove this, the rebuke given by the Mayor on the bridge almost immediately afterwards is a complete answer, his worship observing there was not the slightest provocation for it, and that if they did so he could not wonder at the people retaliating. Our reporter was close to the Mayor when these remarks were made, and so he was when the attack was made, and he heard (as did several others) loud cries of "Murder and help" on the part of the people. For a short time the scene was a fearful one. The inquiry everywhere is, Who gave the orders for this attack? but no one can give the answer. We are informed, and upon the best authority, that Superintendent Parr made himself very active, and was seen to knock one man down, and strike three children; and report says that in order that he should not be recognised he doffed his uniform, and appeared in a white slop frock and fisherman's fantail hat, in which state he was addressed, and, we believe, reproved by the Mayor near the White Lion Inn. Our reporter was standing by, but did not hear what was said. The Superintendent advanced to our reporter, and, in a most insolent manner, said (we can quite understand why), "We want no listeners." The Mayor, however, cut the comb of the Superintendent by desiring him to be quiet, adding that our reporter had witnessed what had taken place, and from this observation we have little doubt but that the worthy Mayor had been complaining in some way or other. At this moment stones flew in all directions, and the police, with their disguised Superintendent, beat a hasty retreat and made the best of their way to the County Police-station, followed by the mob, who broke a number of the windows."

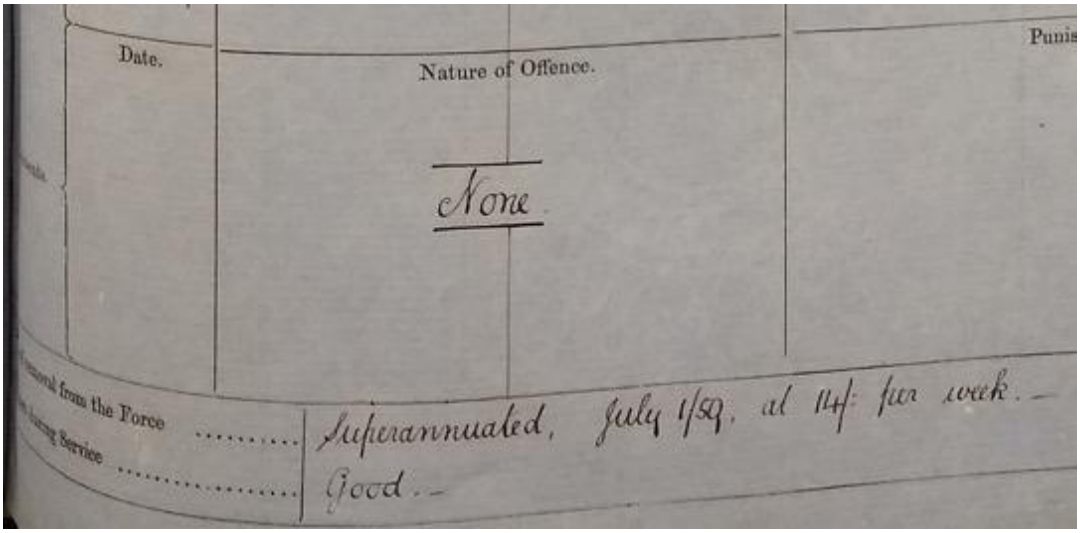


Examination of Charles Carpenter. No. of Appointment 259.

QUESTIONS.	ANSWERS.
	Charles Carpenter
	20 years in April 1856.
	5 feet 8½ inches.
	Fair.
	Brown.
	Brown.
	Stout.
	Proportional.
Born { In the Parish of / near the Town of	Petworth Green.
Born { In the County of	Petworth.
	Surrey.
Calling	Groom
Married	Single.
No. of Children	— " —
Residence	Elstead, Surrey.
Civil Service	Stout
Military Service	— " —
Last employed	Captain Cornwall, R.N. Elstead, Surrey
Age	Elstead, Surrey.
Relatives residing in Surrey, and where	Stout
Appointment	May 10th 1856.
	Third Class Constable at 17/- per week.
Height	Eighty eight.
Sworn in, and where	May 15th 1856, at Guildford Bench,
Before Magistrates	George West Esq. and R. A. C. Godwin-Austen Esq.
Cautioned	Guildford.

Date.	From	To.
July 1/54	Third Class Constable	Second Class Constable
Dec 1/54	Second Class Constable	First Class Constable

Date.	From.	To.
May 13/54	Guildford	Ash
May 25/54	Ash	West Clandon
Nov 5/54	West Clandon	Guildford



Appointment Register[18]

Following the riot, civil damages were claimed at the county court in Guildford.

1857 December 22: Guildford County Court: Alleged assault by police on **5th November:** William Downes v James William Parr and Gransbury John Bullimer. An action brought to recover the sum of £30 as damages for an assault, alleged to have been committed by the defendants upon the plaintiff during the disturbances in the town on the night of the 5 November. This is a long and detailed report in the newspaper, which will be reduced. Downes was a bricklayer and Parr a superintendent of the Surrey Constabulary. Bullimer is a constable in the Guildford Division. (Believed Surrey Constabulary Ripley obviously on aid). Downes left the Ram public house about nine o'clock and crossed to the Bury Street side of the bridge. He saw a row of policeman standing; Mr Parr was wearing long white frock similar to a countryman's and he had a sou'wester on his head. As I got to the centre of the bridge Mr Parr gave the order to clear the road and Mr Parr went up to him, sized him and pressed him close to the railings of the bridge. The other policeman who was behind Downes, struck a severe blow to his face cutting his lip and rendering him nearly senseless. When he recovered his senses Bullimer tried to drag him away. Under cross-examination Downes was asked, as a local resident was, he not aware a serious disturbance was apprehended? He said he was not. Did he know a number of special constables were sworn in? He knew nothing about it. He knew there were only four or five constables attached to Guildford and he recognised there were more than that in the town as they were walking around in pairs. I did not know Mr Parr and I was unaware he was dressed as he was because his uniform had earlier been torn to pieces.

