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Surrey Constabulary History Journal 8

The Surrey Home Front

Second World War

Part One

Each of the reports listed in this Journal of preparation for or actual enemy activity meant a task for the police. Bodies of people killed or wounded during a raid had to be recovered identified and if necessary an inquest held. Every downed plane was to be guarded and crews if they survived cared for, arrested if necessary or taken to the hospital. Damaged property had to be secured and guarded. Much secret activity took place and daily reports on activities and public morale were sent, marked secret, daily to central government.[1] They were long, busy often unpleasant and frequently dangerous days on the Home Front in Surrey, which was to fill up with soldiers, many from Canada who like young men of any nationality some committed crime and all sought a good night out!

Robert Bartlett

[1] In 1973 when a sergeant I came across a collection of what were referred to as "pinks", carbon copies of these secret reports. I understand they were all destroyed along with a great deal of our history when a new Deputy Chief Constable decided the storeroom had better uses.

Build Up and Preparation

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. [2]

1938 Police War Reserve and First Police Reserve established made up entirely of fit retired officers was enrolled. Much secret planning was undertaken and upon the outbreak of war the Surrey Constabulary was well prepared.[3]

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

[2] From Surrey Police Federation files
[3] Durrant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 58

1939 early: The Home Office directed that **policing numbers were to be expanded** to meet the demands of war should it break out. It would not be possible to have a full complement of the "old time copper if you can't find your way home" so there was to be a mixture of uniformed staff.

> **The First Police Reserve** consisting of men generally police pensioners who would undertake to serve as temporary constables if required in an emergency occurring either in peacetime or in war.
>
> **Special Constables,** who would undertake to serve as such in peacetime or in war, generally part time and unpaid.
>
> **The Police War Reserve** a new auxiliary body formed with a view to emergencies only who would undertake to serve whole time as temporary constables in time of war.

The Guildford Watch Committee agreed to arrange the Police Reserve and Special Constables but deferred the War Reserve. [4] However, later that year 50 members of the Special Constabulary were formed into a War Reserve. [5]

1939: The Guildford Borough police van was adapted to carry four stretchers [6]

1939 February 25: False complaint of blackmail: Ronald Daly, 34, radio engineer, pleaded guilty at Surrey Assizes, Kingston to causing a public mischief by giving false information to police officers of the Surrey Constabulary. It was alleged that Daly told Inspector West that he was a jockey and two men were demanding money from him on threat of exposure on the way he had ridden a horse at Brighton races. He alleges he paid the men £60. There was not a word of truth in his story. He was sentenced to 12 months for a further case of false pretences and nine months for the public mischief to run concurrently.[7]

1939 March: PC Deakin Guildford Borough Police was commended for stopping a runaway horse and van outside the Guildhall [8]

Establishment	1870	1910	1939
Godalming	3		
Guildford	12	30	63
Reigate	14	40	59
Surrey Constabulary [9]	123	303	536

1939 April: PC 57 Oliver Weekes [10] On the 29 April 1939 he joined the Guildford Borough Police and was sent to Birmingham in June 1939 for a three month course

[4] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[5] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[6] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[7] The Times (London, England), Saturday, Feb 25, 1939
[8] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[9] Emsley, C (1996) The English Police: A Political and Social History. (2ed) Longman page 266
[10] From notes by Mr Weekes made about 1982

and was there when war broke out. All students were immediately returned to their forces and he began 12-hour shifts either 0600-1800 or 1800-0600

1939 April 4: Obstruction on railway alleged: John Marshall of Grayswood charged with two offences under the Offences against the Persons Act was committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court. He was alleged to have placed an iron rail chair in some catch points on the main Waterloo-Portsmouth line near Haslemere. PC Lock said he watched Marshall put a rail chair on the points. Lock then removed from the points and a minute later a light engine crossed over them. Had the chair not been removed a train would have been derailed.[11]

1939 April 13: King and Queen visit troops: During the afternoon the King and Queen will watch firing by machine gunners and infantry at Wyke Common Ranges (Normandy, Ash) and anti-tank shooting, battle shooting and anti aircraft firing at Stoney Castle ranges. [12]

1939 April 20: Gypsy Camp to go: Summons by Egham Council: At Chertsey police court yesterday Stanislaus Georgeovitch of the Caravans, Thorpe, described by the prosecution as head of an encampment of Serbian gypsies was summoned by Egham Council for causing annoyance with movable dwellings. Air Allen Pound prosecuting for the council said that the encampment was owned and occupied by nearly 30 Serbian gypsies who were "pretty well off." There were complaints of shouting women, screaming children, screeching monkeys, considerable noise form a circular saw and tuning of piano organs. The amenities of the district had been seriously prejudiced and the fence along the encampment was always festooned with clothes, rugs and rags. People living near could not have visitors. During the summer the party took to the road and returned in winter. The Bench ordered their removal from the camp within 28 days and also prohibited the erection of movable dwellings on land owned by the defendant.[13]

1939 April 21: Brothers fined for pin table offence: A pin table was produced at Camberley police court yesterday when William Thacker of Ashford, Middlesex was summoned for using a place known as Funland for the purpose of unlawful gaming at Blackdown. His brother was summoned for assisting him. PC Hobbs in plain clothe paid visits to Funland and once he won 40 discs from one machine which he converted into 3s 4d. The brothers were fined £4 and £2 respectively. Mr Barker asked for 8s 6d out of pocket costs, which represented the police losses on playing the machines. The Bench refused this. [14]

1939 April 25: Collision during night flying exercises: A verdict of death from misadventure was returned at the inquest at Caterham yesterday on the bodies of two RAF officers from No 3 (Fighter) Squadron RAFD Kenley who were engaged in night flying exercises over the district on April 18 when their machines collided and crashed. Evidence was given by PC Harry Hills and PC Raymond Hales that they were on duty at Caterham Hill at about 9.40pm when they saw two aeroplanes flying,

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[11] The Times (London, England), Tuesday, Apr 04, 1939
[12] The Times (London, England), Thursday, Apr 13, 1939
[13] The Times (London, England), Thursday, Apr 20, 1939
[14] The Times (London, England), Friday, Apr 21, 1939

one in a southerly direction and the other in the rear in a south-easterly direction. They were about 2,000 feet up. It was a clear night and the machines were plainly visible. They saw the rear machine overtake and strike the lower portion of the first machine. By the lights of the first aeroplane they could see it spinning to earth. They could not see the direction of the second aeroplane as the lights went out. [15]

1939 May: Emergency department established at County HQ to deal with all matters falling on the police in connection with the war. Superintendent Davies was in charge with an especially appointed inspector on each division. Known as E Department[16]

1839 May 3: Obstruction on Railway Line: Placed chair on railway line: [17]

[15] The Times (London, England), Wednesday, Apr 26, 1939;
[16] Durrant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 58
[17] The Times (London, England), Wednesday, May 03, 1939

Sentence of five years' penal servitude was passed at the Central Criminal Court yesterday on John William Marshall, 31, a manservant, of Grayswood, Surrey, who was found *Guilty* of maliciously placing an iron rail chair on the Southern Railway between Witley and Haslemere with intent to endanger the safety of persons travelling thereon. Marshall pleaded "Not Guilty."

Passing sentence, the RECORDER (Sir Gerald Dodson) told Marshall:—"You have been found guilty of a terrible crime which might have had appalling consequences. For all you know you might have wrecked a train containing hundreds of passengers."

Mr. R. BUSHELL said it was alleged that Marshall quite deliberately, for some reason best known to himself, placed an iron rail chair weighing about 58lb. between a set of catch points on the Southern Railway at Chuter's Crossing, Surrey, on March 24. It was a very busy line, with passenger trains passing at 40 miles an hour. Had they passed over the points they would have been derailed.

The fact that there was not an accident, counsel said, was due to the astuteness of a police-constable who was keeping observation on the points and saw the prisoner force an iron chair between the points and jump on it. The officer heard an engine approaching, and with great presence of mind ran to the points and pulled the iron chair out. He went to a house near by where Marshall was employed, and the prisoner declared he had not been near the railway. The trousers he had been wearing were examined at the police laboratory at Hendon, and on them was found some rust similar to that on the iron rail chair.

Police-inspector Collis, Surrey Constabulary, said the police were satisfied there was no connexion with any political association. The railway points were being watched because on the previous day a wooden block was found inserted in the points.

Mr. E. J. P. CUSSEN, defending, said Marshall had recently married. He had a good post, and life had taken a new turn for him. It was quite inexplicable why he should have indulged in that dangerous, reprehensible, and senseless act.

1939 Ken Browning: to Off Beat July 1976: During the Second World war there existed in the Force six to eight men who were designated **bomb reconnaissance officers** – one I remember was ex-Inspector Sizer from Walton on Thames. I had my full share of danger being the BRO for Oxted Division where we had one hundred and twenty three flying bombs alone and one night sixty thousand explosive incendiaries, hundreds of which I defused myself with Superintendent Mann.

1939 June 20: £1000 robbery: Strong room blown open with gelignite: Scotland Yard has been asked to assist the Surrey police following the **theft** of about £1000

from premises at Addlestone by raiders who used gelignite. Staff at the Addlestone and District Industrial Cooperative Society in Station Road discovered the robbery. Tools left behind led to the belief that a London gang was involved.

Explosives used in Surrey Robbery: London gang suspected: Scotland Yard yesterday was asked to assist Surrey police in efforts to trace a gang of thieves who used gelignite in a raid on the strong room of the Addlestone and District Cooperative Society in Station Road, Addlestone. The intruders secured about £1000 and when members of staff arrived yesterday they found the 16cwt door of the strong room and a smaller safe in the general office had been blown open by explosives. Several doors had been forced but the noise, it is believed, would be muffled by the continuous traffic in the early morning of Sunday returning to London from the Aldershot Tattoo. The view of the local police is that experienced safe breakers from London probably carried out the theft, for among the tools left behind was one bearing the name of a London firm.[18]

1939: The strength of the Surrey Constabulary was five hundred and thirty seven in 1939.[19]

1939 July 5: Murder at Moorlands Hotel, **Hindhead:**

Victim Mable Bundy

As the war loomed the population of the county increased dramatically with thousands of young men forced to leave their homes and families and thrown together. When war broke out the Canadian Army had a significant presence in the county and would feature regularly in the reports of serious crime. A murder that was to occur during the build up to war took place on the 5 July 1939 at the Moorlands Hotel, Hindhead on the Farnham Division. Roberts received a call from Superintendent Cox [20] of Farnham Division reporting a body of a woman being found on a footpath by the staff entrance to Moorland Hotel. Miss Mabel Maud Bundy aged

[18] The Times (London, England), Tuesday, Jun 20, 1939
[19] Durrant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 56
[20] Item ref Surrey Archive Centre: CC98/11/9 Murder at Moorlands Hotel, Hindhead (Surrey Archive Centre) (Roberts Page 57)

forty-two and from Portsmouth, had been found at 6.20 am by Thomas Mitchell an employee. As the Daily Telegraph reported "It is believed she had been outraged" (raped) also saying Superintendent Cox was in charge of the investigation assisted by Tom Roberts.[21] Miss Bundy a staff maid at the hotel, had severe head injuries and enquires revealed that the previous evening she had been at the Royal Huts Hotel with soldiers from Thursley Camp. At the camp were about seven hundred soldiers; five hundred were regulars and two hundred on a refresher course as reservists. A parade of the 2nd Battalion North Staffordshire Regiment, still in battle kit from an exercise was held. Down these lines of hot a dirty soldiers Superintendent Cox, Inspector Roberts, the commanding officer and the adjutant passed three times once for each witness, two men and an elderly woman.[22] The three witnesses picked out a soldier called Boon who then named Goodwin and Smith as being with him the previous evening.

Thursley Camp during the identification parade[23]

PS Butterfield conveyed the three prisoners to Farnham Police station with their kit bags from where he seized the clothing they had been wearing the night of the murder, and sent it to the Police Laboratory at Hendon for analyses. Dr James Davidson director of the laboratory examined the clothing and fingernail scrapings. The nail scrapings could have come from a skin surface. On the clothing worn by Boon and Smith he found human bloodstains of Group O, which was included in forty two per cent of the population.[24] Smith had scratches to his face.[25]

That is jumping ahead. The pathologist Dr Gardner saw the body at the scene and examined it believing she had been dead about ten hours. At the PM a range of injuries were recorded including a broken nose, and an injury to the chin which, the pathologist thought was the direct cause of her death having forced her facial bones upwards leading to brain damage. Detective Sergeant T. H. Farndale went to the camp and with PS Edwards interviewed the suspect Boon and then Goodwin. Goodwin was first seen as a witness and there was a dispute in court over cautioning and the admissibility of comments made before caution. PS Edwards took a statement from Smith[26]

[21] The Daily Telegraph and Morning Post Thursday July 6 1939, The Times (London, England), Thursday, Jul 06, 1939
[22] The Daily Telegraph and Morning Post Thursday July 6 1939
[23] Daily Mail July 6 1939
[24] The Surrey Advertiser and County Times July 22 1939
[25] "Foul Deeds and Suspicious Deaths in Guildford" Caroline Maxton Wharncliffe Books 2005 p 49
[26] The Surrey Advertiser and County Times July 22 1939

At the Central Criminal Court on 22 September 1939 the jury after a four-day trial took an hour to find Boon and Smith guilty of murder and sentenced to death. Goodwin was found not guilty.

1939 8 August: General Order No 898 Chief Constable's Office: **Applications for Marriage:** The following conditions will in future govern my approval of marriages of members of the Force:

1. It is a condition of service of al members of the Force that no man may be married without the approval of the Chief Constable.

2. No constable will be granted permission to marry during his probationary period.

3. Men who have completed their probationary service but are under 26 years of age and have less than four years approved service may apply to be allowed to marry, but approval will not be given until such time as suitable existing married accommodation becomes available for their occupation. Whenever such accommodation becomes available marriage applications will be approved as nearly as possible in the same sequence as the applicants would become eligible to marry under Condition 4 of this Order.

4. Subject to the limitation of Condition 2 applications from men who have 4 years service or are 26 years of age and above will be granted as received if all other circumstances are satisfactory and suitable accommodation is available or can be rented for them.

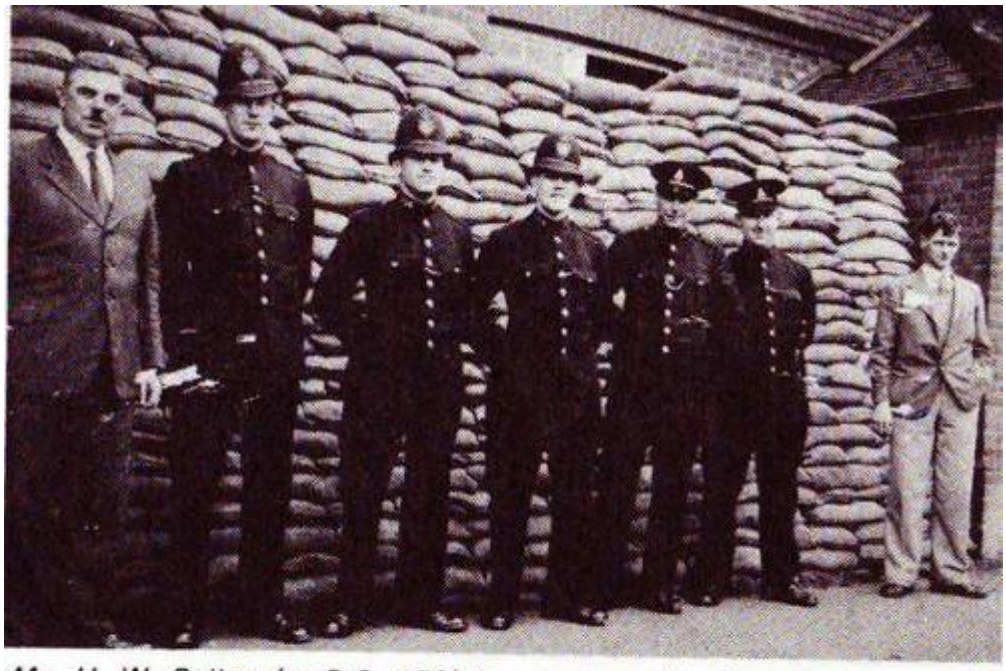
Major Nicholson, Chief Constable of Surrey[27]

1939 September 3 War: On the day war broke out an order came from HQ and in a short time almost every officer was engaged in some form of duty connected to the emergency. The strength with the reserve grew to six hundred and seventy seven officers. The initial workload was enormous and all leave was cancelled at the end of August men being recalled if away. Sixty regular officers were called to the colours on the 1st December their call up having been deferred three months. The chief constable was appointed county controller.[28] Force numbers, the chief constable, superintendents including DCC, nine, twenty four inspectors, sixty one sergeants, and four hundred and twenty six constables making a total of five hundred and twenty one members of the Surrey Constabulary. Police War Reserve numbered one hundred and fifteen full time, First Police Reserve forty one full time, and the Special Constabulary part time one thousand four hundred and sixty three.[29] The day war broke out the Police War Reserve and First Police Reserve was immediately called to duty and a heavy call was made on the part time Special Constabulary. Huge resources initially went into manning vulnerable points and detention of "doubtful" aliens.[30]

1939 World War Two impacts on the service: With the outbreak of war, the right of police officers to retire on pension was suspended, and they were classed as a

[27] From Surrey Police Federation files
[28] Durrant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 59
[29] CC notes 1945 on the administration of the county police during the war.
[30] CC notes 1945 on the administration of the county police during the war.

reserved occupation. Thousands of officers who were military reservists were called up and their places were taken by temporary police officers, members of the wartime Police Auxiliary Service.[31]



Mr. H. W. Bailey (ex-P.C. 172) has sent us this picture taken outside Camberley police station in 1939. Standing in front of the sandbags, left to right: Inspector Denyer, P.C. 172 Bailey, P.C. 414 Vincent, P.C. Able, P.C. 149 Bradley, P.C. 101 Diacon and C.I.D. Dan Hobbs.

