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

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www.surrey-constabulary.com

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# Surrey Constabulary History 83


The motto "Never Wonne ne never shall" is taken from an ancient couplet and refers to the defeat of the Danes by King Alfred in a battle in the Vale of Holmesdale in the 9th century, now remembered in the name Battlebridge. Reigate Castle has also been known as Holmesdale Castle. A translation is "Never conquered nor never shall".

**From Tony Collman**

# Contents

## The late Inspector Stan (Timber) Wood MBE
## Doyen of the development of police dog handling

Photo from Denis Turner who has visited Stan's widow and received personal photo albums which will be deposited in the History Centre at Woking.


**Mike Beckett, Stan Wood, Jamie Donaldson, Bill Cooper**
**Long Service presentation about 1979**


**PC Denis Blackman**
**Korean War veteran**

**An early personal radio!**

## Can you name any of these handlers? 1960s

**Mount Browne: Stan Wood rear right 2 l front Harold Barnes?**

## PC George Henry Wyatt VC
## Served pre and post First World War in Yorkshire

**Born 5 September 1886 Worcester. Died 22 January 1964 Sprotborough, Yorkshire**

**The grave of a former police officer who was awarded the Victoria Cross in World War One has been restored.** George Wyatt was one of the first 10 men to be awarded the honour in August 1914. (UK war began 4 August) He was wounded after being shot in the head but refused to be taken to hospital and continued fighting. After the war he re-joined the police force and served as a constable in Doncaster.

George Harry Wyatt (1886-1964) was born at Britannia Road, Whitstones, Worcester on 5th September 1886. He enlisted at Birmingham on 23rd November 1904 and served in the 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards in England before being posted to the 3rd Battalion in Egypt on 16th September 1906. He gained the Third-Class Certificate of Education on 25th February 1907 and undertook mounted infantry training in November that year until March 1908. Having returned to the 2nd Battalion in England in October 1908, he transferred to the Section B Reserve on 23rd November.

George then **became a policeman in Barnsley on 9th January 1909**. He married Ellen nee Graham at Whitehaven, Cumberland on New Years' Day 1912. They went on to have seven (b 1922), Maud (b 1923) and Jeffrey (b 1925). George transferred into the Doncaster Police on 19th May 1914 and trained as a mounted officer.

On 5th August 1914, George was recalled into the Colours and disembarked with the 3rd Battalion in France on 12th August. He would be evacuated back to England on 8th September with a gunshot wound to the scalp suffered on 1st September during his VC action.

During the retreat from Mons, 2nd and 3rd Coldstream Guards formed the rear-guard for the 4th (Guards) Brigade. On 25th August 1914, the Battalion marched off towards Landrecies. It was imperative they crossed the Sambre bridges before they were blown up but by 9.45am on the 25th, the men were exhausted. They finally reached Landrecies at 1pm and went into billets in the barracks northwest of the Sambre and by early evening the whole Brigade was resting.

At 5.30pm, reports were received that the Germans were advancing out of the forest. It turned out to be a false alarm. Sentries were posted and No 2 Company formed a picket at Faubourg Soyere, with two machine guns covering the flanks and wire across the road. Later that evening,

the Germans attacked the position, and No 1 Company were sent in as reinforcements. The Germans charged in again and again but were forced back. At 8.30pm, a German field gun joined in the fight. A barn stood to the left side of the lane leading towards the forest. The Germans tried to set up a machine gun at the end of the lane to fire into the British positions. Soon after a German shell set fire to the straw in the barn and the light allowed the enemy to direct more accurate fire into the British. With the enemy only 25 metres away Lance Corporal Wyatt dashed out with a pitchfork, tossed out the burning straw from the barn and beat out the flames. He repeatedly did this as the flames continued to be rekindled by shell fire.

After a short period of recuperation from his head wound, he returned to France on 11th November 1914 to join the 2nd Battalion. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on 18th December 1914 and was wounded again to the scalp at Ciunchy on 26th February 1915 and was evacuated back to England on 9th March. He then served the rest of the War back in England, transferring to the 5th Battalion on 12th August 1915.

George was mentioned in despatches by the Second in Command of the 3rd Battalion and no particular award was mentioned for him. In the summer of 1915, the Russians were looking to honour an especially brave act. Lieutenant Colonel Fielding, who commanded 3rd Battalion at Landrecies saw the letter from GHQ and alerted Major Torquhil Matheson who sent in the original battalion list of recommendations. Wyatt was awarded the Cross of the Order of St George 3rd Class (Russia) on 25th August 1915. Information was then requested on what happened at Landrecies. Matheson wrote to the new commanding officer of the 3rd Battalion, John Vaughan Campbell (later VC), and recommended Wyatt be awarded the VC. He was gazetted on 18th November 1915.

By now his father was landlord of the Pear Tree Inn in Hindlip and heard of his son's VC in the local newspaper, "The Berrow Worcester Journal". George now a First-Class Bomb Throwing Instructor, was presented with his VC by King George V at Buckingham Palace on 4th March 1916.

Following the end of his war service, he returned to the Doncaster Police on 19th December 1918, but was not formally discharged to the Class Z Reserve until January 1919. The Chief Constable presented him with a gold watch and his wife received a silver cream jug and sugar bowl. He was discharged from the Army Reserve in March 1920. On 30th June 1924 he stopped a runaway horse at great personal risk for which he was awarded a guinea.

George retired from the Police Force on 10th February 1934 and became a small holder. He died at Sprotborough, near Doncaster on 22nd January 1964 and was buried in Cadeby Churchyard, Sprotborough. George was also a freemason and a member of the Bulwer Lodge of Cairo No 1068. In addition to his VC, he was awarded the 1914 Star with Mons clasp, British War Medal 1914-20, Victory Medal 1914-19 with Mentioned in Despatches oak leaf, George

VI Coronation Medal of 1937, Elizabeth II Coronation Medal of 1953 and the Russian Cross of St George 3rd Class. His medals are held privately, and its location is unknown.[1]

## Too many burglaries? Get more men!

Between 1877 and 1886 burglars in London killed two police officers and five householders, with 11 policemen wounded. On 18 occasions men escaped arrest primarily because they used firearms and on 14 more occasions burglars were found to have guns on their person. The issue of arming the police received much **press comment**. In 1883 some constables on the more isolated beats were authorised to carry guns

A notable example of a police death that captured the public imagination came with the 'Tottenham Outrage' in 1909 when two Latvian refugees attempted a wage snatch. This bungled raid led to the perpetrators being chased by police and public for six miles across the Tottenham Marshes to the edge of the Epping Forest. 400 rounds from automatic pistols were fired killing **PC Tyler** and a schoolboy, wounding 27 others (including seven policemen) before the robbers turned the guns on themselves. Tyler's **funeral** attracted mass public support. Tyler was in the centre of a **souvenir** poster showing all the men in 'N' Division who had taken part in the chase of the two Latvians. [2]

**1877 July 6: Burglaries in Surrey:** At a meeting of Surrey Magistrates held on Tuesday at the Sessions-house, Newington-causeway, reference was made to burglaries committed in the lower part of the county beyond Guildford. Captain Hastings the Chief Constable of Surrey in his report for the last quarter showed that 33 crimes were committed, and 32 persons apprehended. Of the persons apprehended 27 were committed for trial and five discharged. The

[1] http://www.vconline.org.uk/george-h-wyatt-vc/4588589696
[2] http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/history-from-police-archives/Met6Kt/Crime/crmVCrimes.html

number of persons charged with offences punishable summarily by Justices was 443 of whom 369 were summarily convicted and 74 discharged. Mr Godwin Austin suggested in consequences of the recent burglaries that the force of police should be increased. In answer to the Court the **Chief Constable thought** that a dozen additional constables would render the force more efficient. Mr Hardman was of opinion that the matter should be referred to the Committee to consider what means should be adopted to render the force efficient for the protection of the public. The latter suggestion was adopted.[3]

**1878 Burglary Betchworth:** A jewel robbery of great value was effected at Broome Hall, Betchworth the seat of Sir Benjamin Brodie. The robbery was almost immediately discovered, and information was given to all stations of the Surrey Constabulary in the district. Constables were at once despatched to watch the railway stations with the result that at the Leatherhead station a man who gave the name Wilson was apprehended. On his being searched the whole of the stolen jewellery was found upon him.

There have been numerous jewel robberies in the district but hitherto the thieves have escaped detection. At the Surrey Sessions Thomas Morton 40, who said he was a bricklayer, was indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling house of Charles Dobson, Broom Park near Dorking and stealing a dressing case, a jewel case, a workbox and a large quantity of jewellery. He was also indicted for maliciously wounding **Caleb Tugwell** one of the Surrey Constabulary when he apprehended him. The prisoner pleaded guilty to both charges.

The robbery occurred by means of a ladder while Mr Dobson was at dinner with his family. A dressing case and two boxes with a quantity of jewellery were missed and Mr Dobson sent messages to Reigate and Dorking to give information. PC Tugwell went to the South Western line and heard a man had taken two tickets for Waterloo. He saw two men getting into a third-class carriage and on making towards them they escaped. He called out "Stop thief" and ran round in front of the engine and saw a person running towards the steps. When PC Tugwell got to the waiting room someone called out that a man was under a bench, and he found the prisoner lying flat on the floor. Tugwell pulled him out and told him he would be charged with committing a robbery at Mr Dobson's house. The prisoner shifted about and as Tugwell went to grasp hold of him he received a violent blow to the side of the head. A desperate struggle ensued, and the officer was severely wounded with a loaded cane or life preserver, which was produced, and he bled very freely.

Assistance was rendered and the prisoner handcuffed. When searched it was found that the prisoner had on him six gold rings, a pair of gold spectacles and other articles identified by Mr Dobson. The prisoner also had a jemmy on him, a putty knife, a wax taper and a gimlet. **Gray**, an inspector of the constabulary force on the following morning found some little children playing with a dressing case and two boxes which they had found in a meadow between Dorking and Mickleham. Before passing sentence Mr Hardman called up PC Tugwell and after

[3] Evening Mail (London) 06 July 1877

a warm eulogism for his gallant conduct he would receive £5 the highest reward the court could make. The learned chairman likewise commended the railway porter Wright for his assistance and allowed him £3. Mr Dobson had in addition presented Tugwell with £5 and Wright £2 for their praiseworthy conduct. The sentence was fourteen years penal servitude the longest period the court could give.[4]

## It was never an easy Job 1878

**1878 May 31: Shooting at a constable in Godalming:** Surrey Assizes, James Harding 31 a labourer shooting at PC Frank Scatterfield with a revolver with intent to do him greviosu bodily harm. At half past one o'clock in the morning the officer and another constable were on duty in Godalming as they were passing a meadow seperated from the high road by a wall they heard a noise and the prisoner jumped over the wall without his hat. On being asked what he was up to said he was looking for his hat. The officer said he was gong to take him into custody at which point the prisoner produced a five chamber revolver from his pocket and discharged three of the barrels at the constable before he could be secured. There was a small charge in the barrel and the shot was stopped by the clothing ensuring the officer did not sustain any injury. The prisoner was taken to Guildford where he was seen by the deputy chief constable (Mr Barker) and told he would be charged he said " Yes, and I would shoot anyone who interefered with me." Harding found guilty and sentenced to hard labour for 12 months. [5] [6]

## Crime figures for the quarter July 1880

**1880 July 3: The Chief Constable Captain Hastings** presented his usual **abstract of the state of crime** and persons arrested during the quarter. There had been three offences against the person and two persons apprehended; five offences against property with violence, and one person apprehended; 17 offences against property without violence and 16 persons apprehended; three malicious offences against property and four persons apprehended; once case of forgery and offence against the currency and one person apprehended; 24 persons have been charged with offences triable by jury of whom 12 have been committed for trial and 12 discharged and 555 charged with offences punishable summarily by justices of whom 453 were summarily convicted and 102 discharged. [7]

## First Attempt at Police Radio in Surrey 1932

**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

[4] The Bristol Mercury and Daily Post Friday March 22, 1878
[5] Reynolds News 5 August 1869
[6] 1878 June 1: Birmingham Daily Post Saturday
[7] Surrey Advertiser 3 July 1880

Borough Police Mr WH Beacher, who communicate with each other over 19 miles. Major Nicholson spoke from his garden where a transmitter had been set up with power-supplied from 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." [8]

# Superintendent James Murtell

## Surrey Constabulary
## Joined 13 Jan 1851
## Previously 10 years in the Army leaving as a sergeant
## First Surrey Constabulary member to be fully pensioned
## 19 October 1876
## One of the Original 100; Appointment Register 38: drill instructor

**Jenifer Tuffs**

James Murtell was born about 1815 in Chichester Sussex, his father was also called James. In 1832 he joined the army although on 9th March 1833 he was listed as a deserter: Murtell James of 11th Light Dragoons, aged 20 years of Chichester Sussex, a turner.

**1841 Census** Hampton Court Barracks, Hampton, Middlesex James Murtell, soldier in 11th Regiment Hussars aged 28years (His service number was 722).

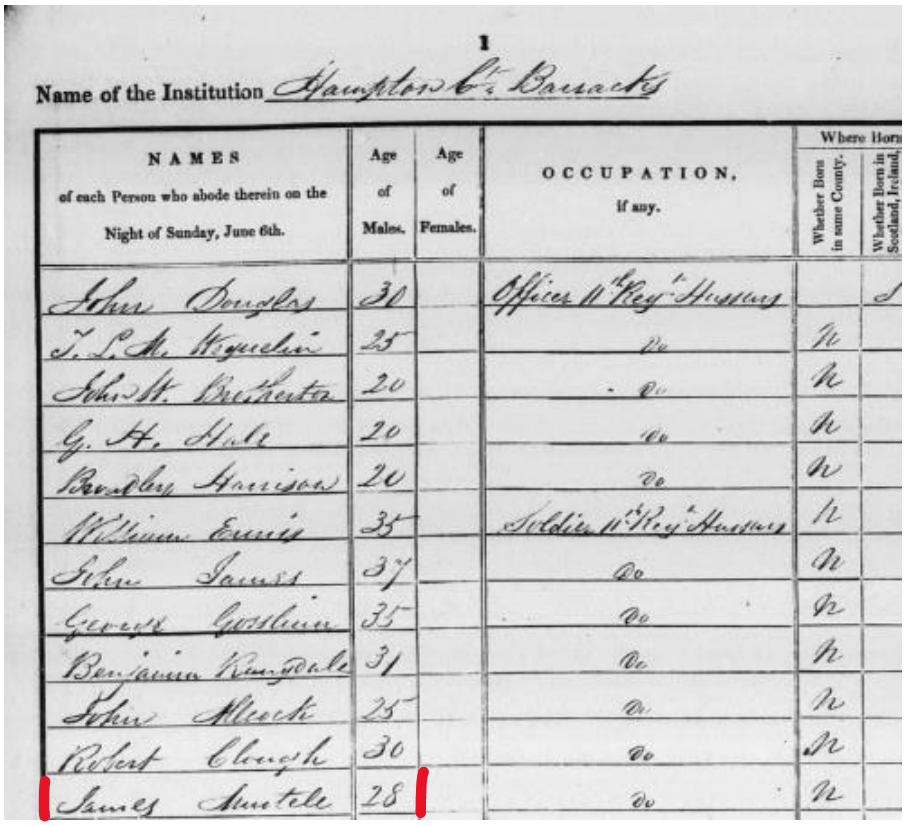
The 11th Hussars whose nickname became the 'Cherry Pickers' served in India from 1819 when it was involved at the Siege of Bhurtpore in the Jat War (1825- 26) and remained in India until 1838 leaving all but 224 men of the regiment unfit for service. It was then stationed in Kent to bring itself back up to strength. When Prince Albert landed in Dover in 1840 the regiment provided an escort as far as Canterbury and then part of the escort at his wedding to Queen

[8] The Times (London, England), Wednesday, Dec 21, 1932

Victoria. He subsequently adopted it becoming colonel and helping design a new uniform including the cherry or crimson-coloured trousers.

