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

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www.surrey-constabulary.com

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

Surrey Constabulary History 89

Dorking 1977: Bob Heaten, Brian Silver, Tony Jermey, Richard Poulton, Tim Blake, Ken Langridge, Peter Durston Front: Brian Roberts, Alf Hay, David Eades, Roy Wakefield, Peter Wickens

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Assistant Chief Constable Chris Atkins – retirement Jack Warner

Junior Police Clerk Cecil Arthur Maskell
Sergeant (Nav.)
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No166 Squadron
Died age 20, 20 October 1943

An updated entry concerning Cecil Maskell who was a police clerk – an early version of the police cadets. In Guildford in the 1960s cadets were often referred to as boy clerks by the older men.

Cecil Maskell served as a Sergeant (Nav.) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No166 Squadron. He died aged 20 the son of Charles John and Elizabeth Maude Maskell, of Guildford, Surrey. He is buried in the Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery. Cecil was the brother of John Maskell former ACC Surrey Constabulary.

166 Squadron who were on the Berlin Raids and flew a sortie 20/21 October to Leipzig)
(Bomber Command – Hastings)

From: Rob Davis Bomber Command Losses Database.

DATE: 20-Oct-1943 UNIT: 166 Squadron AIRCRAFT: Lancaster III:
RAF BASE: Kirmington: TAKE-OFF AT: 18:00
TARGET : Leipzig

PILOT: Bartley, Donald, Sergeant, (1321459) (killed)
CREW: Sergeant Leslie Arthur Steele (flight engineer) (1419176) (killed),
Sergeant Cecil Arthur Maskell (navigator) (1601545) (killed), Flight Sergeant George Rodney Alexander Walkem RCAF (bomb aimer) (R/146393) (killed), Sergeant Edward Frederick Maurice Barham (wireless operator) (1319073) (killed), Sergeant Graham Read (mid-upper gunner) (1671157) (killed), Sergeant James Ivan Wilson RCAF (rear gunner) (R/186325) (killed)

DETAILS: All members of the crew are buried in the Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery.

No. 166 was re-formed in January 1943, at Kirmington, Lincolnshire – again as a bomber squadron. It remained based at Kirmington throughout the remainder of the war and, flying Wellingtons and Lancasters, participated in many major raids, and also played an active part in Gardening (mine laying). The squadron won at least two DSOs, two CGMs, 117 DFCs and 108 DFMs in the Second World War and was disbanded on the 1 September 1946.

Lancaster B Mk III No 166 Squadron

The British Occupation Authorities and Commission officials selected the site of Berlin 1939-45 War Cemetery jointly in 1945, soon after hostilities ceased. Graves were brought to the cemetery from the Berlin area and from eastern Germany. The great majority of those buried here, approximately 80 per cent of the total, were airmen who were lost in the air raids over Berlin and the towns in eastern Germany. The remainder were men who died as prisoners of war, some of them in the forced march into Germany from camps in Poland, in front of the advancing Russians. The cemetery contains 3,582 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 392 of them unidentified. In addition, there are 266 post war graves of men of the British Occupation Forces or their dependants, or of members of the Control Commission. (CWGC site)

Girl Cadets of the Surrey Constabulary 1966/67

Ann Mappley a former WPC who was an early member of the Surrey Constabulary Girl Cadets. She emailed seeking details on when girls were first employed.

Peter Wickens: In late 1964, I was moved from Bagshot to Guildford and in early 1965 I was called to Ted Posts office and told that I would start a three-month attachment of two days a week in Training to assist with Cadet Training. (I was then on an attachment to Traffic at Burpham.) At the end of the Burpham attachment I was posted full time to Training. I was told that the recruitment of Cadets was going to increase, and this would include 10 girls. A one-month residential course was devised, and these took place in 1966/67 at Grafham, Nr Bramley which included the first girls.

Another Girl Cadet was Mary, now David Amos wife, who could also help your enquiry and Pauline Lambert, the widow of DC David Lambert who lives in Guildford. I think many of these 'girls' are still in touch

Geoff Todd: When I finished Special Course 4 at Bramshill I was posted to Training. This was in October 1966 where I remained until early 1967. It was during this period that the first

intake of Girl Cadets occurred. As Peter says a course for them was held at Grafham (former village school on the A281) and then a (Surrey CC) training centre. The centre was run by a Mr Richardson, father of PC955 Wayne and Andy Richardson.

I was a training sergeant for the course. I can remember Gwen (later Crossan) and Claire (later Weedon) being on that course. Not quite sure of the exact dates of the but think it probably took place during the Autumn as many of the girls had recently left school. Cannot readily call other names for the moment.

As a former cadet myself I was credited with the equivalent of about 9 months service towards my pensionable service by Surrey in around 1980, after I had transferred to Thames Valley.

Murder at Haslemere 1964

Simon Farquhar 2017

https://dreamsgatheringdust.com/2017/03/31/love-will-tear-us-apart/

For my book, A Dangerous Place,[1] I spent a lot of time talking to officers from Surrey CID, and through that research also **discovered a remarkable website detailing the history of the constabulary.** (www.surrey-constabulary.com) It's a fascinating, if disturbing, resource, an aural history of the last half-century of policing the county in the words of the officers themselves. Unlike those huge, high-profile cases that earn themselves books and documentaries, the site is a vivid and frightening look at the everyday business of crime, which is still, more often than not, an extraordinary business. Some of the tales recollected are routine, some inexplicable, and some read as black comedy. This is one of many which caught my attention:

1967: "Mrs Pretty stabbed her husband at their home in Chiddingfold on Christmas Day whilst rowing over who was going to carve the turkey, he was fatally killed… she had been slaving away in the kitchen preparing the Christmas dinner and her husband was watching Norman Wisdom in a variety show on TV. Norman was in great form and the husband was roaring with laughter. Mrs. Pretty was stressed out with all the work she was doing and kept telling him to stop laughing. He ignored her and she 'lost it' and went into the living room and stuck him with a carving knife. Norman had a lot to answer for that Christmas!"

For some reason I was reminded of the bizarre story recently while on the way to visit the National Archives, so while I was there enquired as to whether the file on the case was now open. It is, and reading it revealed that the recollection above was inaccurate (as one would expect after more than fifty years). It took place in Haslemere, not Chiddingfold (though there

[1] A Dangerous Place: The Story of the Railway Murders

is a Chiddingfold connection), happened in 1964, not 1967, and the sequence of events was in reality quite different, if almost as ludicrous as I had been led to believe. This bizarre open-and-shut case is typical of the banality, pointlessness and meaninglessness of real crime (as opposed to the elaborate plots and meaty motivations of most crime fiction). Most serious crimes are split-second occurrences which shatter lives, their after-effects spreading like stains across the years that follow and infecting the lives of even those on the peripheries.

Contained within the file are the usual forensic mixture of statements, exhibits lists, depositions, post-mortem and psychiatric reports and a transcript of the trial, which was held at Kingston Winter Assizes two months after the killing. Mrs Helen Pretty pleaded guilty to murder on the grounds of provocation.

The first piece of the jigsaw is a statement made by the accused's sister, Elizabeth. It reveals that both girls came from a very large Irish family, and when Helen was 24, the pair moved to England. Shortly after this, Helen met (Leslie) Michael Pretty. They married in December 1962, and the following June, Helen gave birth to a son.

Although it is not remarked on anywhere in the file, the fact that their child was born only six months after the wedding would have been a much more significant fact in 1962 than it would be today. From what follows, it would suggest that the marriage was instigated by social expectations more than love.

After the wedding, the couple lodged with Michael's parents at Prestwick Farm, Chiddingfold. Then comes this line: "*Helen often visited me without her husband. She told me on those visits that her husband used to beat her up and give her no money*". She alleged that on two occasions while she was pregnant, Michael had assaulted her, and had marks on her arms and a lump on the back of her head to prove it. The head wound was apparently meted because she had refused to go out to buy him cigarettes. Helen was pregnant at the time of both attacks.

A year after the wedding, the couple moved to St Cross Cottage in Weydown Road, Haslemere. Elizabeth witnessed many verbal altercations between the pair, which Helen said were usually because he gave her so little money and because, as she perceived it, his parents disliked her.

St Cross Cottage

A curious incident occurred four days before Christmas. Helen had been wanting to visit her mother in Ireland, having not been back once in the four years since she left. Michael's family had refused to give her the passage money or look after the baby while she was gone, but her husband then stumped up the money and offered to take a week off work to look after the child. Her sister dropped her at the station, but a little later, Helen appeared back at the house, having decided against going because she was anxious about leaving her son. According to Elizabeth, "when she same in he just said, 'can I have my money back', no word of greeting. Bizarrely as the evening progressed, the couple appeared to be getting on perfectly well with each other.

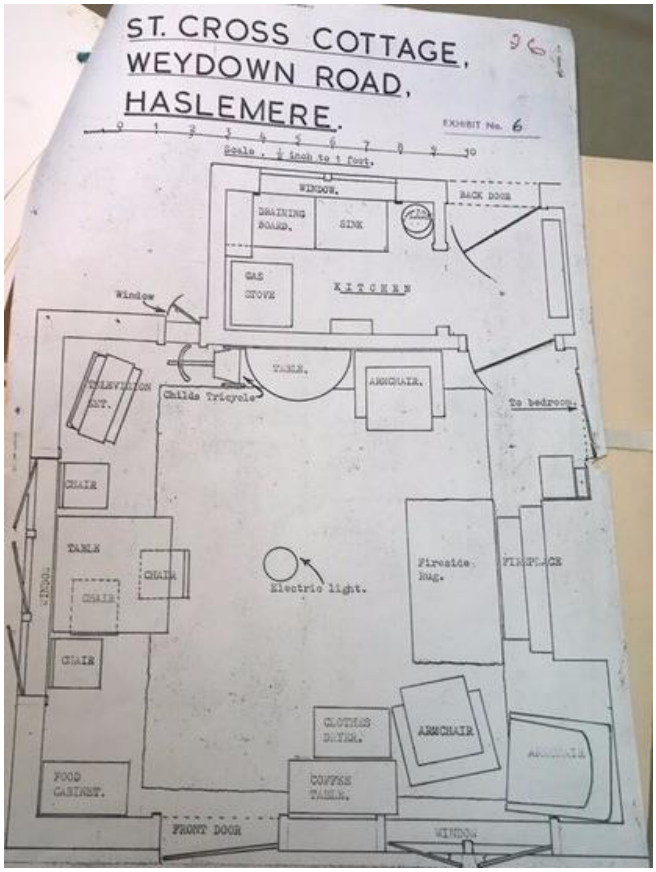
Elizabeth saw a good deal of Helen over the next few days, and said she was perfectly normal and reported no trouble at home.

On Christmas Day, "everything was quite happy during dinner". The three watched television by the fire for a few hours, then Helen brought in a chicken from the oven for supper, a present from Michael's parents. She asked her husband to carve while she buttered some bread. Mr Pretty was the only one to have drunk any alcohol, and he'd only had "one ale". The couple stood at opposite ends of the dining table while Elizabeth continued watching television. BBC1 were broadcasting Norman Wisdom's Christmas pantomime of Robinson Crusoe (which achieved what was, at the time, a record audience of 18.5 million).

"Helen appeared to be enjoying it – she likes Norman Wisdom's films very much – they make her laugh". Suddenly her husband told her to stop laughing. She explained she was only laughing at the television. He put down the carving knife and fork, then slapped her hard across the face. She responded with "I'll hit you one back" and they tussled. The baby started crying and ran to Elizabeth. When she looked up again, Mr Pretty was clutching his chest and saying "I'm dying, Helen". He fell to his knees, and despite Helen saying "don't take any notice, he often says that when we clash", Elizabeth said, "he's looking very pale".

He went to the door, and Helen asked Elizabeth to telephone for a doctor. Then she noticed blood on the blade of the carving knife. Mr Pretty never regained consciousness. Helen was in "a highly distressed state" and sobbing when the police took charge of her, saying "what have I done?" and "what will happen to me?" Those are the basic facts. But there is more significant background in the other statements.

Mr Pretty's father claimed that while the couple lived with them, Helen "spent most of the time in her room, watching television or listening to the radio", and never helped his wife with the housework. There were also a number of reports from local police officers and the family GP, all of whom had been called to the Prettys on a number of occasions because of violent arguments. On one occasion, Helen was drunk and in a ferocious temper, smashing up the living room. In her doctor's words, she was "fighting mad" because her husband had left her and she had reacted by drinking all the alcohol in the house while in charge of her child.



Police plan of the murder scene

In June 1964, a police officer arriving at the house was told by Helen that an argument had started because "he would not take me to the pictures. I never go out anywhere and he does not give me much money". After her husband left the room, she continued: "he is always hitting me even when I was pregnant". When Michael came back in with a dustpan and brush to clear away the broken glass, Helen laughed at him, and he told the police: "she even tore up the kiddy's birthday card from my mother".

Judging the situation as a “domestic”, the police advised Mrs Pretty that if she had a genuine complaint to make about her husband, it should be made to a solicitor.

On another occasion, two months before his death, Michael arranged to see a divorce lawyer; Helen again began to vandalise the house and, to stop him keeping the appointment, threw his shoes on the fire. On this occasion, Michael said to the police officer “can’t you do something?” However, by the time the officer left, the couple appeared to be at peace again. Volatile would be a diplomatic way to describe such a relationship.

Three weeks after the crime, Helen was examined by a psychiatrist while on remand at Holloway. He discovered that she had a mental age of eight, was “a subnormal girl who requires some form of guidance and help” and was “emotionally immature with a rather inadequate personality”. She admitted to “crying on the slightest pretext”, but the doctor did note that despite her “mental sub normality… she has been able until recently to cope with the exigencies of life, namely that she has looked after a home and a baby”, and had previously worked as a domestic in a hospital.

A further, more detailed report revealed that Helen had been incapable of managing the housekeeping, which is why her husband controlled all the money in the house, and that her husband “had to do most of the cooking too”. The report also added that she was incapable of comprehending simple facts and was “lacking in forethought, to the extent that she is unable to judge the consequences of her actions”. It concluded that “coupled with her mental sub normality there is considerable emotional immaturity, together with an inadequate personality. She has also a recent history of an aggressive outburst in the course of which her husband was killed. In these respects, she is in need of training and guidance in a hospital for the mentally subnormal”.

The final notes, headed “antecedents”, give a scant biography of Helen’s otherwise unremarkable life. Each employer she had before her marriage described her as hard-working; one went as far as to call her “an excellent worker of excellent character”, though another noted she was “very quick-tempered”.

Helen Pretty was detained at a mental hospital; her baby was taken into care.

Although cold, emotionless official paperwork is devoid of judgement, many of the facts listed in this depressingly ordinary, senseless story read differently to us in 2017 to how many people would have perceived them in 1964. As soon as I came across the first reference to Helen complaining that her husband beat her, I immediately began to see this as the story of an abused woman finally fighting back and inadvertently killing her monstrous abuser. In 1964, such matters would have been looked on by many as nothing like as horrific. No less a symbol of decency and integrity than PC George Dixon of the fictional television series Dixon of Dock

Green infamously and lightly told viewers in the 1956 episode *Pound of Flesh* that "if I arrested every bloke in Dock Green who clocked his wife, I'd be working overtime".

The acknowledgement that Mr Pretty "had to do most of the cooking himself" was clearly something to remark upon in those times, too. And today, a shotgun wedding is not the first reaction to an unmarried woman's pregnancy. Here it glued together two people who were clearly destined to tear each other apart.

Today,(2017) Prestwick Farm, nestled in one of the richest and most picturesque of Surrey parishes, offers four-star self-catering accommodation as well as organic produce. St Cross Cottage, in the early 1900s home to the weaving quarter of the Peasant Arts Movement, has long since been demolished. Most of the players in this sorry story are probably now long dead.

But it did occur to me, as I handed the file back, and thought that perhaps no one will ever again have any cause to seek it out, that perhaps one day, a middle-aged man might walk into the National Archives and order it up. Then, after studying its contents in a quiet corner for an hour, he might return it to the librarian, and then, as he walks back out into the world, think to himself:

"Well, now I know what happened to my parents".

Policing Surrey 1929-1939

Robert Bartlett

The late 1920s and the 1930s were difficult times to be followed by the horrors of the Second World War. This was a period of considerable change for policing in Surrey where the three forces, Surrey Constabulary, Guildford and Reigate Boroughs policed the rural and small towns of southern Surrey with the Metropolitan Police responsible for the north as far as the Thames at Southwark.[2] This was to be one of those periods where the craft of policing not just constantly changed but of innovation driven by technological progress. Adoption of new ideas and change was for each chief constable and his police or watch committee to decide on the needs of his force. Though many forces were not up for change, the sheer number of chief constables ensured that some were forward looking and not frightened to meet new demands with new methods of operating. The First World War disrupted the routines and certainties of policing compounded by severe under-manning. As recovery began the country was caught up in the economic challenges of the 1920s and 1930s which drove change and development. The shortage of jobs attracting more qualified recruits to policing. Many were called but few were chosen! There was during this time in the county, development of CID, first mobile officers, introduction of Crime Bureau, the beginning of structured forensics, photography. Money was tight but recruiting met

[2] It was not until 2020 that the Surrey Constabulary and SCC boundaries coalesced.

the demands of increased establishments responding to growing populations with all the consequences for policing that brings.

Seemingly unsolvable financial crises followed one after the other leading the government to deploy "equality of sacrifice" with cuts to unemployment benefit of 10 per cent and the salaries of public servants of between ten and twenty percent. In 1931 police pay cuts were proposed by the May Committee on National Expenditure. Their report recommended a cut of 12.5% in police pay as part of general cuts in public spending, phased over two years. The May report also recommended the abolition of the right to retire on 'half pay' and pensions after 25 years' service. A sub-committee of the Police Council recommended that there should be no change in pensionable pay, but that there should be "temporary deduction." The sub-committee was divided on the pension's issue, but a majority proposed that the pay of new entrants should be reduced.