Downes was aware that on a previous 5th November the Riot Act had been read in Guildford. He saw no disturbance, he was not there when stones were thrown at police causing injuries, he did not see the police trying to put a fire out, he did not see people coming towards the fire with railings and gates to keep the fire up. He did not see anyone masked or disguised. (It seems

[18] Appointment Register aka Defaulter's Book reference 9152/1/2/1/1 SCC History Centre assistance of archivist Robert Simonson

that the county constables may well have been sworn in as special constables for the evening. If that is the case this opens up many issues about normal day-to-day policing between borough and county men). The defence solicitor: Guildford being a borough the justices have the power of requesting the chief officer of the constabulary for Surrey to afford them a certain number of constables for duty and whom he should show were as the statute required duly sworn to act as Special Constables. A Guildford magistrate gave evidence that as a serious disturbance was apprehended on the night of 5th November, 25 members of the Surrey Constabulary were sworn to act as special constables in the borough on that night. The men including Superintendent Parr were sworn in at about 6pm either on the 4th or 5th before the mayor at the County Police Station. The men were therefore acting in the execution of their duty the only question was, did they use more violence than was necessary? After some legal debate the judge told the jury that he must direct a non-suit to be entered in this case in as much as the plaintiff was bound to give a month's notice (As a police officer was involved – An Act for amending the laws relative to the appointment of Special Constables and for the better preservation of the peace for the protection of persons acting under the Act). Costs were awarded. [19]

1989 Chase on Motorways

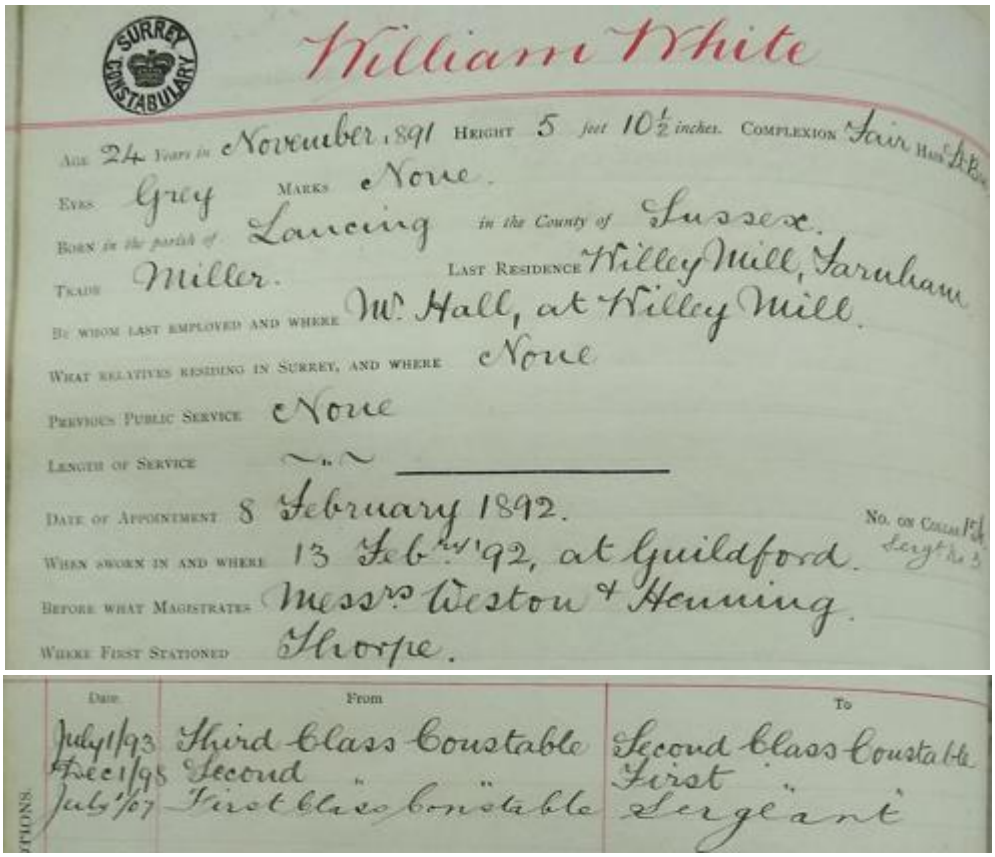
[19] 1857 December 22 The Sussex Advertiser, Surrey Gazette

There are probably Surrey Constabulary, Metropolitan Police and Kent vehicles in the photograph. Even in the halcyon days of Traffic they did not have this many out and about! Divisional cars and dog vans

Dick Johnson: The M25 J10 photo was taken by a Metropolitan Police helicopter India 99 at 1402hrs 20 July 1989 when I just 'happened' to be in the right place to stop a car full of criminals who had raided at jewellers shop in Kent. They were pursued at high speed along M20, M25 on hard shoulder through the road works, into MPD via Leatherhead and back down the A3 where they collided with my Vauxhall Senator and were immediately surrounded by Police vehicles. I believe they eventually went down for 12 years.[20] The witnesses to my "polac" said that the police vehicle was driving round the roundabout under J10 when the other car came down the slip road and didn't stop and collided with the nearside of the police vehicle. Graham Glazier as Supt Traffic came to the scene but didn't suspend me!

PC 156 William White
Police Sergeant 3
Surrey Constabulary Appointment 1174
From 3 February 1892 to about 1911

Born 27 November 1867 Lancing died 21 January 1941 Haslemere



SURREY CONSTABULARY

William White

Age 24 Years in November 1891 Height 5 feet 10½ inches. Complexion Fair Hair Dk Brn

Eyes Grey Marks None.

Born in the parish of Lancing in the County of Sussex.

Trade Miller. Last Residence Willey Mill, Farnham

By whom last employed and where Mr. Hall, at Willey Mill.

What relatives residing in Surrey, and where None

Previous Public Service None

Length of Service

Date of Appointment 8 February 1892.