In 1841 James went with the 10th Hussars to Ireland to assist in the Irish troubles before being mobilized to India in 1846 where the regiment remained for 8 years at Kirkee.

**1841 11th September** at Hampton Parish Church Middlesex after Banns James Murtell of full age a Corporal in 11th Hussars of Hampton Court Barracks whose father was James Murtell, a stone mason married Mary Groves of Hampton whose father John was a shoemaker.



1

Name of the Institution Hampton Ct. Barracks

| NAMES of each Person who abode therein on the Night of Sunday, June 6th. | Age of Males. | Age of Females. | OCCUPATION, If any. | Where Born: Whether Born in same County. | Where Born: Whether Born in Scotland, Ireland, |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| John Douglas | 30 | | Officer 11th Reg't Hussars | | S |
| T. L. A. Wyndham | 25 | | Do | N | |
| John St. Brichester | 20 | | Do | N | |
| G. H. Hale | 20 | | Do | N | |
| Bromley Harrison | 20 | | Do | N | |
| William Ennis | 35 | | Soldier 11th Reg't Hussars | N | |
| John Jones | 37 | | Do | N | |
| George Goslin | 35 | | Do | N | |
| Benjamin Ramsdale | 31 | | Do | N | |
| John Meek | 25 | | Do | N | |
| Robert Clough | 30 | | Do | N | |
| James Murtell | 28 | | Do | N | |

**1841 Census**

**1842 26 June** James Henry Murtell was baptized at East Mosesley , his parents were James , a corporal in 11th Hussars and Mary Murtell of East Moseley

**1844** Sarah Murtell was born in Dublin, Ireland her father being a member of 11th Hussars

**1846 26 April** John William Murtell was baptized at St Mary-Northgate Canterbury his parents were James and Mary Murtell.

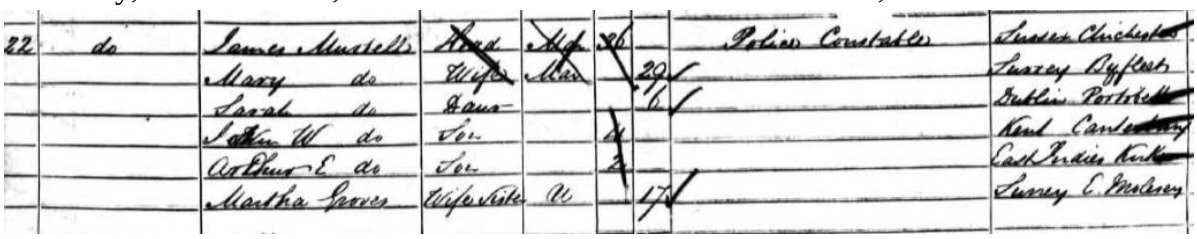
**1848 5 April** Arthur Edmund Murtell was born at Kirkee, Bombay, India, he was baptized on 24t April 1848, and his parents were James and Mary Murtell.

**1848** James was discharged from the army

**1851 13 January** James Murtell joined the newly formed Surrey Constabulary

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Appointment Number 38 | James Murtell | A turner by trade and 10th Hussars 1832-1838 | Age 31 in 1851 5 feet 8 inches born Chichester. Joined Surrey Constabulary 13 Jan 1851 1 November 1856 Inspector at £65pa Superintendent May 1858 £85 pa then Superintendent £90 June 1864 Superintendent £100 FIRST PENSIONER Surrey Constabulary | Full pension £12 pa 19 October 1876 died March 5, 1879, Brighton. |

**1851 Census Ockham Surrey** lists James Murtell aged 36years, a Police Constable living with wife Mary, children Sarah, John W and Arthur E and Martha Groves, his sister- in- law.



**1851 29 June** Frederick Adolphus Murtell was baptized at Ockham Surrey his parents were James, a policeman and Mary Murtell of Ockham

**1851 December 16: Sussex Advertiser**: Magistrate's Clerk's Office: December 12 Ockham: James Wells a labourer from Ockham was brought up in custody by PC Murtell having been charged with **threatening to take the life of his wife** Martha who is in a far state of pregnancy, because she refused to take drugs to induce an abortion. The prisoner was severely reprimanded by the magistrates who ordered him to find two sureties in £20 each to keep the peace for 12 months. The required security no being forthcoming he was sent to prison for two months.

**1853 10 April** Albert Leonard Murtell was baptized at Ockham his parents were James, a policeman and Mary Murtell of Ockham.

**1853 December 26 Morning Post and The Times**: Large fire at the Royal Paper Mills at Esher close to the station caused the trains to be stopped. Damage worth £100,000 pounds was caused and 250 people thrown out of work. Mr Superintendent Biddlecombe and Inspector Murtell with a body of police rendered great assistance by keeping the idlers out of reach of danger.

**1854 Newspapers throughout the Country: Esher Murders** - In June a woman called Mary Ann Brough, who in 1841 had been engaged as a wet nurse to the Prince of Wales, from West End near Esher cut the throats of six of her children and attempted to kill herself. When the

murdered children were buried the bells of the new church rang a solemn peal and residents of the town and adjoining village flocked in large numbers to witness the funeral. Mr Inspector Murtell and a strong body of the Surrey Constabulary were present to preserve order and escort the cortege to the church yard. Whilst awaiting her removal to Horsemonger Lane Gaol Mary Ann Brough showed great anxiety to give those in attendance upon her some of the trinkets she received whilst engaged at the Palace as a nurse to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. She presented Mr Biddlecombe, chief superintendent of police with a trinket and Mr Inspector Murtell with a paper knife which she stated was given her by Mr Norton, clerk of the kitchen at Buckingham Palace. The Rev Mr Harbin regularly visited her and expounded the Scriptures to her with Inspector Murtell reading her a number of chapters from the Bible.

**1855 3rd June** Alice Isabella Murtell was baptized at St Mary's Walton on Thames her parents were James, an inspector of police and Mary Murtell of Walton.

**1855 1st August Sussex Advertiser and newspapers throughout the country**: Early on Sunday morning 29th inst., between 12 and 1o'clock a most serious riot took place near the Market Place, in the High Street Haslemere in which Inspector Donaldson of the County Constabulary lost his life and Police Constable Freestone was seriously injured. On the following Friday, Inspector Donaldson was buried at St Bartholomew's Church. Whatever the neglect of future generations might be, the memory of his bravery was still fresh in the minds of the townspeople and his colleagues, and they united to give him a hero's funeral.

The Chief Constable was unable to attend, but most of his senior officers were there. Apart from the family mourners the coffin was followed by four of the five Divisional Superintendents, namely, Messrs Parr (Guildford), Burridge (Godalming), Everett (Farnham), and Page (Dorking). Then came Inspectors Frost and Murtell. Behind them marched a column of thirty-two constables, all wearing ceremonial mourning sashes. Following the police contingent came some fifty of the principal inhabitants, in procession, and behind them came all the townspeople who were not already lining the route to see the cortege pass. The shops of the town remained closed during the day, as a final tribute of respect and sympathy. At the Parish Church the Rector, the Reverend Hesse, was waiting to perform the burial service. In the Burial Register the event is recorded without any comment. 'No.892. William Donaldson, of Haslemere, aged forty-seven August 3rd 1855'. The Inspector's grave is not included in the list compiled at the close of the nineteenth century, and it is assumed that either no permanent memorial was erected, or that it was removed when the church was rebuilt in the eighteen-seventies.

**1856 March: GO 127: Drill instructions** and general training started in the force in March 1856. "It being highly essential that the constables in the different divisions should have an opportunity afforded them from time to time of being instructed in their drill, which the chief constable is aware that many were extremely deficient, he therefore considers it desirable that superintendents should send two men each rotation to headquarters for the purpose of being

drilled and otherwise instructed in their duties." [9] (Murtell was taken on the strength of the Surrey Constabulary as a drill instructor)

**GO 127** gives detail of a course of drill instructions and general training started in the force in March 1856. Inspector James Murtell who served for 16years in the 10th Hussars undertook the training. This is the first mention in GOs of any formalised training and included "being drilled and otherwise instructed in their duties". What these duties were is difficult to know but were most likely the laws that constables were expected to use and consequential practice and procedure required by the Force. The military nature flows on, with the concentration on the requirements of drill!

> **GO127:** It being highly essential that the constables in the different divisions should have an opportunity afforded them from time to time of being instructed in their drill, which the chief constable is aware that many were extremely deficient, he therefore considers it desirable that superintendents should send two men each rotation to headquarters for the purpose of being drilled and otherwise instructed in their duties.
>
> Lodgings will be provided, and the railway expenses allowed, for each single man, and a further sum of 6d per day in addition, will be granted to those to those who are married.
>
> This is to have effect from Wednesday the 26th instant on which day each man must report himself at this Office at ten o'clock with clothing sufficient for one fortnight; at the expiration of which it is hoped that they will have made such progress as shall enable them to return to their ordinary duties.
>
> During their temporary absence (of which the public are not to be informed) Superintendents must endeavour to make the best arrangements in their power for carrying on the duties in their respective division, and for affording protection to the vacant districts.

**General Order 128 May 3rd, 1856**

> Inspector Murtell of the Chertsey Division having been at Head Quarters since the 26 of March, during which time he has been actively engaged drilling the whole of the Force in successive detachments, and now being about to return to his station at Walton upon Thames; the Chief Constable cannot allow that officer to depart without thus publicly recording his sense of his services, and of the admirable and indefatigable manner in which he has discharged the duties of Drill Inspector.
>
> The untiring zeal which he evinced throughout, as well as the great patience and temper displayed by him on all occasions, accompanied by that firmness and discipline which are indispensable, cannot failed to command the respect and good feeling of the men

[9] Surrey Constabulary General Orders Book 1 1851-

themselves, as they merit and hereby receive the hearty approbation of the Chief Constable who has closely observed and appreciated is conduct.

This order is to be read by Superintendents to the men of their respective Divisions.

**1856 April 15 Surrey Gazette**: Surrey Quarter Sessions: Mary Ann Strip 18, a spinster was charged with **stealing at Byfleet a cash box** containing about £10 in gold and silver monies, and also three petticoats the property of James Holroyd. Mary was in service with the Holroyd family and Mrs Holroyd went into Mary's bedroom and looked into her box and some of the alleged stolen property was found. Superintendent Biddlecombe was called, and the room searched more carefully, and Mrs Holroyd found more of her property. PC 9 Edwin Colville Moore, Surrey Constabulary, deposed that on Friday 20 March the prisoner was in custody at Chertsey police station and said she wanted to see Mr Biddlecombe and she wished to make a statement in which she admitted the thefts and if Mr Biddlecombe would take her to her mother's shed, she would point out where the property was. Biddlecombe cautioned the girl and PC Moore who was standing by the cell door heard it being given. Superintendent William Henry Biddlecombe Superintendent of the Surrey Constabulary said he was stationed at Chertsey. On March the 20th he received information and went with Inspector Murtell to the prosecutor's house. Biddlecombe searched inside and Murtell the outside. Something transpired and Biddlecombe went to the prisoner's mother's house and apprehended the prisoner. Inspector Murtell gave evidence of finding the cash box in Mr Holroyd's coal cellar covered in coals. Strip was found guilty, but the jury recommended mercy on account of her affliction of numerous fits and her youth. The chairman said they were about to pass a sentence of pure humanity rather than strict justice and he hoped the public would not misunderstand it. He hoped she would get the better of the physical infirmity under which she laboured, and her moral character would improve. Sentenced to one month's imprisonment

**1856 August 30 Windsor and Eton Express**: On Tuesday afternoon Inspector James Murtell Surrey Constabulary apprehended a man named John Baker with a small pony in his possession which was found to be stolen

**1856 4 November Sussex Advertiser: Godstone:** Change of Police Superintendent: Mr Hollington has been appointed to the Farnham district and Mr Murtell from Farnham to be Superintendent for the Godstone district.

**1857 April 12** Horace Reginald Murtell was baptised at St Nicholas Church, Godstone, his parents were James, superintendent of police and Mary Murtell of Godstone.

**1858 May 20** Horace Reginald Murtell aged 1 year of Police Station Gogmore Lane, Chertsey was buried at St Peters Church, Chertsey.

**May 1858** Inspector Murtell was appointed **superintendent**.

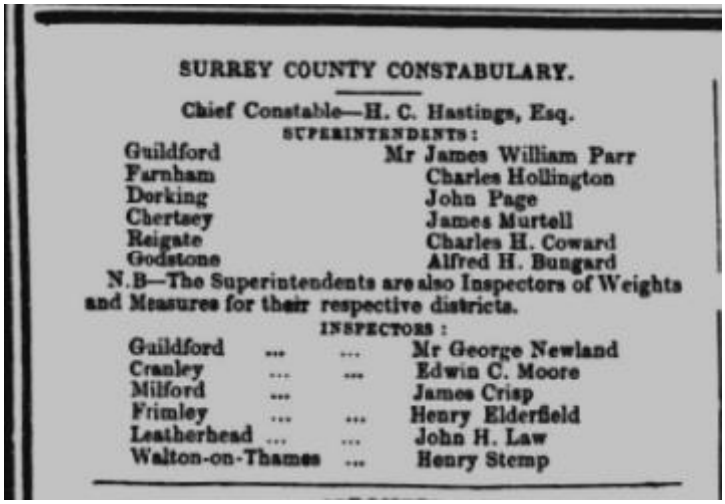
**1858 May 25 Surrey Gazette**: Surrey Adjourned Sessions: Court House Newington: On the magistrates assembling the Clerk of the Peace said in consequence of Mr Biddlecombe late Superintendent of the rural police having taken an inn at Chertsey, Mr Murtell Superintendent

at Godstone had been **removed to Chertsey** and Mr Alfred Bungard from Guildford was appointed in Mr Murtell's place at Godstone, but it was necessary for the court to appoint him as Inspector of Weights and Measures for the Godstone Division. Mr Bungard was accordingly sworn in.

**1858 21 July: Police Gazette**: Between the hours of 4 and 5 pm the dwelling house of Isaac Smith, farm labourer at Bagshot in the county of Surrey was broken into and the following articles stolen therefrom: a black cloth frock coat with a piece let in under each arm, two vests one black cloth the other dark striped with watch pocket on breast and glass buttons, two pairs of trousers one corduroy the other grey mixture; one new white shirt; one silk handkerchief black and red stripes; two cotton handkerchiefs one nearly all red the other blue ground with flags of different nations; and a pair of Blucher boots. The thief left a red Guernsey and a pair of white braces in the bedroom. The man of the following description was seen loitering about near the house wearing a red Guernsey and white braces: about 25 years of age 5 feet 5 inches high, fair complexion, light hair and sandy whisker. He was traced as far as Egham wearing the stolen clothes and carrying a bundle tied up in a red handkerchief, but night setting in he could not be traced further. Information to be given to Superintendent Murtell Surrey Constabulary at Chertsey: Bow Street July 21.

**1858 23 August** Florence Laura Murtell was born, she was baptized at St Peter's Chertsey on 19 September 1858, her parents were James, superintendent of Surrey Constabulary and Mary Murtell of Gogmore Lane Chertsey.

**1859 1 January** West Surrey Times



SURREY COUNTY CONSTABULARY.

Chief Constable—H. C. Hastings, Esq.