The Government decided to reduce police pay by 10% in two instalments of 5%, taking into account the reduction in police pay when pension contributions were increased in 1925. The Federation held a series of mass meetings of the membership to protest the pay cuts. In September 1931 the Home Office informed Watch Committees and Police Authorities that police pay was to be reduced from the 1 October 1931, constables five shillings a week, sergeants six shillings and three pence a week, and Inspectors seven shillings and six pence a week. Chief Officer's deductions were to be on a percentage basis.[3] [4]

Reducing public expenditure was constantly assessed and the police were targeted again in 1932 when two pay scales are introduced. A committee under Sir George Higgins, recommended that the pay of new entrants to the police should be lower than the pay of existing officers. The Government accepted the report and two scales of pay, 'A' for existing officers and 'B' for recruits were introduced. Lord Trenchard, the metropolitan commissioner persuaded the Home Secretary to ban the Federation from holding Open Meetings, on the grounds that they were being used to make protests against government policy. The Joint Central Committee of the Police Federation submitted a resolution to the Home Secretary, which drew attention to "dissatisfaction in the Force." [5]

For all the cuts and the nature of the work, the hours, the threats of violence the police became a very sought-after job given the security of pay day and a pension with a weekly wage ahead of most working-class occupations. A constable on maximum pay of £4 15s was 55 per cent higher than the average industrial wage and that did not include the provision of accommodation or be paid an allowance. Many men, who would in normal times not considered policing as a career were driven to apply by the recession, but only a few, the best, could be offered a post. Successful recruits recognised their luck as the national acceptance rate for recruits was eight per cent,

[3] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[4] "The Best Police in the World" Barbara Weinburger University Press Cambridge 1995 page 7
[5] http://www.polfed.org/aboutus/69DD9AB47F534348AD5D1415843163AA.asp 19 Jan 2010

denying many men who were qualified the role of constable.[6] [7] The bonus of better qualified recruits may be why so many high-quality men went on to succeed in the armed forces during the Second World War.

There remained the entrance exams based mostly around English and arithmetic but beyond the level reached by many fit, able and practical men. The education level of recruits were higher pre-war than post, those staying at school after 14 years being just under half of whom 30 per cent had been to grammar school.[8] Those with a skill such as drivers or mechanics along with those likely to become a member of a sports team such as football, tug-of-war or cricket were more likely to be offered jobs. Height requirements were reduced particularly in the Metropolitan Police who had an endless demand for recruits. The days of the six foot plus copper on the street became 5 feet 10 inches in most areas but 5 feet 8 inches in London. Many were disapprovingly referred to as midgets by the "old school." [9] [10]

In the Surrey Constabulary 25 per cent of recruits were former soldiers with most having reserve commitments which meant many were soon lost when the Second World War struck.[11] This high number is no doubt a result of the large number of military establishments within and close to the county and a former military chief constable prepared to gamble with reserve obligations of so many of his constables.

Realistic establishment numbers were critical for an effective police force but required the level of vacancies needed to be kept to a minimum which was difficult to achieve during several periods of the history of the police.

Tom Hayward joined Guildford Borough Police in 1929 when the establishment was increased by five constables. Again in 1933 due to the increase of the town boundary the force was enhanced by a sergeant and six constables. There were 300 applicants which is some indication of the attractiveness of the police as a job. Hayward was the only man accepted out of 70 who went for a medical with the police surgeon Dr Milligan. He spent the first month on night duty because he was issued with a cast off uniform and had to be kept out of sight until he could be measured and fitted with his own uniform by Messrs Compton and Sons and Webb. (Suppliers of uniform to the Surrey Constabulary for several generations). Pay was £3.10s a week and there was an allowance for drinks of a shilling a week.[12] An officer who was sick and could walk had to present himself to the police station everyday. If he could not get about he was visited every day by the next rank up. Stoppages of pay for sickness was initially seven shillings a week but this was later reduced to six shillings because they would have had one day off in any event. The

[6] "The Best Police in the World" Barbara Weinburger University Press Cambridge 1995 page 8
[7] "The Best Police in the World" Barbara Weinburger University Press Cambridge 1995 page 20
[8] "The Best Police in the World" Barbara Weinburger University Press Cambridge 1995 page 14
[9] "The Best Police in the World" Barbara Weinburger University Press Cambridge 1995 page 9
[10] In the 2000s without any height limit small PCs were referred to as laptops i.e., small PCs!
[11] "The Best Police in the World" Barbara Weinburger University Press Cambridge 1995 page 20
[12] It is not known what sort of drink but unlikely to be a pint!

minimum height was six feet and the maximum age was 24 years. Constables were not allowed to marry without the permission of the chief constable after the bride had been vetted.

The PC on station duty was responsible for warning the volunteer firemen in the event of a fire. There was a plug-in switchboard in the police station and by plugging in to several holes in succession and giving each one a ring by turning the magnetic handle, the alarm was conveyed to the firemen. On other occasions the alarm was sounded by tolling the bell above the Guildhall.

There was no motor transport until 1930 and Mr Hayward recalled that on one occasion he was on duty in the station when they were told some men were trying to break into the Co-Op. He called the detective sergeant and they hired a private motor car and set off in pursuit. There was no radio so they had to make several stops and phone the police station for news of sighting of the villains. They were last seen near East Grinstead where they made off across the fields and were arrested by local police. The detective sergeant and Sergeant Hayward collected the prisoners and brough them back to Guildford.

Chief Constable Nicholas lived above the station in North Street and when he died in 1929 the flat was split up and several single men occupied some of the rooms and others were used for offices. The front room was shared by a clerk and two detective sergeants and an inspector. There was a large double sided desk in the centre of the room and they sat on high stools.

Among the many duties carried out by police was the enforcement of the Diseases of Animals Act which meant a tour of duty on Tuesday morning at the cattle market and for this they were paid and extra 1/6d an hour by the local authority. Once a year they carried out an inspection of local public service vehicles. They would all assemble on the Market Square and be checked for cleanliness, condition, licences etc.

In the 1930s constables were not allowed to sit for promotion exams for the first four years of service (as it was on into the 1960s). The constable sat the sergeants exam in two parts, police law and education. (The same into the late 1960s but by then a national examination).

The police law exam was set by an inspector and consisted of four questions; presentation and preparation of a case, police law and proceedure, local bylaws and writing a report. The education examination was set by a local schoolmaster; arithmatic, general knowledge, geography and an essay. One hour was allowed for each paper so the exam was from 9-1, 2-6. [13]

In 1929 on May 21 Guildford Borough Watch Committee minutes record the late Chief Constable Nicholas was to be replaced by Inspector W Oliver of the Guildford Borough Police at a salary of £400 per annum rising by five increments of £25 every two years to £525. In additon there was to be free accommodation "a station house" and travelling expenses as incurred. It was also decided to appoint Inspector Oliver to the following posts: Inspector of Hackney Carriages and Marine Stores; Inspector under the Food and Drugs legislation; Inspector Explosives and

[13] Note from Tom Hayward

Petrolium Act; Inspector Cinematograph Acts; Aliens Registration Officer and Billet Master. On June 17 the Watch Committeee recorded that the Home Office had approved the appointment from 29 May 1929.

What the trigger event was is not known but in 1929 the chief constable, Reigate Borough Police ordered that each day there would be a quarter of an hour's drill in 'saluting' until he believed an acceptable standard had been achieved. The new chief of the borough had been a drill instructor in the army before the First World War.[14]

In 1930 the strength of the county force was three hundred and fifty-six.[15] In 1931 owing to the national economic crisis the new chief constable Major Nicholson did not get all the additional men he asked for in that year. However, he was able to get the numbers augmented linked to crime and growing population the strength increasing from 356 in 1930 to 537 in 1939.[16]

Guildford Watch Committee in 1932 agreed the force be brought up to full strength of 39, five additional constables and one sergeant were to be appointed and one additional RAC scout be employed on point duty in addition to the five already doing this work. This would cost £1025 for the first year. Cycle use was encouraged with a cycle allowance of £2 a year. Reported on November 14 1932, borough officers decided to donate 1 per cent of their pay, 6d a week, for the next four months towards the Mayor of Guildford's Work Fund. the object of which was to augment a contribution of £3,000 from the rates for work for the unemployed. Every resident was asked to give 1 per cent of his or her income to the fund.[17] [18] In 1935 with the permission of the Home Office, the Borough police establishment grew to 48.

The police authority for the county in 1934 increased the establishment of sergeants and a number were promoted and became detective sergeants - one for each division. At Crime Bureau there is a fully organised photographic department and Sergeant Roberts who has received intensive instruction will continue to be in charge." [19] Somehow the Crime Bureau was fitted into the limited space of Woodbridge Road HQ.

Recruiting was one part of the equation, but retention was equally, if not more important, given the costs invested in the individual and the loss of hard-won experience. Men not only resigned but transferred sometimes for family reasons, promotion or going to the Metropolitan Police for more money and the bright lights! Life as a policeman in a borough where the individual could serve for thirty years was more personal. It was to know and be known. This concentration on individuality was less so in larger county and metropolitan forces.

1936 on February 12, a report from the Surrey Constabulary Standing Joint Committee announced Home Office supported major project not just for new police stations but additional

[14] A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary Gerry Middleton Stewart
[15] Superintendent Durrant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 56
[16] Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 Superintendent Durrant page 56
[17] The Times Monday 14 November 1932
[18] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[19] Surrey Advertiser believed 1934 Tom Roberts papers – held by son Chris Roberts

and upgraded housing. Was this an indication that public finances were improving? There were to be included what were referred to as barracks but later known as section houses or single-men's quarters. This was a £50,000 scheme for the housing of Surrey police officers. "Work has begun on new buildings including police housing accommodation for the Surrey County Constabulary. There are approximately one hundred and seventeen single men in the Force of them forty-four have over three years' service and are entitled to apply for permission to marry. Fifty-nine of the men are stationed sufficiently close to HQ or to an inspector's station to be conveniently accommodated in barracks and it might be desirable to build three blocks in different parts of the constabulary area to accommodate ten to twelve single men." [20] (The value of £50,000 in 1936 was worth in 2022, £3,785,095.30. You got a lot for your money then!)[21]

Sub-stations were to be situated at Addlestone, Albury, Ash, Ashtead, Bagshot, Byfleet, Chertsey, Chobham, Cobham, Cranleigh, Esher, Frimley, Godstone, Haslemere, Hindhead, Holmwood, Hookwood, Horsley, Kingswood, Knaphil, Lingfield, Milford, Old Woking, Peasemarsh, Ripley, Walton on Thames. Sites for the erection of three houses would be acquired now although in some instances it would be possible to defer the erection of the third house. The most urgent cases were Esher, Egham, Horley and Walton on Thames and the committee were of the opinion that the necessary land for police stations and sub-stations should be acquitted as early as possible. The chief constable regarded the requirements outlined as the minimum necessary for the efficient administration and comfort of members of the force and the convenience of the members of the public.[22] The Home Secretary had concurred with the proposals provided that the expenditure was met by way of loan.

These became known as section stations or offices many of which were sold in the 2000s when government budget cuts led to the destruction of community and rural policing.

In the east of the county the Reigate Borough Police surrounded by the Surrey Constabulary with the Metropolitan Police just to the north, worked well alongside the constabulary and of course, suffered many similar trials as the problems of the 1930s hit. In 1930/1931 a Chief HMI Report gave the establishment for the Borough of a total strength of 40 – a chief constable, two inspectors, seven sergeants, 30 constables for a population of 28,914.

With the retirement of Mr Metcalfe in 1930, William Beacher was appointed to head the force on 1 January 1931 and adopted the title of chief constable. Beacher had been a superintendent in the West Sussex Constabulary, before becoming the new chief constable of the Borough from the first day of 1931. His pay of £460pa to rise in five years to £560 with a free residence. He also had £100 per year for upkeep of his motor vehicle. The new man was an accomplished horseman (from his days in the army) and was often to be seen on duty in the area on horseback, although he also had an official car.[23] He remained in post until the amalgamation with the county force in 1947 and was looked upon as both a caring

[20] 1936 Feb 12: The Times
[21] https://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/bills/article-1633409/Historic-inflation-calculator-value-money-changed-1900.html
[22] Convenience of the public is a concept that would benefit from reintroduction in police management thinking
[23] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm

and innovative chief. The arrival of a new chief William or Billy Beacher led to an explosion of representative sport within the force. Cricket was already established but soon football, athletics and particularly tug of war filled the off-duty hours. There was also golf and indoor games such as darts and whist evenings. Given there were 40 men in the force and the sheer volume of games played most men had to be involved. There can be no doubt that recruits good at a number of sports stood an excellent chance of selection for the force. (In the 1960s it was football. The long-term recruiting sergeant for the Surrey Constabulary, George Ball was thought to give preferential treatment for those who played football. Just a rumour of course!) The games were reported in detail in all local papers and being a point of pride for local residents as well as literally team building of the members of the force. What could be better. Keeping men fit. Meeting local people on the sports field. Excellent for public relations.

The best use of manpower seems to have been high on the agenda for Beacher during his early years, with the Home Office pressing for the installation of more traffic lights to relieve policemen from point duty. Additional fine-tuning resulted in co-operation with the fire brigade and a fireman taking over the duty of ambulance driving. The fire brigade also agreed to "…take charge of and exercise and feed any stray dogs impounded by the police." [24]

In his first annual report in 1931 to the Watch Committee, Chief Constable W Beacher offered some crime and establishment statistics. Crime levels were very low and there was a very large special constabulary contingent probably built on the hundreds employed during the First World War.

> 98 indictable offences of which 59 were detected
> Establishment of 40 officers, a CC, two inspectors, five police sergeants and 32 PCs
> Special Constabulary 160
> Cost £14217 13s 6d
> Population 30,830

Training was built into the daily life of the force but not necessarily in classrooms! "Since my command I have personally instructed the force weekly in drill movements, physical exercise and Ju-Jitsu." (W Beacher) [25]

Crime remained very low and in 1932 there were no offences against the person. The year has been free of serious crime except for a series of housebreakings which it was reported were very prevalent throughout the country and are difficult to detect. [26]

[24] A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary Gerry Middleton Stewart
[25] 1931 Annual Report by the Chief Constable William Beacher CC/98/22/2
[26] 1932 Annual Report by the Chief Constable William Beacher CC/98/22/2

At Redhill purpose-built premises were opened in London Road for the combined presence of police and fire brigade. A bloodhound is available to the force by being borrowed from Sussex and each CID officer had a camera. A mounted force if required would consist of the chief constable, two police sergeants and three constables.

Mechanisation took an enormous leap in what could be regarded as one of the most appropriate appointments in the history of Reigate or, indeed, any police force. The chief constable reorganised the Special Constabulary and formed a mobile section under Special Chief Inspector Sir Malcolm Campbell (of Bluebird fame). The mobile specials were divided into two classes:

1st Reserve – Super fast cars
2nd Reserve – Moderately fast cars [27]

It is not known how often these cars were used in earnest particularly given the very low crime rate by modern standards, but their formation must have led to a significant amount of local exposure for the police and certainly increased the chief constable's deployment options.