When sworn in and where 13 Feb.y 92, at Guildford.

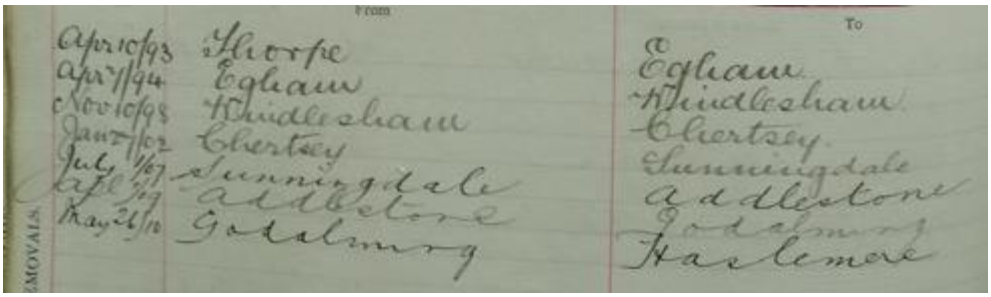
Before what Magistrates Messrs Weston & Henning.

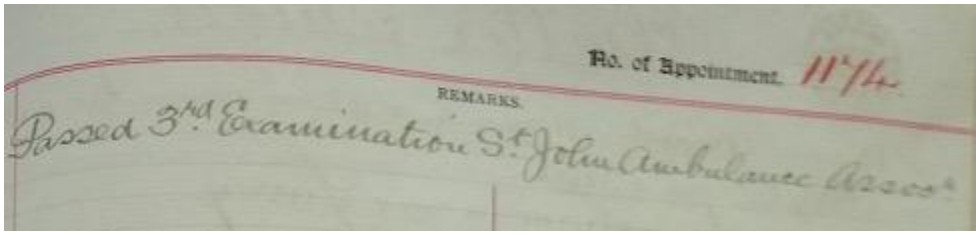
Where First Stationed Thorpe.

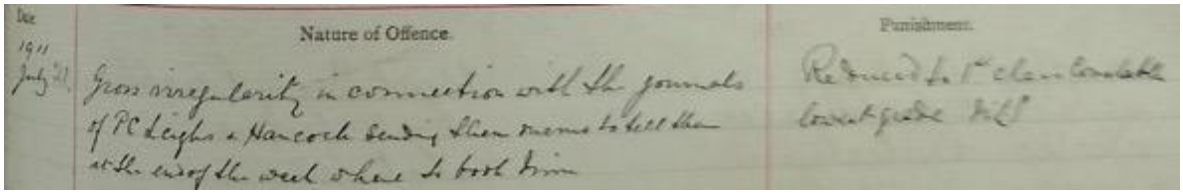
No. on Collar [illegible] Sergt No 3

Date	From	To
July 1/93	Third Class Constable	Second Class Constable
Dec 1/98	Second "	First "
July 1/07	First Class Constable	Sergeant

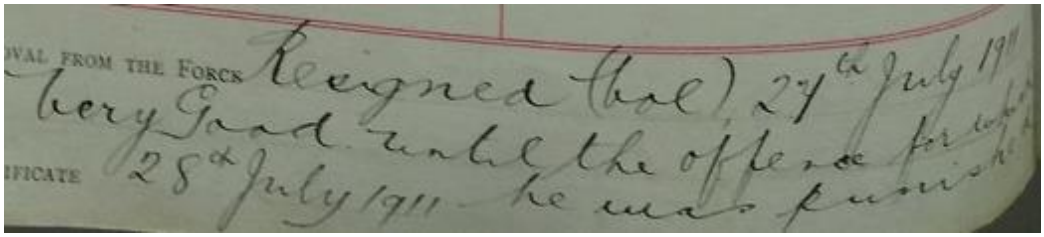
[20] From Richard Johnson to Robert Bartlett 11 March 2021



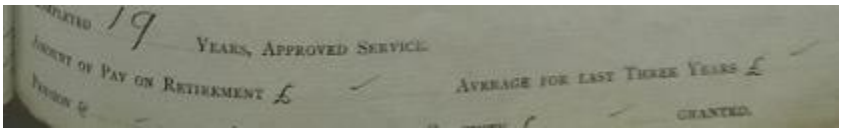




Appointed sergeant in 1907 he was "bust" back to First Class constable in 1911 for asking constables to "book him" at points when he did not do so.



Resigned 27 July 1911. Very good conduct until the offence for which he was punished



No mention of retirement or sick pension or date, just completed 19 years' service 1911

Additional research Chris Saville and Jean Pelham

Family History

Parents: Father William White - Mother Elizabeth White – Nee Parker

2 February 1868 Christened Lancing

1871 Census: William White is living with Frances Parker, aged 79 - Head of Household. William (son-in-law) aged 35, Elizabeth (daughter) aged 41, William aged 3 (grandson) and

Emma Bagtopp aged 16 (granddaughter). Address shown as Colepen House, Lancing, Sussex. William Snr's occupation is shown as Ag Lab.

1881 Census: Living with parents in Lancing, William and Elizabeth. William Jnr is 13 years old, and Frances Parker, aged 88 (Elizabeth's Mother).

1894 3 May, Marriage: William White married aged 26 years old to, Mary Faulkner aged 24 at Egham, Surrey. William's occupation is shown as Policeman.
1901 Census: Living Highfield Road, Chertsey, aged 33, occupation Police Constable Surrey County. Living with wife Mary 31 and children: William Sydney White aged 10, Charles Edward White aged 3 and Kathleen Elizabeth White aged 1.

1911 Census: Living Police Station, Haslemere, occupation Police Sergeant aged 43, also living at this address are Wife Mary aged 41, and children: William Sydney White aged 16 – House Boy, Charles Edward White aged 13 at school and Kathleen Elizabeth White aged 11 at school.

1939 Registration: shows William White living with wife Mary. Occupation shown as Hall Porter and Caretaker apartments, Electra House, Weyhill, Haslemere, Surrey.

