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

July 2022
www.surrey-constabulary.com

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

Surrey Constabulary History 90

3 July 1911 Holmwood Common plane crash[1]

[1] The Lost Villages of the Holmwood Kathy Atherton 2015

Contents

About 1970 outside Debenhams, Guildford - Left in patrol car PC John Parsons with PC Bernie Buck stationed Farnham Traffic (Was Bernie asking how you turn the heater up?)

Surrey Police Retired Comrades Association
Remembering Those Who Have Died Since the 2021 Annual General Meeting up to 21 June 2022

Liam Horley	**Serving Police Constable**	**06/08/2021**
Kenneth 'Tarry' Barriball	Retired Police Sergeant	07/08/2021
Brian Goodwright	Retired Police Staff (Caretaker Woking)	12/08/2021
Dorothy Allen	Wife of retired Police Sergeant James Allen	19/08/2021
John House	Retired Police Inspector	01/09/2021
Judith Hockley	Wife of retired Police Constable John Hockley QPM	02/09/2021
William 'Bill' Kirk	Retired Chief Inspector	23/09/2021
Sharon Kingston	Retired Police Sergeant	28/09/2021
Pamela Crockett	Wife of retired Detective Constable Terry Crockett	29/09/2021
Phillip Carter	Retired Detective Constable	07/10/2021
David Dobson	**Serving Police Staff - Retired Police Officer**	**31/10/2021**
Clifford 'Cliff' Cox	Retired Police Constable	01/11/2021
Leonard (Len) Rickard	Retired Detective Chief Superintendent	03/11/2021
Mrs Una Breckell	Wife of retired Superintendent Geoff Breckell	26/11/2021
Mrs Martha Gilbert	Retired Police Staff	30/11/2021
David Crossley	Retired Police Inspector	06/12/2021
Anthony Burbidge	Retired Police Sergeant	05/12/2021
Robert Sinden	Retired Police Sergeant	22/12/2021
Yvonne Peach	Retired Police Staff (Communications Officer WF)	26/12/2021
Janet Reardon	Widow of retired Police Constable David Reardon	28/12/2021
Thomas (Tom) Farndale	Retired Police Constable	14/01/2022
Vivian Nicholas	Widow of retired Police Sergeant Eric Nicholas	18/01/2022
Nicholas (Nick) Brent	Retired Superintendent	22/01/2022
Brian Cutler	Retired Chief Inspector	27/01/2022
Mrs Kim Gibbins	Retired Police Staff	04/02/2022
Michael Wenn	Retired Police Sergeant	05/02/2022
Jeffery (Jeff) Bloomfield	Retired Chief Inspector	08/02/2022
Calvert Peters	Retired Police Constable	14/02/2022
Mrs Mollie Dearmer	Wife of retired Police Sergeant Derek Dearmer	22/02/2022
Leslie (Les) Page	Retired Police Constable - Dog Handler	11/03/2022
Dale Grater	**Serving Police Staff**	**11/03/2022**
David Cresswell	Retired Police Constable	31/03/2022
Michael James	Retired Police Community Support Officer	03/04/2022
Mary Trolley	Widow of retired Police Constable Michael Trolley	07/04/2022
Marion Coleman	Retired Police Staff	12/04/2022
Michael Rush	Retired Police Staff	24/04/2022
Tina Andrews	Retired Police Constable	03/05/2022
Richard Poulton	Retired Police Inspector	08/05/2022
Ivan Bushnell	Retired Chief Inspector	13/05/2022
Patrick Depper	Former Surrey Police Sergeant	14/05/2022
Keith Carpenter	Retired Police Constable	27/05/2022
Richard (Dick) Priestley	Retired Police Constable	06/06/2022
Heather Milner	Retired Police Constable	17/06/2022

POLICE INSPECTOR

WILLIAM DONALDSON

MEMORIAL

Photograph courtesy of Haslemere Museum

MEMORIAL GREEN - HASLEMERE

SUNDAY 31st July 2022 | 12:00

TO MARK THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF THE FIRST SURREY CONSTABULARY POLICE OFFICER TO BE KILLED ON ACTIVE DUTY, DURING THE HASLEMERE RIOT IN 1855

The story and death of **Inspector William Donaldson** is commemorated every year to remember the first police officer in Surrey to lose his life in the line of duty.

Inspector William Donaldson was violently assaulted by Thomas Woods and others on the night of 29 July 1855. Woods and his mates had been drinking hard in the Kings Arms in Haslemere High Street on this Saturday night. With some of their friends detained in the local

lock-up, (on the ground floor of what is now the Town Hall) a confrontation with the Inspector followed.

Woods hit Donaldson with an iron bar, and others joined in the assault. Donaldson later died of his injuries, Constable Freestone injured, and the local doctor assaulted.

The labourers fled but were soon rounded up, and eventually sentenced to terms of hard labour, penal servitude and, for Woods who somehow managed to escape the death penalty, 20 years transportation to Australia, during which he died.

This year's memorial gathering will take at 1200 noon on Sunday 31 July in the memorial garden in front of Haslemere Town Hall when William's Great, Great Grandson Henry Pelham will be joined by local community leaders, serving and retired Surrey Police Officers to reflect on William's sacrifice and lay wreaths at the memorial to him.

Retired and serving colleagues are very welcome to attend this simple and meaningful ceremony.