The Mayor of Guildford (Mr William Harvey) kicked off in a football match between Guildford Borough Police and Reigate Borough Police at the Sports Ground on Wednesday in January 1932 for the benefit of the unemployed. A "gate" of over 300 saw Guildford win a hard game by 6-3. A collection at the ground for the unemployed realized £6 12s. [28]

Unemployment featured in the operational life of the police officers with demonstrations and marches taking place in 1933 (March, April, May, July and September) especially affecting Redhill.[29] Meanwhile police pay continued under the reduced scale enforced by the national economy crisis although in 1934 half the pay cut was restored. [30] [31]

Mobilising special constables in their cars was upstaged in 1935 when the chief constable of Reigate made what even now is regarded as an almost unbelievable decision for a small borough police force by forming a Special Constabulary Air Unit. With pilots based at Redhill Aerodrome[32] and up to twelve planes available, regular police officers acted as observers for the unit. It was used for large-scale searches and remained in being until the demise of the force. [33]

In 1937 on February 2, The Times reported that there was to be higher pay for Surrey Superintendents. Surrey Joint Committee have agreed to a higher scale of pay for superintendents and inspectors in the Surrey Constabulary in order that the scale shall

[27] A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary Gerry Middleton Stewart
[28] 1932 January 9: Surrey Advertiser
[29] 1933 Annual Report by the Chief Constable William Beacher CC/98/22/2
[30] 1933 Annual Report by the Chief Constable William Beacher CC/98/22/2
[31] 1934 Annual Report by the Chief Constable William Beacher CC/98/22/3
[32] When police helicopters were introduced, in late 1990s and 2020s Redhill was to feature as a base
[33] A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary Gerry Middleton Stewart

approximate that of the Metropolitan Police. The new rate for superintendents will be £430 rising to £500 per annum and that for inspectors £320 rising to £360 per annum. Existing rates are £400 to £460 for superintendents and £310 to £350 for inspectors.[34]

In the Surrey Constabulary police area in 1937 **t**here were 337 indictable offences for the year an increase of 106, 45.88% on the 231 for 1936. This was a record year for crime.[35] However, the CID had the same staff numbers as in 1921 when there were 56 crimes. The number of detectives has been increased by one to complete the MO[36] system and for the preparation of files. [37]

It was reported in 1938 May 6 in the Surrey Mirror that physical training squads of Reigate Borough Police have completed their annual fortnightly training under the chief constable and divisional inspectors at the grounds of the Reigate County School where they have been mustering before breakfast each morning.[38]

Recorded crime in the Reigate Borough during 1938 was 193**.** There was a detective sergeant and three detective constables supported by a junior civilian clerk. The chief constable's report list a great deal of detail on the reported crime, most of it considered as routine for any town of the size of Reigate. [39]

It should be stressed that investigation of crime was a small part of the overall role and responsibilities of police officers. In his 1938 annual report Mr Beacher commented on the threat of war and its implications: "The national crisis of September 1938 involved the police in many important and grave public duties. We trust we shall never again be faced with such a grave issue." [40]

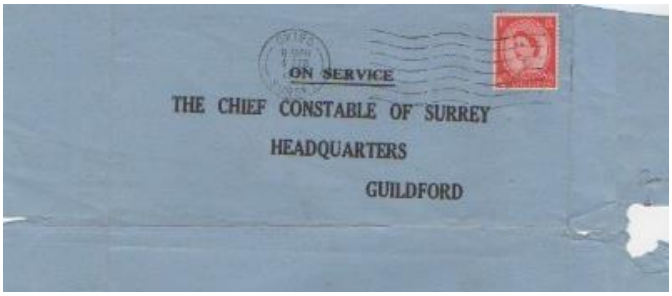
In 1939 the strength of the force which cost £18369 10s 3d going into the War was a chief constable, two inspectors, 11 sergeants, and 47 constables; First Police Reserve seven, of whom six were retired Reigate Borough officers and one from East Sussex. There was a War Reserve of nine, one a special constable. The authorised establishment became a chief constable, chief inspector, two inspectors, 11 sergeants and 45 constables. However, ordered to the Colours were Constables Williams, Crowhurst, Barker, Sweeney and Noon with Keen and Harris given permission by the chief constable to enlist. The Special Constabulary had a chief, one chief inspector, five inspectors, 21 sergeants and 125 constables. [41]

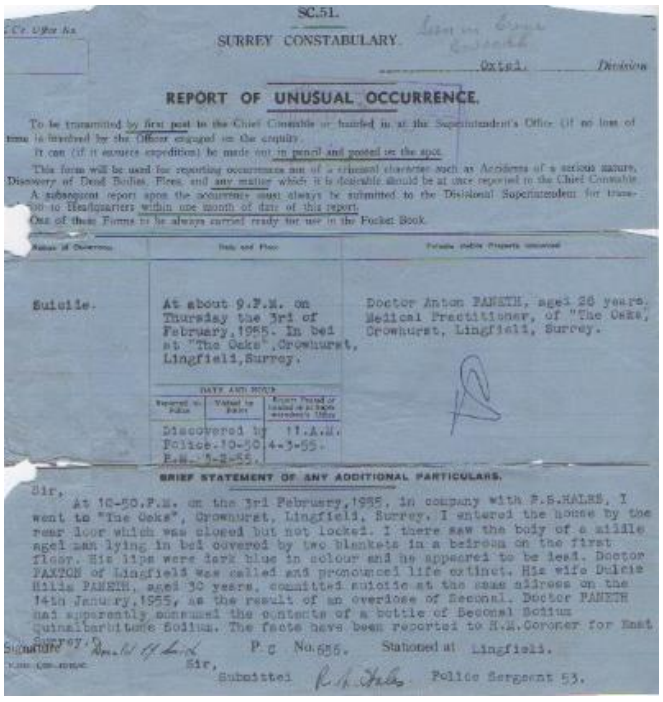
Role/Restrictions

[34] The Times (London, England), Tuesday, Feb 02, 1937
[35] 1937Annual Report by the Chief Constable William Beacher CC/98/22/4
[36] Modus Operandi – probably required a card index entry to be completed for future comparison
[37] 1937Annual Report by the Chief Constable William Beacher CC/98/22/4
[38] 1938 May 6: Surrey Mirror
[39] 1938 Annual Report by the Chief Constable William Beacher CC/98/22/4
[40] 1938 Annual Report by the Chief Constable William Beacher CC/98/22/4
[41] 1939Annual Report by the Chief Constable William Beacher CC/98/22/4

A new chief constable for the county Major Geoffrey Nicholson was appointed in December 1930 following the retirement of Captain Sant. Known for generating ideas at the rate of "a dozen a day" he was to order that every indictable crime complaint was to be forwarded direct to him by the officer receiving it. Every member of the force was issued with the forms and on receipt the chief constable read every one without exception. He also read the final report of the constable who investigated the crime. [42] (Certainly, in the 1960s this was still the case with comments from the chief constable in green ink such as "Well Done!" were to be acknowledged by the investigating officer.)

These forms became known as blueys and were posted via the GPO most likely before the officer went off duty. Analyses by the new chief was to confirm something that was to be the case for coming generations of Surrey police officers. The housebreaker who lived in London and broke into houses in the county often being home before the crime was even discovered. Nicholson took the problem to his Police Authority and was permitted to appoint five detective sergeants for enquiry work in London. These men became the nucleus of the Surrey Constabulary CID. [43]




SC.51.

SURREY CONSTABULARY

Oxted. Division

REPORT OF UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE.

To be transmitted by first post to the Chief Constable or handed in at the Superintendent's Office (if no loss of time is involved by the Officer engaged on the enquiry.
It can (if it assures expedition) be made out in pencil and posted on the spot.
This form will be used for reporting occurrences not of a criminal character such as Accidents of a serious nature, Discovery of Dead Bodies, Fires, and any matter which it is desirable should be at once reported to the Chief Constable.
A subsequent report upon the occurrence must always be submitted to the Divisional Superintendent for transmission to Headquarters within one month of date of this report.
One of these Forms to be always carried ready for use in the Pocket Book.

Nature of Occurrence.	Date and Place.	Persons and/or Property concerned.
Suicide.	At about 9.P.M. on Thursday the 3rd of February,1955. In bed at "The Oaks",Crowhurst, Lingfield,Surrey.	Doctor Anton PANETH, aged 26 years, Medical Practitioner, of "The Oaks", Crowhurst, Lingfield, Surrey.

DATE AND HOUR

Reported to Police	Visited by Police	Report Passed on to Superintendent's Office
Discovered by M.A.M. Police.10-50	4-3-55. P.M. 3-2-55.	

BRIEF STATEMENT OF ANY ADDITIONAL PARTICULARS.

Sir,
At 10-50.P.M. on the 3rd February,1955, in company with P.S.HALES, I went to "The Oaks", Crowhurst, Lingfield, Surrey. I entered the house by the rear door which was closed but not locked. I there saw the body of a middle aged man lying in bed covered by two blankets in a bedroom on the first floor. His lips were dark blue in colour and he appeared to be dead. Doctor PAXTON of Lingfield was called and pronounced life extinct. His wife Dulcie Hilda PANETH, aged 30 years, committed suicide at the same address on the 14th January,1955, as the result of an overdose of Seconal. Doctor PANETH had apparently consumed the contents of a bottle of Seconal Sodium (pinalbarbitone Sodium. The facts have been reported to H.M.Coroner for East Surrey.

Signature P.C No.655. Stationed at Lingfield.

Sir,
Submitted Police Sergeant 53.

[42] Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 Superintendent Durrant page 55
[43] Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 Superintendent Durrant page 55

There was a gradual modernisation of restrictions placed upon police officers but General Order 797 Surrey Constabulary, of 22 October 1932 reads as what one expects from the Victorian police. Chief Constable's Office - Absence from Section: The following rule as to absence from Sections on "rest days" and between periods of duty are given for the guidance of all members of the Force.

"Any member of the Force may be absent from his section on his "rest day" and between periods of duty provided he informs his section officer, or, in the case of a Sergeant or Inspector, his Superintendent, beforehand, but no member of the Force may be absent from his residence after midnight without express permission of his Superintendent. This rule does not relieve any Constable from his responsibility and readiness for any duty allotted to him and of which he has been acquainted beforehand nor does it preclude a man being ordered to remain at his residence in case of emergency. Major Nicholson Chief Constable of Surrey."[44]

The existance of borough police forces do not appear to be a cause of conflict, in fact the opposte, though without doubt there was pride and rivalry. Policing Guildford was made more complicated because of the Surrey Constabulary HQ and a police station for the county was in Woodbridge Road a hundred yards or so from the Borough police HQ and main station in North Street. by Market Street. 1933 Guildford Watch Committee agreed to work closely with the county for ther detection of crime.[45]

The following is taken from the family memoir of retired Inspector Surrey Constabulary and formerly Guildford Borough, George William Almond "A Policeman's Lot is not a Happy One." This was written in 1983

Fifty years ago, on the 18th March 1933, Bill Leahy and I with two others joined the Guildford Borough Police. The occasion was an increase in establishment bringing the strength to forty-seven, when the Borough was extended to take in Burpham and Merrow and "so much of the area of the Chantries as lies to the North of the Tillingbourne Stream," or words to that effect.

I am writing this account of Guildford, as we knew it and the way it was policed. There was a chief constable, an inspector, five uniformed sergeants, one CID sergeant and three plain-clothes constables. The remainder were constables. One sergeant and two of the constables were permanently on office duties. The whole of the Borough was divided into seven beats and an additional patrol was employed at night and on occasions when shops were closed in the central area. The High Street, the extra patrol and the beat that encompassed the area along Woodbridge and Stoke Roads to Joseph Road were worked by foot patrols, with the remainder worked by constables on bicycles. During the day and occasionally at night one motorcyclist was employed.

Our training consisted of a few talks from the inspector and patrolling with senior constables. We were fitted out with second-hand uniform and sworn in during an ordinary session of the court in

[44] From Surrey Police Federation files
[45] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary

the Guildhall. In the main the patrol sections worked a straight eight-hour shift, the tours lasting a fortnight. The hours were 6am to 2pm; 2pm to 10pm; and 10pm to 6am. Superimposed on the day shifts was a section engaged with traffic control, which worked 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 6 pm.

The policeman on the right is on Number 1 beat and therefore a senior man[46]

The Borough employed RAC scouts to control the traffic at the Railway entrance, the junction of Portsmouth Road with High Street, Quarry Street junction with the High Street, Waterdon Road and York Road junction and York Road and Sandfield Terrace junction. There may have been others. The beat constables had to relieve at the points as required.

As a rule, the men had six weeks on day duty and then a fortnight on nights. We worked the first six weeks of our service on nights without a rest day and at the end of it the inspector told us we had done quite well, and he was going to give us a day off the next week. Our future training consisted of writing out Moriarty's Police Law from cover to cover in exercise books and submitting them for inspection weekly. We also had to study Sir Howard Vincent's Police Code[47].

Our pay was three pounds ten shillings a week. The sergeants got five pounds, the inspector six pounds ten shillings and the chief nine pounds. The increment for constables was two shillings and sixpence a week each until a maximum was reached. There was an additional two shillings and sixpence on passing the promotion exam to sergeant. Parading for duty and for dismissal was in the officer's own time outside the eight-hour shift, and this entailed arriving at the police station about twenty minutes before the starting time so that "Information" could be recorded. Additionally, pay parade was in one's own time and had to be attended on Friday afternoons. This was usually followed by a "pep talk" from the chief.

[46] Tony Collman private collection
[47] The code contained detailed instruction on how a police officer should act and legislation useful for the patrolling constable

Inspections of uniform parades were held twice a year and all the uniform had to be taken into the police station for this purpose. We had to use cabin trunks and hire a taxi at our own expense to get it there. Our issue consisted of two greatcoats, four helmets and a night belt, two gabardine raincoats, four tunics, eight pairs of trousers and two pairs of waterproof leggings and two cloth capes. The tunics fastened up to the neck, so we had no issue of collars and ties then. All this was in one's own time.

All reports had to be written after duty and we had no proforma to fill in. Even accident reports were written on plain lined paper and statements were attached. I well remember on many occasions commencing to write a report after 10pm and not being finished until 1am then having to be back on duty at 6am the next morning.

One of my first cases in court was the result of a call from the workhouse where the master gave a vagrant into my charge for "that he was a refractory pauper refusing to perform his allotted task." This was not an infrequent charge, and the penalty was usually that he was ordered out of the Borough. This also rendered him liable to re-arrest if he returned. The Relieving Officer was a very important person in the Borough, and we often had to contact him and work with him. He was able to dispense the limited amount of aid to the very needy and he also dealt with lunacy laws and those who were mentally deficient. The Good Intent in Quarry Street and Mill House in Mill Lane were "Doss Houses" and in addition there was Vaughan House, and the Workman Home in Chertsey Street. At some of these establishments we were introduced to fights where knives were flashed, and blood spilled, and great hobnailed working boots were sunk into soft flabby stomachs. Nor was the smell too good. There were by-laws affecting these places and I remember the walls had to be whitewashed once each year.

I think the most important lesson we learned was the order of priority in which the precepts governing the policeman's duties fell.

The preservation of life
The prevention of crime and the protection of property
The detection and apprehension of offenders
The preservation of the Peace

With hindsight I can say that whatever rank a policeman held there were times when decisions had to be made quickly and the above sequence would help to get one's priorities right. I believe the "protection of property" is now further down the list.

At night beat work in the residential areas consisted mainly of checking unoccupied properties, and as each beat was supposed to be covered in four hours this meant we were expected to examine all such properties twice during the night. We had to work the beats to a prescribed plan and the points given would either take you round the beat working right or left or figure of eight. Only an emergency would excuse any change from this. We had half an hour meal break round about 2am. The night reserve constable would have the kettle boiling and there was always a good fire to thaw out by, and chat and plenty of laughs with good mates. There was a camaraderie engendered by the strict discipline imposed and the harsh conditions under which we had to work. If anything untoward happened during the night, which was not found by the constable on the beat but was reported the next morning, the constable was called out from his bed and made to attend at the police station. And report when he was in that area and what he saw or did not see, and there was always the fear of a misconduct form and a fine following such a happening. The annual leave entitlement was one day per month in each year and in the first calendar year we had eight days. There were no concessions for inclement weather. The beats had to be worked whatever the conditions. Trying to wheel a bicycle up Pewley Hill on frozen snow was a task almost as difficult as trying to descend it.

The North Street market on Saturdays was a high spot of the week. The stalls stretched from Jeffrey's Passage to Swan Lane and sales continued until 10pm. Many of the stalls were lit at night by oil lamp flares. The street market drew crowds and a By-law prevented stallholders from selling to people on the roadside of a stall. The stalls faced the footpath on the police station side of the street. However, there was the occasional prosecution of stallholders causing obstruction by causing a crowd to collect on the road by selling from the back of the stall. Obstruction by cars was a big problem and there were many prosecutions for this offence. The mayor was usually in the chair on the Bench and as an example of the lapse of formality there was an occasion when the mayor turned to an old policeman in the witness box and asked, "How long did you say the car was there Reg?" The Guildhall played a great part in our life.

It was the Guildhall bell, which was rung by one of us whenever there was a fire warning. There were only one or two regular firemen, and the others were volunteers. They were contacted at their homes or place of business by bells, which we rang from the police station by inserting a plug into a socket and turning a handle. There was a separate socket for each fireman. If the town bell was sounded for one series of rings, it indicated the fire was in the Borough. The first

policeman arriving at the fire had to do the report. This gave rise to the belief that the police dash to a fire amounted to a "slow" bicycle race.

Guildford Borough between the wars when cricket was very important

The Guildhall was also the scene of the Borough Quarter Sessions and on one occasion I was to deputise for the Usher who was sick. I had to go to his sick bed to ask him the wording of the various proclamations and charges to the jury, as no one seemed to know the exact words. I borrowed a gown from the Town Clerk, and I think I must have managed the job fairly well as I received a smile of approbation from the Recorder. At least, I fondly imagined that it was! The Guildhall was also the scene of our assembly for the Government Inspection. About that time there was one Government Inspector who was in the eyes of most policemen, the embodiment of the worst evils which hell could produce. He was a colonel, but he would have been at grave risk if he had acted on the battlefield as he did at these inspections. He would quite unjustifiably try to humiliate every officer of whatever rank to whom he spoke, even the chief. We had a good laugh over a story from the county. His moustache was freshly waxed, and he rapped on the desk imperiously with his cane in a village police station in a good class retirement area of the county. "I'm Colonel ……" announced the government inspector. Without looking up the sergeant is supposed to have said "Oh yes, well they're all colonels or half pay sea-captains around here. What can we do for you?" I never wanted to know the end of the story. Perhaps there isn't one. It is only fair to say that most of the gentlemen holding that office had quite a different approach to inspections.

The weekly cattle market in Woodbridge Road was quite an event. Two PCs were engaged on special duty from 9am to 1pm and two more from 1pm to 5 pm. This at 1/6d per hour earned each PC and extra 6/-. There was a minimum rate of 4/6d for special duty so that an afternoon at the City Football Ground enriched us by 4/6d. We had to supply our own bicycles for which we drew a small allowance for upkeep. However, there was no compensation for the initial outlay

and no means of saving for a new one. All constables had to become proficient at Life Saving and obtain the Royal Society's medallion as well as the medallion for the St. John's First Aid. Those on duty during first aid lectures attended in duty time, but the rest in their own time. We wore a silver badge on each forearm to show we possessed these qualifications. We were required to practice in the indoor baths in Castle Street at 6am after night duty.

Guildford Borough Police lifesaving team about 1933

Our free time was not really free. We had to ask permission in writing to go outside the Borough at any time. To become married an application was necessary giving full particulars of one's fiancée. The Police of the district where she lived checked these details, and permission was then granted. I never heard of anyone being refused either of these requests and fortunately by the efforts of the Federation the regulations were eventually relaxed.