SUPERINTENDENTS:

| | |
|---|---|
| Guildford | Mr James William Parr |
| Farnham | Charles Hollington |
| Dorking | John Page |
| Chertsey | James Murtell |
| Reigate | Charles H. Coward |
| Godstone | Alfred H. Bungard |

N.B—The Superintendents are also Inspectors of Weights and Measures for their respective districts.

INSPECTORS:

| | |
|---|---|
| Guildford ... ... | Mr George Newland |
| Cranley ... ... | Edwin C. Moore |
| Milford ... | James Crisp |
| Frimley ... ... | Henry Elderfield |
| Leatherhead ... ... | John H. Law |
| Walton-on-Thames ... | Henry Stemp |

**1859 August 6: Surrey Summer Assizes Croydon**: Henrico Hamilton age 30 was charged with uttering one forged £10 Bank of England note at Woking and another to Henry Longhurst and another to William Henry Biddlecomb (sic) both of Chertsey with intent to defraud. The prisoner using a military rank called at the Albion Hotel, Woking and made enquires after a military man. Having spun a yarn he had lunch and offered the £10 in payment, which the landlord was reluctant to accept. The prisoner endorsed the note "H. Hamilton, Stoke Park,

Berks." The landlord gave the change £9 17s 2d and he left in a gig. The next day the landlord gave the note to Superintendent Murtell.

**1859 August 27 Windsor and Eton Express**: **Egham races**: The police arrangements were more effective than usual, a body of 20 men of the Surrey Constabulary under the Chief Constable Captain Hastings and Superintendents Mortel (Murtell) and Law. There was also a detachment of a superintendent and ten detectives. Notwithstanding their vigilance there were several cases of robbery.

**1860 March 24**: Surrey Comet Chertsey Petty Sessions: Charge of **shoplifting** at Walton on Thames – Abigail Mott and Sarah Keywood were charged with stealing 4 pairs of boots value 35s, the property of Laura Faulkener of Walton on Thames. Laura Emma Faulkener deposed, the two prisoners came into my mother's shop on Friday last, the 16th inst., to try on some shoes. I showed them two pairs of the boots, produced. They did not purchase any and went away. Next day I missed the two pairs of boots which had been tried on by Keywood. Superintendent Murtell (one of the Surrey Constabulary) said, having received information some boots had been stolen from Mrs Faulkener's shop, I went to the prisoners 'residence and found the boots, produced, underneath the bed. The prisoner Keywood said, 'I did not take them.' Prosecutor and his wife strongly recommended the prisoners to the merciful consideration of the court on the grounds that the present was their first offence. The prisoners, who cried bitterly during the examination, then, in answer to the chairman, pleaded guilty and were sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

**1860 June 25 Blanche Emma Murtell was born**, she was baptized at St Pete's Chertsey on 19th August 1860, her parents were James, superintendent of Police and Mary of Gogmore Lane Chertsey.

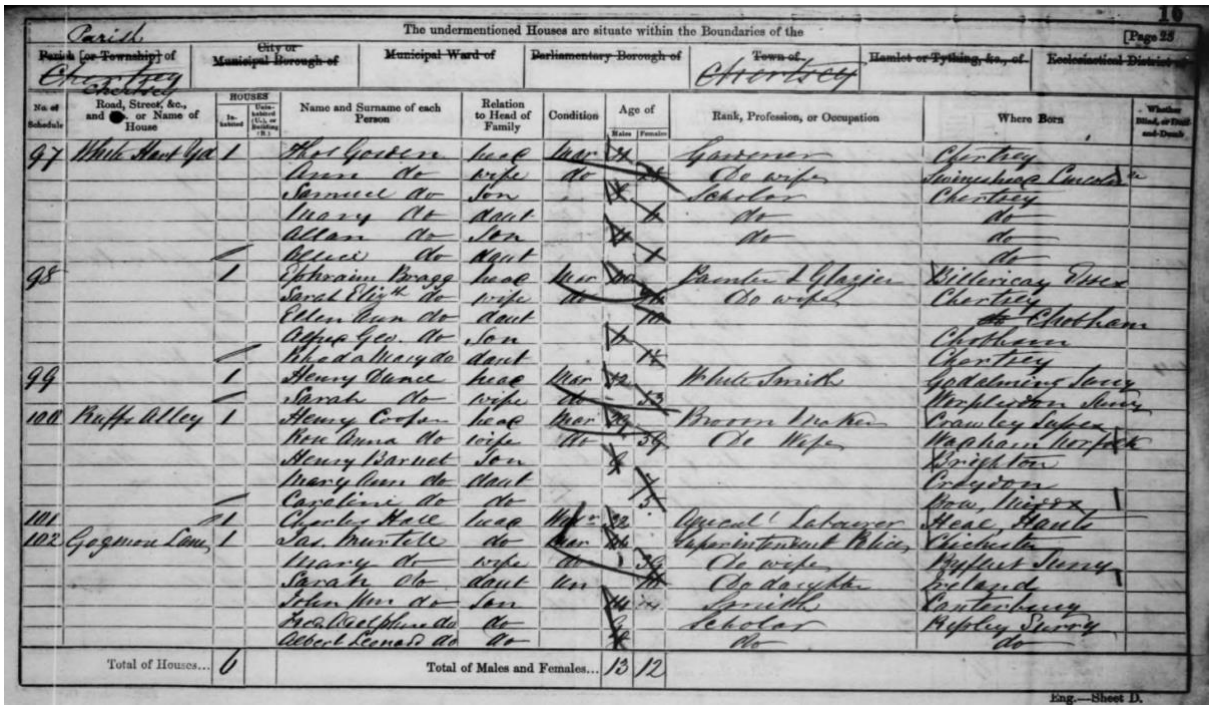
**1860 August 25th Windsor and Eton Express**: **Robbery of bank notes** by country woman and clever detection: Martha Shelley and Amelia Bow two middle aged respectable looking married women, were charged at Westminster Police Court with stealing £35 in bank note from the head gardener at Runnymede Park, Egham. The prosecutor met the women, one who had known before, and they persuaded him to go with them to have a drink in the Barley Mow Tavern. This he did and a few minutes later, after "pulling him about in joke", they left. Next evening, he missed his pocketbook. Inspector Murtell, Surrey Constabulary was informed, and he made enquiries and found the women. Two of the stolen £10 notes were traced to the **women. Committed for trial.**

**1860 November 10: Windsor and Eton Express: Chertsey: The fifth November**; On Monday evening the dangerous and very foolish practice of letting off fireworks in the street was still kept up by the mob but not with such spirit as formerly. It is gradually dying off here and it is hoped before another year it will be stopped altogether. No thinking person would ever persist in it if they knew the serious apprehension tradesmen are under for the safety of their property, besides the great danger to the traffic, owing to the careful surveillance of the police under Superintendent Murtell, no accident occurred.

**1860 November** 24: Windsor and Eton Express Chertsey Petty Sessions – Henry Chennell was charged by Superintendent Murtell of **letting off fireworks in the public highway** at Chertsey on the 6th inst – fined 5s.

**1861 February 16:** Windsor and Eton Express: **Military Movements**: The 6th Battery of the 8th Brigade, Royal Artillery arrived at Chertsey from Aldershot on Monday last and stayed until Thursday morning when they left for Clapham Common to meet the Armstrong gun from Woolwich to exchange guns and return with the same. Great credit is due to Mr Murtell, our Superintendent of police for the manner in which they passed through the town, he having been a soldier himself for many years, knew so well their requirements and how to billet them etc.

**1861 Census** for Gogmore Lane Chertsey lists Jas Murtell, Superintendent of police living with his wife Sarah, his children, niece and a prisoner.



The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Parish [or Township] of Chertsey — City or Municipal Borough of — Municipal Ward of — Parliamentary Borough of — Town of Chertsey — Hamlet or Tything, &c., of — Ecclesiastical District

| No. of Schedule | Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House | Houses Inhabited | Houses Uninhabited | Name and Surname of each Person | Relation to Head of Family | Condition | Age of Males | Age of Females | Rank, Profession, or Occupation | Where Born | Whether Blind, or Deaf and Dumb |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 97 | White Hart Yd | 1 | | Robt Gosden | head | Mar. | 34 | | Gardener | Chertsey | |
| | | | | Ann do | wife | do | | 34 | do wife | Twineham Sussex | |
| | | | | Samuel do | Son | | 8 | | Scholar | Chertsey | |
| | | | | Mary do | dau[t] | | | 6 | do | do | |
| | | | | Allan do | Son | | 4 | | do | do | |
| | | | | Alice do | dau[t] | | | 1 | | do | |
| 98 | | 1 | | Ephraim Bragg | head | Mar. | 30 | | Painter & Glazier | Billericay Essex | |
| | | | | Sarah Eliz[th] do | wife | do | | 28 | do wife | Chertsey | |
| | | | | Ellen Ann do | dau[t] | | | 10 | | do Chobham | |
| | | | | Alfred Geo. do | Son | | 4 | | | Chobham | |
| | | | | Rhoda Mary do | dau[t] | | | 1 | | Chertsey | |
| 99 | | 1 | | Henry Quince | head | Mar. | 32 | | Whole Smith | Godalming Surrey | |
| | | | | Sarah do | wife | do | | 33 | | Worplesdon Surrey | |
| 100 | Ruffs Alley | 1 | | Henry Carson | head | Mar. | 39 | | Brown Maker | Crawley Sussex | |
| | | | | Ann Anna do | wife | do | | 39 | do Wife | Clapham Norfolk | |
| | | | | Henry Barnet | Son | | 4 | | | Brighton | |
| | | | | Mary Ann do | dau[t] | | | 1 | | Croydon | |
| | | | | Caroline do | do | | | 1 | | Bow Middx | |
| 101 | | 1 | | Charles Hall | head | Mar. | 32 | | Agricul[l] Labourer | Heae Hants | |
| 102 | Gogmore Lane | 1 | | Jas. Murtell | do | Mar. | 34 | | Superintendant Police | Chichester | |
| | | | | Mary do | wife | do | | 36 | do wife | Byfleet Surrey | |
| | | | | Sarah do | dau[t] | Un | | 14 | do daughter | Ireland | |
| | | | | John Mer do | Son | | 11 | | Scholar | Canterbury | |
| | | | | Fra[s] Bell Hines do | do | | 9 | | do | Ripley Surrey | |
| | | | | Albert Reeves do | do | | 8 | | do | do | |
| | Total of Houses... | 6 | | Total of Males and Females... | | | 13 | 12 | | | |

Eng.—Sheet D.

**1861 August 21: Sporting Life: Egham Races:** Captain Hastings of the Surrey Constabulary was absent through illness and therefore the police arrangements devolved to Superintendent Murtell assisted by three inspectors and forty constables.

**1861 August 24:** Windsor and Eton Express: **Egham Races:** The course was well kept by a number of the Surrey Constabulary under Superintendent Murtell and as a proof of their efficiency we subjoin a copy of a letter which Captain Hastings has since received from one of the stewards:

**Park Place, Egham, August 22, 1861**

**My dear Hastings**, I was extremely sorry to learn of your illness and to miss seeing you here at the races. Admiral Rous who was this year my brother steward and whose opinion in these matters is equal to any in the country, wished me to express through you to the inspector and men of your force employed our acknowledgements of the temperate, judicious and successful exertions on the racecourse.

It was his own observation and remark in which many of the most influential members of the Turf fully concurred that they had never seen these duties more promptly or properly performed.

The control of considerable crowds, both of carriages and foot people was as efficiently maintained as the course was for each race expeditiously cleared, and I myself mention as corroboration of that success of their exertions that during the two days only two cases of the most ordinary class of card-sharping and vagrancy were brought before me in my magisterial capacity.

We shall feel obliged by your communicating to Inspector Murtell and his men the obligations the stewards feel under for this preservation of order.
Henry Seymour

**1861 September 21:** Windsor and Eton Express: **Egham: conviction of a notorious burglar:** At the Surrey Session on Tuesday last Edward Thompson alias Edmund Winkworth a notorious housebreaker was tried at the above sessions for breaking into a house at Egham and sentenced to ten years penal servitude. Previously convicted of for stealing fat from Mr Gurney at Egham when he was sentenced to 12 months hard labour. A further sentence of four years for burglary at Peckham and has undergone several terms of imprisonment since. He has committed robberies by housebreaking in broad daylight at Denham, Burnham, Langley Marsh and various robberies in the counties of Berks, Hants, Herts, Middlesex and Surrey. Winkworth broke into a house at Knoll Hill, Egham but he was disturbed by the householder he got under the bed to hide himself but was soon dragged out by a group of "navvies" who had come to assist their "mate" the householder. The prisoner was given in charge to a PC of the Surrey Constabulary. Since Winkworth's committal Mr Superintendent Murtell of the Surrey Constabulary, Mr Superintendent Berry, and PC McClonkie Bucks Constabulary, proceeded to London and found the prisoner's residence where they found evidence that his wife was busy pawning and disposing as fast as Winkworth could forward the stolen property to her. Great credit is due to the officers for their exertions in tracing much of the property from the numerous robberies.

**1861 24th December** South Eastern Gazette Senior Appointments

## Surrey County Constabulary.

| Division. | Rank of Officer. | Name. | Address. | Force. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Head Quarters | Chief Const. | Captain Hastings | Guildford | |
| ,, | Superinten. | James W. Parr | Guildford | 37 men |
| ,, | Inspector | George Newland | Guildford | |
| ,, | Inspector | James Crisp | Witley | |
| Reigate Div. | Superinten. | Charles H. Coward | Reigate | 15 men |
| Dorking Div. | Superinten. | John Page | Dorking | 15 men |
| ,, | Inspector | Henry Stemp | Leatherhead | |
| Chertsey Div. | Superinten. | James Murtell | Chertsey | 23 men |
| ,, | Inspector | William Lambert | Bagshot | |
| ,, | Inspector | John Jones | Egham | |
| Godstone Div. | Superinten. | Alfred H. Bungard | Godstone | 11 men |
| Farnham Div. | Superinten. | Charles Hollington | Farnham | 12 men |
| | | | Total strength | 113 ,, |

N.B. The Superintendents are also Inspectors of Weights and Measures for their respective districts.

**1862 January 3: Edith Emily Murtell was born**, she was baptized 9th February 1862 at St Peter's Chertsey, her parents were James, as Superintendent of Police and Mary of the Police Station Chertsey.

**1862 January 25:** Windsor and Eton Express: Chertsey:Petty Sessions before the Hon Admiral Cavendish (chairman) and G Bulpett esq: Mr Superintendent Murtell made an application for a **summons against Mr W H Biddlecombe***, the proprietor of the Swan Hotel- In the course of a conversation that followed between the bench and the applicant in this novel prosecution, the applicant said complaints had been made to him of gambling in the town, and as he had given notice to all the landlords in Chertsey that cards would no longer be allowed , some had gone as far as to accuse him (Mr Murtell) with allowing gambling on a larger scale to exist by the playing of billiards at the Swan. In consequence of information received he went to the billiard room above the house and saw eight gentlemen playing a game called 'pool'. There was 8s in money which the gentlemen were playing for -By the Bench: Did not see any betting on the game, but as he was desirous of avoiding the suspicion of being accused of favouritism by anyone, he thought it his duty to bring the matter before the Bench. Mr Biddlecombe considered he was legally entitled to allow billiards playing in his house, and it was now for the Bench to decide whether to grant the summons. Mr Bulpett gave his decided opinion that the legislature never intended to interfere in such a case as the present. A licensed victualler was entitled to have billiards in his house. The Chairman, who concurred in the opinion expressed by Mr Bulpett said Mr Murtell had only done his duty in bringing the matter forward, but they must refuse the application- There were several publicans present anxiously awaiting the decision of the Bench, but Mr Biddlecombe did not influence the decision either by his presence or advocacy against the application. *

WH Biddlecombe was previously a Chief Superintendent in Surrey Constabulary having resigned in 1858 to become landlord of The Swan at Chertsey and clerk of Chertsey racecourse.