Special Constabulary

In 1911, the Home Office issued a circular asking every police district to hold a register of persons whose services could be called upon if a serious emergency arose. The suggested structure consisted of a First Police Reserve of police or army-trained constables, and a Second Police Reserve of volunteer special constables. Nothing more of this directive was heard of until November 1914, when the outbreak of war inspired the enrolment of two thousand special constables in the Surrey Constabulary area. They were provided with uniforms, armlets and truncheons, and apparently gave valuable service throughout the First World War. In 1919 they were stood down but allowed to keep their truncheons. The Special Constabulary Act of 1923 provided a permanent force of one thousand five hundred and twelve special constables in Surrey. The General Strike of 1926 saw the Surrey Special Constabulary employed to aid the First Police Reserve but there were few occasions requiring large scale assistance until the outbreak of the Second World War. In April 1939, following a directive from the Secretary of State, Surrey County Council was authorised to re-establish a first Police Reserve of one hundred and thirty men for the county.[32] The force was to be equipped in the same manner as the regular constabulary. Also to be

[31] http://www.polfed.org/aboutus/69DD9AB47F534348AD5D1415843163AA.asp Internet 19 Jan 2010

[32] Surrey County Council, Committee Reports, 1939, pp.1384-1388

established was a Special Constabulary force of one thousand five hundred and fifteen men, with five hundred earmarked for full or near full time duty in the event of war. A Police War Reserve of five hundred men was further to be established, mainly from the existing number of special constables. The Byfleet Section of the Surrey Special Constabulary was part of the Woking Division of the Surrey Joint Police Force. From 1942, special constables were required to work a minimum of twelve hours a week, consisting of four hours of patrol duty and eight hours of 'standby' duty; these hours were amended regularly and shortened as the war drew to an end. The Special Constabulary was disbanded after the war, in September 1945. George Bruzaud resided at Highfield End, West Byfleet. He was appointed section leader of Surrey Special Constabulary prior to 1915 and resigned on 29 September 1945.[33]

1939: When war broke out in 1939 the call up nationally of three thousand policemen with reservist obligations to the armed forces was deferred and about six thousand policemen under the age of twenty five who were liable to conscription were retained and the police became a "reserved" occupation. After three months the reservists were recalled to the colours and the right to retire on pension was suspended. By November 1942 about four thousand of the younger policemen had been released from their Forces to be replaced by compulsory conscription into the police in the hardest hit areas.

Nationally two hundred and seventy eight members of the police were killed as a result of enemy action whilst with their forces and one thousand two hundred and seventy five police officers serving with HM Forces were killed or died from other causes.[34]

On the 1 December 1939 Surrey lost sixty Reservists to the Colours.[35] Retirement from the Force ceased and the Standing Joint Committee authorised twenty-five acting sergeants and superintendent/deputy chief constable was promoted assistant chief constable![36]

1939 PC Leahy[37]: On the outbreak of war PC Leahy Guildford Borough Police was posted to the CID with an allowance of 7/6d a week. There were some 5000 **Canadian troops** billeted at Whiteley Camp at Merrow Downs and Newlands Corner and they caused a lot of trouble in the town. They were a hard lot and mostly dealt with by their regimental police. Many were lost on the Dieppe raid.

1939: Letter to Off Beat: I think Off Beat readers might be interested in the enclosed picture of the **White Horse Hotel, Esher** just prior to the outbreak of the Second World War, we took over the hotel and used it as a police station. This occurred when an inspector was first placed in charge at Esher, which was until then a sergeant's station, which operated from a private house. The first inspector was Michael Reid but he retired in 1944 and I succeeded him from Farnham Division. When the sub-division was commenced the inspector lived in a large house known as Esgair, Portsmouth Road, opposite Sandown Park racecourse. Unfortunately in 1944 my wife

[33] http://www.exploringsurreyspast.org.uk/GetRecord/SHCOL_6890
[34] Critchley
[35] CC notes 1945 on the administration of the county police during the war.
[36] CC notes 1945 on the administration of the county police during the war.
[37] Notes from Mr Leahy below

and suffered at Esgair from the effects of a doodlebug but happily without personal injury. The house was originally taken over as single men's quarters but this was abandoned as regards single men at the outbreak of war. In 1947 I had the doubtful pleasure of handing over the sub-division to the Metropolitan Police but stayed on for a few months as liaison officer before moving to Weybridge. I believe it is the only "pub" turned into a police station in the history of our Force, Yours sincerely G A Turner.[38]

1939 September: PC Osmund Wright transferred from Bristol to Guildford Borough on the 3 September 1939 with the nicknames "Ozzie" and "Wrig". His medical was with Dr Peter Milligan and after an issue around diabetes he was accepted on £3 4 shillings a week. He lived above North Street police station later moving to digs in Onslow Village. He recalls the day after war was declared a number of officers had disappeared to re-join the Colours – having the previous evening enjoyed a riotous party.

Shortly after Dunkirk there were a large number of refugees flooding into Guildford, which was known as an "unprotected area" and all, had to be vetted as possible enemy agents. Tribunals were set up. PC Wright acted as an interpreter until 1942 working closely with PC Ferguson on alien issues when he volunteered for the Royal Navy leaving the Borough in August 1942. He re-joined the Borough in 1945 and on entering his former office found that the paperwork was untouched and was as he left it. He again became deeply involved in working with aliens particularly sorting out Polish service personnel and naturalisation. Mr Wright ended his service as a sergeant

[38] Off Beat September 1976

in the Surrey Constabulary stationed at Guildford working amongst other duties as Coroner's Officer. [39]

1939 December: Seven members of the Guildford Borough Police were **recalled to the armed forces** in December 1939[40]

1939 December 3 Guildford Borough: PC Weeks took over motorcycle patrol from PC Mathews on what as far as he could recall a Norton, Velocette and a BSA. The other motorcyclists were PCs Sivill and Burgess and their shifts were 0600-1400, 1400-2200, 2200-0600 carrying out general patrol duties.

1939 December. PC Sivil Guildford Borough: I was employed as a beat motor-cyclist riding a maroon **Triumph Tiger 100**. A second machine was obtained and riden by a War Reserve PC. Shifts were normal hours. Duties included escorting Army convoys and ordinary police patrol work. Once after a German raid they took some unexploded incendiary bombs back to North Street Police Station where they were identified by a sergeant and they were ordered out! There were many Canadian troops in the area and on visits to their camp at Newlands Corner and Netley Heath the police motor bike was left at the Guard Room, the police officer given a lift in a jeep with an escort as the sentries were not too careful who they shot. [41]

1939 December: County Force strength: One chief constable, one assistant chief constable nine superintendents, twenty four inspectors, sixty two sergeants, fifteen acting sergeants, three hundred and forty nine constables making four hundred and sixty one regular officers. They were supported by Police War Reserve three hundred and eighty seven, First Police Reserve forty one, and Special Constabulary one thousand four hundred and sixty three.[42]

1939 at the Section House entrance at the back of the old Surrey Constabulary HQ (later Guildford Police Station) off Leapale Road, Guildford **Left** to right - Tom Wyeth, Gilmartin, Corney, Cecil Smith, Stan Norton, Dowding, Clifford Luff

1940 January: Ten members of the Guildford Borough were **serving in the armed forces** [43]

1940 March 9: Buckland, Dorking: Buckland Lodge hit by bombs and a woman was killed, one third of the house and two cars were destroyed. Three other people were wounded.

1940 April: Invasion scares led to the fear of fifth columnists and many reports were made to the police all of which had to be investigated. A **Security Department** was immediately formed consisting of specially selected detective officers and they undertook a tremendous amount of secret and important work.

[39] Notes from Mr Wright early 1980s
[40] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[41] From a biographical note from Mr Sivill below
[42] CC notes 1945 on the administration of the county police during the war.
[43] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary

1940 May: Huge task at all police stations to register **Local Defence Volunteers** (Home Guard)

1940 May: It seemed likely that Britain would be invaded. Although the regular army had rescued many troops from Dunkirk they had to leave their heavy equipment behind. The resulting crisis saw the raising of the **Local Defence Volunteers.** On 18 May, three hundred volunteers assembled at the county police station in Woodbridge Road, Guildford.

1940 May: Secretary for War, Anthony Eden, set up the Home Guard with radio broadcasts to the nation at 6pm and 9pm, although at this early stage it was known as the Local Volunteer Force (LDV), an unpaid body that was to be a uniformed part of the Armed Forces of the country. All a man had to do to join, as long as he was aged between 17 and 65, was to volunteer at his local police station. All Head Constables had been forewarned by telegram on the morning of the broadcast. The Government hoped for half a million men to answer the call but by the end of June had almost three times that figure nationally. Eight hundred registered in Redhill and Reigate within the first twenty-four hours and fifteen hundred within forty-eight hours. [44]

1940 May 24: In the Dorking Police Division over 1400 men have offered their services for the **Local Defence Volunteers.**[45]

Surrey	Mirror	-	Friday	29	December	1944

The Reigate Borough's Home Guard: A Short History Of The 8th Surrey Battalion: The Days Of The L.D.V

How many people lining the route of the 8thh Surrey (Reigate) Battalion Home Guard's farewell march on Sunday, December 3rd, gave more than a passing thought to the significance of the event, or cast their minds back to Tuesday, May 14th, 1940. when, with the field-grey hordes of Germany spreading like an evil canker across Europe, the Secretary for War. Mr. Anthony Eden, came to a B.B.C. microphone with the appeal that brought old soldiers, well past the age of soldiering, back to arms, and set youth, not yet quite old enough for full-time soldiering, drilling, shooting and stalking?

The story starts at mid-day on that memorable Tuesday with a telegram over the signature of the Under Secretary of State. It went to every Chief Constable in the country. Mr. W. H. Beacher, sitting in his office in Reigate, read it: "Broadcast Will be made at 9.10 pm. to-day inviting male British subjects between the ages of 17 and 65 to register for Local Defence Volunteer Corps against enemy landings by parachute or otherwise. Registrations will be at any police station. Circular follows. In meantime, please ensure forthwith that all stations are prepared to receive registrations." There followed details of particulars to be taken. While the then Reigate Borough Police were making the necessary arrangements there came a second telegram notifying them of a broadcast appeal to be made for rifles and ammunition, and asking the police to be ready also to record details of all weapons offered to the new Volunteer Force.

[44] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/homeguard.htm
[45] Dorking in Wartime – David Knight

The broadcasts, which gave first news of the new Force to the public came in the bulletins at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. It was during the latter that Mr. Eden outlined the enemy's methods of parachute attack and made his now famous appeal. In the Borough, as elsewhere in the country, the response was astounding. Almost before the broadcast was over the telephone lines to the police stations were busy and personal calls at the stations to register mounted rapidly. Mr. Beacher and his staff worked almost without pause to keep pace with the applications, 1,500 of which poured in in 48 hours.

Reigate Hill Patrol: Some of the Volunteers had their first taste of duty only three days after the broadcast, for it was on May 17th that the late Capt. E. H. Tuckwell came from Guildford Headquarters to the Chief Constable - at 4 p.m. - to make arrangements for night patrols to be on Reigate Hill. Capt. W. E. Hill, M.C., was contacted, and was acquainted on his arrival, shortly before 7 p.m., with what was required. A police car took him to the addresses of several of the Volunteers, and, armed with six "P.14" rifles, all that could be mustered at that stage, the little party set off in police cars for their patrol ground. The twelve men who comprised this first patrol were Messrs. Chalcraft, Cook, Cuss, Dungate, Elliott, Hunt, Jarrett, Laker, Lott, Lovegrove, Pilbeam and Rumble, under the command of Capt. Hill, who, however, found the chosen site for the observation post, a spot near the water tower on Colley Hill, to be unsatisfactory, the view to the southward being impeded by Reigate Park. On the following night therefore the same patrol moved to Reigate Park itself, and were under the command of Mr. Vigers, Capt. Hill having been summoned to Guildford to an urgent conference. Most of the men on these early patrols were unfamiliar with the "P.14" rifle, not having handled firearms since the last war, and so the commanders divided their small force into two, one keeping up the patrol of the area whilst the other received some instruction as to the handling of the unfamiliar weapons. These night watches were divided into three periods - 10 p.m. to 1 a.m., 1 a.m. to 4 a.m., and 4 a.m. to 7 am.

The Borough Company Formed: Meanwhile at the conference to which Capt. Hill had gone, and which was also attended by Alderman Lieut.-Col. F. J. Spranger, Mr. W. H. Beacher, Capt. Mansfield (Redhill) and Capt. Charlesworth (Merstham), it had been decided that Reigate (including Redhill, Earlswood and Merstham) should be allotted one Company of the L D.V. The work of registration was continuing, and preliminary details of the scheme were being worked out, so that on May 20th at a meeting at the Town Hall, convened by the Chief Constable and presided over by Alderman Spranger, it was possible to get down to the work of organisation. At this meeting, at which Alderman Spranger intimated that he was unable to take command of the Reigate Company but at which he introduced Mr. R. J. V. Hake, of the White House, Reigate Heath, as Company Commander, it was decided that the Company should comprise a Reigate Town Platoon under Capt. W. E. Hill, a Redhill Platoon under Capt. E. T. Mansfield, and a Merstham Platoon under Capt. W. G. Charlesworth.

The Platoon Commanders quickly organised their own divisions. Capt. Hill sub-divided his command into Reigate North and Reigate South Platoons, under Lieut. A. W. G. Dewar and Capt. J. Gibson respectively, while at Redhill, Capt. Mansfield, with Major Strickland as his Second-in-Command, organised his Platoon into four sections under the commands of Mr. Cutliffe, Major Bowyer, Lieut. W. R. Howe Pringle, and Capt. Ferguson. At Merstham, Capt. Charlesworth, with Capt. D. J.

Smith as Second-in-Command, set up two sections under Capt. C. Bowring and Lieut. V. H. Winson. At the outset the approximate strength of the Borough of Reigate Company was 930 officers and men, but the numbers expanded as more and more names were registered. 46

1940 May 24 Dorking: German parachutist lands: Reports were made at the police station. So many phone calls made to the police station the operators were asked to put no more calls through but to reassure the callers all was in hand. It turned out not to be a parachutist but an escaped barrage balloon shot down by the RAF. A second and similar incident happened on Sunday the balloon coming down near Broome Hall, Coldharbour. [47]

1940 May 31: **Superintendent Hilton** is OIC the police at Dorking[48]

1940: A child's recollections: When we heard or saw a plane coming down we would try and beat the local policeman, **Sergeant Bishop** and the RAF to the scene for souvenirs. We used to pick up bullets and all sorts of other items. One day there was this plane that crashed on Holmwood common and we got there first, the wreckage was strewn over a wide area as it had exploded and it was still on fire. Whilst searching the wreckage one of us found a gauntlet after picking it up they found the Gauntlet still had a hand in it, needless to say it was soon dropped. Shortly after we heard several loud bangs, the bullets had started to explode and we ran for our lives. At these crash sites there was always a terrible smell that you will never forget. We had a Junkers 88 that came over our house just missing our chimney, this crashed in the Paddock about 50 yards behind Folley Farm House where the Adam's family lived. One of the engines from the Plane was dug up in 1976 and is now in the Brooklands Museum at Weybridge.[49]

1940 First (temporary) pay rise since 1919.[50] For the first time since Desborough, police pay was increased, thanks to five shillings a week supplementary payment to take into account wartime inflation, plus a war duty allowance of three shillings in lieu of overtime. This only applied to men receiving less that £5 a week.

1940: During the Dunkirk evacuation May 27th to June 4th 1940 the public service of trains were withdrawn for nine days around six hundred trains some ambulance trains conveying troops, many in a bad way, traversed the line across the county.[51]

1940 June 30 first **bomb fell on Surrey**. From 30 June – 31 December 1940 **5,668** high explosive bombs were dropped on the Surrey Constabulary area.[52] (See March 4 1940 above - Bomb dropped on Buckland!)

1940 at the gas school at Artington

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[46] Surrey Mirror - Friday 29 December 1944 on http://sussexhistoryforum.co.uk/index.php?topic=7355.0
[47] Dorking in Wartime – David Knight
[48] Dorking in Wartime – David Knight
[49] http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/10/a1982810.shtml
[50] http://www.polfed.org/aboutus/69DD9AB47F534348AD5D1415843163AA.asp Internet 19 Jan 2010
[51] http://website.lineone.net/~alan.c.edwards/chilworthtalk040228.html
[52] Durrant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 59

Left to right: Cecil Smith, Clifford Luff, Findon, Stan Norton, Dowding, Gilmartin, Sgt Blackmore, Corney, Tom Wyeth, Rose.