Tony Suter

SPRCA Welfare Coordinator

Introduction of Girl Cadets into the Surrey Constabulary

On his return to the force in September 1966 from the Special Course at Bramshill, Geoff Todd was as a sergeant, posted to Training where he remained until early 1967. It was during this period that there was the first intake of Girl Cadets. A course for the new cadets was held at Grafham, formerly village school on the A281 that was purchased from Surrey County Council by the Guildford Diocese and became a Church Youth Leader Training Centre. The centre was run by a Mr Richardson, father of future police officers Wayne and Andy.

Peter Wickens, in late 1964, was moved from Bagshot to Guildford and in early 1965 was called to Deputy Chief Constable Ted Post's office and told that he would start a three-month attachment of two days a week to assist with Cadet Training. (He was then on an attachment to Traffic at Burpham.) At the end of the Burpham attachment Peter was posted full time to Training. Recruitment of Cadets was going to increase and would include 11 girls. A one-month residential course was devised, and these took place September 1966 at Grafham, Nr Bramley which included the first girls. It should be recalled that Cadet training at this stage was not overly structured with the lads being posted to divisions or HQ and what they got up to was left to their local superintendents. They did however have regular training at HQ which heavily concentrated on physical development, swimming and drill. In Guildford in the early to mid 1960s the boy clerk or cadet was allowed out on patrol with PCs on foot or J35. The

silver and gold awards of the Duke of Edinburgh was an important aspect of the development including community service. (This could be as difficult as assisting disabled children at a camp for two weeks at Woodlarks, near Farnham where there were several Swedish girl guides also helping!)

When he became a cadet Andy Richardson a future superintendent, attended a cadet training course there. Andy wrote, "Believe it or not it was also my home, and I was not allowed to sleep in my own bed!"

Gwen Crossan or Gwen Cheshire as she was then can recall eleven girl cadets started in September 1966. They were Gill Andrews (Boscombe), Chris Collins, Judith Campion (Carrol), Ann Gilbert (Mappley), Linda Griffiths, Brenda Martin (Holt), Rose Ward, Claire Wheldon (Weedon), Wendy White, Pauline Witham (The late Dave Lambert). Other early girl cadets were Jan Porter (Radley); Sue Baker (Transferred to City of London), Pauline Collins who left the Job early.

The first girls, recalls Gwen, were posted to divisions. She went to Walton on Thames and spent a lot of time on front office and CID duties living in Weybridge women's section house. There were several interesting community attachments, some of which were for our Duke of Edinburgh Silver and Gold awards, plus Silver Expedition to New Forest, with Peter Wickens and I think Des Flanders and Gold Expedition to Snowdon, with Benita Holman and Sid Crowhurst.

The first of the Force Cadets

This 'Photo From The Past' was taken in 1966 and shows our very first Force Cadets.
Chief Superintendent Peter Wickens (in the centre, middle row) has been able to name most of the group — perhaps some of our readers can help to fill in the gaps.
For added interest those individuals marked with a number 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 indicate that those officers later became the wives of the following serving officers:
1 DC Lambert, 2 Inspector Roger Weedon, 3 PC Holt, 4 Superintendent Crossan, 5 Superintendent Carroll.
Wendy White, 3 Brenda Martin, Colin ?, Paul Coote, ? Williams, 4 Gwen Cheshire, Rosemary Ward, 5 Judy Campion, 1 Paulene Witham, Martin Field, 2 Clare Weldon, ?, Peter Wickens, Gill Andrews, ?, Christine Collins, Steve Firman, Des Flanders, Pet Griffiths, Linda Griffiths, ? Cresswell, Insp Green, Sergeant Todd, Chris ?, Anne Gilbert, Harry ?, Fred James.

Not sure why these are referred to as :The first of the Force Cadets" as there were lads in post from the 1950s and before that many were employed as "Boy Clerks." Should of course read "The First Girl Cadets." Peter Wickens wrote: "The Royal Commission in 1960 had increased Police Pay (I think it went to £490 pa as starting PC) but recruiting after 5 years had 'cooled'. Over 20% of recruit PCs in Surrey were Cadets. My initial course at Sandgate in 1961 had five

Surrey Cadets out of the 11 students. It was decided to increase the boys to 70 and start some girls to help recruiting of constables. The ex-Cadets on my Sandgate course were Peter Stevens, David Shepherd, Nicholas Brent, Brian Richardson and myself. We were all in the same class under Surrey Sergeant Jack Packham.

Peter Wickens standing, and Police Sergeant Geoff Todd sat alongside Inspector Green.

PC Fred James at the front who was involved in cadet training on the Eastern Division

problems with which Sergeant Dave Hor- Dave is on extension 3290 at Cramlegh. the best for the future.

The first of the Force Cadets

This 'Photo From The Past' was taken in 1966 and shows our very first Force Cadets.