1941 Death: 21 January 1941, Haslemere, Surrey aged 74.

Probate: William White, of Electra House, Weyhill, Haslemere, Surrey died 21 January 1941 at Brookwood Hospital, Knaphill, Surrey. Probate granted 28th May 1941. Probate granted to William Sydney White, Carpenter.

Little trace in newspapers only one case in the Surrey Constabulary Log[21]

1900 December 19 Surrey Comet: Alleged theft of horse and cart: James Cox 36, a labourer living at the Italian Lodging-house, Chertsey was charged with stealing a mare, cart, set of harness and a sample bag valued at £35. A cab proprietor from Marleybone left his mare and cart in the care of a colleague outside a customer's house in Walton. Later the prisoner offered to watch the horse whilst the man also went into the house, returning in 20 minutes to find them missing. Police were informed and Sergeant Dixon traced the horse and cart to Chertsey where the prisoner was detained. Sergeant White, Surrey Constabulary, stationed at Chertsey gave evidence that late on Saturday he was on duty in Guildford Street, Chertsey when he saw the prisoner come along leading a mare attached to a dog cart. On seeing the sergeant, the prisoner said that he wanted to give the pony and trap to him. The prisoner said he had brought it from Walton but did not know the owner but the pony and trap had been given to him. The prisoner was taken to the police station where he made some rambling statements. Police Sergeant Dixon took the prisoner to Hersham where he was charged. The prisoner was remanded until Saturday.

[21] www.surrey-constabulary.com

PC156 Addlestone

Police Sergeant 156 said to be at Addlestone Police station but note the duty band on left arm of one of the sergeants. Was he Metropolitan Police? That sergeant has a belt the other two do not. Below is a photograph of Addlestone along the same lines as many of the other mid Victorian police stations in Surrey. The photograph above has the look of a suburban Metropolitan Police station.

Addlestone police station a traditional Surrey Constabulary model for a police station from mid Victorian period.

Sergeant White in Haslemere Hospital following a fall of a police horse when a sergeant at Haslemere.

Surrey County Constabulary Kelly's Directory of Surrey for 1913

Headquarters, Woodbridge Road, Guildford

Chief Constable Captain Mowbray Lees SANT

Superintendent and Deputy Chief Constable Howard J PAGE

Inspector and Chief Clerk Robert BARNARD

Inspector William RANDS

Godalming Division

Superintendent Harry H. JENNINGS

Inspector H. TUDGAY

Farncombe

Haslemere Sergeant William WHITE and 2 PCs

Witley Sergeant Edgar BROOKS

1941 January 30 West Sussex Gazette: Several friends attended the funeral of Mr W White (73) caretaker at Electra House, Wey Hill at Shottermill Church on Saturday. Born at Lancing he served for about twenty years in the Surrey Constabulary, and at the time of his retirement 32 years ago was a sergeant at Haslemere. (These dates are probably wrong. He was still serving in 1913 so that is a maximum of 28 years on pension not 32)

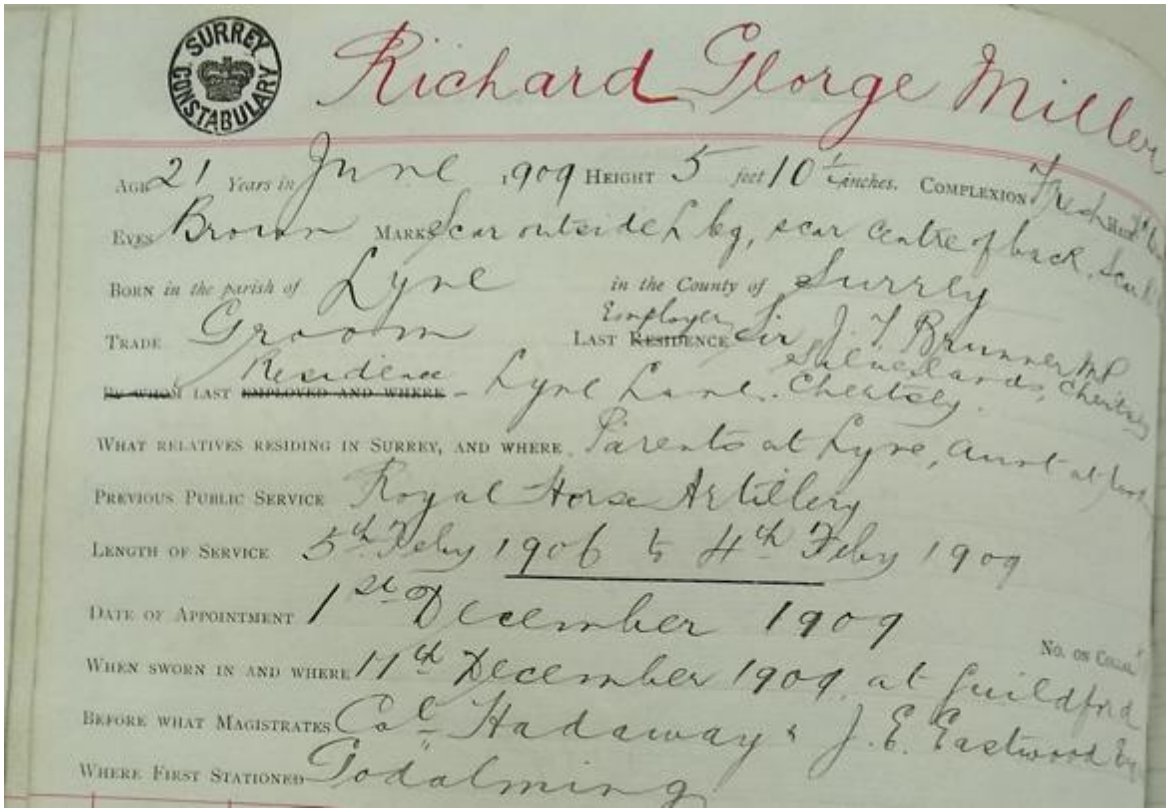
PC 51 Richard George Miller
Royal Horse Artillery 1906-1909
Surrey Constabulary 1909 -1911
Appointment 1525
Metropolitan Police 1911-1937
1914 Recalled to the Colours
1st War Reserve 1939

Richard George Millar PC 51 Surrey Constabulary

Dusty Miller: I am researching my family tree and find that my paternal Grandfather was a Metropolitan Police Officer. His name is George Richard Miller. Although his Army documents have him as Richard George Miller Born 1 June 1888 in Chertsey, Surrey therefore aged 21 when he joined the police. He had served in the Royal Horse Artillery 1906-1909.