During carnivals and processions where crowds collected, we were very proud of our "Mounted Branch." The harness was kept at the police station and the two "Mounties", ex-Horse Guardsmen, polished it up to be placed upon a couple of hacks from the local horse-riding stables. However, their skill at riding made the whole thing look very impressive and it was most effective. Before the Queen's Royal Regiment received the freedom of the Borough their church parade at Holy Trinity church usually meant that they carried with them their colours and so had the traditional escort with bayonets fixed. It was necessary on these occasions for the Civil Power (often in the shape of yours truly) to exercise the right to escort the whole battalion. We always had good relations with the Queen's Regiment. By now you probably will be wondering how on earth they found enough men from a total of forty-two to meet the demands of a seven beat system as well as a traffic section, a CID, and administration, not to mention coping with the rest days, annual leave and sickness. However, by coupling beats, and switching hours of duty to meet contingencies the problems were solved, but it was not long before more men were recruited and

by the time the war broke out in 1939, the chief constable's pay had gone up to ten pounds a week.

But back to the early days when Guildford town centre was well known for its narrow passages, the main one being Swan Lane. In those days Chaplin's and Pickford's were agents for the Southern Railway and the horses and vans brought the goods from the station to the shops. The brewers also had horse drawn vehicles for delivery of beer to the pubs. When on traffic duty we wore white celluloid armlets and after eight hours they weighed about half a hundredweight instead of a few ounces. I was walking through the wider part of Swan Lane wearing such a pair of armlets and one of Chaplin's horses decided that he didn't like me and grabbed at my arm with his teeth. I was glad I had the armlets. They showed teeth marks for a long time. There was a great deal of horse traffic and cattle were frequently driven through the streets in herds. In fact, I dislocated my thumb on one occasion and the police surgeon kept me off work because he said I couldn't possibly stop a runaway horse whilst my thumb was in trouble. I didn't tell him I couldn't stop a runaway horse anyway. I remember an occasion when a maverick cow escaped from the market and ran up the High Street. It charged several people and a young constable on duty had all the buttons ripped off his greatcoat. It eventually went into the large park, which is now off Paynters Close Estate, and Sergeant Proffit shot it. I believe an old lady was either killed or seriously injured in the High Street by this cow, but the details escape me.[48]

PC Leahy in 1933 when the Borough were authorised to increase their strength, he applied and was the only one out of twenty to pass Dr Milligan's medical. On the 18 March 1933 he reported for duty in North Street with three other recruit's PC 26 Carragher, PC 41 Parsons and PC 42 Almond. The numbers were allocated on the basis of first come first served as traditionally the

[48] Originally published in Old and Bold edited by Robert Bartlett for the Surrey Police Retired Comrades Association

lower the number the more senior you were. Annual leave was allocated by seniority and so the higher the number the lower you were on the list which meant for Bill that for his first two years of leave he never saw the sun. [49]

The police found them lodgings and Inspector Yeend took them out on patrol in civilian clothes. He would drop them off at distance points to find their own way back to the police station. Pay was £3.2.6d a week. They were then issued with cast off uniform and went on night duty learning beats. They also had to write out a sheet copied from Moriarty's Police Law, which was the total instruction in police law. (The book was still being used on into the 1970s and possibly beyond). Officers were subsequently measured for and issue with four uniforms, mackintosh, greatcoat and other items. The buttons were not chrome plated and had to be cleaned before every tour of duty as did the helmet badges, facings and whistle chain all of which quickly tarnished in damp foggy weather.

There were eight beats in the 1930s and additionally some traffic beats, which in reality were extended traffic points. These were located at Lovibonds near the off licence; Sainsbury's near the grocery store; Playhouse then a Cinema near Tunsgate; North Street; railway entrance patrol.

Changeover of shifts was undertaken on the beat not at the police station. No 1 beat was the High Street, and a senior PC always covered this important beat. Shifts on days were alternate early/late. After two years on probation PCs were authorised to do duty on Tuesdays at the cattle market acting as Inspectors for the Diseases of Animals Act. Police also issued licences under this Act (duties of police on into the 1970s)

PCs on the beat had to carry a list of unattended premises and these had to be checked twice in a tour of duty. If one was found broken into the PC was liable to be fined. All beats were worked on foot until cycles came along although not by the sergeants.

In 1934 detective sergeants were introduced into the Surrey Constabulary. There was also, "The mobility sergeant has also under his charge the scientific apparatus used in the detection of crime, and he is responsible for collecting information as to how, when, and where science can assist the police of the country in their work"[50] It was not intended at this time to set up a laboratory, but preliminary tests would be made before consultation with government specialists. This meant that "rough edges" would be taken from problems before submission to the government laboratories. Experiments have been made with ultra-violet rays as given by the mercury vapour lamp, which are useful in disclosing stains etc., not visible to the naked eye. This lamp worked in connection with the microscope discloses evidence if it exists. Sergeant Baker will keep himself up to date with wireless, and the various branches of science and chemistry which may be useful to police work.[51]

[49] Notes from Mr Leahy below from the early 1980s
[50] Surrey Advertiser believed 1934 Tom Roberts papers – held by son Chris Roberts
[51] Surrey Advertiser believed 1934 Tom Roberts papers – held by son Chris Roberts

PC Atherton wrote about his time in the Surrey Constabulary based at Ewhurst a part of the Cranleigh section. “When I was a PC attached to Cranleigh in the 1930s, Sergeant Field was in charge and Bob Langlish from Dunsfold, myself from Ewhurst and the Shamley Green PC worked under him. Sergeant Field and his wife lived at Cranleigh police station.

Our work was to check the farm registers. Each farmer had a register for sheep-dipping etc., and we used to have to inspect the actual operation to see that it was done properly. If a farm had foot and mouth or anything like that we had to go there and put notices up in red, to keep people away from the infected area. I got on with the farmers very well.

When I was courting my wife at Weybridge, I used to cycle the 25 miles to visit her. Once when biking home via Newlands Corner, at eleven o’clock at night, my bicycle lamp broke loose and caught in the spoke, and I went over the top. I was due to go on duty at 2am. In those days, your day off finished at midnight. If you were out after 12 o’clock you would be disciplined. I was on duty at two o’clock the same morning, so I put my bike over my shoulder and carried it to Ewhurst. I arrived just in time to change into uniform. I had to walk the beat that night instead of cycling, which was Ellen’s Green, Cranleigh. We had to make conference points in those days where we used to meet; my first one was at Old Oast where there was a culvert (a big wide drain and stream). I was so tired that I sat on the little white fence by the culvert. I must have fallen asleep I was so exhausted, and I went backwards into the water. My helmet went way down stream and I had to run after it. I had to walk all the way home to Ewhurst to change my uniform. My next call was Cranleigh police station, and I had to run. It didn’t do to be late in those days. We used to do three hours in the day and five hours at night. In those five hours the sergeant would probably give you three conference points.

The other part of the job was checking aliens. We had to keep a register of them, and there were swarms of them around Cranleigh before the war, girl servants, and I had to go round once a year and see they were there, and they were the right person. Then we got to know if they had moved. If the people that employed them had not notified the move, they were in trouble.

We had gypsies, they were a bit of a nuisance, we just used to keep them in order, that’s all. They used to drink too much but it was not a crime area at all in those days. There was only one cell in the police station, but I don’t think we ever used it.

My starting wage in the police force was £2.12s 6d for a 25-hour week (NOTE: This is most likely a typo and should read 52 but maybe 48 for 8-hour days 6 days a week). One went hours without sleep. You had to want the job. I had to pay 21 shillings a week for my board. When I married, my pay had risen to £3.2s.6d a week.

Another of the policeman’s jobs was to attend the doctor when he did his post-mortems. The mortuary was at the end of Malt House Lane, a terrible place. It was so small and only lit with one gas burner. I remember one evening having to inspect a dead body, waiting for the doctor. As I turned to shut the door something heavy and cold hit me – one of the corpse’s arms dropped

limply from the bench, knocking me – I nearly died of fright! I left Cranleigh police in 1937 and moved the Thursley."

This was seen as a man's job in a man's world where women who featured were employed as matrons in the cell block or the wives of officers acting as cooks for prisoner's meals and searchers of female prisoners.

In 1931 The Surrey Constabulary asked the police authority for an increase in officers from 356 to 391, with a further request for women officers. It was decided that no useful purpose would be achieved by their introduction.

The three committees between the wars who reviewed the employment of policewomen each testified to their value but most police authorities the employers and holders of the purse strings in difficult times, regarded policewomen as unnecessary, extravagant luxury.[52]

Many who conceded that women were better qualified than men to undertake work among women and young people preferred to see them enrol in voluntary organisations rather than in police forces, an attitude reinforced by a concern for economy. Few chief constables valued the role of policewomen. The Police Federation were openly hostile, and the Home Office abstained from encouraging their employment, in spite of constant pressure from women's organisations. [53]

The Children and Young Persons Act 1933 gave women police the opportunity to make the protection of children a field of work in which they became recognised as the specialists. However, there were not women available in every force, but the Metropolitan Police raised their establishment in 1934 to 200 women.

In 1935 the Home Office asked for consideration to be given to the employment of women police, but the Guildford Watch Committee declined as the matron and a probation officer fulfilled the duties. [54] None were appointed at this time in Reigate.

General recognition of the value of policewomen and their ultimate incorporation as an integral part of all police forces only came with the Second World War.[55]

Sport and social life as well as work were a part of being a policeman between the wars. PC Burbage. Guildford Borough Police wrote,[56] There was a police social club above the old fire station which had a scheme where officers could buy furniture etc at cost price and at the end of the year any profits were shared between members. Every division of the Metropolitan Police was entertained by the Borough travelling down by coach, having lunch at The Parrott at Shalford

[52] A History of Police in England and Wales by TA Critchley 215- 218
[53] A History of Police in England and Wales by TA Critchley 215- 218
[54] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[55] A History of Police in England and Wales by TA Critchley 215- 218
[56] Biographical note by PC Burbage

then on the river and in the afternoon played cricket ending up with a dance in the evening. About three times a year the Borough held a large ball, a very formal affair, usually in the Drill Hall and "A" Division of the Metropolitan Police band would provide the music.[57]

Training

It is not normally recognised in the histories of the Second World War that training by the police for home defence commenced in 1936. An agreement was reached in 1931 between Guildford Borough and the Surrey Constabulary for joint general training with 1936-1939 a period of intense training as the chances of war grew greater. Every member of the Surrey Constabulary including special constables undertook air raid precautions training. From 1936 four hundred and twenty-five officers undertook intensive anti-gas training lasting a week. The Special Constabulary were trained in anti-gas measures and in practical police work. [58]

In 1936 the HQ in Woodbridge Road extended for the first time since 1854 at a cost of £11,000 and a garage for motor maintenance built at Ladymead.[59] It was reported in the Surrey Advertiser that recruits to the Surrey Constabulary are to be aged between nineteen and twenty-six, five feet nine inches or over tall, for £2.2s a week during twelve-week course at HQ. A married man cannot become a trainee. Such qualifications as knowledge of wireless telegraphy, telephony or cinematography stand the applicant in good stead. A new switchboard to cope with twenty extensions was being installed. The chief constable's office is a mini–Scotland Yard map room where information is gathered from many sources collated and with the aid of coloured maps and graphs executives keep in touch with "the man on the beat" and with increases and decreases in the number of crimes committed in all parts of the county. More crime is committed in the northern part of the county and more officers are stationed there. Guildford Division though the largest area has not the same strength as Weybridge.

In the last five years the number of indictable offences in Surrey had risen by twenty-five per cent. To combat this, to deal with the increased population and to conform to new legislation the strength of the force has been increased to four hundred and sixty-six an increase form three hundred and fifty-six, six years ago. The percentage of crimes detected in 1936 was 54% compared with 51% in 1935, 56% in 1934 and 51% in 1933. Most crime is committed on a Saturday and the least on a Thursday. Salaries cost about £100,000 a year with a new constable on about £800. [60]

One of the conditions of service was that an officer had to be able to swim and had to qualify as a lifesaver along with first aid training.

[57] Biographical note by PC Jack Gower
[58] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[59] Durrant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 56
[60] Probably Surrey Advertiser 5 February 1937- Tom Roberts papers

The chief constable Guildford Borough attended a war duties anti-gas course in Gloucestershire in 1937 and was authorised to purchase 60 pocket first aid kits at a cost of £3.15s to be stored in readiness for air raids.[61]

In 1938 the strength of the Guildford Borough Police was increased to 56, a chief constable, three inspectors, six sergeants and 46 constables. Provision was made for officers to attend training at Birmingham City Training Centre for ten weeks at a cost of £5 a man. [62] In January 1938 John Pearce joined the Borough and was trained at the Surrey Constabulary HQ in Woodbridge Road, Guildford from 1000-1500 followed by 1800-2100 learning beats in plain clothes accompanied by a uniformed PC. This lasted for two weeks followed by a month of night duty, the first weeks were accompanied by a senior constable the second two weeks on your own.[63]

The politicians may have been seeking to avoid war, worrying about appeasing a potential enemy, but the police continued to prepare for attacks on the homeland. In 1938 December 16: General Order 888 Chief Constable's Office: Care of Service Respirator: This Order includes that the respirator has to be taken from its haversack at least once a month and either worn for a period of half an hour or allowed to stay outside the haversack for two hours. Superintendents were required at each monthly pay parade to give the men half an hour on various exercises wearing their respirators all the time. Once a quarter the respirator was to be examined by the Divisional Anti-gas Sergeant. Each respirator was to be disinfected every six months and Superintendents must take steps to see that this is done and certify that this has happened. [64] Additional training and preparations continued with the establishment in 1938 of the Police War Reserve and First Police Reserve made up entirely of fit retired office. Much secret planning was undertaken and upon the outbreak of war the Surrey Constabulary was well prepared.[65]

1938 anti gas course included three Chief Constables of Reigate, Guildford and County

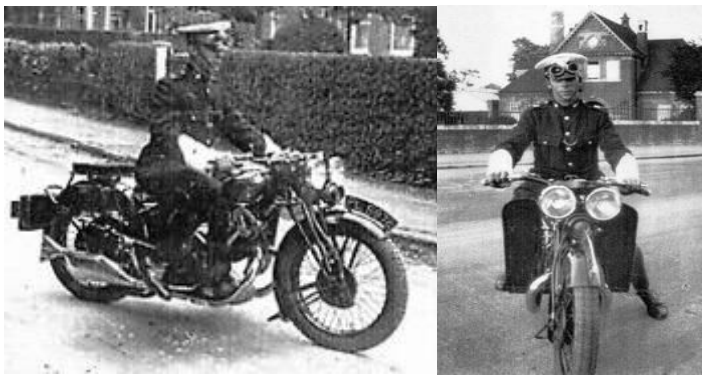
[61] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[62] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[63] Notes by John Pearce early 1980s
[64] From Surrey Police Federation files
[65] Durrant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 58

Mechanisation

The Road Traffic Act 1930 authorised the Ministry of Transport to subsidise police cars which it did for Surrey, providing five cars and eleven motorcycles and Surrey had its first motorcyclist, PC John Baker. In addition, five Austin Seven cars were purchased for use by the detective or enquiry sergeants who were expected to take with them the constable who first reported the crime. In 1930 there were also five Bean vans".[66]

When in 1931 PC Fountain joined the Guildford Borough CID he was on call when off duty. Housebreaking was prevelant as was theft of cycles. The cycle theft caused a lot of hard work and was finally cleared up when it was discovered that bikes were leaving the town by train avoiding the road checks that had been set up. When the thieves were arrested cycles from across England were recovered.

Fountain owned a motor cycle in 1931 and since the Force did not have any transport he was able to use the vehicle and claim an allowance at a penny halpenny a mile. [67] Before he joined CID he would often use the motor cycle on nights to pad out the cover when they were short of men. He would carry the detective sergeant in the side car – both being in plain clothes. This proved effective and they made many arrests. The motor cycle was kept in the yard of the Surrey Arms opposite the police station. The DS at the time was Manfield. [68]



PC Mason 1932 Reigate Borough Police

The first motorcycle police in Reigate Borough were Jock Mason and R. Brownlow, first seen patrolling the streets in 1931/2.

The Times reported 21 December 1932: Wireless for the police: A Surrey Experiment: Experiments in the use of wireless by the police in Surrey included an exchange of Christmas greetings between the chief constable of the county Major G Nicholson and the chief constable of the Reigate Borough Police Mr WH Beacher, who communicate with each other over a distance of 19 miles. Major Nicholson spoke from his garden where a transmitter had been set up with power-supplied from a motorcycle engine. Mr Beacher tapped back his reply in Morse

[66] Durrant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 56
[67] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[68] From a biographical note by PC Fountain below

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." [69]

Transport innovation continued with a unique project based within the Reigate Borough Police area. In 1933 April 28 Surrey Mirror reported on Reigate's Mobile Specials: Sir Malcolm Campbell at their first parade: Making a talkie! Reigate's recently formed Mobile Section of the Special Constabulary hailed at the time as a practical attempt by the Chief Constable WH Beacher to cope with any possible outbreak of motor banditry in the district. Held its first parade at the Municipal Buildings parade ground on Sunday morning, when the Chief Constable, the head Special Constable Captain CJ Sutton, and Sir Malcolm Campbell (chief inspector of the "Flying Squad".

The British Movietone and Paramount News films were made of the event. Eight vehicles in all were paraded, three of them being low-slung, powerful-looking racing models driven by Sir Malcolm Campbell, Major Gardner MC, Leonard Bell, Mr. Freshfield junior, G Burtenshaw, Captain Mason and Urling-Clark. The eight car was the chief constables own driven by PC Thorpe. The two mobile members of the regular force PCs Mason and Brownlow also took part. The idea was that of the Chief Constable and had received a ready response. They were not expected to do ordinary police work but called out in special circumstances and then each driver would be accompanied by one or more uniformed officers. It was not meant to alarm the public but to assist in its protection. Equipping the Special Constabulary is only bringing them up to date and adding to its efficiency for if a mobile section was necessary for the regular force, it was necessary for the Special Constabulary.