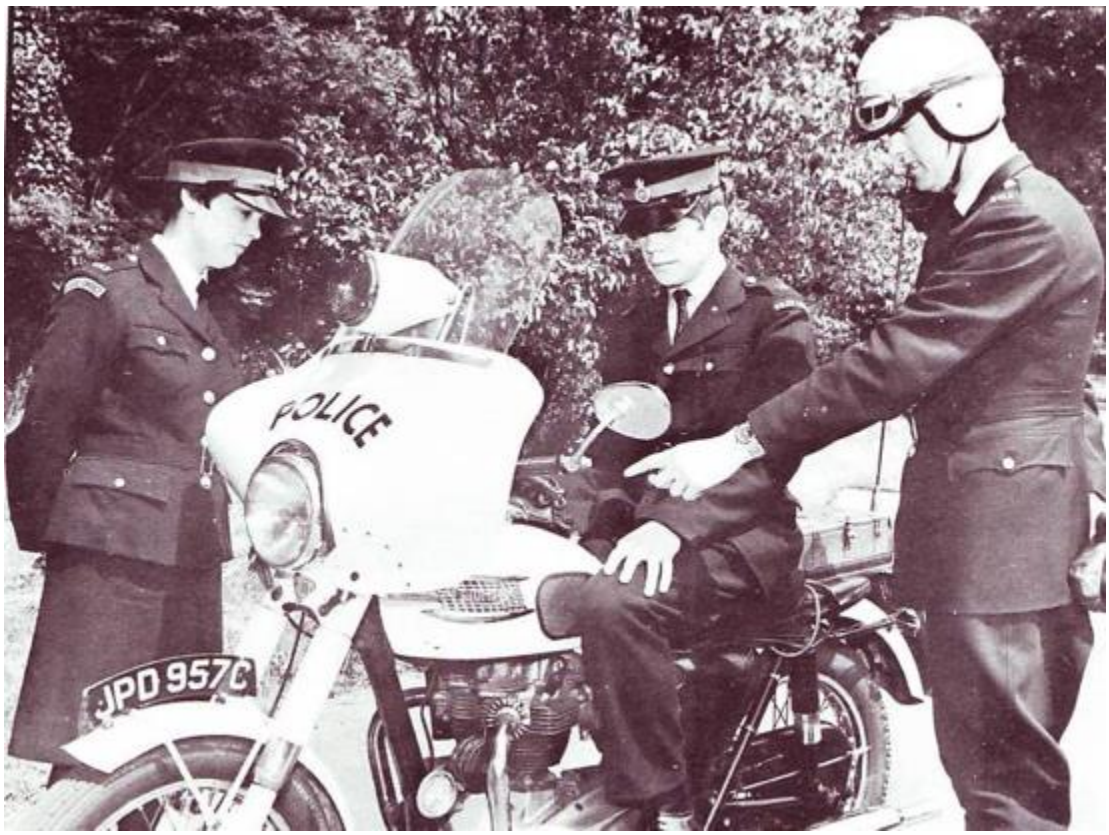
Chief Superintendent Peter Wickens (in the centre, middle row) has been able to name most of the group — perhaps some of our readers can help to fill in the gaps.

For added interest those individuals marked with a number 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 indicate that those officers later became the wives of the following serving officers:

1 DC Lambert, 2 Inspector Roger Weedon, 3 PC Holt, 4 Superintendent Crossan, 5 Superintendent Carroll.

Wendy White, 3 Brenda Martin, Colin ?, Paul Coote, ? Williams, 4 Gwen Cheshire, Rosemary Ward, 5 Judy Campion, 1 Paulene Witham, Martin Field, 2 Clare Weldon, ?, Peter Wickens, Gill Andrews, ?, Christine Collins, Steve Firman, Des Flanders, Pete Griffiths, Linda Griffiths, ? Cresswell, Insp Green, Sergeant Todd, Chris ?, Anne Gilbert, Harry ?, Fred James.

Girl Cadet Leslie Croxon joined the force in May last year. She lives in the hostel at Guildford and her family live in Redhill. She enjoys tennis and reading and is learning to drive. Leslie has a brother in the Army stationed at Aldershot who is soon, she told us enviously, on his way to a posting in the Virgin Islands.



1967 PC Eric Darnell Burpham Traffic

Cadet Jackie Hough working in Crime Bureau 1971

Must be 1970s with those trousers!

BARRY'S in good hands

Barry King from Headquarters has recently been in hospital for a hip operation.
He is certainly being well cared for at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, and is seen here with Nurse Carol Attfield (daughter of Chief Superintendent Gerry Attfield), and Cadets William Tubby and Carol Tapping.
Bill and Carol are doing their 'public service' at the hospital as part of their Cadet Training.
All best wishes to Barry for a speedy recovery.

Outside "cadet housing" Mount Browne

Girl Cadets 1970s with PS Chris Kay

Chris Kay: I can say however, that in the cagoule photo, the girl immediately right and slightly behind is Bonita Legge who later worked on the staff in the east of the county for some time. To my left and slightly behind is Di Bone, who married a police officer and to her left and smiling brightly as she always did, is Janette Gilmore. In front of me and to my left is Maxine Jolly and to her right is Teresa Ince (I think).

Girl Cadets 1970s

1978 Cadets induction course with Police Sergeant John Walters

The colour party left to right:–

P.C. Anthony Peach, P.C. Bob Brown, Girl Cadet Maxine Jolly and Cadet Paul Lovell.

Guildford Cathedral installation of the Special Constabulary window

LEARNING TO SWIM

As part of their training 10 Surrey Girl Cadets have completed their initial training in Life saving. To mark their progress they were recently presented with their Royal Life Saving Society Intermediate Award by the Chief Constable, after an average of 10 hours instruction. The girls will now go on for their Bronze Medals.

Some of the Surrey Mermaids are – left to right: Diane Bone, Sandra Wright, Helen Bicknell, Janet Gilmore, Maxine Jolly, Margaret Sellers and Hilary Downs.

LIFE SAVING AWARDS FOR SURREY GIRLS

Life Saving awards were recently awarded to some Surrey girls who have been receiving regular tuition and training for the past 12 months from Sergeant Chris Kay.

At the commencement of their training some of the award winners were total non swimmers or non proficient swimmers.