PC Bruce and PC Bradley Guildford July 1940 with "Old Faithful" a Wolseley 18/85

Arthur Bruce: Bruce and Bradley were in the yard at the police station in Guildford unloading firearms surrendered by the public from the above vehicle when a report came in of parachutists landing at Pitch Hill, Ewhurst. Without completing the unloading they piled into the car being joined by PCs George Young and Bob Rackham. "I should point out that car drivers were issued with a .303 rifle and five rounds of live ammunition. It was cynically suggested that the four rounds were for the enemy and the fifth being for us." Arriving at Pitch Hill the only people about were road menders who were not aware of "the invasion". They were given a 12 bore doubled barrelled shotgun and a handful of cartridges each with the injunction to "do their best." The police then drove nearer to the foot of the hill prepared to "repel boarders." Bert was armed with a revolver, George armed with Bert's .303 went off in one direction, and Bob armed with a 12 bore and me with my .303. Bob was a little behind me and we had not gone far when from behind there was the report of a 12 bore followed by a surprised "@#@# that is not the safety position!" Thereafter I walked abreast of him. It was "A false alarm – good intent" – a police term passed down the years.[53]

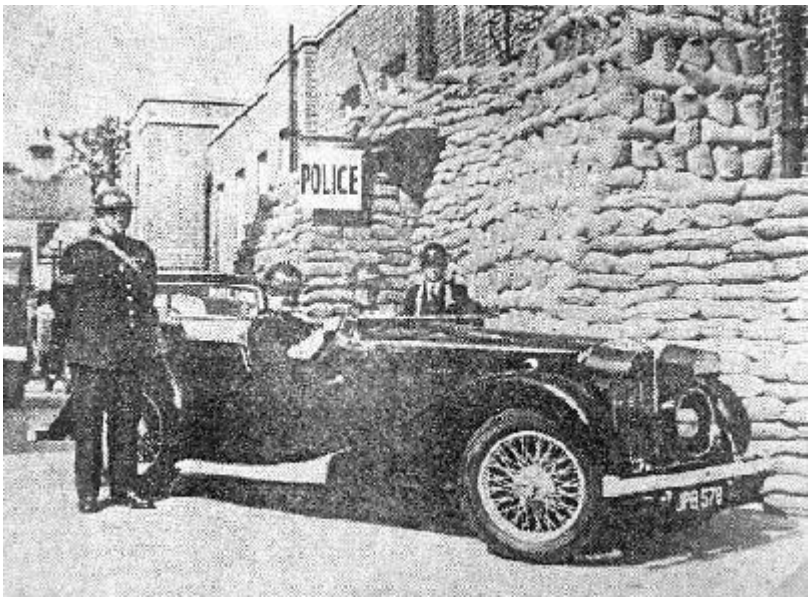
[53] Arthur Bruce wrote to Off Beat in January 1980

1940 PC Tiny Oliver was involved in a case involving Lt Hemmant after he **shot a woman** in Quarry Street, Guildford. [54]

1940 PC **Robert McBrien awarded BEM** at great personal risk rescued a woman trapped under the ruins of a house demolished by an enemy bomb at Horsley

1940 July: Guildford Borough Police stopped undertaking **school crossing duties** replaced by four civilians who were issued steel helmets.[55]

1940 Item ref: SCC Archive CC98/11/10 Wadkin family triple murder and suicide



During WW 2 police officers wearing tin helmets, alongside the Redhill police station' had a heavily sandbagged entrance. The car was equipped with a loudspeaker and was used to tour the area issuing information, including warning of impending air raids when the siren on the Co-op roof froze in winter. [56]

William Flower Symonds: With the outbreak of the Second World War, Symonds was approaching 50 years of age and was told that he was far too old to re-enlist in the Army on active service. Instead Symonds joined the Reigate Borough Constabulary as a Special Constable, and served in that capacity throughout the war

[54] From a biographical note from Mr Oliver below
[55] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[56] *Picture Alan Moore*

William Flower Symonds, collar number SC186, pictured in 1940 Reigate[57]

William Flower Symonds, collar number SC186, pictured in 1940[58]

The above photos[59] of special constable William Flower Symonds, collar number SC186, pictured in 1940 and in 1941. Formerly in the army – a Lieut in the Dorsets

[57] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/bridger.htm
[58] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/bridger.htm
[59] Photos courtesy Richard Symond and taken from Allen Moore's borough history site

- he was in the Mesopotamia theatre of war during WWI. He was a member of the Reigate Special Constabulary during WW2 and lived in Reigate for many years.

1940: Following invasion scares Guildford Borough purchased a number of motorcycles and the riders issued with service revolvers.[60]

An unusual picture of an armed PC Weekes of Guildford Borough

1939-1945: PC Burbidge serve in the Guildford Borough throughout the War as a uniform beat officer and station officer in North Street. There were a great number of Canadian troops billeted nearby and they caused a great deal of trouble in Guildford as this was their nearest town for recreation. Fights were common and police often ended up with their backs to the wall with truncheons drawn. [61]

1939-1945: During the war there was an **additional police station** at St Michael's Road off the Epsom Road, Guildford where the Chief Constable had his office. North Street was under an inspector. The borough was split into inner and outer rings with a lookout tower at the top of Abbots Hospital for tracking bombs, manned by a PC. [62]

Each sergeant had a large book where he entered references to all reports handed in by men on his relief and also details of points made with the men. These were inspected and initialled every morning by the Chief Constable. All original notes were entered by the PC in his notebook.

1939-1945: Air raid alarms were controlled by the station officer from North Street police station, Guildford Borough. [63]

1939–1945 Life on the beat: The parade room in the police station in North Street Guildford was a large room leading to the cells that also served as a mess room with one gas ring and as a charge room for the prisoners. Meal breaks were only half an hour and all the men took their breaks at North Street but the High Street beat was

[60] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[61] Biographical note from Mr Burbage below
[62] Biographical note from Mr Gower below
[63] Biographical note from Mr Burbage below

always covered. Cycle beats were covered using locally provided bikes from Jackson's Cycle Agents of The Parade, Woodbridge Road. [64]

1939-1945: PC Gilbert Guildford Borough: During World War two private houses were used as police posts and air raid shelters. There were two shifts (1st and 2nd Siren) which were worked by police after a normal 12 hour shift. Initially they were granted one day off a week but later they were able to alter this so that they only performed 8 hour shifts but did not have any days off. PC Gilbert was the first Guildford PC to deal with enemy bombs falling in Shalford meadows causing no damage other than craters. There was a stick of about 5 bombs of 50kg each. PC Woodford was also there. [65]

Haslemere at War[66]

The First Air Raid Warning

Haslemere had its first air raid warning on the Wednesday morning after the declaration of war. It had been reported that enemy aeroplanes were approaching the coast and the first warning was received at 7am. At 8.20am the sirens were sounded as well as the hooter at the Gas Works and the A.R.P. services were mobilised in a very short space of time. The A.T.S was called out and men and women were seen hurrying to their posts where they remained until the all clear was given at 9.15.

The enemy made a number of air attacks on the Haslemere district during the war, and the most serious was on March 8th, when high explosive and incendiary bombs were dropped over a wide area. One private house (Heath Edge) in the High Street, which had a bomb dropped in its garden during a fugitive raid some two years before on this occasion, received a direct hit and considerable structural damage was done to the back part of the premises. This was the only direct hit reported. All the other high explosive bombs fell either in roads or in gardens and although a large number of incendiary bombs were dropped they did not go off or came down in open ground and no fires resulted.

One of the bombs, which fell in the garden of a house near the Ambulance Station in Pathfields, caused the death of Miss Marion Clarke, a volunteer ambulance driver for the Council since 1939, and seriously injured Mr Douglas Hunter, the ARP Transport officer, both on night duty in the Ambulance Station. Three other persons were seriously injured - Mr Samuel Blair, a despatch rider for the NFS, Mr C. V. Brine, a railwayman living in High Lane, and his daughter, Mrs Mabel Coussie. Shrapnel injured Mr Brine whilst he was on fireguard duty in front of his house and his house was so extensively damaged that it had to be evacuated. Damage was also caused to the Infants School and a large house near by. Other damage was mainly to doors, roofs and windows in various parts of the town. Plate glass windows in some High Street shops were smashed.

One of the earliest raids occurred shortly after 10 O'clock on Sunday night, August 25th, 1940, when the Museum in the High Street was extensively damaged. Bombs

[64] Biographical note from Mr Burbage below
[65] From a biographical note from Mr Gilbert below
[66] http://www.haslemere.com/warmemorial/sillick.html#air

fell on two sides of the building but there was no direct hit. One bomb fell on the lawn only a few yards from the Curator's house and the Peasant Arts Galleries. All the windows and the roofs on that side of the house were badly damaged. The Curator and his wife (Mr and Mrs Swanton) had a narrow escape for the windows of the room in which they were sleeping were blown upon them. Repairs to the Peasant Arts Galleries included alterations in the windows. The Loss of exhibits in the galleries was surprisingly small. The collections were cleaned and re-arranged by the staff, assisted by several ladies. In the raid of March, 1943, the Museum escaped with few scars.

In another raid on February 9th, 1943, considerable damage was done to cottages in Fernhurst and eight persons were injured. The bomb fell on a roadside bank between the Post Office and the Church. The road leads to the village school but happily no-one was there at the time. Several trees were destroyed and large boughs torn away caused a temporary stoppage in the road. The gate of the cemetery near by was blown out. Two cottages were so badly damaged that they were uninhabitable for some time.

The last raid in June 1944 was by a flying bomb, which approached from a south-easterly direction and fell in the garden of Amerley, Three Gates Lane, almost on the spot where a bomb had fallen in the early days of the war. Several people in the house suffered from shock but no serious damage was done.

Rex Cinema Damaged in Aeroplane Crash

Several Haslemere and Shottermill people returning from work on an evening in September 1942 were eyewitnesses for a tragedy of the air. A British aircraft had come out of the clouds and attention was drawn to it by the unusual noises the engines were making. "It was flying at a moderate height", said one witness, "and it was obviously in great difficulties. Suddenly there was an explosion and the machine seemed to break in pieces in mid-air. As I lost sight of it one part came down in a spiral dive and this was followed by the noise of a crash."

Several people saw the machine break up in the air and come down in three parts. The starboard engine crashed into the top part of the high wall of the Rex Cinema and finally landed in the space in front of the stage known as the orchestra pit. The port engine fell in the garden of Holy Cross Sanatorium, nearly a quarter of a mile away, and the wings and fuselage came down in the public thoroughfare between the Cinema and the Sanatorium and close to the junction of the two main roads. On striking the road it immediately burst into flames. The crew of three in the aircraft were instantaneously killed, and it was almost a miracle that there were not many more civilian casualties. There is usually a great deal of traffic round about the road junction and public service vehicles were timed to arrive nearby only a short time after the accident. But fortunately there was no one very near at the time the crash occurred and the only persons injured were those in the Cinema.

At this Cinema there were continuous performances but at the time of the crash there were fewer people there than at any other time of the day. The matinee was over and the audience had dispersed and the bulk of the people had not yet arrived for the evening performance. The starboard engine and the propeller went through the west wall of the tall building immediately above one of the buttresses and at a point near

the roof. A hole about 16ft deep and 8ft wide was made in the wall but fortunately only two of the bricks fell inside. The propeller dropped in front of the front row of seats and the engine, after rocketing from one place to another, finally came to rest on the left side of the orchestra pit. Luckily there were no people in the front seats but debris was thrown about all over the theatre causing damage to the seats and many parts of the interior of the building. Large holes were burst in the screen and the engine fell upon, and irretrievably damaged, a reserve screen kept under the stage for use in case of emergency. Altogether 12 persons were injured, 11 of them were taken to local hospitals and detained the other was taken to her home by a nurse. There were other cases of slight injury, which did not require hospital treatment. Several ambulances were quickly on the scene and did good work. The cinema had to be closed while repairs were carried out.

The only other building damaged was the lodge of the Sanatorium, tenanted by Mr and Mrs R.H. Mudd. Many tiles were broken and displaced, the top of the chimney was smashed, the inside of the north well was fractured, and the ceiling in the front bedroom collapsed. The wall separating the Sanatorium property from the main road was considerably damaged and the top part of the masonry over an area of 40ft was knocked down and fell into the roadway.

The accident caused much consternation in the district and a large crowd quickly assembled. For about two hours the main road was blocked and traffic was diverted to Church (or Liphook) Road. Three sections of the National Fire Service attended with their pumps and working with much energy soon had the fire under control. Good work was also down by the Police, the ARP services, and a number of troops in clearing the debris and regulating the traffic.

1940 February: PC Alfred James Everitt awarded **King's Police Medal for Gallantry** arresting an armed soldier who from the top of a railway carriage at Dorking attempted to shoot him at close range. On February 27 1940 PC Everitt was called to Dorking North railway station to deal with a Canadian soldier who, while under the influence of drink, had climbed upon the roof of a railway carriage. The soldier had previously pointed a revolver at a railway guard who had told him to "scram". Everitt climbed to the roof of the carriage where he saw the soldier on his back with a revolver in his hand. The soldier pointed the revolver in the constable's direction but the constable went towards him. As he did so he heard a click in the revolver. The soldier had pulled the trigger but, as was found afterwards, the hammer had fallen on an empty chamber. In the next chamber there was a live carriage. Everitt got the soldier down to the ground and with the help of two railwaymen took him to Dorking Police Station. When at Dorking Police Court the soldier was sent to prison for one month and fined £2 the magistrates commended PC Everitt for showing considerable presence of mind and pluck in this incident which took place at about midnight. The announcement of the award of the King's Police medal – the most honoured of all police distinctions – was made last Saturday. PC Everitt will be commanded to attend Buckingham Palace to receive his award.[67]

[67] Dorking Advertiser 21 July 2011 – 70 Years On

1940 People in Surrey towns complained that in the evening the streets were full of **drunken and profane Canadians,** mostly making their way back to their barracks, which they found so disagreeable.[68]

Diary of Rev WAR Ball vicar of St Johns Redhill[69]

> 1940 August 18 bomb Shaws Corner
>
> 1940 21 September bombs dropped Cronks Hill no casualties
>
> 1940 5 September aerial torpedo Hawthorns grounds – school damaged and closed the next day
>
> 1940 27 September bombs dropped in Clarence Walk and Hardwick Road Meadvale no loss of life but houses damaged and demolished
>
> 1940 6 October 1940 – machine gunning overhead and bombing – time bomb dropped on Ridgeway Road and bombs in Garlands Road where houses were wrecked
>
> 1940 8 October bombs dropped 2030 Upper Bridge Road, Hooley Lane, Victoria Road and Brook Street – a few minor casualties but houses wrecked
>
> 1940 17/18 October bombs dropped on Meadvale – incendiary bombs in Meadvale Gardens and High explosive in the gardens of Rose Mount causing damage to the house. A further bomb landed in the garden of Sand Dene. A time bomb was dropped near High Trees Road wrecking the garden. People were evacuated.
>
> 1940 20 October bombs dropped on Meadvale in a garden
>
> 1940 22 October two bombs dropped on Emlyn Road at 0200 and four houses razed to the ground and two others uninhabitable – 6 killed and 47 injured

1940 August: Shaw's Corner Reigate 1st or 2nd Sunday in August, approximately 1pm A bomb fell outside The Foresters Pub (now called The Hatch) possibly killing four men. A second bomb fell in St. Mary's Cemetery. Holmesdale Road Cottages, which backed onto the Railway Line near Reigate Station, were demolished during a night raid, as was Mr Holmes, the vet's house in Warren Road. St. Albans Road cul-de-sac, the Royal Engineers dug up a time bomb. The Royal Engineers removed a time bomb from West Street near the junction with London Road. [70]

Holmesdale Road Cottages, which backed onto the Railway Line near Reigate Station, were demolished during a night raid, as was Mr Holmes, the vet's house in Warren Road. [71]

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[68] "The Gentlemen at War" Policing Britain 1939-1945 Roy Ingleton Cranborne Publications 1994 page 96

[69] http://www.stjohnsredhill.org.uk/pdfs/wardiary1940.pdf

[70] http://www.reigatehistory.co.uk/bombs.htm

[71] http://www.reigatehistory.co.uk/bombs.htm

1940 August 2: Ockley man wounded. A Home Guard sentry fired on a car, which it is alleged failed to stop after it had been challenged by a road patrol in Stane Street, Ockley. A passenger was seriously wounded.

1940 August 15: 125 bombs fell on the Borough of **Reigate** causing injury to three cyclists thrown from their machines by the blast. A German Dornier was shot down, the crew bailing out and the British aircraft undertaking a victory roll. The bombing left 18 craters and many houses damaged including Salford school.[72]

1940 August 18: Joyce Banks: This was a Sunday. We were having lunch when we realised that there was a "dog-fight" going on. We left our lunch and went out into the grounds, to see a terrific "dog-fight", the worst we had seen so far. A **Dornier shot a Hurricane down** in flames - the pilot, Harry Newton, baled out over Titsey Hill direction. We heard later that a Dornier had crashed at Hurst Green.

I had been a probationer nurse at Oxted and Limpsfield Cottage Hospital for 18 days, having left school earlier in the year, aged 17yrs. On Sundays, we had a half-day off-duty. That day, a colleague and I walked down to Casualty. There we saw the pilot's jacket, etc. He was in theatre. We heard later that a lady from Hurst Green, where a Dornier had crashed, was treated at the hospital for minor burns. I started nursing on August 1st, 1940 and signed on to stay for two years. This was a modern 40-bed cottage hospital, at the foot of the North Downs. Enemy bombs hit an army convoy, driving along the road on top of the Downs. Casualties came to our hospital, one with severe facial injuries. A Harley Street ENT specialist on site was able to see to the casualties. One night, a German pilot arrived by ambulance. The night sister went out to see him. He wanted to give her his iron cross and told her to always carry her gas mask. He had been told they were going to gas us. I think he was admitted to a hospital in Redhill, Surrey, where they had special units for the military. We had civilian air raid casualties, suffering severe shock, burns, eye injuries - possibly due to the blast - and fractures. I remember the young soldier from Dunkirk, who asked "Where was the RAF?" Once when on night duty I was sitting at the table on the men's ward, a stick of bombs were dropped very near to the hospital. The only damage was a cracked window in the kitchen of the women's ward. Those patients, who were able to, were out of their beds and underneath them. "Nurse, get down!" I stayed put but I did go to each patient to see if they were all right.

When St Thomas's hospital in London was bombed, (we learned later that the bombs were intended for the House of Commons) some patients were sent to their local hospitals. The patient we had from St Thomas's told us that he was on the operating table and it bounced up to the ceiling and down again during the raid! The highlight for me was once when I had been on night duty. We had to be in bed by midday. Two of us walked down to the shops for a coffee and cake. We could not buy cakes, biscuits etc. because the hospital had our ration books. We began to walk back to the hospital, when we saw some outriders, so we walked back towards the recreation ground where many troops were lined up. We thought perhaps Churchill was coming, as he only lived four miles away at Westerham. We stayed by the Hoskins Hotel, opposite the police and the recreation ground. A limousine drew up - out of it stepped

[72] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated

His Majesty King George VI - amazing! He was to review the troops before they went abroad. Back at the hospital, we told them we had seen the King. Nobody believed us! We were all in the war together, working long hours, stressful and sad at times. Everyone gave of their best. Years later we met up for reunions. I left Oxted Hospital in March 1943 and started my SRN training at the East Surrey Hospital, Redhill. In 1981, I was invited to a reunion at Kenley. Among those attending was Harry Newton and some of the crew of the Dornier that had shot him down. Gunther Unger and Franz Bergmann had survived. The Dornier came down in the "drink" - they were rescued after three hours of nightmare conditions - freezing cold and soaking wet.[73]

1940 Explosive time: Taken from a reprint in the Dorking Advertiser of August 2015: During the past few days the area has been raided on a number of occasions and despite the many bombs, high explosive and incendiary, very little damage was done and only two minor casualties were reported.

Two bombs fell on a local golf course. The clubhouse was damaged but no casualties occurred. Windows of houses near the course were broken and doors were blown open as a result of the explosion. On one occasion residents had a front seat view of the several dogfights and saw three German bombers sent crashing to earth. People were impressed with the swift movements of the British fighters.

An afternoon raid later in the week saw two enemy planes flying over the district. High explosive bombs were dropped all falling in open country. Two workmen cycling along the road heard the noise of the falling bombs and immediately took shelter behind a haystack. The bombs fell a little distance from them and they were partially buried by debris and hay. They were none the worst for their experience and after being treated at a first aid post were able to continue to their homes.