At a given signal the vehicles drove out of the Municipal Buildings led by the two regular officers making an impressive spectacle. Further action pictures were taken on the Dorking Road near Reigate Heath.

The method of operation by combining fast cars with aircraft was set out in 1933 June 27: Sunderland Echo and Shipping Gazette: Plane to chase car bandits- "Bombs" to guide police pursuers- An experiment in chasing a "bandit car" by aeroplane and road is to be carried out probably this week by Capt. Duncan Davis of the Brooklands School of Flying in Surrey. Working with the Surrey Constabulary he will attempt to spot the "bandit" car, pursue it and drop coloured flour bombs to guide the pursuing police car. "It is easy to pursue a car by aeroplane," said Capt. Davis. "The difficulty is to find it. We have had one "bandit" chase. The car, a blue saloon was quickly pulled up soon after it left Egham. A policeman riding a

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

motorcycle was also in the chase, five minutes behind but he lost sight of us because of the trees. Bombs will have to be used to guide the police car or motorcycle. We easily followed the "bandit" to Guildford and back without losing sight of him for a second. Every dodge up a side road failing. "Capt. Davis said that in this experiment it had been arranged that red bombs would be dropped on the road to show the pursuing police where the bandit turned to the left and green bombs on a right-hand turn. We might also drop coloured bombs to try to hit and so mark the bandit car".

1933 September 18: the success of Reigate Volunteer Police Flying Squad: After a year's service the "flying squad" of volunteer motor constables organised by Sir Malcolm Campbell to assist the Reigate police are likely to be issued with distinctive uniforms. The volunteer motorists numbering between forty and fifty, who provide their own cars and are all on the telephone, have provided real value. They are called on only in cases of serious crime. The volunteer "flying squad" has been adopted by Surrey, Hampshire and other constabularies.[70]

The Guildford police did not have the same levels of ambition as Reigate although Guildford Watch Committee in 1933 agreed to purchase a Morris van for use in the borough, at a cost of £300 and for it to be garaged at the Surrey Arms Hotel at a rent of 6 shillings a week.[71]

By 1934 Sergeant Baker had charge of the mobile units of the Surrey Constabulary a branch of the force inaugurated two or three years ago, which had of necessity grown considerably. The unit has eleven motorcycles for road patrol and crime work, ten motorcycles for crime detection alone, seven vans and cars, and seven automobiles for the use of the detective sergeants."[72] This of course was the formation of the Traffic Department of the Surrey Constabulary.

PC Kendall Guildford Borough Police wrote that in 1934 with the passing of the Road Traffic Act, there was a necessity to enforce it, but Mr Nicholas the chief constable was against motor transport of any sort however we had to do something, and a Ford Model 8 was purchased and PC Kendall became the first driver with PC Rook. "We had another officer with us as observer and worked 0900-1700 and no night duties. We did not have to make any "rings,"[73] but we were restricted to the Borough and called in at the station when passing to check if we were required as there were no radios." [74] At this time there were no ambulances, so the police kept a hand ambulance at the station for carrying injured people, suicides etc. to the hospital, mortuary and at times drunks to the police station.

There was no wireless in use in the borough before the war and when the first sets were used one was fitted to a Sunbeam Talbot patrol car and PC Kendall responded to the first emergency call, which was to a suspected housebreaking at Old Woking.

[70] The Scotsman reported on 18 September 1933
[71] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[72] Surrey Advertiser believed 1934 Tom Roberts papers – held by son Chris Roberts
[73] Rings probably is a reference to making a fixed point at a telephone box also known as a TK!
[74] Note from PC Kendall biography below

PC R Mathews joined the Guildford Borough in July 1933. Mr Mathews performed foot duties until in 1935 he was posted to motor-cycle duties riding the first Borough motorcycle the Norton Model 19 later to be replaced by a Norton ES2 (500cc.) As the only motor cyclist at the time his duties were to patrol and enforcing the road traffic acts on the recently opened by-pass. His hours of duty were normally 0900-1300 or 1400-1800 or 1400-2000 but no night duty. Normal magistrate's courts were held in the Guildhall on Mondays whilst Quarter Sessions were at County Hall at Kingston. [75]

In 1936 Guildford Borough acquired a Ford Popular CPF200,[76] which was bought locally for £100 new! PCs Leahy and Rook were the crew and were supposed to enforce the Road Traffic Act 1930, although in reality, they were used for a variety of jobs since they had to call in the police station every hour.

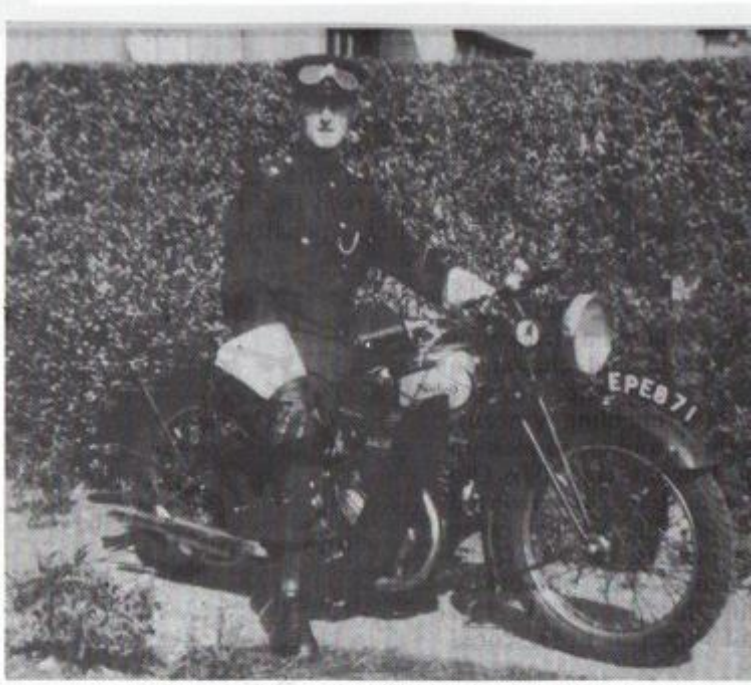
By1937 the Surrey Constabulary vehicle fleet consisted of thirty-nine cars and motorcycles and later that year it would increase to fifty. The police garage was at Ladymead on the Guildford By-pass[77]

I enclose a photo taken in 1937 of myself astride a 500 c.c. Norton motor cycle, when stationed at Chertsey in the Weybridge Division, under Superindendent A. E. Curry M.V.O.

We were called the Courtesy Cops, an idea of the Chief Constable Mr. G. Nicholson Our main duty consisted of friendly advice to motorists for minor infringements of the Road Traffic Act.

Amongst the many duties performed were included post runs, escorting wages for Hawker Aircraft at Brooklands, Abnormal loads, sudden deaths, accidents, and night duty at Weybridge Police Station. When on this shift you were responsible for anything that required attentions, emergency calls, messages, clercial duties and if time permitted, clean and polish the police station!

Yours sincerely,
E. W. G. Ponsford
(ex-p.c. 277)



Mr. Ponsford – one of the Courtesy Cops in 1937.

The provision by government of police cars and motorcycles was not without good reason. The growth in what were then known as road traffic accidents (RTA) led in 1937 August 7 to an

[75] Notes from PC Mathews early 1980s
[76] Biographical note from Mr Leahy
[77] Probably Surrey Advertiser 5 February 1937- Tom Roberts papers

analysis of the causes of road accidents in Surrey. Many road accidents could have been avoided if drivers and pedestrians took more care and attention. The report from Surrey County Council on the Surrey Constabulary area.

> The number of fatal and non-fatal accidents was 5113 of which
> 82 involved fatal injuries – 29 pedestrians mostly over 40 years, 21 motorcyclists, 19 cyclists,
> 2163 were not fatal
> 2865 no injuries

Reigate Borough Police
1864-1947

Second Extract

Window in Guildford Cathedral

Assisted by Jenny Tuffs and Henry and Jean Pelham

1874 PC Whiteland was dismissed for 'being found in a house of Ill fame'. [78]

[78] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm

1874 January 29: Cutlery was stolen from the dining room table of Mr Thomas North of Wray Common supposedly by a hawker selling brooms. [79]

1874 November 19: Crime figures for year ending 29 September 1874:

11 indictable offences against 7 in 1873
9 prisoners sent for trial – 3 discharged for want of evidence 168 people summarily as against 179 in 1873
4 for aggravated assault on women and children
8 for obstructing police
14 common assaults
1 security to keep the peace
4 for cruelty to animals
53 for drunkenness
7 maliciously destroying fences [80]

1875: One officer was appointed detective constable in with a pay increase of 2s 6d [81]

1875: Became the rule that the Treasury provided half the cost for pay and clothing provided they were inspected and reported efficient. [82]

1875 May 12: Burglary (described as a robbery) between 2-4 pm house of Mr Harris, Nutfield House, Wray Park when cutlery was stolen. [83]

1875 May 29: Cutlery stolen from a house in Wray Park Road [84]

1875 June 3: Robbery (more modern term housebreaking or burglary) between 2-4pm in the drawing room of Mr Daniel Taylor of Linkfield Lane. Stolen was a champagne jug, three tea cadies and other property. Head Constable Rogers attended the burglary and then hired a horse and cart to go in pursuit of the thief. Near Caterham he stopped two men on suspicion, but theymade their escape but nearly all the property was recovered. [85]

1875 August 15: Sacrilege**:** St Matthew's Church, Warwick Town was entered between 8pm and 10am and the contents of the offertory box stolen. [86]

1875 October 18: Mr Rogers'reports at his regular meeting with the Watch Committee that two men were detained near Kingston and were found to be the two men who ran off from Rogers at Caterham on the 3 June last. They now stand committed. [87]

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[79] Surrey County Archives 98/22/11 report from Head Constable to Watch Committee
[80] Surrey County Archives 98/22/11 report from Head Constable to Watch Committee
[81] A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary Gerry Middleton Stewart
[82] A History of Police in England WL Melville-Lee 1901 reprint Kessinger Rare Reprints page 391
[83] Surrey County Archives 98/22/11 report from Head Constable to Watch Committee
[84] Surrey County Archives 98/22/11 report from Head Constable to Watch Committee
[85] Surrey County Archives 98/22/11 report from Head Constable to Watch Committee
[86] Surrey County Archives 98/22/11 report from Head Constable to Watch Committee
[87] Surrey County Archives 98/22/11 report from Head Constable to Watch Committee

1875 October 18: The Head Constable in his book of handwritten notes for the Watch Committee asks: "I also beg to ask the committee to issue an order to the force prohibiting theconstables from appearing in plain clothes when off duty unless by permission of the superintendent (also Rogers) and they should at all times appear in uniform when in the Borough." [88]

1875 October 18: The report to the Watch Committee included the weekly pay bill of £27.5s.2 ½d making an annual total for pay £355 0s 5 ½ d. [89]

1876 February 15: A reference is made in Rogers' notes to Detective Constable Jeffries who, on the 9 March 1876 is appointed as detective sergeant with 1/6d added to his pay. [90]

1876 June 12: At 10am a lady was robbed of her purse containing ten shillings, by two men in Church Walk, Reigate. [91]

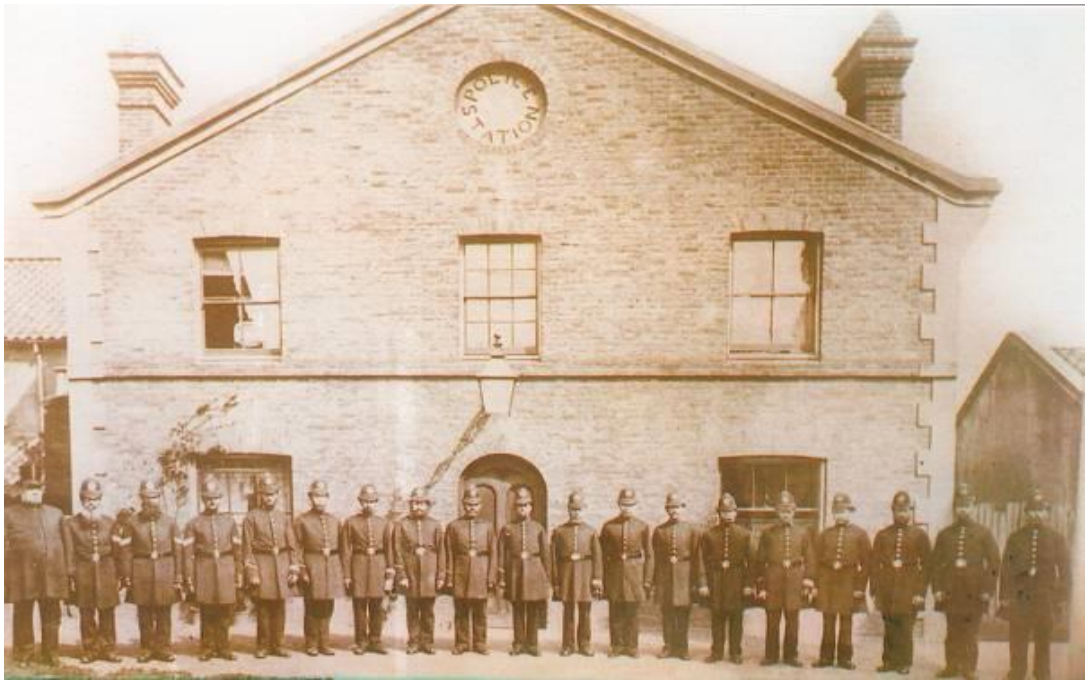
1876 June 15: Property stolen from a bedroom in the Swan Hotel, Reigate [92]

1876 July 13: Housebreaking between 1.45 and 2.30pm at Hillfield House when cutlery was stolen from the dining room into which entry was gained through a window. Enquiries by Superintendent Rogers and Detective Sergeant Jeffries but the crime remained undetected. [93]

1876 September 7: Fraud Redhill: Surrey Sessions Newington Causeway: Thomas Watson aged 49 an agent was indicted for obtaining by false pretences from the proprietor of the Railway Hotel the sum of £3.1s 4d. He stayed at the hotel running up a bill of £4.18s and to settle the bill gave a cheque for £10 on the Leicester Bank, which on being presented was dishonoured. A warrant was issued for his arrest, and he was detained in Scarborough. Found guilty by the jury. Superintendent Rogers of the Surrey County Constabulary stated that the accused was wanted for 76 similar frauds. He was sentenced to twelve months hard labour. [94]

1879: The officers were obviously extremely zealous in performing their duties as the annual report for 1879 reveals that '196 doors and 81 windows were found insecure'! [95]

[88] Surrey County Archives 98/22/11 report from Head Constable to Watch Committee
[89] Surrey County Archives 98/22/11 report from Head Constable to Watch Committee
[90] Surrey County Archives 98/22/11 report from Head Constable to Watch Committee
[91] Surrey County Archives 98/22/11 report from Head Constable to Watch Committee
[92] Surrey County Archives 98/22/11 report from Head Constable to Watch Committee
[93] Surrey County Archives 98/22/11 report from Head Constable to Watch Committee
[94] 1876 7 September Morning Post
[95] A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary Gerry Middleton Stewart



Reigate Police 1879 Carlton Place Police Station by the Market Hall in Redhill Strength of 19 men with Head Constable Rogers on the left in a top hat[96]

Murder of George Noakes

1880 April 26: Ann Noakes (36) was indicted for the wilful murder of William George Noakes. [97]

Amy Risbridger. I am a laundress, and a single woman. I have removed from 91, Cromwell Road, Redhill, to 101. I have known the prisoner, who is a widow, for some time, and had worked with her four months. She was a laundress, and lived in the Croydon Road, Reigate, and she had four children, the youngest of whom, the deceased, was, I think, 16 months old. As far as I saw, she was always a kind, affectionate mother to them. On Saturday, 31st January, I was at work for her and saw her. I did not see anything in her condition that attracted my notice. On the Monday I went to her house again at 8 a.m. She was down in the kitchen, and the deceased was playing with his brother. We all had breakfast, and she asked me to go out and take some clothes home for her that had been washed. I returned to the house and went out again to take out her weekly books. When I came back about 10.30, she asked me to sweep up the kitchen. We had some lunch and she told me that she had seen the child's father, a man named Jenkins, and that he would not support the child. She also said if she could not have the child's father, she would not have anyone, and would make off with herself. She told me that she took Nelly that is the next youngest child to the deceased, to Mrs. Knight's at Redhill. She had made observations of the same character to me before, as to making off with herself, more than three or four times. When I was going home of a night, she said to me "Good-bye, Emmie," she called me Emmie, "you will not

[96] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm
[97] http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/forms/formMain.jsp t18800426-428

see me anymore; if I don't have the child's father, I won't have no one." And she said that Jenkins was corresponding with a girl in the Cromwell Road. She said that she had been to the superintendent's office and asked if she could swear the child; those are in substance the observations she made to me.

After having lunch on this Monday morning, I went out about 10.45 to collect her some money and take home some clothes to the lady she washed for. She gave me two letters to post, I think I should know them again, I can't read but I think these (*produced*) are the two; I took them with me. As I left, she said, "Good-bye, Emmie, you won't see me anymore." When I got in the front gate she said to me, "Make haste back and then we will go down the town together." She seemed in great trouble about the child, she never appeared in any other trouble that I could see. There was nothing unusual about her when I left her that morning. She said she was going out for two or three days to frighten the child's father, she did not say when she was going. I said, "Don't talk like that, better days are coming, and summer as well." I said that when she said I should not see her anymore and it was after that she said, "Make haste back." I was gone about an hour and a half: I forgot to post the letters. She had given me the money to put stamps on them. I returned to the house about 12.30. I went to the back door and found it looked. I then went round to the front door and that was locked also. I then went in next door to Mrs. Smith's, and after what she said to me, I went back to the back door. I found the key of the back door in a window close by.