**1862 July 26:** Windsor and Eton Express: Chertsey: Superintendent of Police: Our respected Superintendent of Police, **Mr Murtell has been removed** from Chertsey to the Farnham district and his departure took place yesterday morning.

**1863 January Senior Appointments**

| Division | Rank | Name | Address | Force |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Headquarters | Chief Constable | Captain Hastings | Guildford | |
| Headquarters | Sup & Sec | Mr James W Parr | Guildford | 37 men |
| Headquarters | Inspector | Mr George Newland | Guildford | |
| Headquarters | Inspector | James Law | Witley | |
| Reigate | Inspector | Mr Charles H Coward | Reigate | 15 |
| Dorking | Superintendent | Mr John Page | Dorking | 15 |
| Dorking | Inspector | Mr Henry Stemp | Leatherhead | |
| Chertsey | Superintendent | Mr Charles Hollington | Chertsey | 23 |
| Chertsey | Inspector | Mr William Lambert | Bagshot | |
| Chertsey | Inspector | Mr John Jones | Egham | |
| Godstone | Superintendent | Mr Alfred H Bungard | Godstone | 11 |
| Farnham | Superintendent | Mr James Murtell | Farnham | 12 |
| | | | Total strength | 113 |
| | | Superintendents are also Inspectors of Weights and Measures for their respective Districts | | |

**1863 January 17:** West Surrey Times: Farnham: **Robbery at the railway station** during the night of Saturday last the warehouse of the South Western Railway was forcibly entered and about 7s, the property of the company stolen from the till. Immediately on the discovery of the robbery, information was given to Mr Superintendent Murtell and his men have been active on the case but as yet no clue has been obtained to the person by whom the theft was committed.

**1863 August** James **Murtel**l, Sgt of 10th Hussars and 11th Hussars whose **total army service** was 16 and a half years including two postings of 3 years 6 months and 2 years 4 months to India, whose character was good was referred for a deferred pension. He was born in Chichester, 5ft 7and three quarter ins tall with a fair complexion. The **pension was awarded** on 27th October 1863.[10] xxx

[10] British Army Service Records Chelsea Documents of Soldiers awarded deferred pensions 1838-1896 at the National Archive

**1863 October 31** Aldershot Military Gazette: Farnham: Mr Hawkins of the Queen, beer house, Hungary Hill was summoned for being **open at unlawful hours** for the sale of beer on Sunday 18th inst. The case was fully proved and a fine of £1 inflicted. The constables in the case had gone into the house in plain clothes, Superintendent Murtell saying it was no use in sending in constables in their uniform as all the beer housekeepers had persons watching. He had brought men 10 miles to act in such cases. The Bench complimented Mr Murtell on the active steps he had taken.

**1863 October 31** Aldershot Military Gazette: Being "Chequed" John James Byron Mach Onochie, a 'fast' looking young man, lately in the employment of Mr John Fenerty, tailor of York Town was brought up charged with stealing a cheque for £4 16s 6d and other goods the property of his employer. Mr Murtell said that he apprehended the prisoner on Saturday last in Bolton, Lancashire. He wished for a remand to allow him time to obtain some witnesses from London. The prisoner was accordingly remanded. In November the prisoner was brought up on remand and committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions at Newington on 16th November where he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 12 months hard labour.

**1863 November 7:** Aldershot Military Gazette: **Farnham Board of Guardians** Meeting: The case of wife desertion: The chairman said that the superintendent of Police had reported to him that he had taken steps to apprehend the man Turner, for whose arrest a reward had been offered by the Board for his absconding from his wife. It appeared that Mr Murtell had received a communication from a police inspector in London to the effect that a man answering the description issued by the Board of Turner had been apprehended and imprisoned for deserting his wife but had since been released .On receipt of this letter Mr Murtell immediately proceeded to London and apprehended the party, then took him to a person there who was acquainted with the Turner required at Farnham for identification .On seeing him this person declared that the prisoner was not the man. The latter was therefore released but Mr Murtell was of the opinion that he had a clue to the whereabouts of the wanted man.

**1863 Saturday November 14:** Aldershot Military Gazette: "The **melancholy death** of Mr Dart, the assistant overseer of Aldershot."
It is with painful regret that we have to record the sudden death of Mr Samuel John Dart, assistant overseer and collector of taxes for the parish of Aldershot, under the following somewhat extraordinary circumstances.

It appears that the deceased proceeded to Farnham on Thursday, the 5th of November, for the purpose of collecting rates of gentleman there who possess property in Aldershot, and in not returning caused his wife to be uneasy respecting his safety. Mr Morgan, of the Havelock arms, went to Farnham yesterday morning in search of him, and upon making enquiries was told that a man had been found dead, lying in a ditch, at Coxbridge, about a mile from Farnham, on the road to Bentley, and that the body had been removed to the Farnham workhouse, where Mr Morgan went and recognised the body to be that of the above-named gentleman. It is thought that Mr Dark lost his way. The deceased has left a wife and young family.

Inquest on the body: On Saturday afternoon last an enquiry was opened at the Farnham Union before C.J. Woods Esq, coroner for the Western division of the county of Surrey, touching the death of Samuel John Dart, assistant overseer and collector rates for the parish of Aldershot, who was found dead on the previous Friday morning about a mile from Farnham, under the circumstances detailed in the subjoined evidence.

The jury having proceeded to the 'dead house' to view the body. William Attfield, of Park Place, shoemaker, was called, and deposed as follows; I did not know the deceased, whose body I have just seen. Yesterday morning, a little after 3 o'clock, as I was coming down Castle Street, I saw a man sitting down on the grass under the lamp, opposite the residence of Archdeacon Utterton. He was apparently dozing, having his arms upon his knees, and his head resting on one hand. I spoke to him, but he made no answer, and I lifted him up, standing him on his feet. He then spoke, saying that he lived opposite. Where, at Mr Ainslie's or Colonel Armstrong's? And he said, "where am I?" I told him he was in Farnham, and he then said, "I am Mr Dart, from Aldershot." I asked if I could assist him to any place where he could remain for the night, and he replied, “No, but if you will leave me for a short time, I shall soon be better and able to get home." I saw some blood on his cheek and asked how he came by it. I drew him towards the lamp and observed a graze over one of the eyes. I cannot say which. He lifted up his hand to show me a cut, and I noticed a ring upon the finger. I went a little further on and picked up what I believe to be a book about this size (pointing to one on the table.)

In reply to the coroner, Mr Superintendent Murtell said that the largest book found belonging to the deceased did not answer the description given by the witness.

Witness: I went back and gave it to him, and he said it was his, and immediately placed it under his arm. He then walked away up Castle Street, wishing me good night, to which I replied. I went home in the opposite direction and shortly after reaching home the clock struck four. I have seen a dead body lying here and it is the same person whom I saw in Castle Street. He wore and Inverness cape and black hat, the latter of which I picked up, and wiping away the dirt placed it on his head. When I left him and saw which way he was going, I told the deceased that he was not on his way to Aldershot. He made answer and said that he knew which way he was going.

William Baigent deposed: I live in Potters Yard, Farnham and I am a labourer. I did not know the deceased personally. Yesterday morning about 11:30 I was working for Mr Roumieu, and having finished a job, had occasion to go past a spot in company with my son when I saw the deceased lying in a stream of water about 8 to 10 inches deep. I first noticed clothes on the water, and on looking more closely I saw the forehead of a man, the face been covered by cape which he wore. Before touching the body, I called to three men, named John Budd, Charles Collins and William Collins, who were working in the field close by. The deceased was lying on his back, with a current of water of two or three inches deep above the face, which was looking upwards. The stream in which she was lying was at the time from 18 inches to 2 feet deep, because of the ditch be narrow. The body had formed a "bay" and partly stopped the

water, but it is general depth is from 8 to 10 inches. The width of the ditch is about 18 inches, and the body was in it like a vice. The ground on each side is swampy, and there is no footpath within 700 or 800 yards of the ditch. The footmarks showed that the deceased came from some distance up beside the stream, and the soil, being of clay at the place where he fell; it caused his foot to slip. I am certain there was no ring on either of his hands at the time he was taken out of the water. My son ran to the police station at Farnham, and I and the other men remained with the deceased, until Police Constable Gray arrived about an hour afterwards and search the body. I saw a bruise on the left cheek, and the eye looked a little darkened. The right arm, where it came in contact with the bank, was very red. A great many finger marks were visible on the bank where the deceased had struggled with his right hand, and his coat sleeve was worked up for some distance. There was some clay on his hand and in the fingernails, as though the deceased had struggled to get out of the ditch. Is cloths were not torn. The deceased would have to fall the distance of four or 5 feet, as the bank slopes on each side of the ditch.

Police Constable Gray stated that he saw the body on the previous day about 12 o'clock, and on searching it found £11 12s 6d in cash on the person of the deceased, a seal, and other articles, including receipt book for assessed taxes. He at once recognised the body as that of Mr. Dart, of Aldershot.

Mr B Y Knowles, surgeon, deposed; I was yesterday called upon at 3:30 in the afternoon, to view the body of the deceased, whom I knew personally, at the workhouse. I have the body stripped and made an examination of it. It was covered with small leaves, rough grass, and dirt, which had been worked between the body and the clothes. I found a suppurated bruise on each knee, and one on the right shinbone. There was a slight bruise on the right elbow, but there was no discoriation.

There was also a bruise on the left cheekbone, with slight discoriation, and ecchymosis had taken place. I noticed discoriation of the forehead over the right eye, which had bled, but there was no fracture. The deceased had previously lost the use of one arm. He was about 60 years of age. The bruises I have described were none of them of any serious consequence; and there was nothing in general appearance of the body inconsistent with the death from drowning.
Mr Superintendent Murtell informed the coroner that if an adjournment took place, he should probably be able to produce additional evidence.

Mr Dart, postmaster, of Guildford, the deceased's brother, in reply to the coroner said that the latter was 60 years of age and had a wife and five children. He was of temperate habits.
The coroner said, that at present a portion of the case was involved in mystery, and it would therefore be desirable to adjourn the enquiries.

The jury were then bound over to attend again, and the inquest was adjourned until Wednesday.

The adjourned inquest was resumed on Wednesday at the workhouse, when the following additional evidence was given:

William Stillaway, a labourer, residing at Badshot Lea, said he had known the deceased by sight for about 12 months. On Thursday night about 12 o'clock he saw him in Farnham, at the corner of the road leading to the police station, Park Lane. Deceased was leaning over the wheel of a cab. He did not speak to him. Witness then went into a public house near at hand, and, after being there for some time, he had an altercation, and getting up to see what it was he observed Mr Dart outside the door, The landlord (Mr Haslet) preventing him entering, and saying he thought that he (Mr Dart) had had enough. Witness said to Mr Dart, "are you going home?" And he said, "yes." Witness then told him he would accompany him, and Mr Dart asked him if he would have something to drink. They then went back into the public house, and had a glass of gin, which Mr Dart paid for, but did not take any himself. Subsequently he paid for a pot of ale and witness drank a glass. They then went on, witness helping him a little. When they got opposite the gas house, East Street, deceased stopped and said that they were on the wrong road, and witness said, "Mr Dart, do you not know that this is the gas house?" But he did not reply. They then went on, and when opposite the Albion he said that they were going the wrong road altogether, and, pointing towards Farnham, said that was the right road; he wanted to go to High Street, Aldershot, and said that was the road pointing to the proper one. They then went on, and when at the tollgate on the Guildford Road, leading to Aldershot by Badshot Lea, deceased took himself from witness, and turning round, said it was not his road and he would not go any further. Witness replied it was, and took hold of Mr Dart, but he refused to go. Witness then said that he should take his own course and watched the deceased as far back as the Albion hotel. He never saw the deceased again. He did not see him fall as he went along, nor did witness notice that deceased had sustained any injury. Deceased had no parcel with him. Witness could not say whether he had a ring on his finger. In the morning he went into Mr Pharo's at Aldershot and ask him if he had heard anything of Mr. Dart, as he met him in Farnham on the preceding night the worst for liquor. Mr Pharo said he had not and asked him not to tell Mrs Pharo of deceased being tipsy. Mr Dart had offered him as they went along half a crown to see him home, but he did not give it to him. If he had he should not have left him.

Mr Knowles was then called and said that since Saturday he had made a post-mortem examination of the deceased. He observed a mark upon the little finger is if there had been a ring on it, a slight excoriation being on the finger, there have been also a mark on the other. Ring appeared to have fitted tightly. I think it was scratched on the top, and all the fingernails of the right-hand were filled with clay. There were no other marks besides those he had described on Saturday. The face was pale and passive, and the eyes partly open, and pupils dilated. He then opened the body, and, on examining the stomach, found a little water and some food in it. There was no particular smell, understand was it self-violet colour. The colour would have been caused by the act of digestion going on at the time of death. The heart was filled with fluid blood, particularly on the right side, and the lungs were collapsed. That was a good deal of mucus in the lungs, and some in the bronchial tubes. He then opened the head and found no corresponding bruise internally with the external bruise on the forehead. There was no fracture of the skull. The brain itself was healthy, except the lower portion, which was slightly congested. This might have been caused by suffocation. There was nothing in the appearance of the body contrary to the supposition that deceased died from drowning, The appearance

being such as would have been produced by asphyxia. He supposed that when the deceased fell into the ditch he struggled to get out. Witness did not think he breezed after he fell into the ditch. There was no appearance of the deceased having suffered from the recent attack of paralysis. He did not think from the appearance of the body that Mr Dart had been given any drug on the night of his death.

In answer to the coroner, Mr Murtell said he could not find that the deceased had a large sum of money about him then have been found on him.

Police Constable John Gray deposed that on Friday afternoon about 12:30 he was called to see the deceased and found several persons around him. Deceased was lying by the side of the ditch. His clothes were wet and buttoned up close, except his overcoat, which was loose. They did not appear to have been torn. I'm searching his pocket he found three pocketbooks containing receipts, all the money was found in his right-hand pocket, other pockets contained a seal, silver medal, a pair of silver mounted eyeglasses, and a pocketknife. There were two handkerchiefs in the pockets, but he did not touch them.

Mr Superintendent Murtell said that Mrs Dart was positive a husband had a ring on his finger when you left home in the morning, and two knives, one larger than the other. Police Constable Gray further stated that the ditch with the deceased found was not more than 18 inches wide, 6 feet deep, and had 6 inches of water in it. The finger marks what on the side near the hop field, where the bank was about 4 foot deep. He thought that a person who is intoxicated falling into it could not get up, and, the bottom was of loose clay, The more he worked the more difficult it would have been to get up.

In reply to some questions from one of the jurymen, Superintendent Murtell said that there were no constables out in Farnham from 6:00 PM on the 5th until 2 o'clock on the following morning, and during that time the town was in the hands of the celebrants of 5th November.
David Hawkes, a servant, said he did not know the deceased. About 12 PM on the 5th, while standing outside his door in East Street, nearly opposite the Savings Bank, he saw a person clinging to a lamppost, and after some time observed him turn round to follow the party that appeared to be going to Aldershot, when he fell heavily. He then assisted him over against the wall, and the person told him his name was Dart. He soon after got up, and witness watched him walk for about 60 yards pretty steady.