A lone German raider dropped out of the clouds on Friday morning and unloaded high explosives bombs on a village. They were dropped without warning and although they fell in a built up area surprisingly little damage was done. Two dropped outside wine stores and ripped of the front of the building and damaged the shop next door. The two doors away in a hall were housed 24 Londoners who had been evacuated from their own homes the previous night.[74]

1940 August 18: Felbridge: War time memories of a boy from Imberhorne Farm: The Coomber family, who lived in Imberhorne Farm Cottages during the war, helped dig a shelter behind the cottages, not far from the pond. Jim Coomber, a small boy at the time, remembers that on one occasion the air raid siren sounded when they were in the middle of dinner and he ran to the shelter, on arrival the jelly that he was looking forward to for dessert fell off his plate! He also remembers that a bomb came down between Imberhorne Farm and Gullege that blew out all the windows and that a Spitfire crash landed in Long Field to the south of Felbridge Water. This plane was eventually recovered on a low loader. He remembers 'It was always a rush to the scene of a crash to see what souvenirs you could get'. German plane crash-lands near Rowplatt Lane. A German plane crash-landed in the woodland running down the Copthorne Road from Rowplatt Lane, and Jim Coomber remembers that the villagers

[73] http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/27/a8044427.shtml
[74] Dorking Advertiser 27 August 2015 Yesteryear column

of Felbridge rushed to apprehend the German airmen. The bombing raid damaged St John's Church. The exterior of the church has remained little changed over the years except for damage sustained during World War II, when, on 28th August 1940, three bombs landed in and around the grounds of the vicarage and church. One bomb landed near the east wall of the church that shattered several of the windows in the south and east walls. There are also a few shrapnel scars to be seen on the east wall, the carved tops of some of the buttressing on the south wall have been sheared off and several of the graves in the area have suffered slight damage. Another bomb landed near the north and west wall where the driveway up to the vicarage, now The Glebe, met the London Road. This bomb loosened or removed slates from the north porch and north aisle, and again left shrapnel scars in the west wall. Most of the windows in St John's church were damaged during the Second World War when three bombs landed in the grounds of the vicarage and church on 28th August 1940.

1940 August: A string of bombs fell from Goodwyns Farm in a north-westerly direction up to the railway line below Ranmore in **Dorking;** fourteen were high explosive of which two did not explode.[75]

1940 August 27: A massive Heinkel bomber crashed in the rear garden of a bungalow 21 manor Avenue, **Caterham** in the early hours of the morning. It was hit by anti-aircraft fire.[76]

1940 August 27: Twenty high explosive bombs dropped near Leatherhead Common; several houses were damaged but there was only one casualty.[77]

1940 August 30: Sixty high explosive bombs fell in a line from Yarm Court to Crampshaw Lane, **Ashtead and five people died.**[78]

1940 August 30: Two Messerschmitt 109s collided over **Oxted** during an aerial battle. Both pilots bailed out and were captured immediately[79]

1940 August 30: An Heinkel bomber shot down and force landed at **Lingfield.** This was one of a number that were brought down over southeast Surrey and north Sussex that day.[80]

1940 August 30: A number of reports: Shortly before noon a British aircraft collided with a Heinkel over **Reigate,** the RAF pilot landing by parachute in **Dorking** breaking a leg the plane landing at Lodge Farm, **South Holmwood** and exploded. The Heinkel with a crew of five plummeted to the earth at Swires Farm, **Capel**; three were killed one badly wounded and the fifth captured. The captured aircrew was detained by the Teasdale brothers, local grocers, and handed to PC Cooper who was hurrying from his home to the scene of the crash.[81] **Hurricane of 79** Squadron from Biggin Hill collided with a Heinkel HE111 during combat over Reigate at 1110, Crashed

[75] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[76] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[77] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[78] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[79] Surrey at War 1939- 19405 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[80] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[81] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated

near Swires Farm, Henfold Lane. **P/O Morris** a South African bailed out. Three of the German crew were killed and the captain landed by parachute with severe head injuries.

A lorry load of soldiers attending the crash site was approaching the scene when the plane exploded catching the lorry and some trees on fire. The explosion seriously damaged the interior of neighbouring farmhouses. P/O Morris's aircraft crashed close by but caused no damage. When one of the bombs fell on the Westcott road a fragment injured local Doctor Billings. The bomb crater was 18 feet across and 7 feet down. There were three smaller craters nearby. One fell on Sondes Place, another damaged Milton Court. One bomb at least seemed to be an oil incendiary bomb burning for a long time in the crater. One elderly man who was standing in the street was slightly injured by a spent machine gun bullet, which struck him on the shoulder. There were five craters in a line across fields where cattle were grazing. Two heifers were injured and were destroyed. Some small pigs were burnt alive through incendiary bombs falling in their pen. [82]

German bomber downed in Henfold Lane; three local dead and are three crew: The Heinkel dropped its bombs whilst trying to outrun attacking British planes. A motorcyclist was seriously wounded and died the following day. An elderly man died whilst hurrying home to the Cotmandene Alms-houses. Pigs are burn alive in their pen by a falling incendiary. Westcott Road, Sondes Place and Milton Court are damaged. The Heinkell then collides with an attacking Hurricane and crashes near Swire Farm, Henfold Lane, Holmwood. Three of the crew are killed, the pilot parachutes safely near Dorking. The Hurricane comes down nearby.[83]

1940 September 6: A Heinkel was destroyed after dropping bombs on the outskirts of Dorking during large-scale raids over Southeast England last Friday morning. A motorcyclist was severely injured and died the following day. Damage was caused to the Westcott Road breaking the gas main and causing traffic disruption. Soon after the raid a Spitfire shot down one of the bombers, which crashed on farmland four or five miles from the town. A battle occurred in the sky between Messerschmitt and Spitfire aircraft with the sound of machine guns and shells falling to the ground. [84]

September and November 1940: Dr Edith Mercer: I was at this time a member of Betchworth Park Golf Club, where we continued to play (even during day time raids), and I record, on Saturday 21 September 1940, counting a neat line of craters across the fairway occasioned by a stick of small bombs. My sister recalls playing squash in the glass roofed squash courts at the top of Brockham Lane, during the "famous" machine gunning of the Reigate Road and Dorking High Street on Saturday 9 November 1940.

1940 September 4 The Brooklands raid: eighty-three people were killed and 419 were wounded.[85] **1940 September 4**: Worst attack was on Vickers Works, Weybridge were bombed and eighty-three killed and over four hundred injured. One aircraft on

[82] Dorking at War David Knight
[83] Dorking Museum display 2013
[84] Dorking at War David Knight
[85] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated

the raid was shot down near Shere and a Special Constable at Ripley captured the airman who bailed out.[86]

Contemporary report **Weybridge:** The attack on Vickers Armstrong Works was carried out by an unspecified number of aircraft but from reports received it appears that five or six direct hits on buildings were made and other heavy calibre bombs dropped outside hangars causing some damage but it is considered that casualties would have been greater but for the fact that the attack was made during the lunch hour. It appears that bombs dropped before the red warning was received. The full extent of the effect on production is not yet ascertained, but it is gathered that considerable delay will occur.

VICKERS ARMSTRONG AIRCRAFT FACTORY UNIT, WEYBRIDGE

"On the morning of 21st September 1940 at about 08.30 hours the Vickers Aircraft Factory at Weybridge was attacked by an enemy aircraft. Three bombs were dropped, two of which exploded, doing slight damage. The other, a five hundred pound bomb, penetrated the factory roof, passed through a wall at the end and came to rest on the concrete driveway outside the erecting shed, having failed to explode. As the explosion of the bomb at the position where it rested would have caused considerable damage, its immediate removal was a matter of national importance. "Lieutenant J. M. S. Patton, Royal Canadian Engineers, undertook to remove the bomb to a place of comparative safety and Section Leader Tilyard -Burrows together with Volunteers W. J. Avery, E. A. Maslyn and C. E. Chaplin, with complete disregard of personal safety and having no previous experience of handling unexploded bombs, immediately volunteered to assist." The bomb was lashed to a sheet of corrugated iron, attached to a truck by wire cable and towed to a crater about two hundred yards away where it could do no harm. The task was accomplished in little more than half-an-hour from the time the bomb had fallen. The bomb exploded the following morning. "Throughout the operation these men displayed cool courage of the highest order and contributed largely to the removal of a serious threat to the production of this factory." **Note:** Lieutenant J. M. S. Patton was awarded the George Cross and Captain D. W. C. Cunnington, also of the Royal Canadian Engineers, the George Medal for their gallantry on this occasion.

PC Arthur Bruce in 1980: One of the aircraft from this raid was hit and crashed on Netley Heath area close to a Canadian camp. Bert Bradley and I received an instruction to collect the remains of the crew and this we did in several brand new sandbags. We took these to the Woking mortuary then, having left our grisly load we resumed patrol. Some time later we were asked if we had labelled the sandbags, which we had not and were ordered to do so. On arrival at the mortuary we found the smell very strong so much so I just could not face it. Bert, having taken a deep breath attached a label on one bag and hurried out. This manoeuvre he repeated until all the bags were labelled after which we beat a hasty retreat.

1940 September 4: A British plane crashed at **Banstead** and the pilot a Canadian was killed[87]

[86] Durrant Surrey Constabulary 1851-1951 page 60
[87] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated

1940 September 6: Leatherhead Golf Course received a direct hit.[88] Three raids one of which **bombed** the 6th tee at the **Leatherhead** Golf Club; on the 30th a land mine fell into a garden in Gaywood Road, Ashtead killing four and injuring others.

1940 September 10: A bomb exploded 30 yards from two cyclists in **Leatherhead** who were thrown into the air but both survived.[89]

1940 September 13: Three high explosive bombs were dropped on a village on Saturday evening causing minor casualties. It is believed the bombs were released after the enemy plane had been caught in the beam of a searchlight. On bomb dropped between two cottages and the owner of one, Mr McMillan, Deerleap Cottage, Dearleap Road, Westcott was injured and his house severely damaged.

1940 September: A stick of 19 bombs was dropped from Downs Way to the High Street, **Bookham**[90].

1940 September 25: Onslow Village, Guildford high explosive bomb 15 yards from the school. Four bombs dropped on Billings with one person killed.[91]

1940 September 27: Junkers 88 riddled with machine gun bullets fell from the sky in flames at Folly Farm **South Holmwood** setting fire to a haystack. The rear gun turret and gun fell into a garden at Pilgrims Close, **West Humble** and part of the tail came down in Croft Avenue, **Dorking.** The four crew bailed out, the pilot badly burnt landed in Yew Tree Road, Dorking one coming down near Bradley Farm another at Scammels Farm, **Blackbrook** and a third close to the Norfolk Arms, **Mid-Holmwood.** The fourth crewmember was found dead at Leatherhead. [92]A fifth crewmember is found dead after he fell from his parachute. The plane came down at Folly Farm, Holmwood causing a local woman to miscarry. One of the parachutists reached the ground without his parachute and was killed when he landed in the sewage bed at Leatherhead. His parachute drifted down in Holmwood Park. [93] [94] (This is another "mixed" message where more than one incident may have become joined)

1940 September 27: Felbridge: Crash Landing at North End a German bomber took the roof off North End Lodge which was adjacent to Simpson's Garage, London Road, North End. It happened at 9.20am on Friday 27th September 1940. The bomber was a Junker 88 which developed a fault in its starboard engine and lost formation whilst on a sortie to bomb London. The cockpit was destroyed in the attack and three of the crew of four lost their lives. Three baled out in the Hartfield area, out of these three, the parachute of one failed to open, a second died of his wounds in Queen Victoria Hospital in East Grinstead, and the third survived, though he broke his leg. The fourth remained in the plane, presumed already dead when the others baled out.

[88] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[89] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[90] Dorking Advertiser article 13 September 2012
[91] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[92] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[93] Dorking Museum display 2013
[94] Dorking in Wartime David Knight

1940 September 30: Me 109 crashed at Holman's Grove, **Grayswood** and the pilot captured.[95]

1940 September 30: Me 109 crashed and burnt out at **Nutfield**[96]

1940 September 30: Junkers 88 damaged by AA fire crashed on **Gatwick** race course killing one of the four crew members.[97]

1940 October 1st-2nd: Thirteen high explosive bombs fell between Little Halfpenny farm and the Tilling Bourne, Burpham and near the Meadway, **Guildford**[98]

1940 October 4 1940: Bombs fell on Nutwood Avenue **Brockham killing five people**[99] Two houses demolished and five people killed. A number of bombs fell on Nutwood Avenue during Friday night. In one house Mrs Daisy Hetherington, her five-year-old daughter, two year old son and Wilfred Biggs an evacuee were killed. In the next house Mrs Ester Fisher and William her younger son age two were killed. Mrs Fisher's elder son aged four and her sister injured. Mrs Hetherington's husband was serving in the RAF and Mr Fisher was away from home on Auxiliary Fire Service duty. Rescue parties worked heroically through the night rescuing other children. [100]

Report from a member of the Mobile First Aid unit called to the scene: There were others underneath, a baby, two women, evacuee boy and a little girl of seven. It was nightmarish unreal sort of scene; the darkness, the dimly seen collapsed houses without a wall standing; the rescue party with torches among the ruins; the rest, about twenty people standing in the road waiting to be of assistance; the searchlights overhead; the buzz of planes and distant ant-aircraft fire. Every now and then the torches had to be put out completely until raiders passed. Two bodies were brought out; a little girl of seven was alive but pinned by her arms and shoulder. She was able to talk quite cheerfully and did not seem too badly injured yet after a long night of trying to rescue her at seven o'clock she became unconscious and died.[101]

1940 October 4: At about the same time as the bombs fell in Brockham **incendiary** bombs were dropped on an adjoining parish but no damage was caused.[102]

1940 October 4: Three high explosive bombs fell close together near the centre of Dorking on Saturday night, Rose Hill. They did very little damage and there were no casualties. [103] The damage was a large crater and a demolished wooden shed. Windows were broken. Many incendiary bombs fell to the south-west of the town of Dorking but the damage was slight. Four high explosive bombs fell to the east of Dorking but fell harmlessly in a field.[104]

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[95] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[96] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[97] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[98]Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[99] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[100] Dorking Museum display 2013
[101] V E Day + 50 – Brockham Village Remembers – Tony Hines 1995
[102] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[103] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[104] Dorking in Wartime David Knight

1940 October 4: Dorking: A pilot from a German plane that crashed at Kingswood landed in Yew Tree Road, Dorking. He was badly burnt and taken immediately to hospital. Hundreds of people made for the scene of the landing.[105]

1940 October 12: A British Blenheim developed a mechanical problem and crashed at Court Lodge Farm, **Ewhurst**. The pilot bailed out but his parachute failed to open.[106]

1940 October: Holmwood Park was almost destroyed by incendiary bombs in Oct 1940 several Canadians were injured in that attack. [107]

1940 October 12: A British Beaufighter lost and short of fuel crashed near **Send** after the crew bailed out safely.[108]

1940 October: A loan raider bombed **Charlwood the Bakers** at approximately 11.30am in October 1940 or 41. Clifton's Lane, a bomb fell in the grounds of Fairhall a (large house).

1940 October: Dorothy Fraser wrote on 25 September 2003[109] In October 1940, I lived with my mother and one evacuee in a flat in a rather large house in Redhill, and as my sister's husband was away in the army, she came to stay with her daughter. One night my mother was doing her voluntary work at the services canteen and we were in the house, when the dreaded sound of the siren went - we called it Big Bertha. An Ack Ack gun that was run on the railway lines (I believe between Salford and Horley) went into action, when we heard this bomb whistling through the air and land just outside the house. I had gone downstairs to get the cat in and was blown down a few steps. My niece and the evacuee who shared a bedroom, managed to jump out of bed just as a large wardrobe fell across their beds. Fortunately no one was hurt, but we had to leave the house straight away, never to return again. We spent that night in a neighbour's house, and after that a very grand lady and her daughter took us in, until we found another flat. The bomb weighted over 500lbs - big for those days and it went down 50ft and 22ft across.

1940 October 14: 0210 three people in Rydes Avenue, **Guildford** were killed immediately and one died from injuries, others were trapped. This was the worst incident of the war for Guildford.[110]

1940 October: Twelve bombs were dropped in a line from Southey Hall, **Bookham** to the Leatherhead By-Pass damaging shops, offices and houses.[111]

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[105] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[106] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[107] http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/10/a1982810.shtml
[108] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[109] http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/56/a1304056.shtml
[110] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[111] Dorking Advertiser article 13 September 2012

1940 October: A Whitworth Whitley **twin** engine British bomber hit a barrage balloon near Brooklands and crashed near Hanger Hill, **Weybridge** station killing the crew of four.[112]

1940 October 22: A Canadian pilot P/O Milne of 605 Squadron was shot down over **Dorking** and crash landed his Hurricane at **Westcott** near the old sewage works dislocating his hip.[113] In the local hospital he met nurse Nan Jones who he later married.[114]

1940 October 25: The Superintendent of police at Dorking appeals to the public to be more **careful with their blackout.** They were placing themselves and their neighbours in danger.[115]

1940 October 26: Leatherhead: Two high explosive **bombs** fell on **oil storage tanks** at the waterworks and burning oil crept through the drains to the River Mole taking nearly twenty four hours to put out.[116]

1940 October 27: A 1000lb bomb fell on 16 Emlyn Road, **Earlswood, Reigate** demolishing 5 houses and damaging 110. Six people were killed and 24 had to be rescued[117]

1940 October 29 Holmwood Common: isolated country mansion hit and destroyed by incendiaries.[118] This was a few hours before the following attack on Fraser Gardens.