I opened the door and went in and went downstairs into the kitchen. When I left the house, the deceased child was in the kitchen in the cradle, not undressed. There was no one in the kitchen when I returned, the cradle was there but the child's clothes were not. I found a letter on the table, and a blue envelope similar to this (*produced*), as far as I can judge this is the envelope. I took the letter round to Mrs. Smith. I then came back to the house with her and looked over the house. I found all the doors open except the prisoner's bedroom door on the first floor that was locked. I then went downstairs with Mrs. Smith and went outside to find some assistance—we went into Mr. Parsons's. Amongst other persons I saw Mr. Pym and Mr. Horneybrook.

I gave the letter to Mr. Pym, he read it and handed it to Mr. Horneybrook to read, and he read it and handed it back to me. I afterwards gave it to Constable Stenning. Mr. Pym and Mr. Horneybrook went into the house with me and went to the bedroom door. Shortly afterwards Brown, the carpenter, came and burst open the door. I did not go in. Stenning, the constable, arrived shortly after. He went into the room and Dr Stone also when he arrived. About an hour and a half afterwards, after the doctors had gone, I went into the room. I saw the prisoner there in bed. The doctor had attended to her then. I saw her throat was bandaged up, I did not speak to her or she to me, her eyes were shut, she never spoke at all. It was about three or four o'clock. I did not know whether she was asleep or not. I gave the two letters that I had had to post to Stenning.

Robert Brown. I am a carpenter, living in Meath Vale, Redhill. On Monday, 2nd February, between 12 and 1, I was fetched to this house in the Croydon Road, Reigate. I saw Mr.

Horneybrook outside, and we went into the house and went upstairs together. I tried the bedroom door first, and then forced it open and went into the room. I saw the prisoner and the child in bed, and blood on the bedclothes. I did not make any examination or touch the clothes. I stayed in the room till the constable came, and Dr Stone afterwards.

Herbert Stone. I am M.R.C.S. practising at Reigate. On the 2nd February, between 12 and 1, I was called to this house in the Croydon Road. I went up to the bedroom on the first floor and I found the prisoner in bed, with her infant child lying beside her, lying obliquely across the bed with its face turned towards its mother. I found the child's throat was cut; there was a deep incised wound running across the neck, chiefly on the right side; it was deepest on the right side and wounded the internal jugular vein; it was quite dead, and the extremities were commencing to be cold. It had been dead perhaps an hour. It was nearly 1 o'clock when I was there. The wound had been inflicted from right to left, I should say. The knife had evidently entered on the right side, the depth of the wound was there, and the tail of the wound seemed to be on the left side.

I found the prisoner's throat was also cut; it was a horizontal cut in the neck, quite superficial, wounding only the skin and superficial tissues. She seemed in a weak state, but quite conscious. She answered me immediately I spoke to her. The wound had not bled a great deal, not sufficient to cause fainting or anything of that kind. I found this knife lying on the floor by the side of the bed on which the woman lay. I handed it to the constable; it was wet with fresh blood. The wound on the prisoner's neck was such as might have been selfinflicted. I attended to it. Two other doctors arrived and assisted me. I considered it necessary to put a straight jacket on her, to prevent her doing farther injury to herself. I feared she might tear out the stitches of the wound or tear off the dressing. I had stitched up the wound. I asked her why she had injured her child. She said that it was in order that it might not fall into the hands of that man. She also asked me to give her something to put her out of her misery. I made no reply. This conversation took place immediately after I had examined the child and herself. It was in consequence of that request of hers that I thought it necessary to put the straight jacket on her. I had never seen her before to my knowledge; the death of the child was from haemorrhage from the wound.

John Stenning Policeman 18 Reigate Borough Police: I was called to the prisoner's house on 2nd February, a little before 1 o'clock. I went into the room before the doctor arrived. The prisoner and child were in the same position as when the doctor arrived, the position which he has described. As soon as I went into the room, I put my hand on the child's face and found it was dead. It was quite warm. I went round to the other side of the bed, where the prisoner was lying, and took hold of her hand. She said, "Oh, don't touch me! It is all through that bad, wicked man." I told her to keep herself quiet. She said nothing more at that time. When the doctor arrived, he handed me this knife. Before I went into the room the witness Risbridger handed me these three letters. I afterwards gave them to the superintendent. I went back to the room in the afternoon and stayed there. The prisoner made no further statement to me that day. I was not present when the superintendent charged her. About ten o'clock next morning she said to me, "It is all through Jenkins; I have been good

and kind to him." I cautioned her, as I saw she was going to speak. She was removed to the infirmary on Tuesday, the 3rd. I believe I was there with the nurse on Monday from 3 o'clock in the afternoon till 11 o'clock at night, and she did not speak. I was there on Tuesday from 8 till half-past 12 o'clock. The straight waistcoat and the stitching on her throat were still on her.

George Rogers. I am superintendent of the Reigate Borough Police: I have produced the three letters, which were handed to me by Stenning. About 2 o'clock on Monday, 2nd February, I went to the house and saw the prisoner. I went by the side of the bed to her and said, "Mrs. Noakes, do you know me?" Her eyes were partly shut and partly open. She made no answer and took no notice. I then told her who I was. She opened her eyes and made a sort of nod, as much as to say she knew me. I knew her before. She had been to my station three or four times respecting this child. I think she came first about three weeks before the death of the child. When she told me the age, I told her she was too late to take proceedings, but she had better apply to the Magistrate's Clerk. She was in a very excited state each time she came. When I found that she knew me on the Monday I cautioned her in the usual way, and told her she would be charged, or rather, I charged her with the murder of her illegitimate child, then lying in the next room. She made no answer. I went into the next room, and then returned into her bedroom. She then said she was sorry for it but should not have done it if it had not been for that wicked man Jenkins.

I have been a long-time superintendent at Reigate. I knew nothing of the prisoner before she came to my office about the summons. I knew she was living there, and employed by people of position and distinction, and was very much respected. She appeared to be a hard-working, industrious woman. She came to me three or four times about the child. I think on the Friday night previous she came in a very excited state and said she could not keep the child; she would give it to him. I told her she had better not do that, or she might be taken for deserting the child. She said that Jenkins had promised her marriage. I spoke to Jenkins about it, and reported the matter to the mayor, and, on an inquiry by the authorities he was dismissed, the same night this occurred. He would no doubt have been called upon to resign before that, because the mayor had called a Watch Committee three days previous. She was very excited on all these occasions. When she last came, on the Friday, I thought she scarcely knew what she was saying or doing. The child was in her arms; a clean, nice child. I told her not to be so excited, to keep her temper, that some steps would be taken. I should be inclined to think, from the way she was exciting herself that she was not self-possessed, or conscious of what she said.

Not Guilty on the ground of insanity at the time of the commission of the offence. Ordered to be detained until Her Majesty's pleasure he known.

Murder Reigate: Anne Noakes

1880 8 May: Murder Reigate: Anne Noakes a widow aged 34 was charged with the wilful murder of her child William aged 16 months. Mrs Noakes had three children living in the

Croydon Road in Reigate where she carried on the occupation of laundress. She was respectable and had a good reputation until two or three years ago when she became acquaintedwith a man named Jenkins a constable in the Reigate Borough Police. It appears that Jenkins had promised marriage following the birth of a baby in October 1878 but delayed continuouslyfor a year when the time passed that he would have been liable for the support of the child. Hethen formed an association with another woman and expressed his intention of breaking of hisrelationship with Mrs Noakes who was fondly attached to this man. A few days later she wishedseveral of her acquaintances "Good-bye" and said she could not stand the scorn of her neighbours any longer. On February 2 the door to the house was found to be locked, and somepersons forced it open. They found the prisoner and her child the latter dead, lying on the bed with their throats cut. When the woman rallied, she said, "This is all through that wicked man."Mrs Noakes recovered from her injuries and was charged with murder. She was acquitted on the grounds of insanity and ordered to be detained during Her Majesty's Pleasure [98]

1881 Sacrilege Redhill: At Southwark police court on Saturday Charles Gerdesedge aged 20 was charged with breaking into a church in the Borough and stealing from moneyboxes. A Metropolitan Police sergeant arrested him as he tried to run off. Mr George Rogers the Superintendent of the Reigate police said that the prisoner was tried at the Guildford Assizes in July last and sentenced to six months hard labour for breaking and entering the Congregational church at Redhill. He had previously broken into another church in the county. Sent for trial.

1881 July 2 Surrey Mirror: King a labourer drunk, and incapable dealt with by PC King, Reigate Borough Police – seven days hard labour in default of paying 10s fine including costs

1881 July 2 Surrey Mirror: John Jones dealt with by PC Lee Reigate Borough Police who was given a great deal of trouble by the defendant when going to the lock-up. Fine 5s includingcosts.

1881 July 23 Surrey Mirror: Drunk: Margaret Thomas Brighton Road, Redhill pleaded to drunk and incapable a case brought by PC Lee. Her first offence fined a nominal 5s and 5s costs.

1881 October 8 Surrey Mirror: Drunk: Mary Bennet charged with drunk and disorderly in the Market Square refusing to be quiet and PC Lee obliged to take her into custody. Fined 5s or 7 days imprisonment.

1881 October 29 Surrey Mirror: Sudden death: Inquest held at The Admiral, Nutley Lane,Reigate touching the death of 23-year-old young fellow who died suddenly in the street at midnight on the 24 October. PC Lovelace found the deceased lying on the path in a pool

[98] Illustrated Police News May 8, 1888

of blood which was flowing from his mouth and nostrils. He at once blew his whistle and obtainedthe assistance of Sergeant Richards and PC Lee who ran for a doctor whose assistant soon arrived and pronounced the man dead. There were no external marks or signs of violence on the body nor anything to indicate a struggle. The victim had suffered from consumption and death doubtless resulted from ruptured blood vessel. The jury returned a verdict accordingly.

1882: The formation of a new and separate constabulary in a borough with a population of less than 20,000 was prohibited. Existing Boroughs such as Reigate however, continued underthe Watch Committee. [99]

1882 May: Watch Committee resolved, 'That the Head Constable take steps to render the High Street more orderly on a Saturday evening.'

1884 October 4 Surrey Mirror: Drunk: Caroline Whitfield charged with drunkenness in the High Street, Redhill on Wednesday at noon. Seen by PC Lee who obtained a stretcher to take her to the police station. Fined 5s and 5s costs or seven days.

1885: Inspector Frederick Howlett. **1885 – 1919:** Came from the parish of Charing in Kent and applied to join the Reigate Borough Police on 7th May 1885. Aged twenty-one and single he stood five feet nine inches tall and had been a stableman. He gave his reason for wanting to change his occupation as 'getting too heavy for my work', presumably a reference to horse riding. **[100]**

[99] A History of Police in England Wales **L** Melville-Lee 1901 reprint Kessinger Rare Reprints page 391
[100] Father-in-law of PC Jock Mason – from the biography of PC Mason http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm

Recruits: To be eligible to join the Reigate Police Force candidates had to be between 20 and 30 years of age; stand at least 5' 8" without shoes; be able to read and write a legible hand; and be of good character and strong constitution. He had to provide certificates from at two well-known respectable persons. In 1885 the starting pay was £1-1-8, rising to £1-4-9 after 6 months and to £1-7-8 after two years.

1885 Reigate: Assault – Vicar: At the Reigate police court on Saturday Rev. Benjamin Stewart Darbyshire was charged with having committed two assaults. In the first case Celia Tasker a nurse in the defendant's service, stated that her master had thrown a piece of coal at her and then knocked her off a chair by a blow from his fist. He was said the girl in a violent temper and not sober. In the case of the second case the defendant was accused of throwing a chopper at a boy the son of a solicitor. He was fined 20s and bound over to keep the peace.

1885 Reigate: The Reigate police are investigating the brutal and mysterious outrage, which was committed last week upon a woman on the highway between the town and Chipstead. Mrs Sturgess the wife of the gardener to Mr E Freshfield of Chipstead was returning from shopping at Reigate when a young man who met her suddenly turned round and reduced her to insensibility by repeated blows on the head, inflicting serious injuries. Mrs Freshfield has offered £100 reward.

1885 Reigate: Kidnap? The extraordinary narrative told by the girl Bertha Dennis as to her being rendered insensible in a railway train by a woman placing a handkerchief over her face and then conveying her to a house where she was kept closely confined for nearly eleven weeks has been under investigation by the Reigate police, who have made such enquiries as they think necessary and have come to the conclusion not to pursue them any further without some better data to work on. In an interview yesterday the girl repeated the story, but it did not in some respects coincide with the story told to a constable. The whole tale is so vague that the authorities do not attach much credence to it.

1885 April 30: Concealment Reigate**:** Superintendent Rogers from Reigate Borough Police went to Stowmarket to receive a prisoner Eliza Allard aged 19 who was then conveyed to Reigate. The prisoner who looked sad was brought before the mayor of Reigate on the 27 inst.,charged with concealing the body of a male child. The prisoner worked as a kitchen maid in the service of Mr F Pawle of Northcote, Wray Park Road where she had worked for a fortnight. [101]

It was not known what her condition was. The defendant was unwell, and stains were seen on her clothing. She was sent by cab to her sister's home. The mayor ordered a remand. [102]

[101] Ipswich Journal April 30, 1885
[102] Ipswich Journal April 30, 1885

1886 April 5: Central Criminal Court trial of Constance Eliza Martin (29) for the wilful murder of her female child in Redhill. Gave birth in a house where she was a domestic leavingthat day and heading home to Kent. In Leigh, Kent the body of a child was found in a brown package by the side of the road. Witnesses could link the parcel to the defendant.[103]

Frank Frazer. I am a Doctor of Medicine. I saw the body of a female child on Sunday, 24thJanuary, at the Railway Hotel at Penshurst, and found that it was a fully developed child and well nourished. Externally it was very dirty; it had not been attended to since its birth. The umbilical cord had been severed about an inch and a half from the child by a clean cut. I also observed externally, about an inch above the right eyebrow, a slight bruise, which was filled with a clot, and the rim of the right ear was lacerated, but very slightly. Beneath the left ear there were, two parallel wounds, the upper one an inch and a quarter beneath the ear, and one inch from it; that was superficial, simply cutting through the skin, it was a cut. The wound beneath that was of a severe nature, one inch and a quarter in length, and forked in appearance;it branched, and the fork looked outwards, away from the chin. That wound cut through the skin and muscles and chief blood vessels, down to the bone, it divided the carotid artery, and caused the child's death. In my opinion that was the cause of death. There was evidence of it having bled considerably, the wound itself was full of blood, and there was blood outside the wound, which was slightly gaping. On examination internally I found that the lungs had been breathed through. The rest of the organs were healthy as far as I could see. I cannot say from looking at the blood that I found in the wound and outside, whether the wound had been inflicted after the child had breathed or before, probably after. Looking at the condition of thelungs I can only say that the child had breathed.

The lungs were fully inflated. I think the wound must have been inflicted with a sharp-cuttinginstrument; a table knife would do it. Some degree of violence would be necessary to inflict it.As to the power required, an effort of 12 would be necessary, I think, and the point of the knifewould have to be sharp. The child might live half a minute after the wound in the neck, whichsevered the carotid, not more.

William Arthur F: I am one of the **Kent Constabulary** stationed at Penshurst. On 25th January I went to Edenbridge, and saw the prisoner there at her aunt's house, and said to her "Were you at Penshurst and Leigh on Friday evening?" she said "Yes" I then told her that I should have to charge her with the murder of her child, and cautioned her in the usual way; I said "Whatever you say will be given in evidence against you" She said "If I speak the truth shall I get off?" I said, "I don't know" She then said "I put the child where it was found; I doneit myself; I had it in my bedroom at Mrs Birkin's, at Redhill, and I stuck it, with a table-knife; it lived about 10 minutes"—I had seen her about a fortnight before, at Christmas time, when she was at Leigh, and she looked then as if she was in the family way.

[103] http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/forms/formMain. jsp t18860405-490

Edward Alfred Barnes. I am Superintendent of the Kent Constabulary at Tunbridge. I wasat Penshurst Station when the prisoner was brought there by the last witness. I told her the inquest was being held at the public house on the body of the child and asked her to go into Court. She said she did not want to go, and would rather not; she said, "I told Mr. Ford the truth, I don't want to say anything more" That same evening she was taken from Penshurst to Tunbridge. I wrote the charge down on a slate and read it over to her. The charge was that of murdering her child in the parish of Leigh, in Kent. She said "No, it was not at Leigh, it was atRedhill; I think it lived about ten minutes" On the following morning, Tuesday, the 26th, just before the Magistrates met, she sent for me, and said she hoped she would not have to say muchwhen she got into Court. Later in the day she said, "The young man who is the father of the child promised to marry me after hop picking, he then threw me up; my father is dead, my mother is in service, I had nowhere to go, and did not know what to do; I am very sorry if I have done anything very wrong."