Mr Murless, vestry clerk, Aldershot, here entered the room, and informed the coroner that he had been requested to apply for the papers which have been found on deceased. In reply to the coroner Mr Murless said that the parochial authorities have no reason to believe that there was anything wrong in the deceased's accounts. They had examined the accounts to some extent, so far had found them right. The surveyor of taxes the other day had found that the deceased had collected about £325, of which about £313 had been paid in, and they did not anticipate any such thing as defalcations. In answer to further questions, Mr Murless said that Mr Dart did not carry the receipt book with him when collecting rates, so that the counterfoils would

not show the amount collected. Mr Dart, owing to not having the use of his left arm, being in the habit of taking receipts and leaving the counterfoils to be filled in after he returned home. This concluded the enquiry, and the learned coroner then ably summoned up, pointing out to the jury that there was no reason to suppose that the deceased had met with any ill treatment. As regarded the missing ring, it was very possible that it was forced off the finger by deceased's efforts to get out of the ditch; and it was also made clear by the evidence that the reports as to Mr Dart having had £100 in his possession at the time of his death were quite unfounded. There was no doubt that all the money that he had collected had been found on his person. As to his getting into the ditch it was evident that the deceased had mistaken his road, and was in the state which the evidence showed he was in, and, having himself examined the spot since Saturday he (the coroner) could readily concede with the opinion of the witness Gray, that a person falling into the ditch could not, unless with assistance, get out of it. After a short consultation the jury returned an open verdict of "found dead." He is buried in Redan cemetery.

**1864 May 7:** Aldershot Military Gazette **Farnham Board of Guardians Meeting**: An Extraordinary Case- Mr Superintendent Murtell was sent for at the request of the chairman and attended before the board in reference to the circumstance concerning the **death of a girl** named Emily Warren who had resided as a domestic servant with a lady called Merriott a native of Frensham, near the Little Pond .From Mr Murtell's statement it appeared that rumours had for some days been in circulation in Farnham that the girl, Warren who had expired on the 28th ult had died whilst in a state of pregnancy, from the administration by some parties of a drug calculated to procure an abortion. In consequence of these rumours, he went to Mr Dr Sloman who informed him that on making a postmortem examination on the girl found she had been in an advanced stage of pregnancy a and he thought the matter should be brought before the coroner but at the same time he believed the body was being interred that day. He ,Mr Murtell immediately communicated with the coroner who sent him a warrant stating that in the event of the body not being buried an inquest would be held on the Thursday, he later ascertained the body had been buried on the Saturday afternoon and informed the coroner who went to Farnham and from information received from the sister of the deceased found they had slept together for eleven months and he did not think it necessary to order the disinterment of the body. Mr Murtell concluded by observing there was nothing to show on the postmortem examination that death was caused by poison, and that it proceeded from natural though extraordinary causes, the child having died in the womb about 3weeks before the mother. The Chairman said that the Board of Guardians wanted a correct certificate of death because the certificate they had been given stated the girl died in childbirth when in fact. no child had been given birth to. After a discussion it was agreed a new certificate would be issued.

**1864 July 2:** Surrey Advertiser: **Robberies in the High Street** Guildford: Borough Quarter Sessions: William Taylor pleaded guilty to stealing a coat worth 16s the property of Mr Sartain, Clothier, of High Street on 16 May last and a pair if trousers value 10s the property of Mr Hawkins, Pawnbroker also of High Street. A former conviction on the 18 November 1861 was put in but the prisoner denied any knowledge of it. Superintendent Murtell of Farnham proved being present at the trial; the property in question was stolen from Chertsey and he was

sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment. Two former convictions were also proved against him. The jury found him guilty, and the recorder said there were no less than 7 cases against him. He had been living on plunder since 1857 and the sentence was five years penal servitude.

**1864 July 18:** Alfred Edward Murtell was **baptized** at St Andrew's Farnham, his parents were James, Superintendent of Police and Mary of Farnham?? Lane Farnham

**1865 January 21:** Sussex Advertiser and many other newspapers: Chertsey: **The Portsmouth Murder:** The town and neighbourhood of Chertsey were thrown into a state of great excitement on Thursday evening by the intelligence that James Piper who had murdered his wife in Portsmouth had been arrested there. The prisoner a tall athletic man is an engine fitter by trade and drove an engine for some years on the London and South Western Railway. Piper absconded from Portsmouth after stabbing his wife and a reward of £10 was offered for his apprehension, which was effected under the following somewhat singular circumstances. Mr Superintendent Barber of Portsmouth Police ascertained Piper had an uncle living at New Haw near Chertsey, Surrey and he forwarded by post a letter to the superintendent of Chertsey police informing him of the circumstances and enclosing a handbill giving the description of Piper. On Friday morning a woman living near Pipe's parents and the wife of a man who works with Piper senior took to the house a letter which she secreted under her shawl. Police Constable Harvey was watching the movements of the parties and suspecting all was not right snatched the letter from the woman and found it to be from Piper. The information was given to Mr Superintendent Barber who sent a telegram to Chertsey stating Piper was at his uncle's and requesting he be detained until the Portsmouth police arrived in the next train. Mr Superintendent Murtell proceeded at once to the house of William Turner, a knacker living in a retired lane leading from New Haw to Woodham on the high road to Woking where the prisoner was apprehended without difficulty and charged with the murder of his wife. He was seated by the fire; his grandmother was also there. He was taken into custody and forthwith locked up in Chertsey police station, on arrival at the station when asked to put what he had on a board he produced a clasp knife from his waistcoat pocket. Two magistrates after hearing police evidence gave instructions by warrant for his being handed over to the Portsmouth police forthwith. Later at the inquest of Emma Sophia Piper Superintendent Murtell stated he had the knife in his possession since the arrest and when questioned agreed the knife had a spring to keep it open and made no noise when being shut. The knife was very sharp, and he believed it had been recently sharpened, the same as a scythe is sharpened on a rough stone not a smooth stone. At his trial at Winchester Assizes on 6th March 1865 James Piper was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to 15 years penal servitude.

**1865 Superintendent** Murtell **moved back to Chertsey** early in 1865 as 7th January the Surrey Herald: Farnham: noted that Mr G Newland, superintendent of police at Farnham was appointed **assistant relieving officer** in place of Mr James Murtell recently removed to Chertsey.

**1865 April 8** Surrey Advertiser: County Bench: William Daborn a butcher of Cobham was summoned by Superintendent Martell (Probably Murtell) for having in use in his shop **unjust scales** which were three-quarters of an ounce against the purchaser. Fined 1s 9d including costs.

**1865 April 8**: Surrey Advertiser: County Bench: **How two policemen preserved the peace**: (Possibly Chobham) George Henry Vincent summoned Charles Matthews and Edwin Knight both police constables of the Surrey Constabulary for having committed upon him a violent assault on Saturday night April 1. The case appeared to excite considerable interest. The complainant and most of his witnesses are in the employment of the well-known brewers, Messrs Holy, Murdock's and Co. Vincent whose nose bore the mark of a cut and whose eyes were both blackened deposed that on Saturday night about ten minutes past twelve I came out of the Crown Brewery tap; Thomas Keene and James Arborn came with me and we stood at the White Hart Inn. PC 31 Knight knocked down a man called Moorcock who was talking to us, and Marshall another man said, "It is a shame to knock down Jack Moorcock." PC Knight said, "I will b---- soon knock you down." And he did so. PC Matthews knocked down another man and then Tom Keeke; both policemen used their fists. I said, "It is scandalous thing for policemen to be knocking down people like that." PC Knight said to me "You are another b---." And he hit me with his fist and struck me on the nose giving me two black eyes and knocked me down. When I got up and staggering PC 14 Matthews struck me on the ear and knocked me down again. Both the policemen kicked me when I was down, and when I ran away to get off, PC Knight ran after me and kicked me. There was another policeman present, but he did not interfere."

PC Matthews: I declare I never knocked anyone down. I never hit anyone. Vincent: You knocked down three or four men. PC Matthews: You were drunk. Vincent: No, no more than I am now, it must be you that was drunk to have acted as you did. PC Knight said the witness had told nothing but falsehoods.

James Ruff said he saw PCs Knight and Matthews knocking brewer's men down with their fists and saw PC Knight strike Vincent full on the face. Vincent ran away and the two policemen ran after him, and Matthews made a desperate kick at him. Both the policemen were drunk and used the most abominable language.

PC Matthews on being called made his defence, denied the assault and said the men were kicking up a row when he interfered with them. Chairman: Even if there was a row you had no right to knock the man down. Matthews: I did not sir. PC Knight also denied the charge and said he merely touched Moorcock on the breast, and he fell down.

The defence called PC Henry Lee and he said that on the night in question he heard a great noise in the street and saw several brewers' men kicking up a row along with their wives. PC Knight pushed one of them and several of them got around him and showed fight; the women were screaming, and the men hollering; witness did not see the defendant strike anyone.

Superintendent Murtell said, with reference to the charge of drunkenness against the defendants that Knight slept in his house on the night in question, he saw him at five minutes to one and he was then sober. As to Matthews he could not say anything, as he did not see him.
The chairman after a few minutes consultation with his brother magistrates said the bench have taken the case into their consideration and they consider that the case is partly proved against the police, that they used too much violence in the means they took to suppress the disturbance. But I don't believe the statement made that they were drunk is proved. As a caution to the police to use less violence another time the bench fined the defendants 5s each for the very great violence they used. **PC Knight (paying the fine) if that is the case with the police, I shall soon be out of it.**

**1865 April 15**: Surrey Advertiser Chertsey: The **Inspector of Nuisances** for the parish of Chertsey was appointed and in the absence of any candidate Mr Superintendent Murtell was put in that office.

**1865 December 1**: Several newspapers throughout the country: **Charges against Police**: At a special petty session held on Tuesday at Kingston, the magistrates were engaged nearly the whole day in investigating charges of **violent assaults committed by Superintendent Murtell** of the Surrey Constabulary, and officers under his charge. It appeared that it had been the custom on the 5 November in each year to celebrate the night at Walton-on-Thames by making large bonfires in some of the streets and roads adjacent, and in 1864 a Dr Reece living there was thrown from his horse that shied from the light of the bonfires and sustained severe injuries. This year with a view to preventing a similar occurrence, a large body of police were sent to Walton, for the purpose of putting a stop to this practice. The inhabitants considered this was an interference with their rights and they accordingly persisted in lighting a bonfire on the green, near to the residence of a person named Reed, when according to the evidence of William Denny a railway porter, while the people were quietly looking at the fire Superintendent Murtell with a body of constabulary approached and Murtell ordered the police to draw their staves. Although all was quiet, no disturbance and no resistance, about fifteen policemen immediately drew their staves, rushed in a body upon the crowd, and struck everybody they came near, and a great many persons were knocked down. After going through the evidence, the court dismissed the summons.

**1866 February 10:** Surrey Advertiser: Surrey Quarter Sessions: **Police officer** John Foster of the Surrey Constabulary was **charged with Grievous Bodily Harm** with alternative charges following violence on Guy Fawkes at Walton on Thames on 6 November 1865 under the order of Superintendent Murtell a well-known and highly esteemed officer of the Surrey Constabulary called out following representations from respectable inhabitants to put down the nuisance arising from the practice of celebrating the anniversary of Guy Fawkes day by bonfire, fireworks and the discharge of fireballs. It was found that a mob of persons were assembled, a burning tar barrel was being rolled down the High Street of the village, and a bonfire was burning on the village green. The police interfered and the theory of the prosecution was that the defendant struck with his truncheon the complainant, a youth employed as an under gardener causing a severe scalp to wound requiring six weeks medical care. The defence made

the case that the village was in a state of riot and extreme confusion and responded when remonstrated with by throwing stones and other missiles. Several officers were wounded including the defendant PC Fraser whose helmet was cut through and wounded on the forehead. The jury returned a verdict of Guilty for inflicting actual bodily harm. Mercy was sought as the officer was an able and most efficient man to which the chairman concurred sentencing the defendant to be fined 20s and to keep the peace for six months – **now that is a little odd as it was his job!**

**1866 March 3: Drunk** Horsell: At the bench at Chertsey on Wednesday George Stephens was charged by PC Goodchild with being drunk in the Wheatsheaf In on the 18th ult. The case was proved, and Superintendent Murtell having proved two former convictions the defendant was imprisoned for seven days. When taken into custody he assaulted the police and endeavoured to escape; for this he was sentenced to a further one month's imprisonment.
**1867 April/June** quarter **John William Murtell aged 21years died** in Chertsey Registration district

**1867 August 31:** Surrey Advertiser: Chertsey Petty Sessions; Allen North and Albert Stevens of Chertsey were charged with being **drunk and disorderly** in the highway at Chertsey at midnight on the 10th inst. The charge was proved by Police Sergeant Bundy and Superintendent Murtell proved two former convictions against North who was committed for 7 days in prison and Stevens fined 2s 6d and 5s costs.

**1870 February 5:** Windsor and Eton Express: **Caught at last**: On Tuesday night William Oatway who has lately been visiting various drapers and clothiers in the neighbourhood and obtaining goods from them by means of letters purporting to be signed from their customers, but which letters were forgeries was apprehended by Superintendent Murtell in Chertsey. The prisoner at first denied his name was Oatway and gave that of "Smith" but subsequently confessed that Oatway was his name. The prisoner was taken before the County Justices on Thursday and committed for trial at the next sessions. At the sessions he was sentenced to 12months imprisonment with hard labour

**1870 March 5**: Surrey Advertiser: Windlesham: **Scales again**: John Wild, publican and coal merchant was charged at the County Sessions with having an unjust scale in his possession. Mr Supt Murtell of Chertsey said he visited the defendant's shop on 11th February, where he retailed coals in small quantities. The coal scale was three and a half pounds against the purchaser. The defendant stated to him that he put a 4lb weight on to keep it right. Mr Geach who appeared for the defendant stated Mr Wild told him he had borrowed the scoop of the machine while his own was being repaired and the defendant also told him the scale was wrong before he examined it. A witness from Messrs Filmer and Mason's was called to prove that they had Mr Wild's scales repairing and that it was to be done at once. Mr Geach under the circumstances asked the Bench only to make his client pay costs. He had been 23years in the business and this was the first complaint. Defendant was fined 12s and expenses.

**1870 March 12:** Surrey Advertiser Chertsey: **Great Robbery of Plate:** One of the most extensive robberies that has taken place in the district for some years was effected last Tuesday night at Anningsley Park, the residence of the Hon Mrs J Norton. From investigations made by the police it is evident the thieves entered the house by breaking a pane of glass in the conservatory, after which they forced three doors on their way to the butler's pantry, where unfortunately he was not sleeping in the room as was his usual custom. The plate chest was removed from the pantry and taken to the lawn where behind a clump of rhododendrons was stripped of its contents believed to be worth about £400, among the items taken were some greatly valued by the family, especially a venison dish and stand of exquisite workmanship and 2 silver urn shaped vases for the centre of the dining table. Information of the burglary was given to Superintendent Murtell at 7 o'clock the next morning and he immediately proceeded to the spot to make necessary inquiries and despatched officers with the intelligence to outlying stations and the proper authorities. A reward of £50 being offered for the recovery of the property and conviction of the offenders

**1870 April 16:** Surrey Advertiser: At the Chertsey Bench on Wednesday Nathaniel William Holloway was charged by Superintendent Barker of Guildford with **burglariously** breaking into the house of Hon Mrs Norton at **Anningsley Park**, Chertsey on 8th March and remanded until Wednesday next. Since the Superintendent Barker has apprehended a man named David Rowe of Staines on the same charge and that he has recovered a quantity of the stolen property Rowe was also remanded until Wednesday next. Holloway was later sentenced to seven years penal servitude and Rowe to nine months imprisonment.