George Richard Miller was born on 1st June 1888 in Chertsey. His family lived in Lyne Lane, Chertsey and father George Peter Miller and was employed as a farm labourer on Hersham Farm, Longcross Road, Chertsey part of the estate of Sir Edward Stern. At aged 17 years he joined the Army, serving between 5 February1906 – 04 February 1909 in the Royal Horse Artillery. On leaving the Army he returned home and gained employment as a Groom on the estate of Sir John Brunner of Silverlands, Chertsey, Surrey.

However, after a few months he joined the Surrey Constabulary on 1st December 1909 and was stationed at Godalming. Census September 1911: Millar was lodging in Bridge Road, Godalming and the census shows he was living with the Frederick Sanders and indicate they were both County Police as Police Constables, "Police Constable – County Police". His record shows this was his first and only posting.


SURREY CONSTABULARY

Richard George Miller

Age 21 Years in June 1909 Height 5 feet 10½ inches. Complexion Fresh

Eyes Brown Marks scar outside l. leg, scar centre of back, scar

Born in the parish of Lyne in the County of Surrey

Trade Groom Last Residence Employer Sir J. T. Brunner M.P. Belmont Lodge, Chertsey

If not at last employed and where Residence - Lyne Lane, Chertsey

What relatives residing in Surrey, and where Parents at Lyne, Aunt at Chertsey

Previous Public Service Royal Horse Artillery

Length of Service 5th Feby 1906 to 4th Feby 1909

Date of Appointment 1st December 1909

No. on Roll

When sworn in and where 11th December 1909, at Guildford

Before what Magistrates Col. Hadaway & J. E. Eastwood Esq.

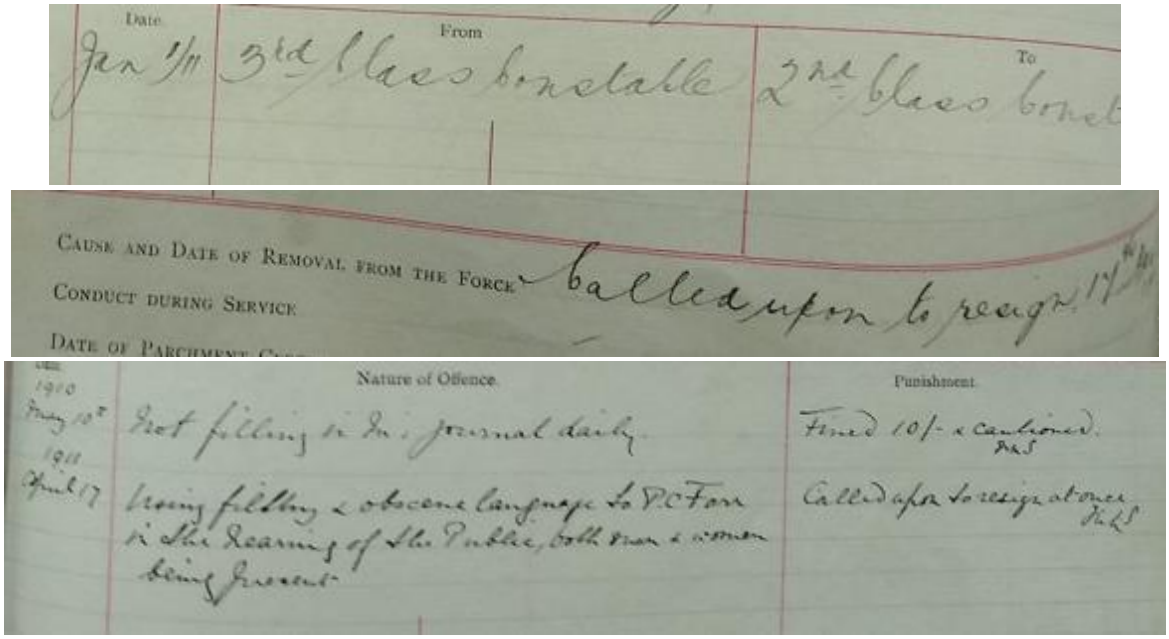
Where First Stationed Godalming

On April 17, 1911 when a PC in Surrey Richard George Millar was called upon to resign for using filthy and obscene language to PC Farr in the hearing of the public both men and women being present. Later that year he joined the Metropolitan Police.

On the 14 March 1914 he married May Martha Bennett Born in Norton, Suffolk when she was aged 24 years, he was aged 26 years. The witnesses to this wedding were Horace Creswell Clarke a Butler and his wife Eliza Ann Clarke nee Bennett who originated from Stow in Suffolk. It is understood that George met May when she was a servant – linen maid – at a large house in Surrey.

Most likely recalled to the Colours as he was on the Reserve, Miller left the Metropolitan Police at the outbreak of World War One and re-joined the Royal Horse Artillery. His army pension record states he arrived in France at the rank of Bombardier on 6 October that year but was blown up by shellfire at the end of the same month, killing his whole team of horses. He began feeling unwell after that but soldiered on until mid-October 1916, when he was sent back to hospitals in the UK with "neurasthenia" (broadly what we would call shellshock or PTSD). He was invalided out of the Army and after a while re-joined the Metropolitan Police retiring after 26 years' service in September 1937 from Holloway Police Station.

Richard also served as a member of the War Reserve during World War Two as a PC in London.