Left to right: PC Sandra Wright, Cadet Teresa Ince, PC Maxine Jolly, Cadet Leslie Pollinger, Cadet Denise Hennessy, Cadet Mary Gorringe, PC Linda Paradise, Cadet Pam Baston. Centre back: PS Christopher Kay.

1976

September 1981 Cadet 27 Liz Marshall and Cindy Brown (right)

Anne Pratt

Cadet housing at HQ

Chief Constable Peter Matthews and Commissioner David Mcnee

Adventure Training Karen Evans; Les Vincent; Richard Solman; Noel Hogan; Trevor Greenwood; Jackie Blacklaws; Jenny?; Louise Dunning; Ann Pratt.

Cadets HQ 1978

1978 Mount Browne

You get some strange jobs in the Surrey Cadets! Maggie Sellars from Guildford is seen here at Upper Ifield Farm – Dunsfold, posing for pictures with a very well behaved, if a little large, lamb!! They were both lapping up some of our Spring sunshine – let's hope it lasts!

Photo by courtesy of Cassidy/Leigh

Camberley

The last Surrey Cadets at Mount Browne in May 1981 Left Simon Groves, Mark Adams, Martin Blackpool, Liz Marshall, Dave Thomas, Dave Rush, Shirley Currie

Inverted Chevron

1927 Reigate Borough Carnival

The inverted stripe is most likely awarded to a Merit Class constable. As set out above in 1926 PC28 Ingram was granted the **Merit Badge** for special diligence leading to the arrest of two housebreakers. It is therefore likely that this photograph features PC Ingram. Nationally the recognition for this award was not unusually an inverted chevron worn on the opposite sleeve to a duty band. Looking at old photos of Reigate Borough Police officers there are only this photo and one of 1904 where such a stripe is worn. With so many forces and many of them policing small boroughs local chief officers and in a borough Watch Committees would designate insignia as suitable.

In many police forces chevrons were used to indicate a length of service. As an example, with the Glamorgan Constabulary, no chevron with less than two years' service.....Constable.

One Chevron indicated Constable Second Class (between 2- and 5-years' service),

Two Chevrons - Constable First Class (more than 5 years' service).

Two inverted chevrons with a Prince of Wales feathers badge.... Merit Class Constable.

These 'ranks' were connected to an incremental pay structure.

Reigate Borough Police 1904 with a merit stripe worn by the constable front left

Staffordshire Police 1944

From Glenn Bainbridge[2]; Original text can be found in the Staffordshire Records Office (presently closed, opening hopefully in two years' time).

[2] Member of PHS and agreed to publication in email to Robert Bartlett 7 April 2022

11th February 1944 General Order No. 7249. Wound Stripes and Chevrons for War Service

H. M. The King has authorised the institution of wound stripes and chevrons for war service. Members of all uniformed branches of the police service, i.e., Regular members, members of the First Police Reserve, whole-time and part-time members Special Constables. Police War Reserves, whole-time and part time members of the Women's Auxiliary Police Corps and the Police Auxiliary Message Service may be awarded these wounds stripes and chevrons. The awards are subject to the conditions set out in the Schedule attached to this General Order and the wearing of them is subject to the permission of the Chief Constable. The Chief Constable is pleased to approve the wearing of these chevrons and wound stripes on police uniform in all cases where members of the Force entitled to them. The issues will be made only to persons who are members of the Force at the time of issue but persons to whom issues are made may keep chevrons and stripes on leaving the Force and may such cases if they, wear then on plain clothes thereafter.

Chevrons and wound stripes will be similarly awarded for service in the Armed Forces, National Fire Service, Civil Defence General Service etc. Some members of the Force may have qualified for an award during the case of previous service in one or other of these organisations and in these cases the persons concerned will on proof of such service be permitted to wear on their police uniform the chevrons or wound stripes for which they have so qualified.

Superintendents should report giving their names of any such persons in their Divisions who, by virtue of service in one or other of the organisations named, have qualified for an award as set out in the preceding paragraphs and give particulars of Service in which such persons served, the place and length of service. Separate lists should be compiled in respect of each branch of the Force in accordance with the pro form as attached marked "A" and "B".

The Schedule to this General Order should be carefully studied and each Superintendent should submit, as soon as possible, lists of the members of his Division who are eligible for the award of wound stripes and/or chevrons in accordance with pro forma marked "B", "C" and "D". In some cases, full time members of the Force performed uniformed part time service in this Force prior to their becoming full time members and in cases of this nature reference should be made to the Schedule as regards aggregation of service. In including any such persons in the appropriate list particulars of previous service as a part-time Special Constable should be shown on the list e.g., with particulars of subsequent service as a Police War Reserve, and the total service of such person with the Force can then be aggregated. Many Special Constables now servicing in Group "A" have previously served in Group "B" and in these cases all the service since 3rd September 1939, will be aggregated for the award of chevrons. The same will apply in the cases of members of the Police Auxiliary Messenger Service some of whom were not serving in uniform when first appointed. In cases of Special Constables eligible for the award of chevrons who previous service as Special Constables in another Force particulars of such previous service should be shown on pro forma marked "A".

As regards wounds sustained during the present war, Superintendents must ensure that all the conditions affecting the grant of wound stripes are complied with before including any person's name on the lists of those eligible for an award. All members of the Force who are eligible for the award of wound stripe should make an application by report giving particulars of the Service in which the wound was received, the town where it was received, the type of wound and, as regards service in the Armed Forces, particulars of Regimental number, Rank and Unit and, where possible, submit proof of having been wounded. These reports should be forwarded with the appropriate pro forma.