**1870 March 19:** Windsor and Eton Express- Special Sessions- Ann Marsh, aged15years a servant in the employ of Mrs Lambert was charged with **feloniously stealing** at Addlestone on or about the 13th inst., a waist band and 5 yards of lace value 2s the property of her employer. Alice Lambert said: I am the widow of John Lambert and live at Addlestone in the parish of Chertsey. The prisoner was in my mother's employ until Monday last then left of her own accord. We have missed many things from the house since last Christmas and suspected the prisoner of taking them. I charged her with the theft, but she indignantly denied all knowledge of the matter. Last Sunday, I saw her wearing the waistband, produced, which I identify as my property. I charged her with stealing it and she indignantly denied it saying her aunt had given it her. On Monday in company with Superintendent Murtell I searched the prisoner's drawer and found several articles- namely some buttons, a veil, a music book and some lace which I identify as my property. James Murtell deposed – I am a superintendent of the Surrey Constabulary and on Monday last I went to the house of the prosecutrix at Addlestone and was informed that some things were missing, one of which, the waistband, the prisoner had been seen wearing the previous day. I then searched a chest of drawer in which the prisoner kept her clothes and found the articles produced. The prisoner stated they belonged to her. I then took her into custody. The magistrates, considering the charges proved, but not thinking it advisable to inflict any punishment, dismissed the case binding over the grandfather of the prisoner in his own recognizance of £5 to be surety for the prisoner's future good behaviour.

**1870 May 7**: Surrey Advertiser: Chertsey: Mr Superintendent **Murtell** who for several years has commanded the police in this important district **leaves this week for another station**, probably Dorking. Mr Murtell will be much missed in the town and neighbourhood. In the discharge of his difficult and trying duties Mr Murtell earned the good opinion of Mr Bulpett, the late chairman of Chertsey magistrates, a gentleman singularly qualified to form a sound idea of his merits and no doubt the superintendent will deserve the same good opinion in his new sphere.

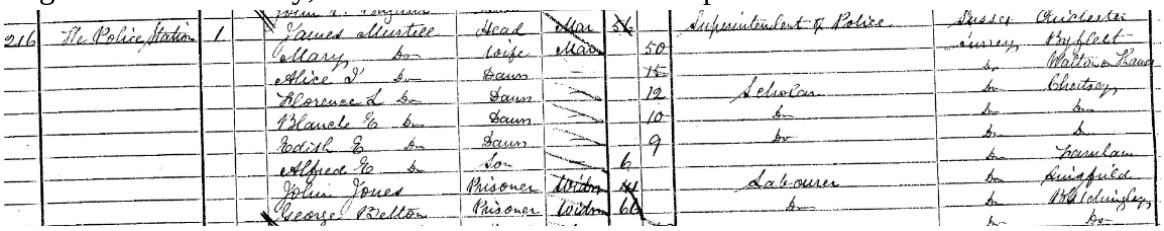
**1870 May 7**: Windsor and Eton Express: Police Movement: The appointment of Superintendent Page of Dorking to the Chertsey Division of the Surrey Constabulary has been revoked and also that of Superintendent Murtell to Dorking, the new order being for Superintendent Hollington of Godstone to take charge at Chertsey and Superintendent **Murtell to take charge of Godstone.**

**1870 May 14**: Surrey Advertiser: Chertsey Petty Sessions: A Singular Affair: Alfred Murtell was summoned for throwing stones at the house of Jesse Beauchamp in East Lane Chertsey- Jesse Beauchamp: I live at Eastworth , on the evening of 25th April on coming home at about 9 o'clock I heard a great disturbance. A neighbour told me that it had been going on for some time. I stopped behind for some time but when I heard stones thrown at my door I stepped forward and saw the defendant with seven or eight others with tin kettles making a great noise. I went towards the police station and saw Mrs Murtell who urged her son on. I asked for Mr Murtell but his wife said she would break my arm. I had cause to complain of the defendant before, but his father said I should do my best or my worst. To the defendant: I distinctly saw you throw stones, and your mother used the words I have stated. Sophia Warren said: On the evening in question, I saw a lot of boys with tin kettles and whistle pipes at Mrs Beauchamp's door and I heard stones thrown. I saw the defendant take a tray full of dust and throw it at the door. I also heard him say to Mrs Beauchamp that he hoped he had given her enough for that night, but he would give her another call in the morning. To the defendant: I distinctly heard you say so but saw no stones only dust thrown but there were stones against the door afterwards. In answer to the chairman the complainant said the damage was put at 6d although 5s would not repay it. The defendant denied the charge but said other lads were there and Mrs Beauchamp threw water over them. A boy named Galloway, aged 9years, who because of his youth the bench declined to swear said no stones were thrown by the lads, but Mrs Beauchamp threw at them. Walter Hawkes, 13 years said; I was present on the evening in question and no stones were thrown by anybody. I saw Mrs Beauchamp come out and throw some water over the boys.
PC Veal deposed that some ill feeling existed between Mrs Murtell and Mrs Beauchamp, the later doing much to annoy the former. He constantly passed the prosecutors house and knew it was the habit of Mrs Beauchamp and her lodger to expose an effigy in the window, which they called Mrs Murtells attention to. On the Monday the effigy was placed outside the house and the lodger played music for a long time to call attention to it. I have heard the prosecutor's wife abuse Mrs Murtell and use most disgusting language towards her. I don't believe this charge would have been brought had it not been for the conduct of Mrs Beauchamp and her lodger. The chairman said the Bench had no hesitation in dismissing the case and told Beauchamp his

conduct was disgraceful in exposing an effigy. Whatever the boys had done he had brought it on himself and no doubt the case had been brought out of spite to the lad's father. The boys were also reprimanded and told not to continue the practice.

**1870 May 21:** Surrey Advertiser: Chertsey: Testimonial to Mr **Superintendent Murtell**: This officer having been removed from the Chertsey to the Godstone district, Mr Lane of the Swan Hotel, took the opportunity of soliciting subscriptions from the inhabitants for the purpose of presenting him with a testimonial as a mark of the esteem in which he was held by the towns people. The present took the form of a handsome gold watch and chain which was forwarded to him with the following letter. "Chertsey, May 11th 1870: Dear Sir, Herewith I have great pleasure in forwarding you a gold watch and appendages which have been subscribed for by a number of tradesmen and others of the town as a souvenir which when looked upon may bring to mind that there are many warm hearts in Chertsey who fully appreciate and esteem your character as a man and a public officer during the time you have been amongst them, and who desire the most sincerely to convey to you their best wishes for your future happiness and welfare. – Yours etc on behalf of the Subscribers J J P Lane." Mr Murtell replied "Godstone Police Station, May 12th 1870 Dear Sir, I beg to acknowledge the receipt of a gold watch and appendages and to return my sincere thanks to the subscribers and to assure them that I have great pleasure in accepting the same, as it proves beyond a doubt that I have some friends in Chertsey. I also beg to thank you for the interest you have taken in the matter, and I hope I shall have the pleasure of meeting you all again before long. – Yours etc James Murtell, Superintendent."

**1871 Census** for The Police Station Godstone lists James Murtell, Superintendent of Police living with his wife Mary, some of his children and two prisoners.



**1872 March 1**: Chelmsford Chronicle- Halsted: **Sad fate of a Hedingham man**:On Tuesday morning Inspector Fox received a letter signed James Murtell, superintendent of the Surrey Constabulary, Godstone Division in reference to a **man who was found dead** at a plantation at Panbridge, Surrey on 14th inst. The man is said to be John Burder a basket maker and native of Castle Hedingham. We subjoin Mr Murtell's letter – "Sir, A man of the following description was found dead in a plantation at Panbridge, Surrey on the 14th inst., with a black silk handkerchief twisted right round his neck with a piece of wood. He is about 40 years of age, 5ft 7in high, dark brown hair nearly black, full whiskers, moustache and beard covering his chin. Dressed in a black tweed jacket with cross flaps, bound with mohair braid, back and sleeves lined with white serge, large inside pockets and two breast pockets. Small check angola trousers with right knee worn through, black cloth vest with watch pocket on right breast, white calico shirt with full front and flannel pockets underneath, drab felt hat with narrow brim and

a broad band, very greasy and lined with striped cotton. Balmoral boots, toe capped. He had in his possession a cotton handkerchief, a box key, and a half inch chisel. He told a person on the previous day he came out of Essex looking for work but did not state of what kind. I enclose a photograph taken at the inquest. Jas Murtell, superintendent". Mr Bridge superintendent of police at Brentwood to whom the letter was first sent writes to Mr Fox saying, "With reference to the attached photograph, I find it is that of John Burder, a basket maker and native of Castle Hedingham and I am informed he has an uncle living on the Sudbury Road".

**1873 March 8**: Croydon Advertiser Godstone Petty Sessions: **Unjust Scales:** Elizabeth Balch of Caterham was summoned by Supt James Murtell fo having in her possession a scale which was unjust and against the purchaser- Supt Murtell said that upon all previous occasions he had found the scales correct. Mrs Balch said she could not account for the deficiency of half an ounce unless it was that her man had weighed a heavier quantity in the scale than they were capable of bearing so throw them slightly out. The instructions were that the scales should always be carefully examined, and she had contracted one of the best scale makers in London to keep er scales in order and produced a receipt to confirm this. The scale maker visited her shop about December last and it was near his time to visit again. She was fined 2s and costs.

**1872 May 10:** Croydon Observer: Godstone: **Concealment of Birth:** Jane Kemp was brought from the Union Workhouse where she had been since the alleged commission of the offence and charged with concealing the birth of a male child on the 19th ult. Emily Nash, a fellow servant of the prisoner deposed that about 7 in the morning the prisoner went downstairs and called to Marsh, another servant io ask him to tell Mrs Marsh to come across. She went back to her room and then down to the WC which is in doors. After about 10 minutes the witness went to the door of the WC and saw Jane who asked her to call Mrs Marsh., She did so and went back upstairs. Soon afterwards she again went to the WC and saw Jane sitting in the floor, she asked if she could help her up and the prisoner gave her, her hand and tried to lift her up but could not. The witness called Mrs Marsh to help, and she came, and they got the prisoner onto her legs, but she fell again. Once in the passage they got her into a chair, but she afterwards fell out of it. Mary Marsh then confirmed the later part of this evidence. George Arthur Rawson Harris, surgeon stated he was sent for on 19th April to see Mrs Knight's housemaid. I saw Mr Knight and from what he told me I went to the WC in the house. The witness described what he found there before he went upstairs to see Jane Kemp. He found her in bed showing signs of a recent confinement and after attending her asked where the child was. She said she did not know as she had fainted having previously called for assistance. The police were sent for. Superintendent Murtell afterwards showed me the dead body of a child which he brought to my house, when I opened its chest, I arrived at the conclusion it had breathed and had come to its death by drowning. Superintendent Murtell deposed that from information received he went on 19th inst., to the house of Mr Knight and to the bedroom of the prisoner telling her that he charged her with concealing the birth of a child born that day. She replied, 'I never saw it'. The witness said, 'Well you have been delivered of one' and she replied, 'So the doctor tells me' She was cautioned in the usual manner, and she again repeated 'I never saw it'. He then went to the WC and having heard what had previously been found took the framework and discovered the child in the lower basin. He produced the measurements of the aperture.

The prisoner who did not wish to say anything was committed for trial, the Magistrate granting bail of herself in £25 and one other surety in a like amount.

**1873 October/December** quarter **Alice Isabella Murtell died aged 18 years** and she was buried at St Nicholas Cemetery Godstone.

**1874 August 14**: Croydon Observer: Godstone Petty Sessions: **Violation of the Locomotive Act:** Thos Wood of Crockenhill, Dartford Kent was charged that he - being the owner of a certain locomotive **propelled by steam** on a certain highway was on 17th July guilty of non-compliance with the 2nd provision of the 3rd section of the Locomotive Act 1865 in not having a person whilst such locomotive was in motion to precede the locomotive on foot by not less than 60 yards carrying a **red flag constantly displayed**.

Superintendent Murtell said about quarter past 8 o'clock on the morning of 17th July he was riding in a cab, in company with a Godstone tradesman in the direction of Oxted and when within about 20 yards of the curve in the road near Tandridge Hill he observed a locomotive engine belonging to the defendant. On the driver seeing them he immediately pulled up. There was no one in front of the engine with a red flag as required by the Act of Parliament. He called the attention of the driver to this fact, and he replied that he had become unwell and had sent the lad on to Mr Beaumont's farm where they were staying to get some tea ready for him. He was fined 10s and costs.

**1876 May 25**: **Blanch Emma Murtell died aged 15 years** was buried at St Nicholas Cemetery Godstone.

**1876 September 12:** Croydon Advertiser: Caterham: The **Adulteration of Food Act**: At Godstone Petty Sessions James Ashby of Caterham again appeared in answer to a summons adjourned from the last Bench charging him with selling to Mr James Murtell 4oz of coffee which was adulterated. The case having been adjourned to the defendant to have an analysis made on his own behalf if he wished. Superintendent Murtell said he had had further analysis made and produced a certificate from the analysis which confirmed the previous one viz that the coffee was adulterated with six per cent of chicory. The defendant said he could only explain the matter by supposing a little chicory had been left in the mill in which he ground the coffee after the grinding of some chicory and coffee by a man in his brother in law's shop. He ground the coffee sold to Mr Murtell himself and would swear he had not put chicory in it and was quite ignorant of there being any in it. Defendant fined 1s with 19s costs.

**1876 October 21:** Croydon Advertiser: **Retirement of Superintendent Murtell** Surrey Constabulary: After nearly 25 years' service in the Surrey Constabulary Superintendent Murtell has resigned his appointment. He was **appointed drill instructor** to the force at its formation in January 1851 and has held the rank of superintendent for 20 years during which time he has had charge of Chertsey, Farnham and Godstone Divisions. Previous to this he served nearly 17 years in the army, having entered the service in 1832; was twice in India and discharged as a sergeant from the 10th Royal Hussars in 1849. He is now in his 63rd year and he retires on a

pension of £120 9s as recommended by the Constabulary Committee at the Surrey Sessions on Tuesday. One of our contemporaries ingeniously adds "During the long period Superintendent Murtell has been in the force he always won the respect and esteem of all with whom his duties brought him in contact." We are afraid that his "duties" often brought him into contact with rogues and thieves and it is an open question whether he always "won the respect and esteem" of this fraternity. We know what our contemporary meant to say but the meaning is ambiguous. In his capacity as Superintendent James Murtell attended most Petty Sessions for the district he worked in, he was also the Inspector for Weights and Measures for these districts and as such charged many people with having faulty weighing devices.

**1879 March** James Murtell aged 64 years **died** in the Steyning Registration District Sussex

**1879 June 6**: The will of James Murtell late of 31 Ellen Street Hove in the county of Sussex, gentleman who died at 33 Ellen Street on 5th March 1879 was proved at Lewes by Mary Murtell of 89 Goldstone Road Hove, widow the relict and sole executrix. Personal estate under £200.

## Circa 1967 – Wisley.

**Terry Bawden**

At Elm Corner, Wisley, which is a close that is accessed from the road that leads to Wisley Airfield and is actually alongside the airfield, there lived a man who was an antique dealer and his attractive wife, who also owner an Antique Shop in Ripley and a branch shop in Milan, Italy. I am not going to mention his name, but any officer who worked in the area at the time would have known him. He was very camp and spoke with what could only be described as a 'posh' voice. His wife spent a lot of time up in the Met area visiting her boyfriend, and to get there she drove their Rolls Royce car and parked it wherever she could find space for it, having no regard for the parking laws whatsoever. This resulted in her collecting dozens of parking tickets which she never paid off. The result of her activities was for us to received great bundles of enquiry papers about every two months, from the Met CTO addressed to her husband who was the registered keeper of the Rolls.