Eliza Birkin. I am a widow. I lived at Claremont Villa, Woodlands Road, Redhill, in Januarylast. The prisoner came into my service as a domestic servant on 12th January this year. I had previously seen her at Penshurst, in Kent, and had seen her aunt, Mrs Wheatley; there before Iengaged the prisoner, I noticed that she was a peculiar figure. I did not speak to her about it, but I spoke to her aunt after she had been in my service a few days. After the 12th January I found that she did not suit me, and I gave her notice on the 18th, and said that I would try andget her another situation. I did not tell her on what day she was to go, till Friday the 22nd, andon that day, about 10 o'clock in the morning, I told her she must leave that day. I had passed her bedroom and noticed marks of blood on the floor. I spoke to her about it and asked her if itwas usual with her. She said, "Yes, once a fortnight." It was after that that I told her that she must leave that day. Later in the day my dog ran down the garden and came back again. Thereis a rubbish-heap at the bottom of the garden, and when the dog came back his face was all over blood. When the prisoner saw the condition of the dog, I told her to wash him. She said, "He has been down to the rubbish-heap, where I went this morning." About half-past two o'clock I sent for a cab for her to go away, and she went in the cab to the station. I saw her when she left and saw what luggage she took with her. She had a box and three parcels wrappedup in paper. I cannot say what kind. I cannot give you any idea whether any of them was of any use. After she had gone, I went down to the garden to the rubbish-heap and saw somethingthere. I did not think it was anything at that time, but I went again next morning, and I thoughtit was a miscarriage. After she went that day I went into her bedroom, but I saw no more thanI saw early in the morning. I looked at the bed; it was not marked much, but it was marked withblood. When I say the same day, I mean the day that she left.

John Welfare. I live near Leigh, in Kent. On Friday evening, the 22nd of January, I was goinghome towards Leigh, and about a quarter of a mile before I got to Tabby's Corner, I saw a woman in the road; she was carrying a parcel in front of her as far as I could see it was a brown- paper parcel. She was going towards Leigh at the time I passed her. On the following morning(Saturday), about a quarter to eleven o'clock, I was passing Tabby's Corner on my way to work,and some boys called my attention to something at the side of the road.

It was a dead child. It was at the left-hand side of the road, going towards Penshurst Station. It was just over the hedge, on the field side of the hedge. It was partly wrapped in rather light-coloured paper. I have not seen the paper since. It was about a quarter of a mile from the place where I had seenthe woman the night before, nearer to Leigh. I then got the stationmaster to telegraph to Superintendent Barnes.

Albert Taylor. I am an instructing Constable of the Kent Constabulary**,** stationed at Tunbridge. About two o'clock on Saturday, the 23rd of January, in consequence of information, I went to Leigh, to a place called the Compasses, and about 70 yards from the Compasses, going from Penshurst towards Leigh village, I found first a sheet of brown paper with the name of Mrs Wheatley written in black-lead pencil on it. The paper was stained with blood and matter.Close to the paper was a piece of string. There was snow in the road at the time and I saw marksof blood at that spot. A few yards further down the road on the field side of the hedge I found the body of a child. The head was partly covered with snow and the legs were slightly inclinedupwards. It was lying on its back and was partly covered with lightish coloured paper, and thebody was covered with blood and matter. I noticed a wound under the left ear. I put the body into a basket and took it first to the Railway Hotel at Penshurst. On the next day I deliveredit to Dr Fraser, of Leigh

William Arthur Ford. I am one of the Kent Constabulary stationed at Penshurst. On 25th January I went to Edenbridge, and saw the prisoner there at her aunt's house, and said to her "Were you at Penshurst and Leigh on Friday evening?" she said, "Yes." I then told her that I should have to charge her with the murder of her child and cautioned her in the usual way; I said, "Whatever you say will be given in evidence against you." She said, "If I speak the truthshall I get off?" I said, "I don't know." She then said, "I put the child where it was found; I done itmyself; I had it in my bedroom at Mrs Birkin's, at Redhill, and I stuck it, with a table-knife; itlived about 10 minutes" Cross-examined: There was a little conversation about family matters, I being her cousin.

George Rogers. I am Superintendent of Reigate Borough Police. I fetched the prisoner from Tunbridge to Reigate on Saturday, 8th January. I told her who I was, and that I should take herback to Reigate or Redhill to be charged with the murder of her child; I had cautioned her previously; she said nothing then, but on the road from Tunbridge to Redhill she said she wasvery sorry, she did not know how she came to do it. I think she said the child had been born about 2 or 8 o'clock in the morning.

Guilty of endeavouring to conceal the birth: Two Years Hard Labour.

1886 October 24: Burglary Redhill: - Sessions: Robbery from a jeweller's shop**:** Henry Carvell, 44, labourer pleaded guilty to breaking a plate glass window and stole a gold watch- and other articles. George Bonham the assistant gaoler at Guildhall police court proved a previous conviction with twelve months in prison for another robbery of jewellery. The police had lost sight of him for some years. He was sentenced to 18 months hard labour.

1886 December 23: Theft Reigate**:** At the Middlesex Sessions Thomas Draper, 34, was indictedfor stealing a teapot, a gun and conspiring to obtain by false pretences a tea and coffee servicevalue of £3 with intent to defraud. The defendant was in the habit of taking apartments, answering advertisements in the newspapers, obtaining goods and not paying for them.Sergeant Jeffries of the Reigate Borough Police arrested him on the 18 November at his roomsin Redhill. He was sentenced to penal servitude for five years. [104]

1888: By the first Municipal Corporations Act any borough so disposed was allowed a separate police force on the understanding that, in the case of towns containing less than 5000 inhabitants all expenses connected with the maintenance of such forces should be borne by the borough availing itself of the privilege. In 1888 this power of choice was restricted and all boroughs which at the last census failed to show a population of 10,000 were amalgamated for police purposes with the county to which they belonged; if however, any borough entitled to have its own borough prefers amalgamation it is permitted to contract with the Standing Joint Committee of the county in which it is situated for the establishment of a consolidated constabulary under the general disposition and government of the Chief Constable of that county, the powers of the Watch Committee remaining in abeyance as long as the contract lasts. A larger measure of autonomy was secured by the Local Government Act for certain boroughs called County Boroughs, being those which were either counties in themselves before the passing of the Act or had an estimated population of at least 50,000 on the 1 June 1888. [105] This change in the regulation of police forces had no impact on Reigate Borough Police.

1888 May 19 Surrey Mirror: Vagrancy: Mr. William Pearson the new superintendent of police Reigate Borough Police saw the defendant going from house to house apparently begging and took him into custody. Other convictions were proved. Sentenced to one month'shard labour

1888 May 19 Surrey Mirror: Vagrancy: A similar offence was proved against John Davis a tramp by PC Lee. A month's imprisonment with hard labour. (PC Lee a total abstainer)

1888 July 21 Surrey Mirror: Drunkenness: Ellen Smith a married woman who did not appearwas summoned for being drunk in Garland's Road, Redhill PC Hammond with the assistanceof PC Lee took her home. Fined 7s 6d or 14 days.

1888 August 18: Reigate Borough Police cricket match v Redhill Tradesmen: Borough police: PCs Harding, Gadd, Watson, Inspector Evans, PC Taylor, PC Howlett, Sergeant King (captain) Superintendent Pearson, PC Lee PC Perry, PC Hazleden.[106]

1888 August 25 Surrey Mirror: Stealing gooseberries: Four boys charged with stealing gooseberries and three others for aid and abetting, Station Road, Redhill. PC Lee heard the

[104] 1886 23 December Theft Reigate Morning Post
[105] A History of Police in England WL Melville-Lee 1901 reprint Kessinger Rare Reprints 2012 page 393
[106] 1888 August 18: The Sussex Express, Surrey Standard Weald of Kent Mail, Hants and County Advertiser

lads arranging who should steal the gooseberries from a garden. On seeing PC Lee after stealing thegooseberries they ran off but were identified at St Matthews School. Fined 1s and 1s 6d costs each. Parents paid the money.

1888 May 1: Head Constable George Rogers Reigate Borough Police retired on a pension of £55 a year and in William Pearson of the Chesterfield Police aged 33 was appointed to the post. [107] There were six final candidates from fifty applications. Pearson was to improve the discipline of the force.

1888 December 4: False Pretences Reigate**:** Florence King 18, pleaded guilty at Surrey Sessions to an indictment charging her with obtaining three boots by false pretences. Chief Constable Pearson of the Reigate Borough Police went to the loser saying she was the daughter of a well-known lady and had been sent for the boots. She was the daughter of hard-working people and had been of exemplary character, she apologised and said her father was out of work. The girl had been in prison since the 16 November and the chairman said he hoped thishad been a lesson and sentenced her to one day's imprisonment.[108]

1889 January 26 Surrey Gazette: James Barton Linkfield Lane, Redhill, summoned for allowing a horse to stray. The horse was stopped by PC Lee when it was galloping along the road. Some boys had approached the horse and beat it and it rushed off. Case dismissed as no negligence on the part of the defendant.

1889 July 6: Croydon Chronicle and East Surrey Advertiser: Our Parade at Cricket – On Thursday last the Reigate Borough Police, who were two men short, for whom Shuter and Walby were substitutes played a match with Earlswood at Earlswood. The match ended in a draw at the call of time only 25 runs were wanted for the Asylum to win. Dr Jones, the MedicalSuperintendent of the Asylum was bowled out by the first ball of PC Taylor, who also made asplendid on handed catch. Mr. Shuter (substitute) of the New Inn, Brighton Road unfortunatelyhad a severe blow in the eye while keeping wicket and was obliged io retire. After the match Dr Jones provided tea for the teams and his kindness was much appreciated.

1889 August 17: Surrey Gazette: Forthcoming cricket match – It is understood a cricket match has been arranged to take place on 21st between Captain Nickalls' team and the ReigateBorough Police, the match to be played on the Pattison Court Ground, the beautiful residenceof Mr. T Nickalls. It is anticipated that this match will be a keenly contested one.

1889 August 24: Surrey Gazette: Cricket – Reigate Borough Police v Mr. Nickalls' Team - On Thursday last a cricket match between the Reigate Borough Police, assisted by three tradesmen, and a team of gentlemen brought together by Captain Nickalls from Lewes, Dorkingand other places was played on the Pattison Court Ground. The match throughout

[107] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm
[108] 1888 4 Dec False Pretences Reigate Morning Post

was played with keen yet friendly rivalry and resulted in a win for Captain Nickalls' team. The head constable Mr. Pearson desires on behalf of the borough police to thank Mr. Nickalls for the great kindness and courtesy with which he entertained them. Excellent refreshments were served by Mr. Nickalls who was so pleased with the manner with which the police conducted themselves that he invited them back for a return match at the end of next month.

1889 September 24: Surrey Gazette: Reigate- Novel Cricket Match: The novel cricket matchbetween the Reigate Borough Police and the Reigate Sunflower Minstrels, which had been looked forward to with so much interest was played at the Priory Cricket Ground on Wednesday last and resulted in a win for the Minstrels. The game throughout was a most interesting one and was witnessed by a large number of spectators, a collection being made throughout the day for the widow and family of the late Constable Harding. * The minstrels took the field in costume and of course with blackened faces, one or two of their members being dressed in female attire. The proceeds were in aid of the Cottage Hospital. In the evening the minstrels gave a vocal and instrumental concert.

* Constable William Harding had been a constable in Reigate Borough Police for six years and lived in Garlands Road. He died after an illness of six weeks and was interred at Reigate Cemetery. A full report of his funeral was placed in the Surrey Gazette of 21st September.

1890 October 15: Thursday: About ten o'clock last evening Head Constable Pearson of the Redhill (sic) Borough Police received information that a burglary had been committed at Reigate Priory the seat of Lord Henry Somerset. It seems that the Marchioness of Anglesey was in residence and whilst at dinner the residence was entered by burglars who obtained entrance by placing a ladder procured from the adjacent premises, against the bed-room window. Having effected entry they placed wedges under the doors to stop them being interrupted and succeeded in carrying off diamonds, watches and jewellery. An alarm was raised, and the household turned out in pursuit. Their progress was however checked by a network of wires placed across all paths leading from the house and the burglars had at least half an hour's start before Head Constable Pearson and Inspector Prior took up the chase.[109]

1890 the first inspector was appointed, Charles Prior.[110]

1891 March: Embezzlement Redhill: At Reigate Police Court on Saturday Barnham Baker aclerk to Messrs Rickets, Smith and Co., at Redhill was charged with embezzlement involving £1500 or £1600 absconded in March and was apprehended in London on Friday night. He wasremanded.

1891 June 11: William Pearson Head Constable resigned in 1891 replaced by William Morant. Pearson had been found by a police sergeant playing cards in one of the principal hotels in Redhill at four o'clock in the morning. Mr. Pearson resigned on 11 June 1891and

[109] 1890 15 October The Standard
[110] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm

took employment outside the police in Northumberland. There were 18 candidates for the role of Head Constable reduced to six including Charles Prior of Reigate, with other applicants from Bootle, Margate, Morant of Reading, Canterbury and Bury. Mr. Morant aged 32 was given to appointment.[111]

William George Morant joined the Edinburgh Police in 1882 where he served for three years before transferring to the Metropolitan Police where he stayed for over four years before joining Reading Borough as chief constable. From 1891 to 1894 he served in Reigate Borough Police before transferring to South Shields. His distinguished service was recognised by thew award of an OBE.

Mr. Morant and his medals
OBE, Order of St John of Jerusalem, King's Police Medal, Queen Victoria Jubilee medal, George V 1911 Coronation Medal, Order of Leopold 11 King of the Belgians (For work during First World War)

1891 Census population of Reigate Borough 22,646 in 4126 houses on 6006 acres.[112]

1891 August 7: Croydon Observer: Cricket between Reigate Borough and London Police-The Reigate Borough Cricket Club, which is now on the high road to popularity, played a match at Earlswood Common on Tuesday against the London City Market Constables CricketClub who brought their families with them making it a happy holiday in lieu of the Bank Holiday, which is of course debarred to those who have to keep the peace for that day. The home team put in a fairly strong eleven captained by PC Skeggs and the City eleven, althoughseveral of their best men were absent were in good force. The visitors won the toss and went to the wickets against the bowling of Skeggs and Taylor. The two bowlers were well on the wicket. Taylor's breaks being very treacherous and doing much damage while Skeggs also gave no less trouble and was very untiring in his delivery throughout the innings. The wicketsfell to them in fairly rapid succession, but very little excitement was caused by the batting, hardhitting being very seldom indulged in. Stacey kept his wicket up

[111] British Police History website https://british-police-history.uk/f/reigate-borough
[112] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 6th Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1899

in admirable style and showedsome pretty play. The fielding of the Reigate Borough Police was very good, some brilliant stops being effectedalthough they had little opportunity for catches. After about two hours the last wicket fell andthe total stood at 53, this gave the home team hope of being victorious in return for their defeatof the last year.

An adjournment was then made for luncheon in the marquee. Play was later resumed, heavy rain during the luncheon making the grass very wet and the wicket tricky. The home team wereexpected to knock up a good score as it was understood the opponents had no good bowlers, whether that was so or not the wickets fell with astonishing rapidity to Stacey and Landsell andthe innings fell after less than an hour at 34 runs., a rather disappointing total. The visitors without loss of time again went in when Stacey maintained his popularity as a batsman as whentime was called still had his wicket intact and 37 runs to his name in the total of 57 for two wickets. The visitors therefore won on the first innings. The teams then sat down for tea and were entertained by Redhill Town Band, afterwards there was dancing and a walking and running race, Head Constable Meirs undertaking to walk 100 yards while PC Howlett and Mr.T Spalding ran 180.The Head Constable, who is a splendid pedestrian won by a couple of yards,Howlett was second and Spalding who had made a bad start, a good third. Quoits were also played throughout the day.

1891 August 8: Surrey Mirror: Three days cricket at Shagbrook[97] Three days of cricket hasbeen held at Shagbrook in the grounds of Carr Saunders esq., The first match on Saturday beingbetween Reigate Borough Police and Shagbrook Cricket Clubs which resulted in a victory forthe latter by seven wickets and 74 runs. PC Skeggs doing good service by taking nine wickets.The game was witnessed by a goodly number of spectators and at about 5 o'clock the players sat down to tea provided in a tent in the cricket field.[113]

1891 August 28: Croydon Observer: Reigate Borough Police v Kingswood – This return match was played at Earlswood Cricket Club on Thursday last but in consequence of the heavyrain had to be abandoned before Kingswood had completed an innings.