It will be noted that "satisfactory evidence" must be forthcoming in respect of persons who sustained wounds during earlier wars. Further instructions are awaited as to what constitutes "satisfactory evidence" but in the meantime sufficient evidence should be forthcoming from Army etc. Discharge Certificates , documents in the possession in persons concerned, official announcement etc., officers etc. are filed with their personal with their personal files at this office In some use if Regular personnel Discharge Certificates are filed with their personel files at this office and these cases any necessary reference suppressed and in these cases any necessary reference to such Discharge Certificates will be made in due course, at this office but the names but the names of such men apparently eligible for an award should be included in the list with a note in the remarks column to the effect that the Discharge Certificates is at the office.

The wound stripes and chevrons may be worn laid down in the schedule to this General Order, on the serge jacket and tunic and sufficient stripes and chevrons will be issued in due course to enable this to be done. The correct manner of wearing these stripes and chevrons is laid down in the schedule and there should be no difficulty in arranging for them to be properly and neatly sewn on to the garments in question. Superintendents should examine the clothing to see that this is has been done.

By Order
G. W. R. Hearn
Assistant Chief Constable

Supt.

SCHEDULE

Wounds Stripes and War Service Chevrons in the Police Service

Wound Stripes

1 Description wound stripes will be of narrow braid, 1 ½ inches long and either gold or red in colour. A gold stripe may be worn to mark each occasion on which on individual has been wounded during the present war, one red stripe, and only one, may be worn by any individual who has been wounded while as a member of the Armed Forces in earlier wars.
Wound stripes should be worn vertically on the left sleeve, the first stripe midway between the two seams, the lower and 4 inches above the bottom of the sleeve. If both a gold stripe and red

stripe are worn; the gold stripe should be in position of the "first stripe" described above, and the red stripe half an inch to the rear of it. Additional gold stripes should be in front of the first gold stripe, at half inch intervals.

2 Qualifying injuries

(a) For the gold stripes

A wound stripe may be awarded: -

(1) For any injury sustained during this war that satisfies the following conditions: -

(i) It must be a "war injury" within the meaning of the Personal Injuries (Civilians) Scheme.

(ii) It must have been received in performances of duty as a member of the police service or another eligible organisation (see list at end of schedule)

(iii) It must have necessitated either

(a) The admission of the wounded person as an in-patient at a hospital or

(b) attention at a First Aid Post, or equivalent first aid treatment, together with subsequent medical treatment by a medical practitioner or as an out-patient at a hospital.

(iv) It must have incapacitated the person for duty (or in the case of a part-time member, his normal occupation) for a period of not less than seven consecutive days.

(2) For a wound sustained in the Armed Forces by a former sailor, soldier or airman who produces satisfactory evidence.

(b)for the red stripe A red wound stripe may be awarded in respect of one or more wounds sustained as a member of the Armed Forces during a previous war if satisfactory evidence is produced.

3. Award An application for a wound stripe to mark an injury sustained during a period of service in an eligible organisation outside the Police Service should be supported by satisfactory evidence that it is a qualifying injury. Where there is doubt whether on injury is a "war injury" it may be possible to settle the matter by reference to the Regional officer of the Ministry of Pensions, but all possible stops should be taken before have to establish the. Any reference to the Ministry of Pensions will be made from this office.

WAR SEVICE CHEVRONS

4. Descriptions Chevrons will be red in colour and 3/16 inch in width the arms ¾ inch long. One chevrons will mark each completed year of war service. They should be worn with the point upwards (i.e. the reverse of a rank chevron) on the outside of the Right sleeve midway between the two seams with the apex of the lowest chevron 4 inches above the bottom of the sleeve. Additional chevrons, after a first issue, to denote the completion of a further year's eligible service should take the form of a single extra chevron to be sewn above the existing chevron or chevrons.

5. Qualifying Service War Service will be reckoned from the 3rd September 1939, on the date of entry into the police service (or where service is aggregated, any of the other eligible organisations) whichever was later.

(a) Whole Time Service. All paid war service will count including absences with pay due to sickness, war injury or war service injury. Short periods of special leave without pay may be included, but periods of continuous absence without extending for more than eight weeks at a time should be excluded unless, during the period of absence, the member qualifies by virtue of part-time service. A period of suspension from duty should not be reckoned as qualifying service unless the individual returns to duty without having been found guilty of any offence.

(b) Part time Service. Any period will qualify during which a part-time special constable (or a part-time member of the Women's Auxiliary Police Corps or the Police Auxiliary Messenger Service) was willing and competent to perform his duties as such as did, in fact satisfactory perform whatever duties were properly required of him. Short interruptions of qualifying service during which an individual ceased to satisfy these conditions may be disregarded, but interruptions extending for more than eight weeks at a time must be excluded from the period of qualifying service unless; in the case or Special Constables, they were due to injuries sustained during, or illness arising out of the performance of police duty, or, in the case of part-time members of the Women's Auxiliary Police Corps or Police Auxiliary Messenger Service, due to war service injuries. In the latter category only the period during which supplementations was paid or would have been paid if there had been loss of earnings, should be reckoned as qualifying service.

Service after the 3rd September, 1939, which already been recognised by the award of a special Constabulary Long Service Medal or a bar will also qualify for the award of chevrons.
A period of suspensions from duty arising out of a report or complaint as to the conduct of a part-time member should not be reckoned as qualifying service unless the complaint proves to be unfounded.