Thus, it was, that early one Sunday morning, which was the best time to find them home, I on my motorcycle, attended their home together with a wad of paperwork. At the house, he had two servants, a husband-and-wife team who were both foreign, and it was the man who opened the door to me and showed me into the lounge where I found the dealer sitting drinking coffee. I again explained why I was there, and he told the maid to bring me a cup of tea, and we started tackling all the forms. The lounge was a large room divided off from the stairway and hall by glass windows and an open glass door, and as we were talking, I could see the lower half of his wife coming down the stairs dressed in a dressing gown, she stopped halfway down and called out, "Who is it, darling?" to which he replied in his very camp posh voice, "It's only the

f*****g police, dear, go back to bed". I found this so incongruous that I could not supress my laughter. Of course, as usual, he paid all her tickets for her.

Some months later, one of the box vans owned by the antique dealers' business and bearing TIR plates was travelling down the A3, when it was stopped by a traffic officer. He spoke to the driver and asked where he was going and what was in the van, to which the reply was to the effect that the van was loaded with antiques and was heading for Milan in Italy. The officer said he wanted to see the load, and the driver told him that he couldn't because it had been sealed by customs and excise and could not be opened until it reached its destination. The officer insisted that it be opened and entered the van, which was indeed full of antiques, but here was the good part, the officer recognised several of the antiques which he had seen in circulations and knew them to be stolen. The driver was arrested, and the vehicle seized. There followed a big CID investigation ending in offences of handling (Receiving as we use to know it). Now that is what I call Police work!

## Wisley Airfield

**1955 September Wisly: Geoff Todd:** Reading the item about VC10 flights and the plane's need to land at Wisley reminded me of attending the A3 where a plane had overshot the Wisley runway. This was in September 1955 (I believe) when, as a then cadet, I was attached to Burpham traffic for the day. I think the aircraft was a Canberra bomber. Perhaps Wisley wasn't such a safe place to land at.

**Found on the Internet:** Whilst conducting circuit training with the Canberra WD935 in September 1955, Vickers test pilot Peter Marsh had a brake failure on landing, ran off the western end of runway 28, and ended up with a wing partially blocking the A3 trunk road.[11]

[11] https://www.ukairfieldguide.net/airfields/Wisley

## Cycling in Rome – on duty

**1967 Geoff Todd:** Sid Harris (Sgt 63) was then Road Safety Officer for the division. He had declined the invitation from RoSPA to train a team of pupils from a local school, who had all recently passed their Cycle Proficiency Tests. Ted Bannister (RoSPA Cycling Proficiency Co-ordinator) lived in Byfleet and had asked the local school to participate. I was ushered to the Chief Superintendent's office, wondering what I had done, and found Keith Jempson offering me this voluntary task and the accompanying trip to Rome, where the competition was to be held. I accepted.

The pupils had special uniforms designed for them and I attended in uniform. We stayed in an hotel on the outskirts of Rome, having flown out of Heathrow in a Trident 1/11 with their new bikes. Good food and a swimming pool were provided at our hotel - real luxury at that time. In addition to being whisked around the many sights of Rome we also went to the Vatican City and with the other teams, met the Pope. Although it was the European Championships for some reason there was also a Japanese team competing! A memorable few days to say the least.

The **Woking News and Mail week ending May 20, 1967,** cover the story in some depth. Four West Byfleet County Secondary School children represented Great Britain in the Coupe Scolaire Rome 1967 cycling competition returning home with a huge silver cup and two gold medals


NEWS & MAIL. Week ending May 20, 1967

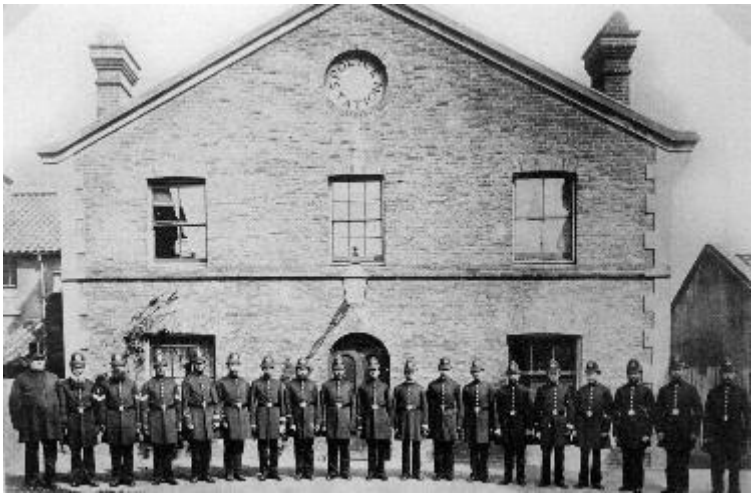
*With their instructor, Sergt. Todd, left to right, Oriel Southwood, Karen Sherstone, Simon Tibble and Charles Blackshaw.*

**Woking News and Mail week ending May 20, 1967**

## Burglars also attacked the poor

**1870 August 13: Wonersh Heartless Robbery:** On Tuesday in broad daylight some vagabond fellow **entered a cottage** at Wonersh Common in the absence of the occupants, a labourer named Stedman and his family, and stole £11.10s 6d in money, the hard-earned **savings of years**, a gold ring and other articles. The thief got clean off with his booty. [12]

This was not a unique case. There is a feal of evidence that tramps particularly knowing agricultural labourers would be in the fields broke into houses stealing what little was there.



**Reigate Police 1869**

**1870 November 16:** The Head Constable Reigate Borough Police reported to the Watch Committee that **PC William Picket came on duty drunk** at 3pm on the 25 October and was entered in the discipline book. [13] PC Pickett was suspended and **resigned.**[14]

**1871 January 4:** The Head Constable **Reigate Borough Police** reported to the Watch Committee that **three recruits** had been appointed[15]

**1871 The establishment of Reigate Borough Police** had increased to sixteen [16]

**1871** PC **Lewis, Reigate Borough Police was dismissed** for drinking with poachers. [17]

### Surrey Constabulary Discipline

**1871 Dismissed** with ten previous discipline offences, for making a false report to Police Sergeant Atkins **1871 22nd July** West Surrey Times: Shalford: **Dismissal of an old Police**

[12] 1870 August 13: The Surrey Advertiser and County Gazette
[13] Report Borough of Reigate Watch Committee by George Rogers SCC CC98/22/11
[14] Report Borough of Reigate Watch Committee by George Rogers SCC CC98/22/11
[15] Report Borough of Reigate Watch Committee by George Rogers SCC CC98/22/11
[16] A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary Gerry Middleton Stewart
[17] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm

**Officer**: After a servitude of 20 years in this parish, PC Kiddy has been summarily dismissed from the force, on we believe a charge of intoxication. His dismissal took place on Wednesday and on Thursday morning he removed his goods and went, no one knows where. After so long a service it is to be regretted the officer was not more cautious in his conduct. He would soon have been entitled to a pension.

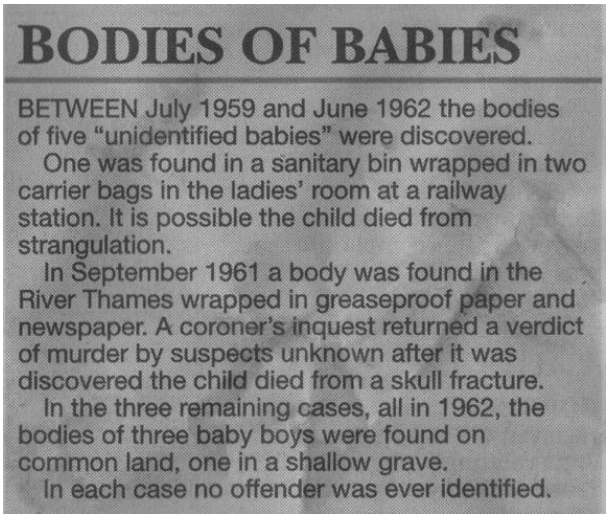
**Surrey Constabulary More Pay**

**1872 September 14: The Surrey Constabulary:** The members of the Surrey Constabulary are **petitioning** their Chief Constable, Captain Hastings for an **additional 3s a week** to their present pay viz., first class men to be raised from 23s to 26s per week; second class men from 21s to 24s. They also ask for **one day's leave per month** instead of one day in six weeks and that day not necessarily Sunday as at present. They further petition to be allowed on that day to **go where they like** and not be obliged to stay in their own district as now. With regard to the increase in pay the demand will be considered by all as a moderate one and with reference to the day's leave, it is but simple justice.[18]

**Surrey Constabulary Superintendent Page injured on duty**

**1873 8th February** Surrey Advertiser: Dorking: Accident: Mr Superintendent Page of Dorking was driving to Reigate on Monday, and when near the town his horse slipped up on the snow, and the superintendent was thrown out, but fortunately was unhurt. A handcuffed prisoner in the cart retained his seat, and thus escaped the unpleasant consequences which might have results by a fall in such conditions.

**Bodies of Babies: Surrey Constabulary area Undetected**



BODIES OF BABIES

BETWEEN July 1959 and June 1962 the bodies of five "unidentified babies" were discovered.

One was found in a sanitary bin wrapped in two carrier bags in the ladies' room at a railway station. It is possible the child died from strangulation.

In September 1961 a body was found in the River Thames wrapped in greaseproof paper and newspaper. A coroner's inquest returned a verdict of murder by suspects unknown after it was discovered the child died from a skull fracture.

In the three remaining cases, all in 1962, the bodies of three baby boys were found on common land, one in a shallow grave.

In each case no offender was ever identified.

**Dorking Advertiser 16 July 2015**

[18] 1872 September 14: Croydon Advertiser


**1977 Police Forces UK**

# POLICE IN NEW YEAR'S HONOURS

No. 47102

SUPPLEMENT TO

The London Gazette

of Thursday, 30th December 1976

Published by Authority

*The Queen has been graciously pleased to award the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver) to the undermentioned:*

**Royal Victorian Medal (Silver)**

Police Constable Fred LANE, Metropolitan Police

**Order of the British Empire (Civil Division)**

**GBE**

*To be an Ordinary Knight Grand Cross of the Civil Division of the said Most Excellent Order:*

Sir Robert MARK, QPM, Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis

**CBE**

*To be Ordinary Commanders of the Civil Division of the said Most Excellent Order:*

Arthur HAMBLETON, OBE, MC, QPM, Chief Constable, Dorset Police

Patrick Bernard KAVANAGH, QPM, Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan Police

**OBE**

*To be Ordinary Officers of the Civil Division of the said Most Excellent Order:*

Leonard Charles DOLBY, QPM, Deputy Chief Constable Thames Valley Police

Colin GASKELL, QPM, lately Deputy Chief Constable, West Midlands Police

Arthur Albert HAMMOND, Chief Commandant, Metropolitan Police Special Constabulary

John Ross LITTLE, Chief Constable, Tayside Police

Charles Henry RODGERS, MBE, Assistant Chief Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary

Richard Benjamin THOMAS, QPM, Chief Constable, Dyfed Powys Police

**MBE**

*To be Ordinary Members of the Civil Division of the said Most Excellent Order:*

John Charles CAMPBELL, Chief Superintendent, Royal Ulster Constabulary

Albert James COPPER, Clerical Officer, Metropolitan Police

James CRUTCHLEY, QPM, Superintendent, Royal Ulster Constabulary

Norman HIRD, Superintendent, Metropolitan Police

John HOWELL, Chief Inspector, Staffordshire Police

Miss Marie McKenzie LOW, Private Secretary to the Chief Constable, Strathclyde Police

Stanley Edward MOLE, Stores Supervisory Officer, Grade A, Metropolitan Police

William Henry PINFOLD, lately Chief Superintendent, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary

John WILSON, Chief Superintendent, Metropolitan Police

Robert WILSON, Chief Superintendent, Royal Ulster Constabulary

**BEM**

*The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the British Empire Medal (Civil Division) to the undermentioned:*

Frederick Albert ARNOLD, Divisional Commandant, West Midlands Special Constabulary

Frederick Forsyth CONNER, Sergeant, Lothian and Borders Police

Desmond Patrick CONROY, Sergeant, Royal Ulster Constabulary

William Robert ELY, Constable, Kent County Constabulary

Donald David GRANT, Chargehand Craftsman, Metropolitan Police

Bowen William HARRIS, Sergeant, Metropolitan Police

Leslie KNOWLES, Constable, South Wales Constabulary

Robert Marcus LYLE, Sergeant, Royal Ulster Constabulary

Nevin Alexander McFARLAND, Sergeant, Royal Ulster Constabulary

Alexander Dowie MARR, Constable, Fife Constabulary

Henry Dorman PENDLETON, Sergeant, Royal Ulster Constabulary

Peter Anthony RICE, Constable, Metropolitan Police

William Duncan WAITE, Sergeant, Metropolitan Police

Ernest Ian WATSON, Sergeant, Metropolitan Police

**QPM**

*The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Queen's Police Medal for Distinguished Service to the undermentioned:*

*England and Wales*

Frank ASH, Deputy Chief Constable, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Joseph Norman ULLOCK, Deputy Chief Constable, Cumbria Constabulary

David POWIS, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan Police

Peter Anthony COLLINS, Assistant Chief Constable, Greater Manchester Police

George Mensforth COOK, Assistant Chief Constable, Durham Constabulary

Leslie Frank PEARCE, Assistant Chief Constable, Avon and Somerset Constabulary

Walter William Robert FLEMING, Commander, Metropolitan Police

Anthony LOWNDES, Commander, Metropolitan Police

Eric Thomas MATTHEWS, Commander, Metropolitan Police

Lionel Francis William BOWEN, Chief Superintendent, Hampshire Constabulary

Jack MOULDER, Superintendent, Hertfordshire Constabulary

Derek Frederick Thomas TUNN-CLARKE, Chief Superintendent, Surrey Constabulary

Eric Stafford WRIGHT, Chief Superintendent, Merseyside Police

Joan AITCHISON, Superintendent, West Yorkshire Metropolitan Police

John Clifford LASHLEY, Superintendent, West Midlands Police

*Northern Ireland*

Frederick William Alfred Thompson McCORMICK, Chief Inspector, Royal Ulster Constabulary

*Scotland*

James Gordon GLENN, lately Detective Chief Superintendent, Strathclyde Police

George Montgomery JOHNSTONE, Chief Superintendent, Central Scotland Police

*Corps of Royal Military Police*

**CBE** — Brigadier Dennis Bossey RENDELL, MBE, MC

**MBE** — Major Peter Edward BARTON

**MBE** — WO1 Roger MIDDLETON-JONES

**MBE** — Major Roger John THEIS



**Chief Superintendent Tunn-Clarke Surrey Constabulary**

## American Air Force jet fighter that had experienced engine trouble

**The late Ken Rosam:** Early in the 1960's, a report was received at Dorking Police Station about an American Air Force jet fighter that had experienced engine trouble and been forced to jettison its external fuel tanks in forestland near Abinger Hammer. There were no reports of injury or damage as a result, but the exact location of the jettisoned tanks was not known. At about 10 pm, just as the shifts were changing, an American Air Force lieutenant arrived with 10 men, a 10-ton lorry, a 2-ton lorry and a jeep. It being too dark to initiate a search the Americans were soon awash with tea once the coffee had run out. At daybreak we made a search for the missing fuel pods but all that was found were pools of stinking kerosene and broken pieces of fuel tanks.