Date	From	To
Jan 1/11	3rd Class Constable	2nd Class Const

Cause and Date of Removal from the Force — called upon to resign 17/4/11

Conduct during Service

Date of Parchment

Date	Nature of Offence	Punishment
1910 May 10th	Not filling in Duty Journal daily	Fined 10/- & cautioned. HAS
1911 April 17	Using filthy & obscene language to PC Farr in the hearing of the Public, both men & women being present	Called upon to resign at once HAS

April 17, 1911 Called upon to resign for using filthy and obscene language to PC Farr in the hearing of the public both men and women being present.

Richard George Miller in retirement wearing an old tunic

PC88 Robert West
Surrey Constabulary
28 October 1872 -31 October 1900

SURREY CONSTABULARY

Robert West.

AGE 23 Years in February 1873 HEIGHT 5 feet 7½ inches. COMPLEXION Fair HAIR Bro.

EYES Blue MARKS Scar behind right ear.

BORN in the parish of Bramshott in the County of Hants

TRADE Groom LAST RESIDENCE Woolver Lodge, Bramshott.

BY WHOM LAST EMPLOYED AND WHERE Sir A. K. Macdonald, at Bramshott.

WHAT RELATIVES RESIDING IN SURREY, AND WHERE None.

PREVIOUS PUBLIC SERVICE None

LENGTH OF SERVICE None

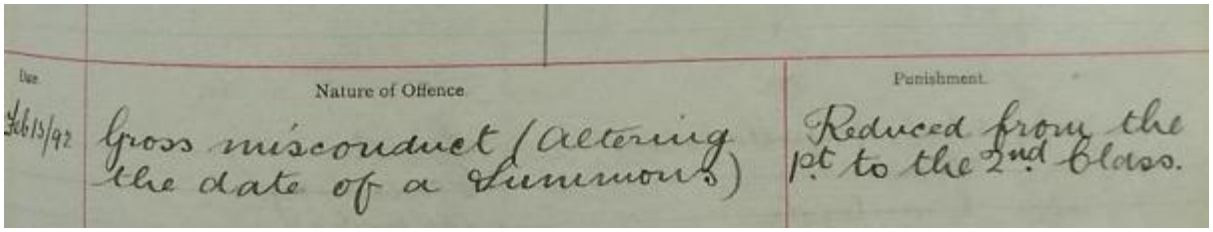
DATE OF APPOINTMENT 28th October 1872 NO. ON COLLAR 88

WHEN SWORN IN AND WHERE 2nd Nov. 1872, at Guildford

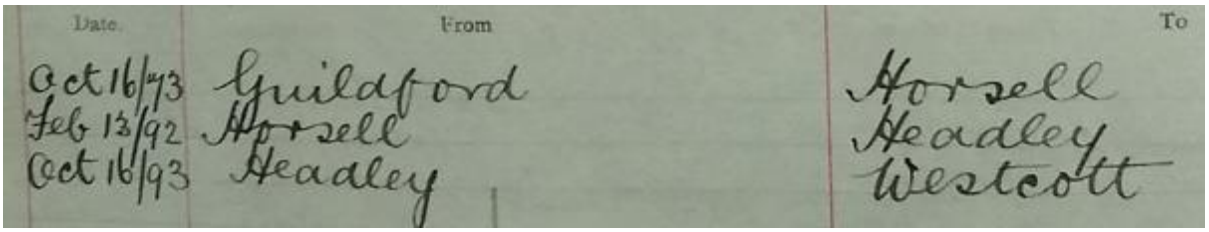
BEFORE WHAT MAGISTRATES Wm. A. Chandler & Wm. D. Macdonald

WHERE FIRST STATIONED Guildford.

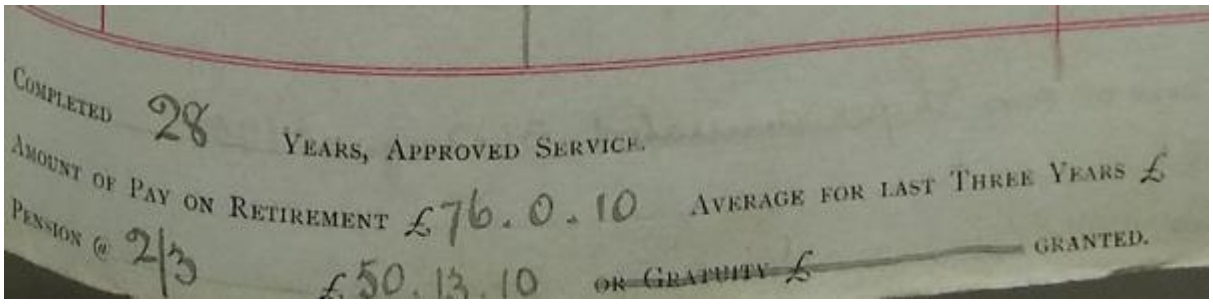
Date.	From	To
July 1/73	Constable 3rd Rate of Pay	Constable 2nd Rate of Pay
Oct 1/76	" 2nd "	" 1st "
May 1/92	Reinstated to 1st Class @ 25/8 per week.	



Date	Nature of Offence	Punishment
Feb 13/92	Gross misconduct (altering the date of a Summons)	Reduced from the 1st to the 2nd Class.



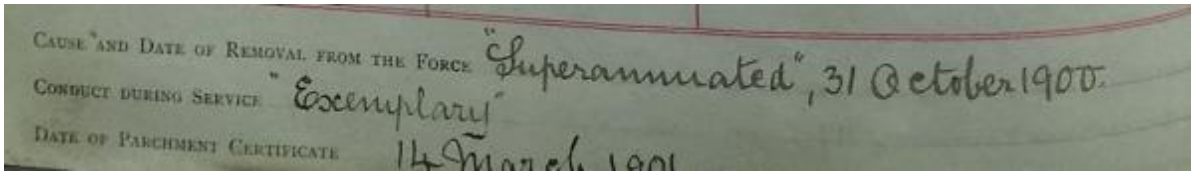
Date	From	To
Oct 16/73	Guildford	Horsell
Feb 13/92	Horsell	Headley
Oct 16/93	Headley	Westcott



COMPLETED 28 YEARS, APPROVED SERVICE.