Members of the Army Cadet Corps, Junior Training Corp, Air Training Corp and Sea Cadet Corps, who have undertaken regular turns of duty as police auxiliary messengers under the arrangements described in memoranda of 31st March 1942 and 21st May 1942, may qualify for the award of chevrons is respect of police service, but if after being trained the cadets did not undertake regular duty and were liable to be called out only on an alert being sounded, they will not be entitled to chevrons for their police service.

6. Aggregation of qualifying service. Whole time and part-time service with the police should be aggregated together and discontinuous periods of qualifying service should be aggregated. Qualifying Service in the Armed Forces or in any other eligible organisation should be aggregated with police service, provided that where a man his, during the same period, been a member of more than one service he will be entitled to only one chevron for any period of twelve months.

7. Award Chevrons will be issued in due course to all who have qualified for their award. It will not be necessary for individuals to make applications for them unless they desire to wear; on police uniform, chevrons that have been earned by past services in another eligible organisation. In such cases a short report; giving full particular; should be submitted.
The first award of chevrons will be a general one covering the period from 3rd September 1939, up to and including 31st January 1944, subsequent awards will be made whenever necessary to individuals as they complete each year of qualifying.

Reigate Borough Police
1864-1947

Third Extract

Murder Minnie May Wells and Lilly Mary

1894 October 22: Central Criminal Court. Minnie (23) was indicted for and charged on theCoroner's Inquisition with the wilful murder of Minnie May Wells.

Harriet Creasy: I am a widow, and live at 5, Worcester Cottages, next to the house occupiedby the prisoner and her father. I have known the prisoner eight years last December. On the 21st of May she went to London; she said she was going to the Lambeth Union to be confined.She returned home on Monday, 11th June. She was away three weeks; I saw her in the eveningwhen she came home. I had been minding her little girl, three or four years old, while she was away. She said someone was going to take the child; she was going to take it to London on thefollowing Monday, the 18th. On Sunday, the 17th, I saw her again between seven and eight in the evening. She brought the baby in to me to see it before taking it away on the following dayand said someone was going to adopt the child. She said, "Look at it for the last time; I am going to take it to London to-morrow". Mrs Ritchie was there at the time. On Monday, 18th, Isaw her again when she was moving her things, but I did not take much notice of her. I saw herin the garden. I was away all day at work. On the 18th I saw her when she came back from London, somewhere about eight. There was no train to Reigate at that time. One of my childrensaid she had come home. Mrs Ritchie called me, and I went in and saw the prisoner sitting byher side, looking wet and dirty. She said it was London mud. I don't think I said much to her. Iwent and got some things for her. She changed her things at Mrs Ritchie's. Her clothes were very wet and dirty; her boots and stockings were wringing wet, and there was red sand and dirt;it did not look like London mud. I took her and her little girl, four years old, into my house thatnight, to sleep in my children's bed. She had done so before when she had had words with thefather of the child, Ted Hurst. She stayed with me till the 21st when the police came and tookher.

James Brooks: I am a **day porter** at Lambeth Workhouse. On the 21st of May last the prisonerwas admitted to the workhouse by me. She gave the name of Minnie Wells. She was confinedin the house. When she left on the 11th of June, I asked her to produce the two children. She showed them to me, wrapped in a shawl on her left arm, and dressed in ordinary baby clothing.I afterwards saw the two bodies at Reigate Police-station. They were the same children that leftthe workhouse on 11th June with the prisoner. When she left, she told me she was going to Reigate.

Ellen Boust: I am a **midwife** at Lambeth Workhouse. On the 26th of May this year the prisonerwas admitted into the lying-in ward, and she was delivered of female twins. I saw them for sixteen days and washed and cleansed them. They were fairly healthy children. I was present when they were christened; one Minnie May, the other Lilly Mary. Minnie May was the largerof the two and had a wart near the right eye. On 25th June I saw two children's bodies and identified them as the two children of which the prisoner had been confined.

James King: I am **Inspector of Police at Reigate**. On the morning of 21st June, about half-past eight, Walden gave me information as to what he had seen in the moat; I went there and saw the body of the child partly floating in the water; I took it out and took it to the Police-station. The body was about eight feet from the parapet of the bridge. There is no current or stream in the water. When I got the body out of the water the hands were tightly clenched, anddrawn up close to the breast, and were full of black mud. The head and ears were also full of black mud. I noticed nothing else particularly then. When I took it to the station, I thoroughly examined it. There were no clothes on it whatever, it was quite naked. There were no marks ofviolence upon it whatever. In my judgment I should say it had been about forty-eight hours inthe water. There was a small mark on the right cheek, close to the lobe of the ear. It was a female child. There were four vaccination marks on the left arm.

George Jeffrey: I am a **police sergeant stationed at Reigate**. On 21st June, in consequence of information, I went to Worcester Cottages; I was in plain clothes. I saw the prisoner. I told her who I was and asked her if she had been delivered of a female child within the last two months. She replied, "Yes" I asked her if I might be allowed to see it. She said, "You can't do that; Mrs Brown, 113, Battersea Road, Chelsea, has adopted it, and taken it off my hands altogether" I asked her how she came to know Mrs Brown. She said, "By advertisement, but Icould not say in what paper" I asked her where she had been confined. She said, "In the lying-in ward at Lambeth, on the 26th of May last" She then told me that she handed the baby to Mrs.Brown at Charing Cross Railway Station on the 18th June. She said she had not seen the babysince. I told her she would have to go to the police station with me, where I should detain her until I had made further inquiries.