1940 October 29: Dorking: A **bomb hit** the corner of Fraser Garden's housing estate destroying two houses killing two sisters aged 12 and 20 when their home collapses. Their parents and two brothers survive, one brother being blown out of bed. A next-door neighbour is also killed. Box Hill had several large baskets of incendiaries giving what many considered to be a firework display! (Further report has the sisters 17 and 12, a 17-year-old son blown out of bed but survived and his 7-year-old brother ran from the wreckage to a neighbour's house.)[119]

1940 October 29: An oil bomb fell on Parkway, Dorking in the front garden of a house making a nasty mess but failing to ignite and so caused no damage.[120]

1940 October 30: A Beaughfighter based at **Redhill** crashed near Balcombe Place and the crew of two killed.[121]

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[112] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[113] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[114] Dorking Museum display 2013
[115] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[116] Dorking Advertiser article 13 September 2012
[117] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[118] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[119] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[120] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[121] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated

1940 November 1: Dorking: A **stick of bombs** fell across **Dorking** from Chart Lane corner of Marlborough Road to Vincent Lane sand pit. The bombs caused considerable damage to buildings but no serious casualties. One did not explode.[122]

1940 November 1: A large bomb fell near some allotments to the south of Doking on Monday evening causing slight damage to some roofs. [123]

1940 November: A string of bombs fell starting at the Vicarage, Vincent Lane, **Dorking** and going across the water company meadows to the railway.[124]

1940 November: Bomb on Dorking: 3 dead: Two houses destroyed in Fraser Gardens, Dorking, killing 2 sisters aged 12 and 20 when their home collapses. Their parents and 2 brothers survive, one brother being blown out of bed. A next-door neighbour is also killed.[125]

1940 November 7: Reigate Hill - Barncote Hotel was hit by 1,000 lb bomb in November 1940 a bird sanctuary on Colley Hill was hit the same night.

1940 November 7: A succession of raids on **Reigate.** On the 7th a 1000lb bomb exploded at the rear of Barncote a small hotel on Reigate Hill. Later the same evening a bomb fell inside the bird sanctuary on Colleyhill.[126]

1940 November 8: 0230 a bomb made a direct hit on a house, Culvers, St Albans Road, **Reigate.** Two of the three occupants were trapped but were not seriously hurt.[127]

1940 November 9: Deepdene Station Dorking and Dorking High Street were **machine gunned** by a German raider.[128]

1940 November 11: A breakaway aircraft from a large formation attacked Guildford[129]

1940 November 15: Factory buildings at **Bagshot** were bombed and destroyed[130]

1940 November 22: Oxted police officer retires. Lost a leg in Suvla Bay landing. After 28 years in the Police Force, P.S. William Hall, Divisional Clerk at Oxted, retired on Saturday. He joined the Berkshire Constabulary in 1912, and served first at Reading and then for two years at Clewer. An early recollection of his was of an occasion when he was detailed to take home the superintendent's horse from the royal shoot in Windsor Great Park. Losing his way in the woods, he was concerned to find himself right in the way of the guns. "I might have been shot," said Sergeant Hall, "but worse than that was the unqualified abuse I received from the royal verdurers for

[122] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[123] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[124] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[125] Dorking Museum
[126] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[127] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[128] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[129] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[130] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated

disturbing the game in the coverts that were about to be shot over."

Sergeant Hall transferred to the Surrey Constabulary in 1914, and in the following year, learning his life-long friend had been killed, he enlisted and went with the 2/4th Queen's to Gallipoli. "The troopship steamed without lights into Suvla Bay," said Sergt Hall, "and we leapt from the ship on to barges, which were towed ashore. Alighting, we stole up the hillside through the scrub and lay down among the rocks. With the dawn the enemy opened fire on the monitors and then shortened the range and shells began to plaster the hillside. Six hours after landing I was hit in the foot and lost it. I returned to England on the next ship."

Then followed 24 years police clerical service, for the last four years at Oxted. Because of his artificial leg, said Sergeant Hall, there had been little variation in his work, but he remembered one Easter Monday when he, the only man immediately available, cycled to intercept a man who had been seen hurrying from a temporarily unoccupied house stuffing jewellery in his pockets as he ran. Sergeant Hall met him a mile from the house and arrested him. The man had wounded himself with a revolver he had found in his quest for spoil. When examining the revolver he pressed the muzzle against a finger of his left hand and must have pulled the trigger with the other hand. Miraculously, the bullet lodged in the finger bone.

Sergeant. Hall's successor at Oxted is P.C. W. Hood, who has been promoted to sergeant. Mr. Hood has been assistant divisional clerk here since October 1937, and was previously at Dorking.[131]

1940 November 22: ARP Controller committed a blackout offence at 6.35pm a very large unscreened light was seen by PC Blandford at the Surrey ARP Control in High Street, Dorking. He knocked on the door several times and eventually someone came to an upstairs window. He was told the light should be extinguished. Inspector Collis joined the constable and ordered him to go into the building through the window and turn the light out. A hostile crowd gathered angry at the light being shown. The officer entered the premises and turned out the light. The Controller was eventually fined £20 (the normal fine was £1- £2) [132]

1940 November 28: Junkers 88 hit overhead power cables near Redhill and crashed at **Blindley Heath,** South Godstone. No crew were found and it was later discovered that the crew had bailed out over France and the aircraft later crashed in Surrey.

1940 November 29: Brockham: A long **stick of bombs** fell starting at the Barley Mow which was severely damaged and went to the top of Box Hill where Brockham Warren was hit.

1940 end – Guildford Borough strength **now 66** supported by the War Reserve and Special Constabulary.[133]

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[131] Surrey Mirror - Friday 22 November 1940

[132] Dorking in Wartime David Knight

[133] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary

1940: During a raid the **homes** of PC Rice and Detective Constable Fountain Guildford Borough Police were destroyed their wives and families being buried but all survived.[134]

1940 December 8: Further raid in the vicinity of Rydes Avenue, **Guildford** probably seeking to bomb Denis Brothers where Churchill tanks were being manufactured.[135]

1940 – 8-12 December Guildford Borough: Sergeant Ferguson and PC Taylor were **sent to Southampton** with a loudspeaker van to aid the Southampton Police. The Watch Committee for his valuable work later commended Sergeant Ferguson. [136]

Betchworth: last four months of 1940 sixty three high explosive, three oil bombs and many incendiary fell on the village. [137]

1940/1941: In about 1940/1941 **PC Jim Bleach** the village constable at Brockham was badly beaten by Canadian Soldiers at the Barley Mow Pub. He was never quite the same after that.[138]

PC Jim Bleach in 1951

[134] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[135] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[136] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[137] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[138] Bill Bowry Brockham resident to the editor April 2010

1941 The chief constable reports that **serious incidents** occurred at many places in the county and the police worked under a heavy strain of prolonged hours of work.[139]

1941 March: German bomber down in **Ockley:** Four crew dead: A night bomber is brought down in flames. Three-crew members die in the plane, another is found dead in his parachute and the 5th is captured.

1941 29 March: Robert McBrien, police constable Surrey Constabulary awarded the British Empire Medal [140] (This was for rescuing a woman from a bombed building)

INSPECTING WRECKAGE: Soldiers looking at a German Heinkel III which was shot down and crashed at Chobham. It had strayed from a mission in the East End and dumped its bombs, with one of them destroying a house in Bookham. It was then caught in the searchlights of 460 Battery Royal Artillery at Weybridge and brought down. The crew were all captured and interrogated

Probably 1941 Chobham[141]

1941 April 9

Heinkel111 P2 1943 5/KG. 55 G1+DN
Shot down by Flight sergeant E.R. Thorn D.F.M. (Pilot) and Sergeant F.J. Barker D.F.M. in a Defiant of 264 Squadron, Biggin Hill.
Crashed Shepherds Hanger, Busbridge, Surrey 11.55 9.4.41

Uffz A Muller Killed
Gefr R Langans Killed
Uffz G Neumann Killed
Gerf H Berg P.O.W. - injured

We closed in on his starboard side and made a beam attack with a burst of 2 seconds. The de Wilde ammunition was observed to be bursting in the fuselage and there was return fire, of which only one hit could be traced subsequently in the starboard wing.

[139] CC notes 1945 on the administration of the county police during the war.
[140] The Times (London, England), Saturday, Mar 29, 1941
[141] Dorking Advertiser article 13 September 2012

We then crossed under the port side and gave another good burst of 2 seconds, and the port engine was seen to glow. [142]

Heinkel 111 crash site
Heinrich Berg's own recollections

It had been a fine spring day, the 9th of April 1941, but for us, the four-man crew of the Heinkel111, it ended in disaster at 23.45.

Our orders were to bombard Birmingham. But even before we reached the town we were intercepted by an English fighter plane ... a night hunter ... and shot at several times. It was a full moon and the enemy came very close to us "out of the moon" (i.e. with the moon behind, therefore invisible to us) I was the radio operator and I was shot at full blast, as I was the only one with a movable gun. I could not get in a shot, myself, but the whole radio system was destroyed - therefore I had no contact with my comrades. We trailed a huge cloud of smoke behind us (probably the cooling system was broken as well) we were an easy target in the bright moonlight and there were several more attacks. Were my comrades still alive? Suddenly we lost even more height, had our pilot Alfred Muller decided to land? (We were already too low for parachuting) I remember that we collided with some trees, which made a terrible noise inside the plane ... then nothing. I have no idea how long I was unconscious ... 56 years later I learned what had happened and who was there

When I regained consciousness, I saw our plane, completely destroyed about 10 to 15 meters away on the ground. I tried to get up, but it was impossible. I was in terrible pain, which was caused by a broken leg and several broken vertebrae in the lower spine. I heard a car, and a policeman told me that I was in England. I was put on a stretcher and transferred into an ambulance. I was taken to a hospital where I was cared for and where I had an operation. (56 years later I learned that the hospital was in Milford) Waking up the following morning, in a pretty room, which I had to myself, except for two soldiers with guns beside my bed! (They were there for my

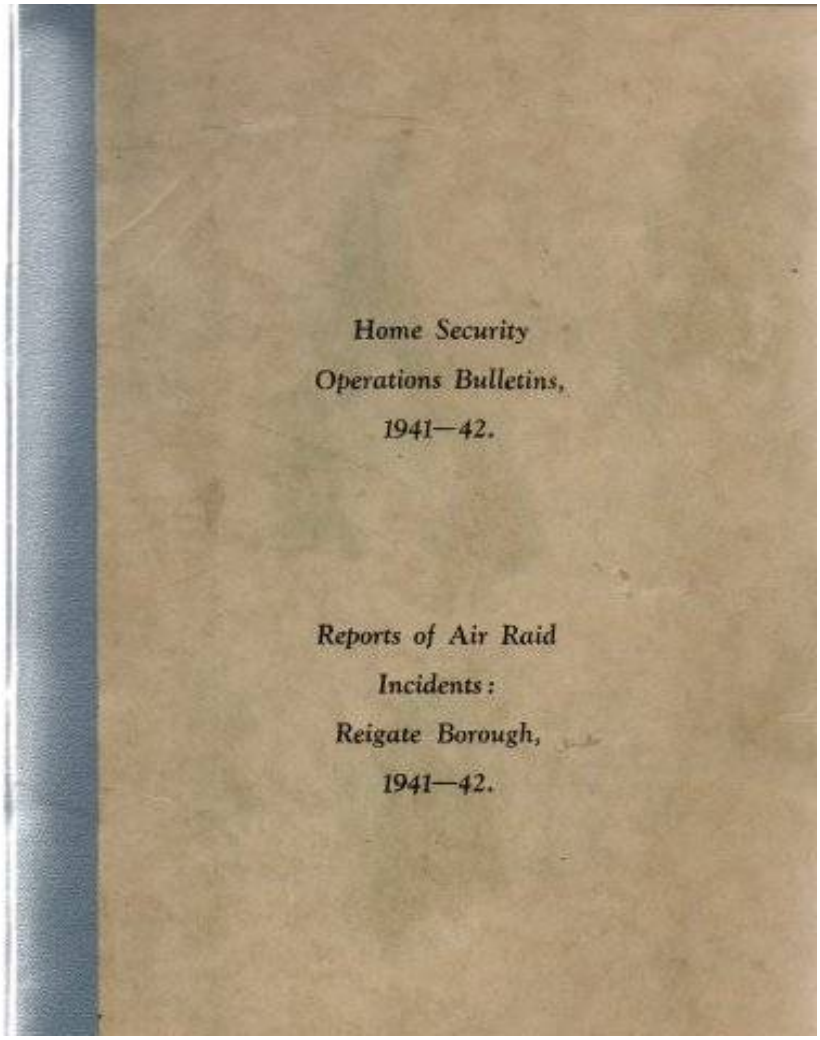
[142] http://www.hambledonsurrey.co.uk/history/article-about-crashed-german-bomber.html

protection and to see that I did not escape) Realizing that I could not move they reduced my escort to one soldier, who slept most of the time. (We could not talk together, as I did not know any English) I was well looked after and the several interrogations by an officer were courteous and polite. My parents were informed that I was wounded and in England. I learned too, what I had feared, that my comrades were killed in the crash. After about 10 days in this hospital I was transferred by ambulance into the unknown. A short stop in Birmingham and the next morning on to Nutsford in Cheshire ... the prisoner of war hospital. So once more I could talk in my own language. Here they discovered that I had broken vertebrae and a board was put under the thin mattress to keep my spine straight. I was not allowed to leave my bed for three months! It was a "hard time" but even so I was lucky. When I could get up at last, they gave me a walking plaster, but still the break had not healed. Meanwhile we had moved to Bury, Oldham and then to Wales (I have forgotten the name). From there we could see the Bristol Channel and the balloons over the town, to protect it from low flying enemy aircraft.

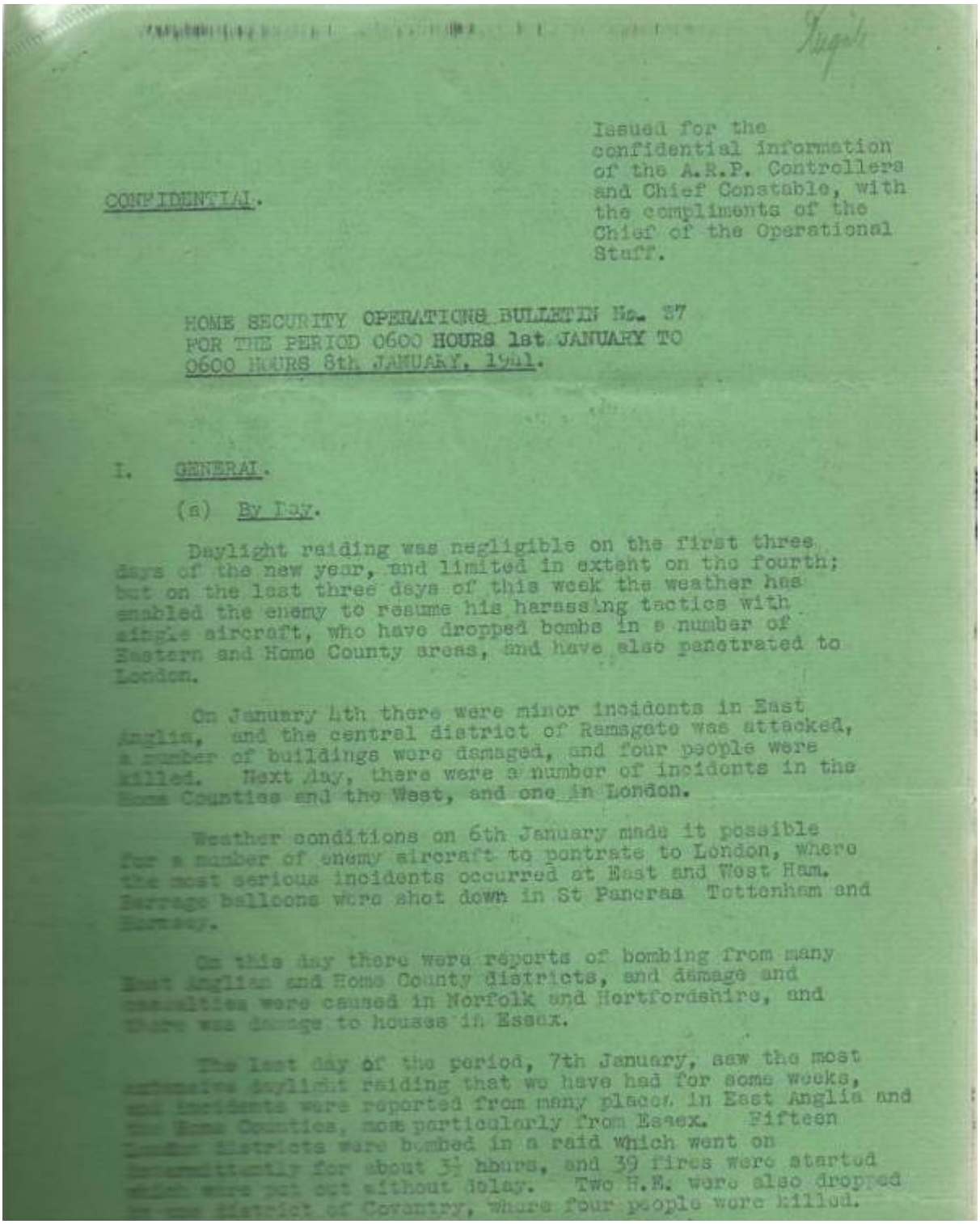
My broken leg still had not healed after a year and a half, and I was advised to have another operation. I agreed as it was obviously necessary, and being imprisoned there would be time for the healing process. Under a repatriation exchange scheme for wounded prisoners agreed between Germany and Britain, he eventually boarded, a hospital ship in Glasgow with other POWs, and set sail home to Germany.

The three members of the crew who perished were Alfred Muller, Gerhard Neumann and Rudolf Langhans, all in their twenties. Gerhard Neumann left a wife and two sons. Gillian Brunton, who now owns the land on which the plane crashed, is in touch with his family, which had been traced for her by the German Military Information Office. Neither Alfred Muller nor Rudolf Langhans had children. The bodies were buried at the churchyard at Milford; an evacuee recalls that local people placed flowers on their graves. They remained there until exhumed in 1962 when, under the auspices of the German War Graves Commission, they were taken for burial to the German Cemetery at Cannock Chase. They lie there, side by side, along with some 5,000 other German war dead.

Reports of Air Raid Incidents - Reigate Borough 1941-1942 Reigate Borough Police[143]



[143] The volume was handed to the author in March 2012 by Ian Ewens and is now deposited in the SCC archives



Issued for the confidential information of the A.R.P. Controllers and Chief Constable, with the compliments of the Chief of the Operational Staff.

CONFIDENTIAL.

HOME SECURITY OPERATIONS BULLETIN No. 37
FOR THE PERIOD 0600 HOURS 1st JANUARY TO
0600 HOURS 8th JANUARY, 1941.

I. GENERAL.

(a) By Day.