AMOUNT OF PAY ON RETIREMENT £76.0.10 AVERAGE FOR LAST THREE YEARS £

PENSION @ 2/3 £50.13.10 OR GRATUITY £ GRANTED.



CAUSE AND DATE OF REMOVAL FROM THE FORCE "Superannuated", 31 October 1900.

CONDUCT DURING SERVICE "Exemplary"

DATE OF PARCHMENT CERTIFICATE 14 March 1901

Some Press reports

1895 John Lyscombe of Westcott was fined 5s for being **drunk and disorderly** on June 16th on the evidence of PC West. In October, David Wright, a labourer, was summoned for refusing to quit the Cricketers; Joseph Woodgate stated that the defendant came into his house at about a quarter to seven and created a disturbance. He refused to leave when requested. PC Steadman confirmed that the defendant used very bad language and after being ejected once, returned and had to be evicted again. He was fined 10s and 12s 6d costs.[22]

1900 William White, a sawyer, was sent to prison for a month for **stealing** a bottle of whisky, value 3/6 from the Prince of Wales and James Elms was given one months' hard labour for stealing 15/6 from the Bricklayers' Arms. Alfred Broomer was fined 10/- for not having a stamped weighing machine when delivering coal, allegedly because the boy forgot to put them on the cart. No doubt they were not too sorry when PC West retired after 7 years as **Westcott's** policeman. [23]

[22] Terry Wooden Westcott Local History Society January 2012
[23] Terry Wooden Westcott Local History Society January 2012

The family have a story that whilst escorting a prisoner from Woking to Chertsey a fight broke out when the prisoner tried to escape. In the fight my grandfather's right ear was bitten off. After retirement he became Porter at King Edward's School Witley where I have 2 photos of him with his head turned to hide the right side of his head. He was to die in a road accident outside the school.[24]

Richard "Dick" Johnson HTC

Richard Johnson and Pete Dean HTC

Richard Johnson 1988

[24] Email to Robert Bartlett from grandson George West February 2021

Dick Johnson, Jerry Kirkby and John Preston

Richard Johnson with his two daughters both special constables - about 1992 (blue shirts 1993)

The Surrey Constabulary Computerised Overtime System

Graham Ritchings

During the late 1970's and early 1980's when Inspector Richings was the Inspector at Burpham Traffic Centre, various computer projects were developed at the traffic centre. These included an accident investigation program known as "Crash" in 1982, and converted from an Apple Mac program by Peter Sorton, a traffic officer with a bent for accident investigation. At the same time, he followed a steep learning curve in computer programming! He subsequently resigned and set up his own very successful Accident Investigation company and has never looked back! He now runs his business from The Lake District. There was also an Overtime program and a Duties program, the latter known as ORIS. (Officer Resource Information System), developed by Peter Gurney, under the guidance of Inspector Richings, another traffic officer with a passion for computers.

Personal Computers as we know them today did not begin to come into what was then Surrey Constabulary until 1986/87 and even in 1987 there were only about four in the whole County as part of a Home Office initiative and used by local intelligence officers. So, some of the early developments at Burpham were on privately owned computers. This was before the days of The Data Protection Act. These were initially Commodore 64s and then Commodore 128s. The commodore 64, as its name implied, had only 64K of memory and needed to be plugged into a television screen. There was no hard disk and it relied on a tape recorder to load and unload both programs and data. The Commodore 128 had 128K of memory and was a little more advanced since it had a plug-in cartridge as well as a tape recorder. Both used Basic computer code or commercial software in the form of databases, spreadsheets or word processors. In those days the Force used A3 sized monthly duty sheets in three different colours that alternated monthly to avoid confusion. These had been introduced from Hertfordshire in the late 1970's and were a clever design that calculated out the different rates of overtime and ensured that units worked were only carried forward as allowed by Police Regulations and were automatically paid on salary cheques when requested or as mandatory payment after three months. One of the main problems with these overtime sheets was that each month, on the 20th, as sergeant would need to sit down, possibly for eight hours, and do all the calculations. Very time consuming and prone to error.

So, at Burpham under the guidance of Inspector Richings, PC Peter Gurney set about designing a program that would record the overtime and then do the sergeants job for him on 20th of each month. The Force were persuaded to buy a Commodore 128 computer and printer. When the program was finished it did the calculations and when the actual time sheets were fed into the printer it printed the correct figures onto the time sheets. This effectively released one of the traffic sergeants at Burpham from this somewhat onerous task. The Force were persuaded to purchase two more similar machines and the system was introduced at both Godstone and Chertsey Traffic Centres. At that time the traffic centres would have had between 50 and 70

officers at each. By now it was about 1987 and Inspector Richings moved onto the Computer Services Department at HQ and started to buy IBM type Personal Computers for offices that were then requiring them and Peter Gurney set about converting the Commodore program to run on the IBM type machines. Bear in mind that this was before the days of Windows when MS DOS ruled. The Force then used an integrated package called Smart. The WP, Spreadsheet and Database package was fully programmable and when the conversion was completed and was sanctioned by Surrey County Council auditors, who gave it a glowing report. It was gradually spread to all subdivisions and other specialist offices i.e., Crime Squads. Initially the duty sheets were printed out but Peter Gurney finally had all the data collated on the individual machines and then downloaded to Finance Office using some remote software (PCAnywhere). This saved the Headquarters finance staff having to manually enter data for about 1,000 officers onto their computer system and saved many hours of police and civilian time. All of this work was done without recourse to expensive companies, although of course it cost some police time but that would have been a poultry sum by comparison to commercial charges for design, implementation and support.