Next day, Friday, I tried to find 113, Battersea Road, Chelsea, but could find no such place. I went to 113, Battersea Park Road; that was not occupied by Mrs. Brown, but by a gentleman who had lived there eleven years. I then went to the Lambeth Union, and after making inquiriesthere I came back and saw the prisoner at the police station, where she was detained; that wason the Friday evening. I told her that I had been to London and found that

the statements she had made to me were false. She said she wished she had told the truth in the first place. Findingthat she was about to make a statement, I cautioned her in the usual way. I made a note of the statement at the time and have it here. After being, cautioned, she said, "On Monday, June 18th,I put the child in the moat some time before I saw Mrs Whitren. The other child was in the pond by Waterloo Park; I drowned that the same night. I can't give the time, but it was before I drowned the one in the moat. The one you found in the moat was Minnie May, and the otherone in Waterloo Park was Lilly Mary."

On the following morning, Saturday, about half-past seven I went to the pond in Waterloo Park.I saw the body of Lilly Mary floating in the water; head downwards, about two feet and a halffrom the road, and in about three feet of water, floating. The current was just above it. The legswere drawn up above the water and bent. There was a small piece of flannel round the body. With that exception there were no other clothes whatever. I noticed mud on the child; it was dirty. The colour of it was a bluey clay. I charged the prisoner on Friday, the 22nd, as to MinnieMary. I read the charge to her; she made no answer. On the following morning I charged her with the murder of the other child; she made no answer. I have made search for any clothes belonging to the children but have found none. I have made every possible inquiry but have not succeeded in finding them.

Charles Spencer Palmer. I am a **medical practitioner** at Redhill. On the 21st of June last, the body of a female child was handed to me by Inspector King. It had a wart in front of the right ear; the child was a few weeks old; six or seven. I made a post-mortem examination. It was very wet when handed to me. Death was due to drowning. I have no doubt, that it was alive at the time it was put into the water. On Saturday, the 23rd of June, the body of another female child was handed to me by Head Constable Moran at the police station. That body hada piece of flannel round the stomach. I made a post-mortem examination of the body and was satisfied that it had died from suffocation caused by drowning. The first child had been in the water from a day to two or three days, it was quite fresh. The second child had been in the water longer. The appearances were consistent with both the bodies having been put into the water on the 18th.

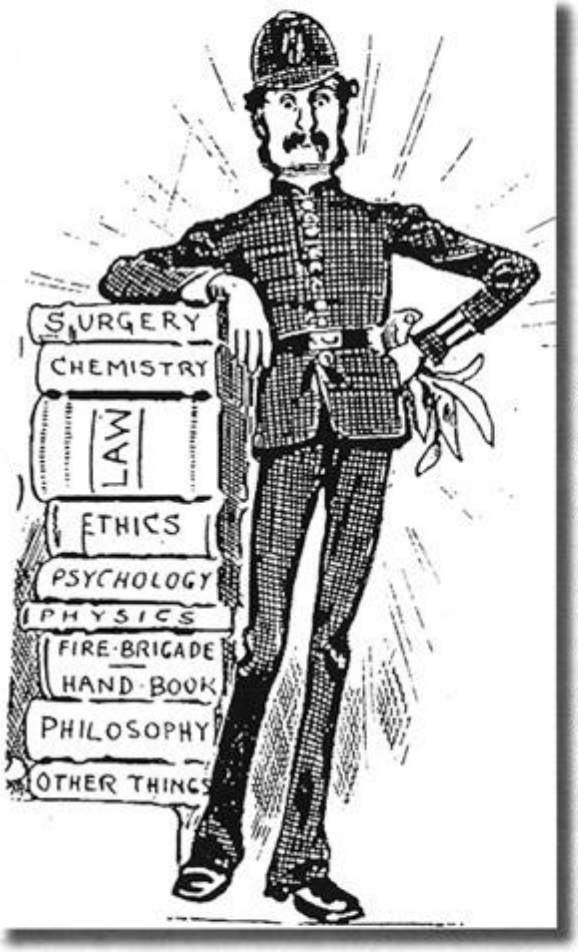
Re-examined: It is only women who have been confined who can have puerperal mania. In most cases there would be other symptoms than killing observable. As a rule, when it is comingon there is great depression of spirits and dullness; those are the chief symptoms; of course, itcan show itself in so many different ways. Puerperal mania and puerperal fever are two distinctthings. By puerperal mania I understand a condition of the mind contrary to the normal condition, and which may come on at any time, from a few hours after confinement to severalweeks. It is not merely a desire to kill your own children; it very often takes the form of a wishto kill the husband. It sometimes passes off very quickly. It is very difficult to draw distinctions.The only way would be by watching the actions and seeing whether they are sane or insane; ifthe actions before and after were rational, that would guide one to the conclusion that she wasnot suffering from puerperal mania.

She might or might not remember immediately after the act that she had killed her children; there is no distinction to be drawn from that as to whether the person was rational or not. A sane woman who had killed her children would not be likely to forget it in a few hours; if insane she might forget it in twenty-four hours. Question: Supposing you found that a person who haddone such an act remembered that she had done it, and remembered where she had drowned the two children in different places, would not that be evidence that she was sane at the time? Answer. It would certainly. If a woman really insane was under the impression that she had leftthe child in charge of somebody, whereas she had drowned it, that would be a delusion, and I should not expect her to throw off that delusion in a few days, and then remember that she haddrowned it, and where; I should expect the delusion to continue.
Guilty: death The Jury very strongly recommended the prisoner to mercy

1894 November 2: The Times: Condemned woman: Minnie Wells now in Newgate Gaol under sentence of death for the **murder of her two infant children** in June last year had her sentence commuted to life in prison

Bagshot reunion 2026

From London Police Pensioner June 2022



19th-century Police duties

Leading historian **John Price** has uncovered the staggering number of roles Police Officers were expected to fulfill, from inspecting furnaces to moving cattle

In my last article, I said that in the 19th century, in addition to dealing with crime and disorder, the Police also acted as a fire and ambulance service.