Daylight raiding was negligible on the first three days of the new year, and limited in extent on the fourth; but on the last three days of this week the weather has enabled the enemy to resume his harassing tactics with single aircraft, who have dropped bombs in a number of Eastern and Home County areas, and have also penetrated to London.

On January 4th there were minor incidents in East Anglia, and the central district of Ramsgate was attacked, a number of buildings were damaged, and four people were killed. Next day, there were a number of incidents in the Home Counties and the West, and one in London.

Weather conditions on 6th January made it possible for a number of enemy aircraft to pentrate to London, where the most serious incidents occurred at East and West Ham. Barrage balloons were shot down in St Pancras Tottenham and Barnes.

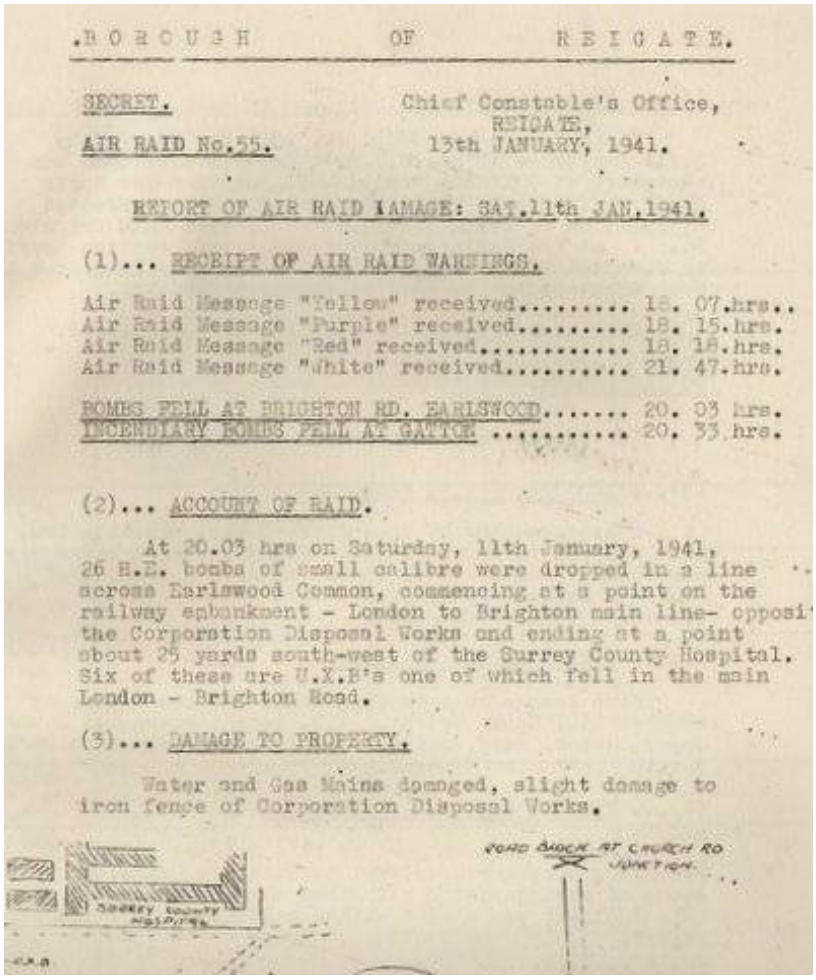
On this day there were reports of bombing from many East Anglian and Home County districts, and damage and casualties were caused in Norfolk and Hertfordshire, and there was damage to houses in Essex.

The last day of the period, 7th January, saw the most extensive daylight raiding that we have had for some weeks, and incidents were reported from many places in East Anglia and the Home Counties, more particularly from Essex. Fifteen London districts were bombed in a raid which went on intermittently for about 3½ hours, and 39 fires were started which were not put without delay. Two H.E. were also dropped in the district of Coventry, where four people were killed.

These reports handed to the author from a private collection in March 2012 are contained at the back of a bound volume headed “Home Security Operations Bulletins” which concentrates on weekly reports of air attacks on the UK. The documents are marked “Confidential” and were circulated to Air Raid Precautions Controllers and Chief Constables with the compliments of the Chief of the Operations Staff.

The reports marked “Secret”, which are at the back of the volume, were prepared by the Reigate Borough Police and start with “Air Raid 55” dated 13 January 1941 and shown as from the Chief Constable’s office. Each report is in a format which includes times of the air raid warnings, an account of the raid, damage to property including a very detailed sketch, road closures, casualties, incendiary bombs with damage caused and any special features of the raid including “Objects dropped from the air” as directed by Home Office Circular F700/359/46 12.12.40 and situation report 218. Attached is a report listing damage to property “consequent upon air attack” from the Borough Surveyor’s Office, Town Hall, Reigate.

The reports and detailed sketches were written up in about 48 hours of the event and it is quite remarkable the level of detail obtained and collated in such a short time.



.BOROUGH OF REIGATE.

SECRET. Chief Constable's Office,
REIGATE,
AIR RAID No.55. 13th JANUARY, 1941.

REPORT OF AIR RAID DAMAGE: SAT.11th JAN.1941.

(1)... RECEIPT OF AIR RAID WARNINGS.

Air Raid Message "Yellow" received..... 18. 07.hrs..
Air Raid Message "Purple" received..... 18. 15.hrs.
Air Raid Message "Red" received..... 18. 18.hrs.
Air Raid Message "White" received..... 21. 47.hrs.

BOMBS FELL AT BRIGHTON RD. EARLSWOOD..... 20. 03 hrs.
INCENDIARY BOMBS FELL AT GATTON ..... 20. 33 hrs.

(2)... ACCOUNT OF RAID.

At 20.03 hrs on Saturday, 11th January, 1941, 26 H.E. bombs of small calibre were dropped in a line across Earlswood Common, commencing at a point on the railway embankment - London to Brighton main line- opposi the Corporation Disposal Works and ending at a point about 25 yards south-west of the Surrey County Hospital. Six of these are U.X.B's one of which fell in the main London - Brighton Road.

(3)... DAMAGE TO PROPERTY.

Water and Gas Mains damaged, slight damage to iron fence of Corporation Disposal Works.

ROAD BLOCK AT CHURCH RD JUNCTION.

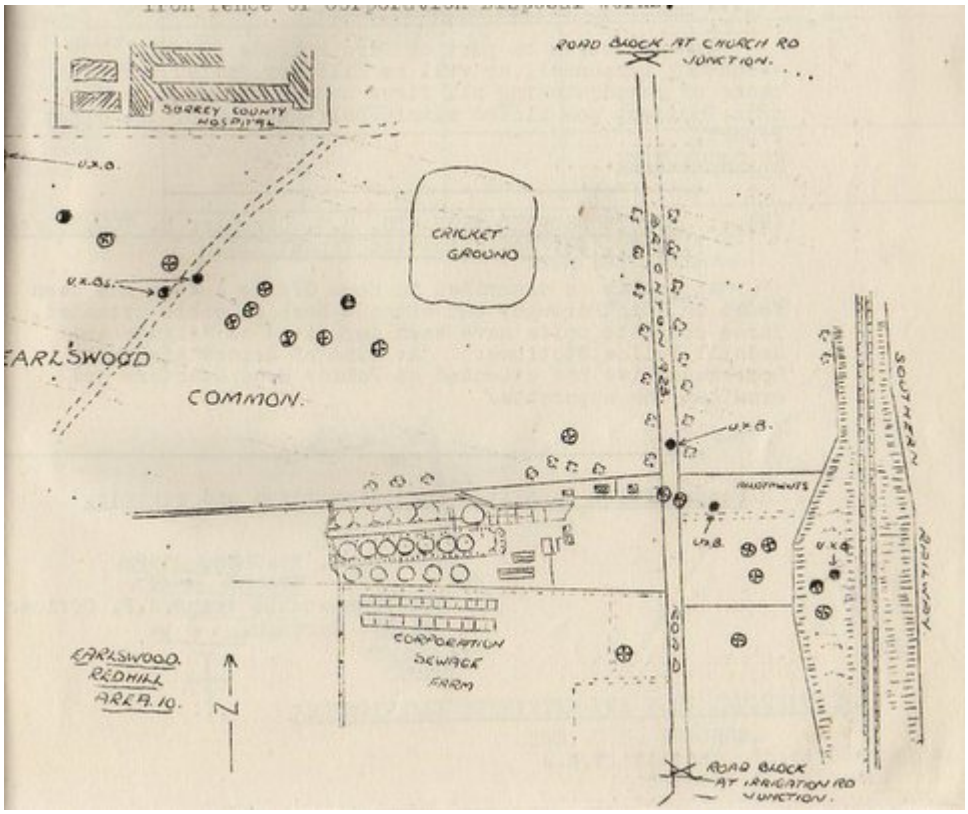
SURREY COUNTY HOSPITAL

1941 January 11: Air Raid no 55[144]
Air Raid Message Yellow received 1807
Air Raid Message Purple received 1815
Air Raid Message Red received 1818
Bombs fell at Brighton Road Earlswood 2003
Incendiary bombs fell at Gatton 2033
Air Raid Message White received 2147

[144] Reports of Air Raid Incidents - Reigate Borough 1941-1942 Reigate Borough Police

At 2003 on Saturday 11 January 1941 26 HE bombs of small calibre were dropped in a line across Earlswood Common commencing at a point on the railway embankment – London to Brighton main line – opposite the Corporation Disposal Works and ending at a point about 25 yards south west of the Surrey County Hospital. Six of these are UXBs one of which fell in the main London to Brighton Road.
Water and gas mains damaged, slight damage to iron fence of Corporation Disposal Works

HEs damaged the main Brighton Road (A23) and there is one UXB. Traffic diversion was necessary at Salfords School Road junction for northbound traffic, but road stopped and barriers erected at junction of Irrigation Road with main Brighton Road. At the northern end of the closed section traffic is diverted via Church Road (St Johns) and Pendleton Road. Road barriers are erected at this intersection.
There were no casualties.



2033: A large number of IBs probably 200 were dropped on Upper Gatton, Reigate over a large area stretching from south of Tower Cottage, a portion of Chalmers Lane, over Crossways farm to the Borough Boundary at Chipstead.

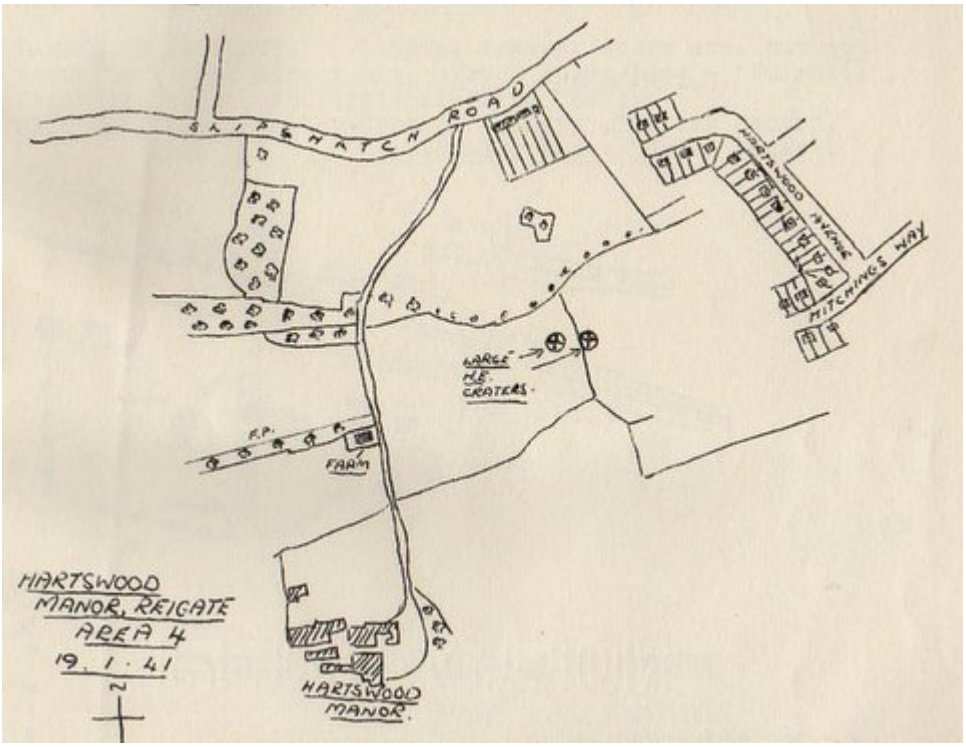
Damage was caused to a rearing house and hencoops at Henshaw Road, Upper Gatton. An IB went through Old Laundry, Upper Gatton, roof, rafters, ceiling and furniture burnt. Potting shed also damaged.

Speedy action by the Fire Brigade and all voluntary personnel as well as military units were the means of extinguishing all fires caused by IBs and this incident was closed within half an hour of the first report. No casualties were caused by the IBs.

Objects dropped from the air: Apparatus as described in the Home Office letter has been found in this Borough but without bombs or cable attached. Three complete units have been deposited at Reigate and Redhill Police Stations. At the time of this report Admiralty representative has attended at Police HQ and examined the apparatus.

W. H. Beacher
Chief Constable and ARP Officer, Reigate Borough

1941 January 19: Air Raid No 56 Sunday[145]
Air Raid Message Yellow Received 1904
Air Raid Message Purple Received 1910
Air Raid Message Red Received 1923
Bombs fell at 1928
Air Raid Message White Received 0020 (20th)



Two HE bombs of heavy calibre fell a few minutes after the "Alert" had been given for the second time on the evening of Sunday 19 January 1941. Both exploded in a field at Hartswood Manor some 300/250 yards north east of the manor. It is though that these bombs were dropped by a solitary raider which was being harassed by night fighters as machine gun fire was heard; craters 40ft x 8ft deep. No damage and no casualties.

The central siren at Redhill failed to operate owing to weather conditions. Police car immediately took up position and sounded car siren as substitute. Adjustments were made to the Air raid warning Siren and it was again in operation to sound "Raiders Passed" at 0020 on the 20th.

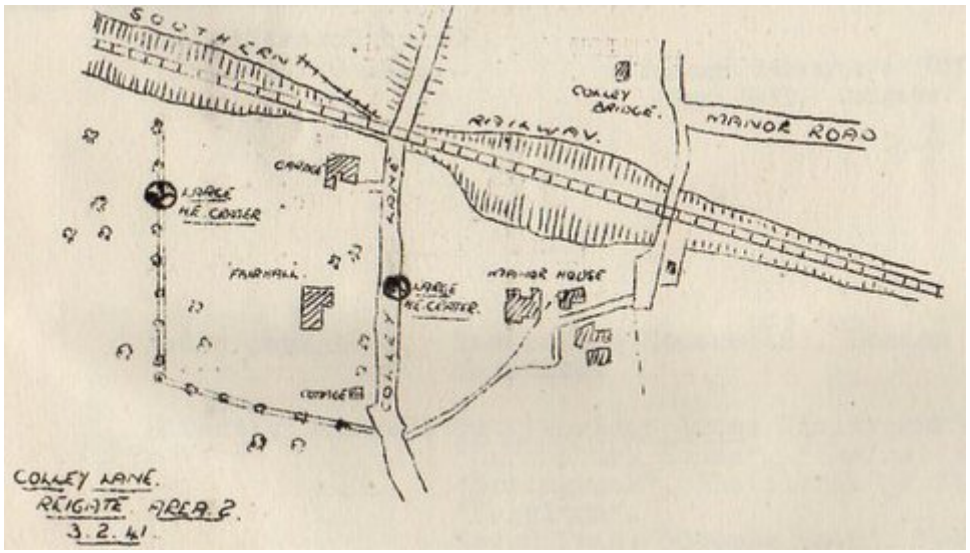
[145] Reports of Air Raid Incidents - Reigate Borough 1941-1942 Reigate Borough Police

W. H. Beacher
Chief Constable and ARP Officer, Reigate Borough

19413February 3: Air Raid No 57 Monday[146]
Air Raid Message Yellow Received 1123
Bombs fell at 1125
Air Raid Message White Received 1242
No air raid warning Red was received before the raid consequently sirens not sounded. Many people hear the plane and thought it was one of ours, only those in receipt of air raid message Yellow were aware that enemy aircraft were in the vicinity
At 1125 on Monday 3 February 1941 a solitary plane was heard to pass over Reigate from Northeast to the South West and two HEs were dropped

1. In field NW of Fairhall House – 250 kilo no casualties

2. Colley Lane 100 yards south of Railway Bridge. Gas main fractured and slight damage to electrical sub station. Damage to property occupied by military.