Some weeks later President Kennedy visited England to meet our Prime Minister, Harold MacMillan and several officers from Dorking were sent to cover the visit. Unlike modern times the visit was not considered to be a big security risk so there wasn't a massive briefing. We were housed in the barracks (Hobbs Barracks, Lingfield) of an army intelligence unit, and I remember that the Sergeant Major very kindly kept the bar open until midnight. The next day we were taken to Gatwick Airport where we lined up with the VIPs. Air Force One duly arrived and the aircraft stopped in line with the red carpet. The door opened and out stepped an American Air Force officer – the lieutenant we had last seen at Dorking Police Station. He stopped at the top of the steps and looked towards us. Standing next to me was PC (Harry) Robinson (ex-Palestine Police) who had been the Station Officer when the Americans visited us. The US lieutenant called out, in a loud voice, Hallooo Robbie!" The next day the President went to Mass at a church near to where he was staying. On leaving the church (Forest Hill in Sussex) he was driven out onto the road, and there his car stopped. The President got out and shook hands with many of the villagers who were there to greet him. All the while, his Secret Service bodyguards were frantically trying to form a circle around him! A few years later my wife and I were guests at the home of the American Ambassador in London when I met that same lieutenant again. Recognition was mutual and we had a very convivial evening. Before we left, he offered me a job with the security staff at the Embassy in London. I turned him down, as it would have meant commuting to London and occasionally doing tours of duty at their Embassy in Paris and other European Capitals. With a wife and child, I wasn't keen. Did I do right? Who knows!

## Police Discipline in World War Two

**By kind permission of Dr Peter Kennison**

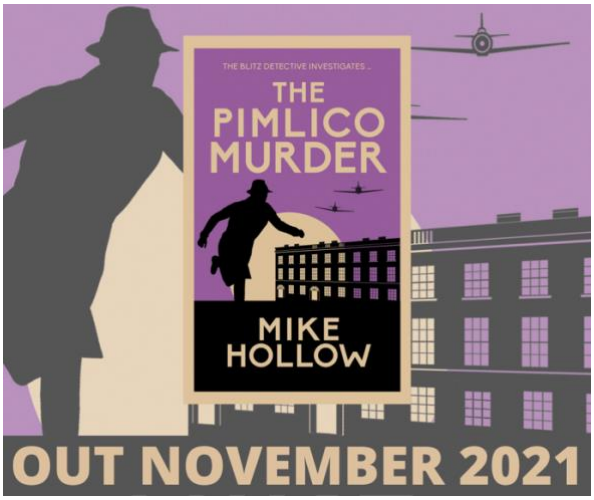
One of the main problems facing the Metropolitan Police was discipline, especially that of drunkenness amongst its officers. However, during wartime the harsh enforcement policy was relaxed simply because they needed to keep the manpower. In the example below, it may surprise you what happens when an officer is deprived of his sleep.

Blackheath Road Constable Leonard Dunn, shown, has an interesting record. He joined the Police Service in January 1920 with warrant number 108747. Born in the East End of London, he was a fitter's mate who had seen service in the Royal Navy during the war from September 1917 until May 1919. He is wearing the Police Long Service Medal (instituted in 1951), and British War Medal for his service in the Royal Navy during the First World War.

On 1st April 1929 he was posted as PC656 R Division to Blackheath Road, where he remained for the rest of his service. He lived in Plumstead High Street with his wife and three children. The photograph was taken between 1936 and 1938, when the new helmet plate was introduced. He served over 33 years and retired in 1953 with a Certificate of Service that showed his conduct to have been exemplary.
This is somewhat strange, since Dunn had been disciplined four times during his service. His most serious violation occurred during the Second World War. One morning in May 1942, as he was trying to sleep after coming off night duty, a cat in a neighbouring garden was making a lot of noise, preventing him from sleeping. Dunn took his Police issue revolver, aimed at the cat, fired and killed it – making sure he got his sleep. The neighbour, unsurprisingly, complained at the Police Station. Dunn originally denied shooting the cat to his Sergeant, which got him into even more trouble. He was disciplined by the Divisional Superintendent for the offence of discreditable conduct for killing the cat and reprimanded, whilst lying to the Sergeant cost him one day's pay. Dishonesty was treated harshly, whilst killing the cat deserved just a telling off!

Dunn retired aged 55, living a further six years, and died in August 1959. In the early days, because of the nature of the job, police officers did not live long in retirement. [19]

# Book Reviews




The Pimlico Murder, book 6 in the Blitz Detective series, is published in hardback and ebook.

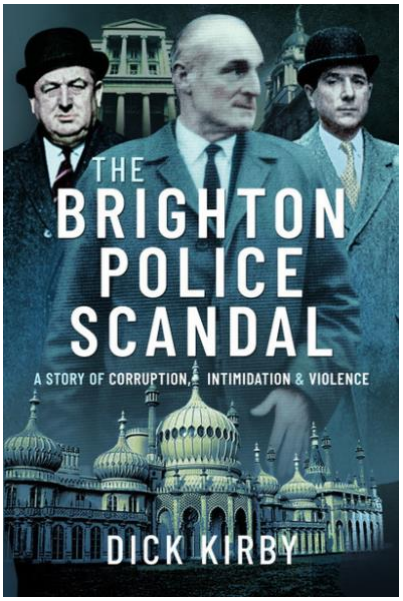
'The Pimlico Murder', the sixth book in Mike Hollow's Blitz Detective series, opens on Armistice Day, 1940. The nation remembers the Great War while a new and harrowing conflict rumbles on, and Detective Inspector John Jago of the Metropolitan Police must set aside his own painful memories to investigate a suspicious death in Pimlico, south-west London. A young man, Terry Watson, has been found in an Anderson shelter, battered about the head and with two white poppies in his pocket.

As the investigation delves into Watson's background, Jago and his assistant DC Cradock find themselves knee-deep in Pimlico's shady underworld and connections with Mosley's fascist party. It will take all their skills to discover the truth behind the young man's brutal death

## The Brighton Police Scandal

## A Story of Corruption, Intimidation & Violence

[19] https://www.behindthebluelamp.com/post/police-discipline-in-ww2




By Dick Kirby
Imprint: Pen & Sword True Crime
Pages: 240
Illustrations: 28 black and white illustrations
ISBN: 9781399017282
Published: 4th October 2021

The author Dick Kirby was born in the East End of London and joined the Metropolitan Police in 1967. Half of his twenty-six years' service was spent with Scotland Yard's Serious Crime Squad and the Flying Squad.

**Synopsis**

In the late 1950s the reputation of Brighton as a popular seaside resort took a sinister and notorious turn. After a series of drunken disturbances, suspicions were raised that the owner of the Astor Club, which became known globally as 'The Bucket of Blood', was bribing members of the town's CID to ignore licencing hours. The situation escalated to the point where Scotland Yard's Flying Squad was called in. Their investigation soon revealed that these bribes were the tip of a police corruption iceberg. Criminality among crooked cops had been going on for years. Provided money was paid, charges were dropped, previous convictions overlooked, and evidence disappeared. Others were 'fitted up' unless they paid up. Police were party to burglaries, assisting in the 'fencing' of stolen property and protection payments from bookmakers, clubs and bars. During the scandal filled trial of the chief constable and CID ringleaders there was perjury, violent witness intimidation with one having his premises burnt to the ground. All this and more is described in this meticulously researched account of one of Britain's most publicised police corruption scandals written with insider knowledge.

**Review**

Detective Inspector John Hammersley Guilty
Detective Sergeant Trevor Heath Guilty
Samuel Bellson bookmaker Guilty

Chief Constable Charles Ridge Not Guilty
Anthony Lyons bar owner Not Guilty

**Royal Commission 1960** "The policeman represents a stable element in society at a time of rapid social and economic change. The decline in religious observance, a general lowering of moral standards, a restless, turbulent age – it is against this shifting background that the policeman is expected to set an example of old-fashioned virtues."

Dick Kirby has written many books on specialist policing mostly based within the Metropolitan Police District. This book involves Metropolitan Police officers tasked with investigating corruption within a small borough force the total size of which was not even 50% of the personnel of a London division. This is not a good news story for provincial policing though some will argue that clearing out corruption in Brighton Borough Police, though shocking, reinforced throughout the service that misconduct by police was utterly intolerable and those involved would be vigorously prosecuted.

Brighton had its own police force for over 100 years when this scandal was uncovered. One hundred years of oversight by a Watch Committee of councillors, with the mayor as leader a long-established elected representative, a person of influence over the lives of many of the borough police especially the career minded. Borough forces were closed organisations where officers served for thirty years or more with many like minds, knowing and known locally, each with a reputation. Policing was narrow and promotion opportunities not plentiful, but there were advantages of family stability. Small police forces had their own incestuous and narrow culture, often underwritten through masonic lodges, their own way of behaving with local practices and procedures that evolved over generations. There were long term friendships, a deep understanding of those you worked with. Not to conform within this "brotherhood" was to be shown the door! Closed societies are vulnerable to bullying and bad or even criminal behaviour

The late Lord Imbert, one time Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police spoke of "noble cause corruption", where an officer will simply lie, exaggerate, or invent evidence to convict a suspect he "knows" is "well at it." This corruption bad as it is, did not normally fill the pocket of the corrupt police officer.

There was a nastier deep-rooted corruption confronted by Robert Mark as commissioner who found on his arrival, untrustworthiness within the detective branch of the Met was endemic and cynical. His obituary in the Guardian in October 2010 established the dreadfulness of corrupt

police. “Detectives had financial arrangements with bank robbers, drug dealers and pornographers, and Mark was not being entirely frivolous when he described his ambition as to "arrest more criminals than we employ." It was no easy task, and entrenched interests within Scotland Yard at the time made every effort to block his path. But he went after those interests ruthlessly, leading to the early departure of 478 officers, a rate six times higher than under his predecessor. Some 50 appeared in court, and the wholesale, institutionalised corruption of the 1960s and 70s within the CID was ended.” This was all in the future from the Brighton scandal, but the spectre is raised by Kirby at the start of his book.

Many experienced police officers would have sympathy with the views of Sir John Woodcock the CHMI in his 1991 Annual Report, “The police working environment is one in which some procedures compete with others – the impetus of investigation versus the rights of suspects – so that crime control is in conflict with due process. And, from the very beginning of a police officer’s career, he or she finds that the demands of the tasks in front of him or her tend to overwhelm the procedures laid down to deal with them. There is a constant sense of urgency in the police world, which often leads to corner-cutting.”

“… the working culture of the Police Service is shot through with corner-cutting and with expediency. Moreover, I am not talking only about the great causes célèbres which have dogged recent times. The police process hundreds of thousands of cases a year and I believe that a considerable number of them would, upon the closest possible examination, be found to be affected by some degree of expedient action.”

Organised crime and gangsterism outside London, were mostly confined to large towns and cities though forces close to London suffered innumerable armed robberies, murders and top end crimes by villains living “in the smoke.” When investigating these offences there was a great deal of support from the Metropolitan Police. In constabularies and boroughs, the threat of corruption involving local criminals was unusual. The way forces were managed restricted long-term involvement with local criminals as officers were commonly posted across departments and the county. It was also frequently the case that promotion for CID officers resulted in time in uniform denying frequent contact with serious criminals. Corruption in small forces and constabularies was therefore limited by postings, interchange of staff, the lack of opportunity and culture.

Policing post war and probably before, functioned with a background noise of low-level corruption made up of noble cause, a pressure to get the job done, or for small scale personal gain. The extent of the Brighton revelations were unusual though not unique. The involvement of the chief constable elevated the case to a national scandal.

The fifties was still an age of deference and police were seen as solid representatives of the British way of life whose conduct throughout the recent world war was highly regarded. “What gentlemen they are,” said Churchill. The police in most areas of the country had a fine reputation, young officers seen as excellent future sons-in law, and to most of the public, corruption was unthinkable.

There were very many police forces from the huge Metropolitan Police to county and even smaller borough and city forces. Long service in one town or city meant police were close to the community and in areas of Sussex including Brighton many police officers and their families would be well known for many years. In the life of a tight community, police officers were leaders along with the vicar and doctor. Superintendents were known as significant figures appearing very frequently in the local newspapers. Chief officers were a part of the elite who governed the countryside, towns and cities. People held in high esteem who rarely, very rarely let themselves and their positions down by corrupt activity. This was not the case in Brighton which is why these crimes are still recognised as significant.

It is a great shame that again Kirby lets his anti-uniform invective and bias against senior officers who were not career detectives get in the way of his writing. It displays a narrow view of policing which does not stop at the exit door from CID offices or confined to a small number of dedicated and skilled detectives on specialist units.

Mark did not "hate and despise" CID officers as Kirby suggests. He hated and despised corrupt police officers whatever their role, and it took a man from outside the Metropolitan Police, a non-detective to grip what was a huge problem. When Mark retired a second chief constable was brought in as commissioner, McNee, who had more detective experience, who carried on with a major re-organisation of the CID. Officers from at least one constabulary came as a team of very experienced detectives and worked in A10 at NSY to help root out corruption where witnesses refused any contact with local police. (One became a chief constable and all the others senior detectives). Kirby refers to Assistant Commissioner Kelland CBE QPM, as "a dope." This is inequitable, given his service and commitment to policing including time in charge of specialist squads in central London. It could be that Kirby disagreed with the approach of dramatic and widespread change, the breaking down of the Flying Squad with the formation of four robbery squads deployed across London, the replacement of many senior people including "outsiders". All this was essential to avoid the constant whiff of corruption and to allow the "honest cop" to work without fear of being related to bad practice! The denigration of former senior officers who were highly regarded in their day, is unnecessary and brings nothing to the background of the Brighton scandal.

Implying parallels between Countryman and Brighton enquiries is also unhelpful. Countryman and the Brighton enquiry is equating the Metropolitan Police to Northampton Borough! Not in the same league! Countryman was not all bad and the investigators were not all inadequate as Kirby would have you believe. It was not a glorious episode for policing. The Brighton enquiry was of a lesser order of magnitude. It was a localised enquiry with a limited number of players with the level of criminality within the police not as complex nor as widespread. That is not to under-estimate the nasty criminals operating by the sea who needed to be gripped by honest policing! Countrymen, however, dealt with allegations involving a significant number of officers in the two London police forces, that suffered from obstruction by officers and their management.

The case in Brighton was investigated by a first division team of Metropolitan Police detectives but there was no uncovering of widespread corruption that led to a mass clear out of borough officers. The trial convicted a detective inspector and a detective sergeant along with a member of the public whilst the chief constable was found not guilty of criminal conspiracy. He was later dismissed by the Brighton Watch Committee on full pension.

Kirby does a good job with his books, and it is good to think that the material is being recovered and ordered for future generations. However, it is time he dropped his repetitive biases as it adds nothing.

A good police officer no matter in what role, should demonstrate scrupulous honesty, thoroughness and attention to detail, experience of life and people, a comprehensive knowledge of the law and regulations governing the investigation of offences, all built on experience which can only be acquired by "being on the ground." Movement and changing roles is critical to circumvent a narrowness of outlook and experience avoiding closed communities that lead to a culture that allows corrupt practices to develop. Specialists over time always end up viewing their role as critical to policing when of course they are but a part of a very large whole. When a "force within a force" or perceived elite is allowed to develop, unless great care is taken with competent and strong leadership, difficulties will not be far behind.

Were there consequences for the police nationally or even in Brighton? A new chief constable, a coming to terms by the Force of what had happened. Possibly various Watch Committees of city and borough councils took a close look at their own forces. Brighton remained a small borough force until 1964 when along with Eastbourne, Hastings, East and West Sussex combined to form Sussex Police. A Royal Commission followed by Police Act 1964 brought structural change and alterations to the oversight of policing across the land. For a small force Brighton Borough combined with other scandals across the country, were the progenitors of considerable change. The start of moving policing out of the Victorian age.