As Police Officers were on duty for 24 hours a day, they became jacks of all trades, and performed a great number of other duties. In addition, the Commissioners were responsible for many licensing functions, as there was no one else to do it.

Police Constable TA Cavanagh described in his memoirs, *Scotland Yard Past and Present* (1893), how Police would "knock people up on their beat". This was at a time when few people could afford clocks or watches.

Previously, watchmen had acted as an alarm clock for workers and the new Police continued to do this. The going rate appears to have been sixpence a week, with payment being due on a Saturday. Anyone who neglected to pay the Constable for this service was not knocked up the following Monday morning.

PC Cavanagh also describes a duty performed by Officers of 'A' Division. Apparently, they patrolled inside theatres to prevent those in the audience from throwing things down from the gallery onto the stalls beneath and stage; apparently, this and other disorderly conduct was very common in theatres in the 19th century.

Police also performed a licensing function in respect of chimney sweeps. The Chimney Sweepers Act of 1875 stated that: "No person shall carry out the business of trade of a chimney sweeper, either as master or mistress or partner or journeyman chimney sweeper, or as an assistant to any chimney sweeper, unless he or she shall have obtained and be in possession of a certificate issued by the Commissioners."

The Act went on to state that when such a certificate was issued, a brass plate was to be displayed on the business premises of the sweep. If a person who held such a certificate was subsequently convicted of felony or misdemeanor, the certificate would be cancelled.

Allied to this, Police were faced with problems of smoke nuisance. This appears to have become a big problem from around the middle of the century, owing to the increase of bakers' blast furnaces. Police were employed to inspect furnaces; in 1869, they reported 1,902 cases under the Smoke Nuisance Abatement Acts.

Traffic was an increasing part of the Metropolitan Police Force's activities. From 1843, the Commissioners became responsible for licensing hackney carriages. And seven years later, in 1850, the Public Carriage Office came into being. By 1869, there were 5,782 licensed carriages on the streets of London. All this also became the responsibility of the early Police.

From July 1865, Metropolitan Police Officers were frequently employed on duties relating to cattle plague. No cattle could be moved more than 500 yards unless a licence had been issued by the Commissioner of Police. During 1869, some 20,740 licences had been granted to move 301,526 head of cattle.

The 19th-century Police performed all these functions and many more. However, I have little doubt that by far the most important role that they performed was in relation to helping the poor. In 19th-century London there was massive poverty, particularly in the first half of the century. There were no social services, no welfare state, and no trade unions to protect workers.

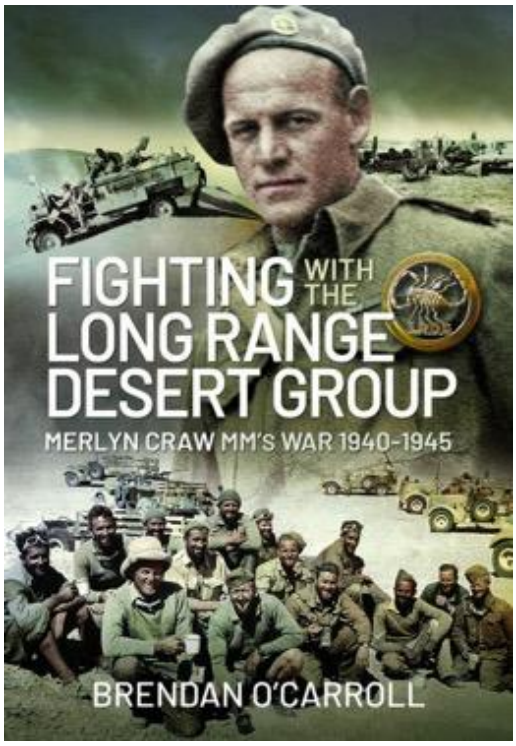
In a society trying to come to terms with an increasing population, poor housing, bad sanitation, disease and poverty, it was not surprising that the poor relied so heavily on police. As I have already said, there was no one else to do it.

Without doubt this helped the early Police to gain acceptance from a highly-suspicious public, many of whom had believed that the Police was formed by the Government to suppress their human rights.

I will further discuss the major contribution that the early Police made in helping the poor in my next article. ■

moandjohnprice@gmail.com

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



By Brendan O'Carroll
Imprint: Pen & Sword Military
Pages: 272
Illustrations: 150 Mono pics integrated
ISBN: 9781399084277
Published: 17th May 2022

Brendan O'Carroll

Brendan O'Carroll lives in Auckland, New Zealand and recently retired from the New Zealand Customs Service. With a long time interest in military history, the Long Range Desert Group has become his speciality. He has interviewed over 30 veterans while writing The Kiwi Scorpions: The Story of the New Zealanders in the LRDG (2000), Bearded Brigands (2002) and Barce Raid: The LRDG's Most Daring Exploit in World War Two (2005). This book follows The LRDG in the Aegean (2020) and The Long Range Desert Group in Action 1940 - 1943 (2020) under the Pen and Sword Military imprint. He has numerous other published works and articles to his credit. In 2006 his work was recognised by awards from the New Zealand Military Historical Society

Synopsis

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

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

Review

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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