One fatal casualty John M Rofe aged 11, evacuated St Dunstan school boy temporary address 9, The Clears, Reigate
Four injured:

1. Miss Vera Keener 36 years Park House Cottage, Park Lane east, Reigate cuts to the knee

2. Stanley A Purkess 41 years 36 Heston Road, Heston Middlesex cuts on the head

3. Pioneer John Turner 28 years at Pioneer Corps, manor House, Reigate badly cut head

4. Pioneer Cecil Field same address 30 years slight cuts on head.

There was damage to property, window frames, and doors etc but not structural from a direct hit. Black Horse Lane – Fairhall, fairhall Garage, The Cottage, Pine End, Cliftons Lane, Colley Corner, Vinery, Colley Manor Coppice Lane, Manor House

[146] Reports of Air Raid Incidents - Reigate Borough 1941-1942 Reigate Borough Police

W. H. Beacher
Chief Constable and ARP Officer, Reigate Borough

1941 February 4: Air Raid No 58 Redhill/Merstham[147]
Air Raid Message Purple Received 0421
Bombs fell at 0430
Air Raid Message White Received 0449
No air raid warning Red was received before the raid consequently sirens not sounded.
At about 0430 incendiary bombs fell in the Borough:

1 at the rear of Cashell, London Road, Redhill
1 at Gatton Point Cottage, Redhill
1 at The Copse, Mark Edge, Merstham

With the possibility of further IBs having fallen at Merstham; all were extinguished and no damage caused
A total of one house had to be evacuated, 22 slightly damaged and 27 with broken windows only. Four other buildings damaged

W. H. Beacher
Chief Constable and ARP Officer, Reigate Borough

There is NO number 59 incident (reported at the top of report 60)[148]

1941 March: A parachute bomb destroyed All Saints' Church in Merstham in March 1941. 10 people living between Battlebridge Lane and Nutfield Road were killed and over 12 were injured. [149]

1941 March 14: Night raider down at Ockley: One of the German bombers which made widespread attacks over Britain on Wednesday night was brought down in flames at Ockley a short distance from the Sussex border having been attacked by a night fighter. One of the crew bailed out, was captured and taken to hospital whilst the dead body of another who also took to his parachute was found by members of the Home Guard. Three other members of the crew were found dead in the crashed plane.[150]

1941 March 25: Westcott: One batch of 700 incendiary bombs were dropped into open country near Coast Hill, Westcott. (Another 85 were dropped on Westcott during the war)[151]

1941 April 4: Westcott: An incident at Westcott was described by PC Hamilton where a light was left showing from a house causing a hostile crowd to gather. Stone were thrown at the house and several windows broken. Aircraft were overhead at the time. Mrs Heathcote of Main Road was fined £2.[152]

[147] Reports of Air Raid Incidents - Reigate Borough 1941-1942 Reigate Borough Police
[148] Reports of Air Raid Incidents - Reigate Borough 1941-1942 Reigate Borough Police
[149] http://www.reigatehistory.co.uk/bombs.htm
[150] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[151] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[152] Dorking in Wartime David Knight

1941 April 16: Reigate Borough Air Raid No 60 [153]
Air Raid Message Yellow Received 1257
Air Raid Message Purple Received 2100
Air Raid Message Red Received 2106
Bombs fell at 2202
Air Raid Message White Received 0459

At 2202 on the 16 April 1941 after having dropped a line of flares close to the north of Merstham boundary of Reigate Borough **2 HE bombs of 500lbs** calibre were dropped and exploded

1. At Wells Nursery at a point 100 yards west of the main "slow" London/Brighton railway line about 5/8 mile south west of Merstham railway station

2. At a point 150 yards due west of No 1 bomb (also in the nursery)

Casualties – injured:

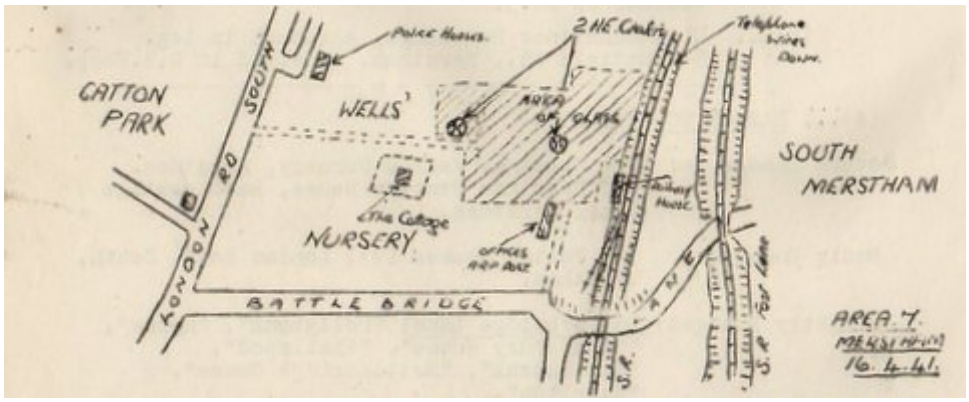
1. Mr Steadman shock, The Cottage, Wells Nursery, Merstham

2. Mrs Steadman slight cut on hand and shock – same address

3. Mr Waghorne, 2 cuts on head and shock, Old Merstham Station House, Battlebridge Lane

4. Miss Ruby Waghorne, cut on head and shock – same address as 3

5. Miss Constance Hutchings – shrapnel in leg, 50 Nutfield Road, Merstham – detained in E S Hospital



Severe damage: The Cottage, Wells Nursery, Merstham; Old Merstham Station House, Battlebridge Lane, Merstham
Badly damaged: The Police Houses (2) London Road, South Merstham
Slightly damaged: Battlebridge Lane: Hollybank, Mazoe, Shrewsbury House, Shellwood, Springbank, Battlebridge House, and Hazleton
Devon Road: Coombe Lawn, Denray, Elmdene, Harwell, and St Cyr
South Garden Close: Comberton
London Road South: Oak Tree Cottage, Ardene, Waveney, En-ephers (sic), Athalmere, Laleham and Maytrees

[153] Reports of Air Raid Incidents - Reigate Borough 1941-1942 Reigate Borough Police

The Crossways: Oakwood, Lynton, Royston, Burwood, Bankside, Woodford House, Kingston, Holmlyn, Raymond, Willowbank, Rockwood, Sunneybank, Galloway, Genister, Brentfield, Langham, Dorern, East View, Maisonette, Wander, Bagshot, Marylee, Kia Ora, Mowbray, The Corner, Birkenhead, Harcourt, Waverley, Mr Sargeant's Garage (spraying shed)

Nutfield Road: Shops: F Lilley, J Mitchell, The Bob Bon, JE Jones, Warr and Sons, Mildred House (2), H Chopping, Mainwood, Houses Rutland, Kerry, Ingleside numbers 53, 51,49,47,45.

Other houses in South Merstham: Glass damage only including Police Sergeant FW Stoneman's house, 18 Manor Road.

High Street Merstham: Shops: Uridges, Underwoods, Barwells, Clarke's, The Electricity Shop

Damage to Police Houses (in detail):

1. PC Erwin's house, London Road, Merstham- tiles off roof, back door off, inside door off, floor boards in kitchenette raised, ceiling down in scullery and windows broken

2. PC Godsmark's house London Road, Merstham (next door) tiles off, walls damaged, doors off and windows broken

3. Sgt. Stoneman's house 18, Manor Road, - windows broken and some internal damage of a minor nature.

Damage to Wells Nursery and ARP Warden's Post:
Four acres of glass greenhouses and garden lights destroyed. The offices which included the ARP Warden's Post were badly damaged and the car of Chief ARP Warden Mr T Hamer destroyed by (almost) a direct hit. On other car slightly damaged.

Evacuation: All dishoused persons accommodated at other houses nearby including police officers.

Special Note: Police and wardens message scheme brought into operation
Total damage: Two houses to be demolished, three seriously damaged but can be repaired, 103 slightly damaged, 112 with broken windows only. Three business premises one seriously damaged and two with windows broken, and four public buildings with windows broken

W. H. Beacher
Chief Constable and ARP Officer, Reigate Borough

1941 April 16: Westcott: Eleven high explosive bombs fell from Coombe Farm to Deerleap Road – all failed to explode. The last 1100-pound bomb fell in the garden of Miss M Bronsdon, Durfold, Westcott.[154]

[154] Dorking in Wartime David Knight

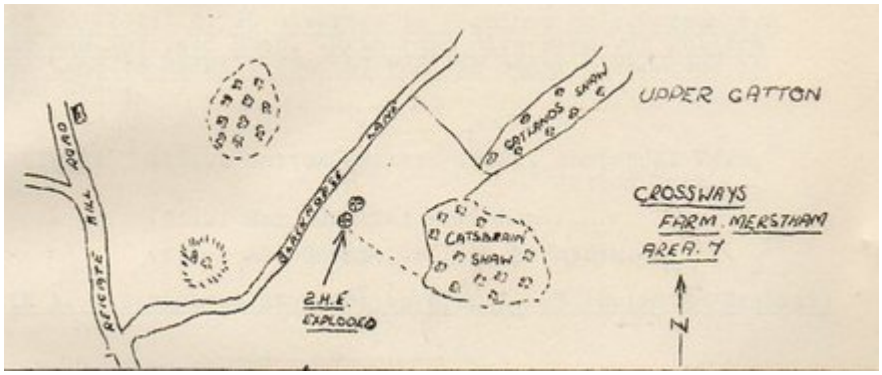
1941 April 19: Reigate worst night of the War when two parachute or land mines, were dropped at **Merstham,** one on Wells Nursery that failed to explode and the next morning was rendered harmless by the Admiralty Mine Squad. The second buried itself some 12 feet to the west of Battlebridge Lane and Nutfield Road exploding with such a devastating effect that ten people were killed and more than a dozen injured with 300 buildings destroyed.[155]

1941 Saturday April 19: Reigate Borough Air Raid No 61 [156]
Air Raid Message Yellow Received 2109
Air Raid Message Purple Received 2111
Air Raid Message Red Received 2145
Bombs fell at 2218
Air Raid Message White Received 0445

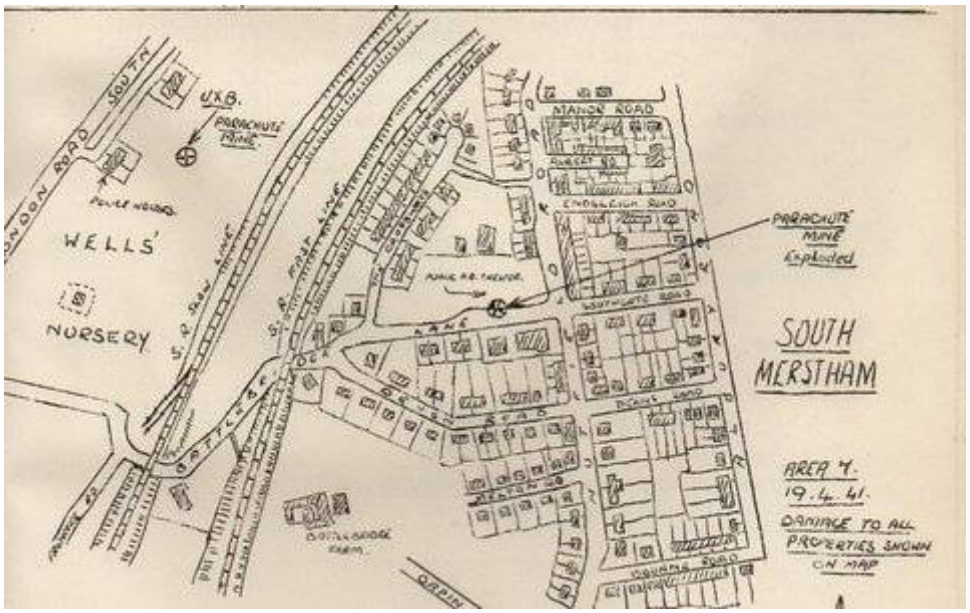
At 2218 two parachute mines of the largest type were dropped on Merstham one of which failed to explode

1. Fell on waste ground 15 yards from the junction of Battlebridge Lane/Nutfield Road/ Southcote Road. On descent the mine was ripped from the parachute, which became entangled in the branches of a tree thus when the mine made contact with the earth it penetrated some 12 feet before exploding, Crater 15 feet by 12 feet deep. Water main burst in crater.

2. Also fell in open ground at Wells Nursery approximately ¼ of a mile from No 1 and in a direct line – west/NW. Between the two parachute mines was the London to Brighton main line railway. This mine failed to explode; 3 feet 9 inches of the mine was buried in soft soil – the parachute was intact.



[155] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[156] Reports of Air Raid Incidents - Reigate Borough 1941-1942 Reigate Borough Police



Number 1 parachute mine was seen to descend by a War Reserve Police Officer who observed the parachute entangle itself in the branches of a tree. The effect of the explosion was to cause considerable damage to house property over a large area but no property was actually demolished.
Five of the seven people who lost their lives were waiting at a bus stop for a bus due at 2200. All five were found near the crater. A sixth person was killed driving a car, which came to rest about 8 feet from the edge of the crater although the car was not completely destroyed.

Deceased:

1. Corke William H, 46, Brook Road, S Merstham
2. Findlay Tony 104 Nutfield Road, S Merstham
3. Shepherd Wm. S Culverlands, Devon Road, S Merstham
4. Trussler Hannah 4 The Pavement, S Merstham
5. Baker Sarah All Saints Vicarage, S Merstham
6. Trussler Brian 4 The Pavement, S Merstham
7. Haigh Lance Corporal C. Royal Corps of Signals

Supplementary Report dated 24 April 1941:

8. Kemp Albert Horace CQMS aged 45 8th brigade AA HQ Signals at home on leave
9. Kemp Mrs Cecillia Florence age 42 4, The Pavement, S Merstham
10. Kemp Billy Arthur Stevens age 10 The Pavement, S Merstham

Supplementary Report dated 24 April: The Kemp family was believed to have perished in the incident from the articles of clothing found in the vicinity of the mine crater. It is understood that the family were in the habit of going to the public air raid shelter at Battlebridge, Merstham but usually went when the raid appeared to be noisy and not before the siren went. They accompanied the Trussler family on previous occasions and it is now thought that the Trusslers and Kemps were together going to the shelter when the parachute mine exploded.

The deceased Tony Findlay was a Warden's Messenger and it is assumed that he was on his way to the Warden's Post to report for duty when he met his death.

Treated at East Surrey Hospital:

1. Trussler Flt Sgt. 4 The Pavement, S Merstham
2. Baker Henry Grant The Vicarage, S Merstham
3. Baker Elizabeth The Vicarage, S Merstham
4. Bentley Rose 73 Nutfield Road, S Merstham
5. Elliott Emilie The Vicarage, S Merstham
6. Hart William 4 Manor Road, S Merstham
7. Worsfold Mary Ann, Sheila Battlebridge Lane, S Merstham

Treated at First Aid Post:

1. Bentley Percy Henry 72 Nutfield Road, S Merstham
2. Booker Alfred, 5 Manor Road, S Merstham
3. Brocklebank Audrey, Ivor House, S Merstham
4. Dench Donald Cecil, The Rest, Brook Road, S Merstham
5. Gumbrell Special Constable, 127 Albert Road, S Merstham
6. Martin Douglas, 5 Manor Road, S Merstham
7. Martin John, 5 Manor Road, S Merstham
8. Martin Donald, 38 Brook Road, S Merstham
9. Pocock Ruth, Ivor House, S Merstham
10. Shrubb Irene 75 Nutfield Road, S Merstham
11. Southwood Arthur Leonard, Lynwood Blackborough Road, Reigate
12. Willoughby Albert William 205, Albury Road, S Merstham

There were several others not named

War Reserve Dury, Reigate Borough Police is worthy of mention for the number of casualties (minor) he cared for rendering First Aid.

Police Casualties: No police officer sustained injury with the exception of Special Constable Gumbrell (shown above) who suffered a cut over the eye, but after attention was able to continue duty.

Damage to property:
Serious damage: properties in Nutfield Road, Southcote Road, Battlebridge Lane, The Crossways, Deon Road, Deans Road.

Supplementary Report dated 24 April: All Saints Church is not repairable until after the war. One house is now reported as completely demolished, four houses beyond repair and to be demolished. Three hundred including twenty shop premises seriously damaged but can be repaired during the war.

Slight damage: Properties in Endsleigh Road, Albert Road, Albury Road, Manor Road, Bletchingly Road, Brook Road, School Hill, High Street, Milton Road, Orpen Road, Ford Bridge and Bourne Road.

Police Property: There was damage to the houses of four police officers but no house was seriously damaged and all should be repairable within a few days.

Dishoused Person: At the time of the report the work of evacuation is still in operation. The approximate figure is given of 250 persons; 40 persons were evacuated in connection with the unexploded mine but are all now returned to their homes.

The Unexploded Parachute Mine: The parachute mine, which failed to explode was discovered at 0600 on the 20th. Evacuation was carried out in accordance with the Home Office Circular 700359/51. Traffic on the main A23 was diverted in the south via the B2035, The A25 also diverted in two ways according to the local and main road requirements.

A circular was issued on traffic diversion stops and alternate routes.

Railway Company was informed that all traffic on main London/Brighton line should be suspended but although loop line was stopped traffic continued on main line, which was within the specified area.

HM Admiralty Mine Squad reported at 100 hours and by 1150 hours had rendered the unexploded mine harmless; all traffic was resumed to normal, road diversions with drawn and temporary evacuated persons allowed to return home.

Military Aid was rendered throughout by a Canadian Unit in the district. Fifteen minutes after the explosion an officer of the unit volunteered his services with 15 men. This squad under the leadership of Mr Wickens Foreman Builder of Albert Road, Merstham rendered invaluable service in search and rescue work.

Feature of the raid: During the time of the raid several complaints were received that railway engines were passing with fireboxes not properly screened. A train had passed through just two minutes before the parachute mines fell; this also occurred in the previous raid (Wednesday 16th instant) when HE bombs fell immediately after a train passed. It will be noted that two parachute mines fell on ground either side of the line which to some extent substantiates the theory that he attack was directed on the railway.

Special mention is made of the services of the Merstham Wardens who visited houses in the vicinity of the incident especially the property, which had been seriously damaged and ascertained the position rendering First Aid where necessary to several minor casualties. It can be recorded that the wardens acted in a most reliable manner and were the means of restoring calm and rendering immediate help on a wide scale. They were indeed an example of a large voluntary body working as an efficient machine and all this under the most difficult conditions.

The Fire Brigade were in attendance and although no fires were cause they rendered great assistance to the Incident officer in the search of property etc.

The Stretcher Party under Mr Hatto carried out their duties with efficiency under arduous conditions

Rescue Party Squads were also faced with a difficult task which they overcame in their enthusiasm for hard work.

Gas Co arrived early and under the leadership of Mr Reeves completed their repairs in record time.

Water Co was also early on the spot but their greatest task was on the following morning where they repaired a main at the crater of parachute mine 1.

Special Note: On future occasions Services are reminded to park their vehicles without headlamps alight only small side lights and tail lamps should be left switched on. Despite difficult working conditions lamps should be kept masked by Search parties and the like.

At roadblocks Services going to the incident must take the route given by the officer blocking the road or by the Warden should he be in charge at the "block". There was an instance where a "Service" took no notice of the warden on duty at the Frenches Road block and this caused congestion and delay.

Account of the raid on Upper Gatton: At 2222 Saturday 19 April 1941 a large number, probably 300incendiary bombs fell in a line from Colley Hill, Reigate

At about the same time 2 HEs fell about 10 yards apart in a field at Crossways Farm, Upper Gatton, Reigate, about 40 yards south of Blackhorse Lane and about 500 yards from Crossways farm (in a westerly direction) with no damage, no casualties no cattle injured.

There were 5 direct hits by IBs on dwelling houses and fires broke out which were quickly extinguished by the Fire Brigade, soldiers and residents. Some of the IBs that fell in the district were of the explosive type.

Property damaged:
Clifton's Lane: Clifton's Cottage a hole in the roof, burnt landing; Colley Orchard burnt bedroom floor; Colley Corner Cottage burnt landing; Colley Corner IB lodged in roof.
Colley Manor Estate: High Rising burn hole in bedroom floor; Fair Ways through roof of garage, damaged hood of car; UX IB at Normanton Garage.