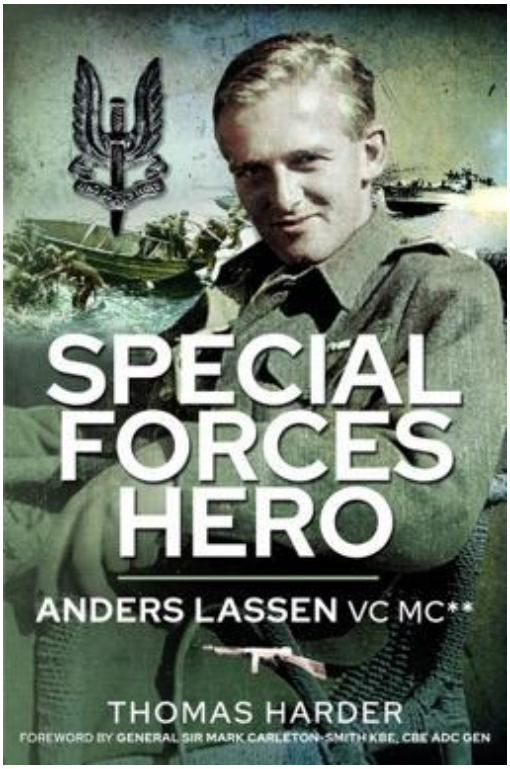
BOOK REVIEW

Special Forces Hero

Anders Lassen VC, MC**

By Thomas Harder

Imprint: Pen & Sword Military
Pages: 416
Illustrations: 60 black and white illustrations
ISBN: 9781526787514
Published: 16th February 2021



Thomas Harder

Thomas Harder is a Danish historian and literary translator. He is the author of twenty books on Italian subjects and four biographies.

He has translated works by numerous authors notably Salman Rushdie, Umberto Eco and most recently, Giovanni Boccaccio's medieval classic Decameron. He also works as a freelance conference interpreter.

Thomas has received a number of Danish, Swedish and Italian awards for his historical research and writing and for his translations. He lives in Copenhagen with his wife.

Synopsis

Until the German occupation of his native Denmark in April 1940 Anders Lassen had no interest in the War. Yet over the next five years he became a highly decorated Special Forces legend and the only non-Commonwealth recipient of the Victoria Cross.

After taking part in a mutiny on board a Danish ship, he made his way to Scotland. He first joined the Special Operations Executive before serving with the Small Scale Raiding Force, Special Air Service and Special Boat Service. He took part in the daring Operation Postmaster, off West Africa, and raided the Channel Islands and the Normandy coast. He saw most action in Eastern Mediterranean, fighting in Crete, the Dodecanese, Yugoslavia, mainland Greece and finally Italy.

In April 1945, now a major aged 24, he was killed at Lake Comacchio, where his gallantry earned him his posthumous VC. This superb biography is not just a worthy tribute to an outstanding soldier, but a superb account of the numerous special force operations Anders was involved in.

Review

Your reviewer has to admit that from childhood he has had a high regard for Anders Lassen the seaborne raider from the SBS operating in the warm waters around Greek islands. This book has not lessened that regard but has brought the balance that he was a human, a young man, a man with huge responsibilities who served Denmark well to the point of losing his life.

This is not the first Biography of Lassen. The first was by his mother Suzanne published in 1949, and 40-years years later Mike Langley with a 2016 reprint. This new work by Thomas Harder a Dane as was Lassen, is a significant book on the role of British Special Forces, SAS, SOE and SBS during World War Two. Yet another reminder of the courage and spirit of adventure and the opportunities for men to reach the limit and beyond of their capabilities.

One thing is very clear, the pressure of constant operations is debilitating, a maxim re-learned during the sheer grind of constant raiding by Special Forces during the Iraqi and Afghanistan wars. Lassen and George Jellico were key players in the evolution of the SBS though temperamentally Lassen was less suitable for high rank. The book makes it clear that he was volatile, would act quickly and not always how he would have done had there been time for reflection. But that is often what warfare and emergency response frequently is. Go with what you have and know and change things as the operation develops. If you spend a great deal of your life operating at this level then it will always be possible to find areas of criticism. It was once said that a moments action or reaction can keep lawyers deliberating for months if not years!

One is drawn by the book to consider what would have happened to Lassen had he not the opportunity to use his energies and aggression in such a good and noble cause as defeating Fascism? He may well have come to a dishonourable or sticky end. He came from a privileged background, from a caring family but he had a tendency to violence and unruliness as a young man who was living without direction. The war gave him purpose, a chance to test himself, an opportunity to funnel his aggression towards an acceptable goal. During his British military training he was able to all of the things he was good at and liked doing and was appreciated for what he did. The training and the people he met gave him a sense of purpose a meaningful preparation for battle.

Lassen early military career was with the Small Scale Raiding Force operating mostly in the Channel and down to the Channel Islands. This evolved into operations in France, acceptance in the SAS and because of his previous experience, working as a member of the SBS in which he became a temporary major. He showed extraordinary bravery and cold bloodiness winning 3 MCs and a final action where he was killed and for which he was awarded the VC. He was just 24. Those that knew him well thought him to be a wonderful man to be with in a tight corner. Off duty he drank a great deal as did a lot of his companions, was very sociable, quick to violence even to those he worked with, insubordinate on a grand scale and frequently high on Benzedrine/amphetamine.

The many testimonies to Lassen's mood swings, restlessness and enormous energy and stamina in the field as well as his corresponding periods of depression during leave, make it reasonable to believe he was but one of the thousands of soldiers who developed a prolonged amphetamine habit. The pressure was intense and over years, Lassen recording "You can do some of it part of the time, for quite a while. But you can't do all of it, all of the time for very long."

He may have been a difficult subordinate at times, an officer that revelled in the freedom of Special Forces which gave him as he saw it, the right to argue his corner against the regular army no matter of what rank, over a range of discipline issues.

This is an excellent book. The level of research is a tribute to the author as is his drive to ensure what he has written is balanced and fair not just to Lassen but his comrades. There are numerous pages of reference and notes, a bibliography and a detailed index all supporting the detailed and humbling story of this young man.