1892 October 26 Burglary Reigate William Aldridge, James Maxwell and George Weldon were arrested at Croydon on Sunday morning with a large quantity of valuable property in theirpossession, were at Reigate Borough Police Court yesterday charged with burglary of Northcote, Wray Common, Reigate the residence of Mr Frederick Pawle JP and stealing a goldmounted Malacca cane and a number of other articles on the 23rd instant. Mr W G Morant ChiefConstable of Reigate said that between midnight on the Saturday and 5am on the Sunday the house was entered by burglars and a great number of valuable articles stolen. An entry had been made via the dining room window, forced by a jemmy. The jemmy produced was found on Aldridge and comparing it with the marks on the window it corresponded exactly. The prisoners were remanded in custody. [114]

[113] On the A25 to the west of Reigate on Reigate Heath
[114] October 26, 1892: The Standard

1892 November 5: Burglary Reigate Northcote; Tuesday**:** Head Constable Morant said that since the last remand he had made a further examination of the prosecutor's premises and foundthat the door of the dining room had been considerably damaged with a chisel which was in the prisoner Maxwell's pocket when he was arrested. In the morning room five drawers had been broken open and there was a circular hole in a desk, which had been made with a centre bit also found on Maxwell. The pair of boots and socks left behind by Weldon who had that morning identified them. The prisoners reserved their defence and were sent for trial at the Assizes. The bench praised the work of the Croydon Police. [115]

1892 November 26: GO 376: PC Thomas Barber was **found drowned** in a pond near Redhill on Sunday morning the 20 November. "He had been under the influence of drink for some days previously which no doubt led to the commission of the rash act that terminated his existence." (Surrey Constabulary officer) [116]

1892: Police Returns Act requiring police statistics to be submitted – replacing the County and Borough Police Act requirements of 1856. [117]

1893 January 5: Burglary Reigate Thursday: Francis John Davis (33) was indicted at the Surrey Sessions yesterday for breaking and entering the dwelling house of Lady Henry Somerset, The Cottage, Park Lane, Reigate and stealing a quantity of china, telescopes and other articles the value of £50; and George Killick with receiving a portion of the property knowing it to have been stolen. On November 27 the prisoner was seen in the neighbourhood of the premises where later that a plate glass window was removed. Two rooms were ransacked, and a quantity of china and other goods stolen. Soon after Inspector Hendly arrested Davies who had deposited some of the property at a common lodging house called the "Peartree" at Reigate after which the other prisoner disposed of the clock, which was stolen during the burglary. The jury found both men guilty. Numerous convictions for felony and other offences were proved against Davies and Killick was found to have a conviction for assault. Davies sentenced to 18 months and Killick three months both with hard labour.[118]

1893 June: The Times: Minnie Wells killed two of her children in Reigate. (See 22 October 1894)

1893 June 16: Croydon Observer: Cricket – It was a real pity that Taylor and Skeggs were so reckless as to have scored 5 and 1 respectively in the first innings of the Reigate Borough Police v Tunbridge Wells Force match, played at Meadvale on Thursday. They are scarcely tobe excused, for certainly their doing so spoiled the uniformity of the scoring on their side. Every other one of their team was scrupulously careful not to go beyond the stage of a duck, these two records regularly spoiled the outline beauty and simplicity of the game. Master

[115] 1892 1 November: The Standard
[116] Surrey History Centre Surrey Constabulary General Orders Book 1851-
[117] A History of Police in England WL Melville-Lee 1901 reprint Kessinger Rare Reprints 2012 page 340
[118] 1893 5 January: Birmingham Daily Post

'extras' was responsible for the remining 12 of the total score of 18. In their second endeavor however, they improved their first score accomplishing 24 for seven wicket, Sgt King being top scorer on eight and Lee with six not out. Tunbridge Wells exceeded their opponents scoreby five runs but ran up a sound total of 75 in the second innings. It is hoped Skeggs and Taylorwill act with more prudence and respect for uniformity the next match they engage in.

1893 August 11 Croydon Observer: Reigate Borough Police v London Central Meat Market-Played on the Priory Ground on Wednesday afternoon. The Londoners went to the wicket firstand accumulated a score of 48. The 'bobbies' taking up the defensive could not be got rid of until they had aggregated 161.Theremarkable feature of the innings was the splendid display of PC Skeggs who scored 81 not out. The Londoners going into the wicket a second time fell like grass under the well-directed bowling of PC Watson who alone took seven of their wicketsand retired with 58 to their credit. The home side thus winning by an innings and 59 runs. Taylor and Skeggs secured five each of the Londoners' wickets in their first innings.

1894 June 2: Surrey Mirror: Reigate Police v Holmethorpe- A match between Holmethorpe C.C. and an eleven of the Reigate Borough Police was played on the ground of the former andresulted in a win for the home team by six wickets. Wright and Chatfield bowled well for the winners, the former taking ten wickets for only 18 runs. For the losers PC'S Skeggs and Watsonbowled well, the latter also made top score in bowling.

1894 June 30: Sussex Agricultural Express: Redhill Tradesmen and the Police at Cricket-The annual cricket match between the tradesmen of Redhill and the police was played on Earlswood Common on Wednesday, ending in a victory for the former by 14 runs on the first innings. This was the eighteenth contest between the rival teams, the first taking place in 1884,when the then Head Constable Rogers was responsible for the peace of the borough, in fact it was through him and Mr. Pick, the late tradesman that the fixture was arranged, and it has beenobserved annually ever since with the exception of one year. Of the eighteen matches the tradesmen have won eleven.

1894 August 4: Sussex Agricultural Express: The Reigate Sunflower Minstrels v Reigate Borough Police- Cricket match, Promenade Concert and Illumination. What was described as"the cricket match of the season" took place on the Priory Ground, which was kindly lent by the committee of that club on Wednesday. The contestants were the Sunflower Minstrels and the Reigate Borough Police, the event was under the patronage of the Mayor and Mayoress ofReigate and the governors of St Anne's Schools to which institution the proceeds will be given.The game was announced to commence at half past one but shortly before this a drizzling raincommenced to descend and this continued till close in 3 o'clock when it ceased and fortunatelycleared up, the sun shone for the remainder of the day.

The toss was won by the police and PC Skeggs, their crack batsman and Acting Sgt Lee werefollowed to the wickets by the minstrels in costume. Skeggs was dismissed in a few

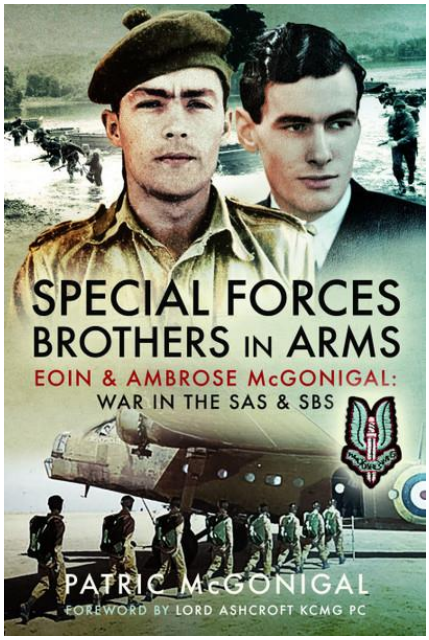
minutes being bowled by Gibbs for five, while Lee was out to Thorpe after making ten runs, this beingthe highest score by an individual policeman. Three quarters of an hour saw all the "men in blue" disposed of for a total of 33. About half an hour later the minstrels took their place at thewickets, Thorpe put together 78 and was bowled by Taylor and Miller made a good stand running up 33(?). George Heather, as clown caused great amusement while batting, he had anenormous bat and his antics enlivened the company very much, at about a quarter past six the Sunflowers innings finished for 159 thus they won by 126 runs. It should be mentioned that the police wore their uniforms and Mr. Sanders jun., better known in connection with the minstrels, perhaps as "Miss Sanders" effected a capital representation of a young lady dressedin three heights of fashion while all the dresses were more or less picturesque. At seven o'clocka promenade concert was given and at dusk the grounds were illuminated with fairy lamps andChinese and Japanese lanterns. No idea of the sum to be handed to St Anne's Schools can yetbe given but it is understood that 4,000 tickets were printed and nearly all sold and the takingsat the gate were considerable.

1894 August 10: Croydon Observer: Reigate Fire Brigade v Reigate Borough Police- This match played at Ivanhoe, Wray Park Reigate on Saturday resulted in a win for the police by aninnings and 12 runs. For the latter Taylor and Skeggs handled the leather in such a manner as to indicate that if these guardians of the public peace have been unfortunate once or twice theyare not to be trifled with. Dr Palmer, Taylor, Skeggs and Watson contributed some useful additions to the batting.

Book Reviews

Special Forces Brothers in Arms

Eoin and Ambrose McGonigal: War in the SAS and SBS



By Patric McGonigal
Imprint: Pen & Sword Military Pages: 360 Illustrations: 200 mono
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Author

Patric McGonigal was born in Dublin. Once described as a Celtic warrior in a suit, he is an international disputes lawyer. A modern nomad, he has lived and worked in New York, Hong Kong, Shanghai, London, Singapore and Tokyo. Married to Tami, with two grown-up children, this is his first book. Patric is Ambrose McGonigal's eldest grandson and Eoin was therefore a great uncle.

Synopsis

The McGonigal brothers, Eoin and Ambrose were fiercely independent characters. Born and educated in southern Ireland to a catholic family but raised in Belfast, they wasted no time in enlisting at the outbreak of War in 1939. Both outstanding sportsmen, their leadership potential was quickly recognised.

Eoin was one of the first two officers selected from an Irish regiment for Commando training in 1940. After leading a troop at the River Litani battle in Syria, he became the youngest of the original officers selected for the fledgling SAS and quickly made a name for himself. Tragically, he was lost after parachuting behind enemy lines in Libya. His body was never recovered and many unanswered questions remain today.
Ambrose, having carried out multiple coastal raids with the Commandos and winning two Military Crosses, later led operations for the SBS in Yugoslavia and Italy. Post-war, he had a short but notable legal career as a Lord Justice of Appeal in Northern Ireland at the height of the Troubles.

Light is also shone on the brothers' close friend, the legendary Blair Mayne and the controversial decision to downgrade the award of his Victoria Cross.

This is a thought-provoking account of lost and fulfilled potential and unswerving loyalty at a time of political and religious turmoil.

Review

For those interested in wartime special forces this book is a must have! It is researched diligently and has brought together a range of activities of specialist forces during the Second World War.

This is a typical Pen and Sword volume with high production values. There are two hundred black and white photos incorporated within the script and a useful index. There are a number of appendices made up of what was once secret material varying from an early L Detachment roll call, operation orders and debriefs including from Jake Easonsmith LRDG. There is also a

list of men and regiments who participated in Op Squatter 16 November 1941 when Eoin was killed.

Eoin McGonigal after significant periods of training with 11 Scottish Commando finally saw action on the Litani River in Syria fighting Vichy French. There were significant casualties (104 out of 395 Commandos) who could not be replaced so Commando units were reduced and No 11 disintegrated as Layforce was disbanded. Some men returned to their original units, others to the LRDG. Paddy (Blair) Mayne a member of 11 Commando was to move to the nascent SAS a Regiment where he was to serve for the remainder of the war. Eoin's reputation as an aggressive soldier led to him being recommended to Stirling and was accepted into L Detachment as one of the originals, along with Blair and Jock Lewes. He was to be the youngest officer, but his loss three months later denied him an impactful special forces career. A participant in the first disastrous SAS Operation Squatter (covered in depth in the book) he jumped from his aircraft and became one of the 34 of 55 not to return. He was not seen again though it may be, may be, that he and his stick had a successful landing and went on to attack one of the airfields.

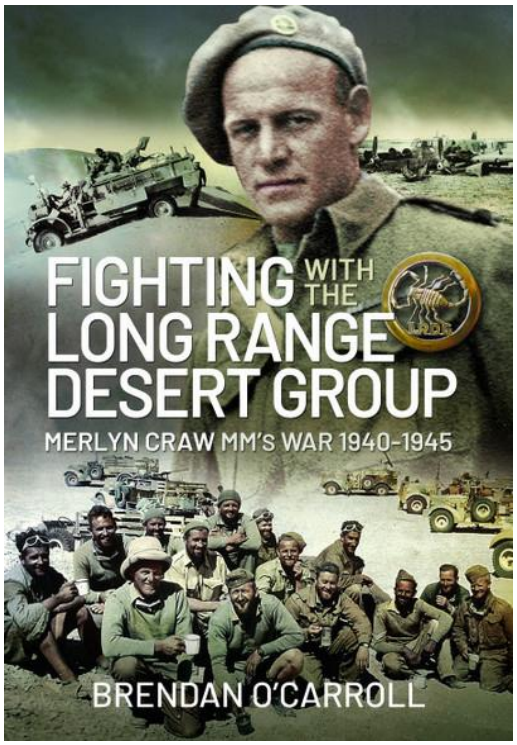
The book covers the recruitment of the early officers and men of L Detachment and their early trials and tribulations as the new unit with a totally different concept of leadership and training evolved and developed. To become a Commando was tough and this new approach under Stirling to soldiering, was harsh and extraordinarily hazardous. A great deal is written of Blair "Paddy" Main's time in the Scottish Commando and the incident that was probably at the root of his being returned to his unit. Illness and fate gave him a further opportunity to take part in irregular warfare when selected by Stirling. Paddy Main had an impressive career in the SAS but is acknowledged by his close friends to be unpredictable, extremely volatile and dangerous man, and not just to the enemy! Blair features strongly in the ensuing chapters after the loss of Eoin.

The second part of the book concentrates on Eoin's brother Ambrose McGonigal who became a member of 12 "Irish" Commando (after Eoin was reported missing) before transferring to the Special Boat Service. Ambrose was to led, as a part of Flynn Force based on the Isle of Wight, many successful small raiding parties along the French coast and Channel Islands. He was at this awarded an MC and bar. In May 1944 Ambrose moved from raiding in the Channel to work with SOE selected by Fitzroy McLean for urgent operations in Yugoslavia with immediate effect! Raiding and ambushes were mainly successful. Ambrose was to team up with David Sutherland the officer commanding SBS and took part in operations in the Adriatic and Aegean Islands. He survived the war and returned to the law finally undertaking the role of judge at several levels in Northern Ireland for which he was knighted. He died aged 61 of cancer.

This is an excellent book. Not a constricted biography of the brothers but includes detailed information on the development of Commandos and L Detachment of the SAS from the start, including the dreadful operation where so many were killed, injured, or captured. Paddy Mayne's role in the commandos, SAS and how he mourned the loss of a close friend and fellow

soldier and how he tried to solve the riddle of his disappearance are given significant attention. Ambrose's role and times in the SBS is very useful additional material on the activities of the unit of which more is still to be unravelled.

Fighting with the Long Range Desert Group
Merlyn Craw MM's War 1940–1945



By Brendan O'Carroll
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Brendan O'Carroll

Brendan O'Carroll lives in Auckland, New Zealand and recently retired from the New Zealand Customs Service. With a long time interest in military history, the Long Range Desert Group has become his speciality. He has interviewed over 30 veterans while writing The Kiwi Scorpions: The Story of the New Zealanders in the LRDG (2000), Bearded Brigands (2002) and Barce Raid: The LRDG's Most Daring Exploit in World War Two (2005). This book follows The LRDG in the Aegean (2020) and The Long Range Desert Group in Action 1940 -1943 (2020) under the Pen and Sword Military imprint. He has

numerous other published works and articles to his credit. In 2006 his work was recognised by awards from the New Zealand Military Historical Society

Synopsis

Formed in 1940 the Long Range Desert Group was the first Allied Special Forces unit established to operate behind German and Italian lines in North Africa. Its officers and men were volunteers recruited from British and Commonwealth units. Merlyn Craw was serving with the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force when he joined the LRDG in 1941. He took part in numerous missions in the desert. The navigational driving and fighting skills of the LRDG were legendary and they were frequently responsible for transporting Stirling's SAS detachments on raids.

Drawing on interviews with Merlyn and other former LRDG veterans, the author has created a vivid picture of this exceptional and highly decorated fighting man. Readers cannot fail to be impressed by the courage and ruthless determination of Merlyn Craw MM and his comrades.

Review

Brendon O'Carroll is the go-to man for anything to do with the LRDG particularly involving New Zealanders. For many years he met and listened to former members of the LRDG recording their experiences of war in the desert and beyond. One of the men he met on numerous occasions and formed a close relationship with, was Merlyn Craw. If you have an interest in the LRDG there is little doubt you already have this book. If you missed publication, you will without doubt buy a copy. If you are new to the LRDG this is an excellent primer. The photographs alone are worth the purchase price.

O'Carroll wrote that Craw was very pleased to have been selected for the LRDG though at the time was uncertain of what he was getting in to. He wanted to escape the monotony of regimental life to join a unit where there were opportunities for more positive action. Craw was an individual thinker, who on occasions could be outspoken and strong willed. Sometimes he struggled with the discipline of respecting rank and following orders as required in the mainstream military. The LRDG suited his personality where a resourceful nature and self-initiative were encouraged. He was a perfect personality fit! Despite the hardships of desert life, and they were at times extraordinarily severe, due to temperatures soaring around 40 to 50 degrees Celsius (and sometimes higher) with high winds, dust and the flies, the men displayed tenacity and stoically got on with the job. To compound the nastiness of the flies were the asp snakes and scorpions. Personal hygiene was an issue when water was very limited leading to desert sores and general discomfort. The nature and quality of the men is reflected in that almost a third of its members were awarded decorations.

Craw kept a diary for a few months until the middle of July 1941, and this is quoted at length. His words are brought together with other diaries to which is added O'Carroll's significant knowledge of the life and times of the LRDG.

An example of the living conditions at Tazerbo, 252k from Kufra. There were a few scattered palms around brackish salt ponds though the wells provided good subterranean water supporting a population of about 700 locals. Men experienced very high temperatures and frequent dust storms. It was so hot the men had to take salt tablets to compensate for loss through perspiration. The men spent most of the day keeping out of the sun by resting under their trucks. The area was home to many scorpions and snakes, including the sand viper, the deadliest reptile in North Africa.

The living was harsh. The food was of a higher standard than the regular army with opportunities to buy fresh food from locals when on some operations. Mealtime was all there was on many occasions to look forward to. Long days of driving in extreme temperatures with hot engines adding to the discomfort and the need on occasions to dig vehicles out of the sand.

The book is a detailed description of the service of Merlin Craw through his time on operations in the desert, being captured, escaping twice, being posted after his successful escape to a regular unit from which he walked out and on his own initiative re-joined the LRDG as a sergeant. No paperwork! No authority just seemed the best thing for him to do. There was a war on!

There are several appendices taken from the LRDG training notes of January 1941 and a report from Captain Barrett the QM on maintaining the LRDG in the field.

As one would expect from Brendan O'Carroll this is an authoritative work based on many years of research and meetings with veterans. Into the military biography of Craw has been woven the detail of what life was like in this first special forces unit. The harshness of the existence is evident and it took a special type of man to endure service not just in the desert but on up into the Aegean. Craw became a parachutist and was pleased to learn on sailing home when summoned to the orderly room that back pay of two shillings a day parachute pay was owed. Quite an unexpected bonus.