Casualty: Private Calbury Hastings and Prince Albert Regiment after an IB burst in his hand sustaining a cut finger. First aid rendered on the spot

Anti Aircraft Shells (Reigate and Redhill) During the above raid reports were received that two ant-aircraft shells had fallen one at Micklefield School, Somers Road, Reigate and the other at Grove Road, Redhill

The AA shell was successfully removed from Micklefield School by police and brought to Reigate Police Station. There was some damage to the roof where the shell entered.

The UX AA shell at Grove Road, Redhill pierced a gas main and caused a small fire, which was quickly extinguished. Gas Co attended immediately and repaired the main. No person injured.

Supplementary Report dated 24 April: Report on the UX AA Shell
Information to hand that a UX AA shell fell on the night 20 April at rear of rockery – 50 feet in fields from fence, Gatton Hall, Gatton, Reigate. Hole diameter seven inches by 8 feet deep.

W. H. Beacher
Chief Constable and ARP Officer, Reigate Borough

In a separate sheet dated 20th April 1941 and signed by HG Ash Chief Inspector are details of the road diversions as a result of the parachute bomb

A further attachment signed by Mr Davies Ton Clerk, Information Bureau, Town Hall, Reigate 20 April sets out a full casualty list including three unidentified bodies, females aged about 40 and 90 years and a boy of about 14. Their bodies were in the mortuary at 96, Cromwell Road, Redhill

The Borough Surveyor's report on the 19th April raid in the South Merstham area lists: 4 houses requiring demolition; 18 seriously damaged but capable of repair; 50 houses to be evacuated; 386 slightly damaged; 37 with just broken windows. Four business premises were also damaged as were 3 public buildings and 4 other buildings.

2012 April from Chris Atkins – a retired police officer: I recall the two parachute mines in South Merstham very well. The destruction over a wide area was enormous, as was the crater, and the church opposite went. The loss of life, in a village, was deeply felt. The unexploded one in a nearby market garden (Wells) far from being sealed off was visited by every schoolchild in the area and it looked like a torpedo stuck in the ground.

Merstham saw activity later in the war too. A string of HE bombs went across the are and fortunately landed on fields and missed the houses in between. At the latter end of the war two VE2's dropped in the parish, one harmlessly in woods near the village church, the other a direct hit on a large house resulting in deaths.

1941: Surrey Constabulary **reinforced** another area where they were experiencing severe bombing.[157]

1941 Early: Leatherhead between Hawkes Hill and Ashtead hundreds of incendiary bombs were jettisoned[158]

1941 Early: Four bombs fell on Charterhouse School, **Godalming** and another fell on the sewer in Hurtmore Road and failed to explode. Two soldiers who went to make it safe died when the bomb exploded.[159]

1941 early: Puttenham incendiary bombs fell on Priory Gardens[160]

[157] CC notes 1945 on the administration of the county police during the war.
[158]Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[159] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[160] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated

1941 January to March – serious incidents **Chobham, Bletchingly, Banstead and Oxted** and along the valleys of the Tillingbourne, Mole and Wey[161]

1941 4 February: A soldier with an automatic pistol **held up the pay box** at the Regal Cinema in Farnham on the night of the 4th February 1941 arriving when most of the money had been transferred to the manager's safe. He found only six shillings and eleven pence in the till.[162]

1941 May: Boy "Police Messengers" were employed (police cadets in the 1960s working in Guildford and Reigate Boroughs were often referred to as boy messengers) Twelve boys were enrolled using their own cycles and were issued with a uniform of blue dungarees, steel or fibre helmets and an arm band "Police Messenger". [163]

1939-1945: Guildford: Bert Hacker was a boy messenger[164] during the early part of the war when aged 15 undertaking voluntary duties on two evenings a week and on some weekends. He had a uniform similar to Service Dress but dark blue with a belted tunic. There was an oval cloth badge over the left pocket with "PAMS" thereon. Also the boys were issued with peaked caps, tin helmets and used their own cycles. Duties consisted of standing by at police stations and ARP posts to carry messages in the event of normal methods of communication being put out of action.
Note: PAMS wore a more modern and smart uniform than the police with a collar and tie and a jacket recognisable to a later generation of Police Cadets.

This is Messenger Bridger of the Reigate Borough Messenger Service. It seems PC Hacker wore a similar uniform[165]

[161] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[162] An Underworld at War
[163] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[164] Biographical note from Mr Hacker below
[165] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/

Surrey Constabulary PAMS badge

1941: A further plea for **policewomen** was rejected by the Guildford Watch Committee [166]

1941: Accommodation was acute and North Stree,t Guildford was retained as a central police station with the HQ functions being moved to **St Michael's, probably number 10 Albury Road** a quiet residential area off the Epsom Road. Finally twelve women were enrolled as members of the **Women's Auxiliary Police Corps** for administrative duties. **District Police Stations** or police posts were opened in Merrow, Woking Road, Woodbridge Hill, Westborough and Onslow Village.

1941 early: Leatherhead: Incendiary bombs fell in their hundreds from Hawks Hill to Ashtead, some properties lost but fire watchers dealt successfully with most.

1941 March12/13: Heinkel shot down **Ockley** – Oakwood Park – pilot bailed out and was captured another found dead in his parachute and four of the crew died in the plain. [167][168]

1941 March 19: Two land mines landed on **Leatherhead** killing one person and injuring 27. One exploded on St Andrew's Convent School injuring five nuns and destroying many of its buildings. The blast was so strong that the gymnasium of St John's School half a mile away collapsed.[169]

1941 9 April a **Heinkel 111** one of three hundred on route to attack Birmingham was attacked by RAF 264 Squadron and downed at Lodge Bottom, Busbridge,

[166] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[167] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[168] Dorking Museum display 2013
[169] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated

Godalming. (Also shown as Shepards Hanger, Busbridge, **Godalming)** three crew killed and a fourth taken prisoner.[170]

April 1941: Murder of Rachel Dobkin Harry Dobkin was the centre of a missing person enquiry when his estranged wife disappeared from London. During the enquiry, 23 April 1941, his wife Rachel's handbag was found in the General Post Office in North Street, Guildford by a member of the public and handed to the police. The police in Guildford held the bag for eleven days before the Metropolitan Police were notified due to a shortage of manpower and the demands of wartime policing. The purse contained a ration book, national identity card, comb, compact mirror and two railway tickets one issued at Kings Cross underground station and the other a ticket purchased at Westminster for a journey to Richmond. The date of the tickets was established as being issued before 0730 on Saturday 12 April which given the known facts at the time seemed to indicate that Mrs Dobkin had not been murdered by her husband.[171]

Dobkin had murdered his wife on the night of the 11/12 April and to thwart investigators he purchased the train tickets found in the handbag travelling to Guildford to leave it there in the post office.

Later a skeleton was found in London, which proved to be Mrs Dobkin leading to Dobkin was convicted of the murder and on the 27 January 1943 he was hung in Wandsworth Prison

1941 April 16: At 0115 a Junkers 88 was shot down crashing on Thorns Flush, **Cranleigh** with all the crew killed. The same British crew then shot down a Heinkel 111, which broke up in the air over Petworth Road, **Wormley**. One of the crew was taken prisoner. [172]

1941 April 19: Reigate worst night of the War when two parachute or land mines, were dropped at **Merstham,** one on Wells Nursery that failed to explode and the next morning was rendered harmless by the Admiralty Mine Squad. The second buried itself some 12 feet to the west of Battlebridge Lane and Nutfield Road exploding with such a devastating effect that ten people were killed and more than a dozen injured with 300 buildings destroyed.[173]

1941 May 11 Dorking: Nineteen high explosive bombs fell in a long line among trees and bracken on Ranmore Common.[174]

1941 May 12: A bomb fell on Addison Road, **Guildford** killing one person seriously injuring four and caused extensive damage to more than 100 homes. The crater was 32 feet in diameter and 10 feet deep. [175]

1941 May 24: Dorking: Seven high explosive bombs fell in the Pixham Lane mostly on railway land but without damaging the line.

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[170] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[171] Dark City -Crime in Wartime London 2010 Simon Read Ian Allen page 11 et seq
[172] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[173] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[174] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[175] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated

1941 September 5: Tom Roberts called to **Weybridge** where the murdered body of an eighty year old woman had been found in The Shelter, Towers Walk. A man had

been seen on the ground surrounded by wine and spirit bottles near the gate of the house. Another man lying drunk in army uniform was found in the house on the scullery floor. Police were called and the house was found to be in great disorder. The main bedroom door was locked but there was no key in the door so a policeman climbed in through the window and found the body of Miss M E Salmon in her nightdress. There had been an unsuccessful attempt to strangle her and that she had fought for her life although suffering a number of injuries from a severe beating. There was a glass in her hand and nearby was a bottle of brandy. The men were arrested and the one in uniform was found to be a Canadian with jewellery and other valuables from the house in his pocket. The second man was a merchant seaman Cussack who had once been employed by the victim and had a key to the house, which he could use with the consent of the victim who had given him money over the years. He also had stolen property from the house in his pockets. Both men had become friendly and after the event sought to blame the other. The first trial was at the Central Criminal Court on 16 January 1942 but soon Cussack was to die of pulmonary tuberculosis. The second trial of McDonald started on the 21 January and he was found not guilty in what was seen to be a very surprising decision. McDonald returned to Canada where he was killed in a road accident shortly after his return.

In 1937, Professor Keith Simpson was appointed the medico-legal advisor to the Surrey Constabulary, and by the early 1940s he was involved in the examination of

wartime crimes. One day, a reclusive elderly woman was found dead in her locked, barricaded bedroom. The key lay on the floor inside. She held a glass of brandy tightly in her hand, as if she'd simply fallen, yet from bruises on her face and head, she had clearly been assaulted; more suspicious, her jewellery cases were open and empty. Two suspects, a drunken seaman and a soldier were found on the property with her jewellery in their pockets. It seemed possible that they had entered to batter and rob her, and she had then barricaded herself inside her room. Yet Simpson decided the extent of her injuries would have hindered her from setting up the barricade. So how had it happened? The incident proved a challenge to reconstruct, but eventually the investigators surmised that one of the men had knocked the victim down in her room and tried unsuccessfully to strangle her. He had second thoughts and possibly used the brandy to try to revive her. Failing that, he had staged the scene with the barricade to make it appear less lethal. To see if this was possible Simpson helped with an experiment that proved that the barricade could have been rigged from the other side of the locked door, and the key slid under it. With this evidence and the victim's condition, it was not difficult to get the pair of killers to confess that they had indeed killed the woman.

However, one died before trial, so the other threw all the blame on his deceased partner. With no evidence to the contrary, there was reasonable doubt and he was acquitted.

1941 September 21 Dorking: A British plane crashed near Dorking Town Station just north of the railway line.[176]

1941 November 16: Tony Davie: P.C. Storey was on duty and riding his bicycle in Churt on 16th November 1941 when he fell off. It is not known what caused him to fall and it was dark at the time. As he lay in the road he was run over by a local taxi. He died, of a fractured skull, later that day in Farnham County Hospital, aged thirty-five years. His daughter, June, was nine and a half years old at the time. PC Storey joined the Surrey Constabulary at the age of twenty-one years. He married Miss Elsie Violet Foster at Hastings two years after joining. He was stationed at Oxted and Ockley near Dorking before being posted to Churt and was there some four years prior to his death. He was a member of the local Working Men's Club and played cricket for the village as well as playing bowls for the police. He was also a keen golfer. Mr G. Willis Taylor, H.M. Coroner for West Surrey, conducted the inquest at Farnham Court House. Superintendent S.D. Cox was in attendance. Mrs Elsie Violet Storey who was at her husband's bedside when he died gave evidence of identification. She also stated that he left home with his bicycle at 6pm on the evening of 16th November. He was well and his bicycle was in good order. Mrs Lillian Falk, Barford Mill, Churt deposed that P.C. Storey had called upon her a between 7.20 and 7.30pm. She had a conversation with him and he seemed quite all right. He was wearing a long black mackintosh and helmet. It was a bad night. William John Tester told the inquest that he was a public service vehicle driver and knew the road well. He was driving an Austin 18hp taxi from Hindhead towards Farnham at about 8pm on Sunday evening. He had passed Churt Green and was proceeding downhill at about 25mph when he felt a bump as if he had gone over something. He stopped and went back to find that he had struck P.C. Storey who was lying in the road. P.C. W.R. Bacon from Hindhead attended the scene with Sergeant Govey. A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

P.C. Storey's funeral took place at Hastings Borough Cemetery. He was born in Hastings and his father was a pensioner of the Hastings Borough Police. He had been a pupil at Ore School, Hastings. He joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and served aboard H.M.S. Sovereign and H.M.S. Barham during the war. (He was lucky not to have gone down with the Barham, which was sunk by enemy action) Floral tributes from Mr Lloyd George, the former Prime Minister, who lived in Churt and Sir Walter Napier, rested on the coffin, which was draped, with the Union Jack. Superintendent S.D. Cox of Farnham represented the chief constable and was accompanied by Sergeant J. Govey, Hindhead. Bearers included PCs Holbrook and Forehead from Farnham, P.C. Spiers, Tilford, PC Collins, Frensham, PC Freeman, Hindhead and PC Deacon of Camberley. Acting Chief Constable W. J. Buddle, Inspector A. J. Tapp, P. S. F. Rummery and PCs Gorringe, Collins and Kitney represented the Hastings Borough Police. Floral tributes included those of the chief constable of Surrey, the officers and men of the Surrey County Constabulary, officers and men of the Farnham Division, Hindhead Section and `C` Division Surrey Constabulary. PC Storey's will had been witnessed by Police Constable Ernest Hall,

[176] Dorking in Wartime David Knight

(later ACC) and P.C. H. Galloway in 1928. As a result of this accident police officers were issued with white gaiters for use when riding bicycles.

1941 November: PC Sivill Guildford Borough was commended for his prompt action in carrying out artificial respiration and saving the life of a man charged with attempted suicide. [177]

1941-1942 POW Camp at Merrow, Guildford [178]: War duties for the police were broadly based and extensive and there is little doubt that over the years of its existence the camp at Merrow would have caused concern and work for the police. The camp was originally built in 1941-42 to house Italians from the North Africa campaign and only later in the war did it house German POWs. It consisted of a series of huts terraced into the slope of the Downs west of the Golf Club on four corners of the camp were outlook towers. Even today traces of the camp can still be seen including the main entrance road to the camp and a levelled area that was used for football matches. Some of the prisoners worked clearing ditches and carrying out road maintenance or helping at local farms and market gardens. Gradually, after the war, prisoners were given more freedom, such as going into Guildford unescorted. The huts were also used for a while after the war as temporary housing for local people. The camp was demolished in the early 1950s.

The Merrow Downs camp was designated Camp No 57 Working Camp and was graded Grey. This referred to the type of prisoners held there, graded by a colour patch, which was worn on their uniform. White or grey patches meant the person in question was not an ardent Nazi and had no strong feelings either way. The real hard-core Nazis wore a black patch and included most Waffen SS prisoners and U-boat crews.

In October 1945 the main camp housed the Italian Labour Battalion with German POWs in three hostels in the area. By June 1946 61 Germans were housed with the Italians in the main camp and the number of German housed in 6 local hostels had risen to 2512. It was also noted that the arrival of 'black' prisoners including 30 Waffen SS soldiers had led to difficulty with existing White/Grey POWs.

By the September all the Italians had gone but as late as March 1948 540 prisoners were still living in the main camp, with a further 242 in hostels and 35 in billets. By this time several prisoners had received diplomas in English and were studying a wide range of courses at Guildford Technical College. A number of prisoners held in Britain never went home to Germany, marrying English girls and settling in this country.

1941 December 5: Fatal RTA Coast Hill, Westcott: A man riding a cycle on Coast Hill was crushed and killed instantly by being struck by a 25 pounder gun – towed by a tractor – which was coming down the hill. After passing the cyclist the tractor crashed into a car, which was wrecked although two occupants escaped with severe bruises and cuts.[179]

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[177] They Guarded Guildford by Richard Ford Surrey 1969 internal publication Surrey Constabulary
[178] http://www.merrowresidents.org.uk/historypowcamp.htm
[179] Dorking in Wartime David Knight

1941 Christmas Camberley: There were numerous battles between British troops and the Canadians. Some pretty bad fights were reported between men of the Black Watch and No 1 Canadian Armoured Corps Reinforcement Unit in Camberley. It was reported that the adjutant of the Scottish troops told his men not to come back with black eyes but to "Let the Canadians have it." The men went further than their officers intended and took bayonets with them when they went to meet the Canadians who came in trucks into the town. The anticipated fight began and the Black Watch drew their bayonets causing the Canadians to flee the town. The fight was continued some days later when men from both sides got drunk and fighting took place all over the town with broken bottles being used by the Scots. In the same series of incidents two Royal Canadian Dragoons were knifed and one is said to have died form his injuries although there is no corroboration of this story.[180]

1942 January: The Standing Joint Committee authorised fifty women to be enrolled in the **Women's Auxiliary Police Corps** – eighty were eventually enrolled.[181]

1942 Newdigate: (Internet) I was just three years old staying in my aunt and uncle's bungalow in Newdigate, (they were working in a local munitions factory). My mother and baby sister were there from South London with me. It was a lovely sunny day, I was in the garden playing when the **Doodlebug** engines cut out and it came down in the field next to the bungalow. The lady (Emily) in the next bungalow gathered me up from the garden and took me into her home and we hid beneath the table, whilst all the soil thrown up from the exploding bomb settled. My mother and sister were trapped beneath a large porcelain sink they had hidden beneath as the roof was blown off the Wood's bungalow by the explosion. My legs were cut by flying glass otherwise I was excited by the event, but mother refused to settle and insisted my father collected us and so we spent the war years, particularly the Battle of Britain period, in the safety of our cellar in Balham.

1942: Further police posts were established at various points in the Guildford Borough including Kingspost, London Road. A third of the force was standing-by at these posts during the night together with members of the Special Constabulary. The posts were equipped with beds, blankets and emergency tools and equipment.

To be continued

[180] "The Gentlemen at War" Policing Britain 1939-1945 Roy Ingleton Cranborne Publications 1994 page 333

[181] CC notes 1945 on the administration of the county police during the war.