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

December 2022
www.surrey-constabulary.com

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Surrey Constabulary History 95

Date uncertain – early 1970s: PC Dann front, DC Anderson, WPC Pam Stevens, dog handler Roger Martin, PC Carpenter and PC Bleasdale

Contents

Surrey Heath Facebook Group recently. "Princess Elizabeth leaving the 'Camberley Working Men's Club' where she had been awarding prizes in the annual Windlesham and Camberley Camera Club competition. Late 40's. Unfortunately face of the sergeant has been covered by the door.

My recollection of the Murder of PC John Schofield

Dog Handler PC 173 Roger Martin who died in November 2022

Roger wrote several years ago to Surrey Constabulary History that on Saturday 6th July 1974 I was called out by Operations in the early hours of the night to Croydon Road, Caterham where the operator told me that three policemen had been shot. My police dog Dolf had already heard the telephone and was ready at the kennel compound door keen to attend another job. I was pleased he was an expert tracking dog. On my way to the scene from my home in Godstone I had to pass Caterham police station, so I called into the front office and as a police marksman I asked to be issued with a firearm. I was told there was nobody there authorised to issue one, so I continued to the scene unarmed, more concerned about wasting time than my own safety.

On arrival I was told that PS Jim Findlay and PC Ray Fullalove had been taken to hospital, but PC John Schofield had been certified dead at the scene and was hanging out of the open door of the sergeant's car. This was an horrific sight, made worse because he was a colleague.

I fitted my dog with his tracking harness and, from the scene; he tracked diagonally across the road to the pavement on the far side where he continued to follow the scent towards Caterham town. After a while he suddenly turned right through an open garden gate and continued tracking down the garden path to a 7ft high chain link fence, the boundary of the railway line. The top of the fence was angled outwards and topped with strands of barbed wire which I saw had been pulled downwards indicating someone had climbed over.

Unable to get my dog over this fence I pulled up the chain link from the bottom and we both wriggled underneath. The embankment was heavily overgrown with scrub, and my dog continued tracking towards the railway lines. He stopped and indicated he had found something and when I moved forward to investigate by the light of my torch, I saw two holdall type bags that had been hidden in the undergrowth. I left these secure with PS Fred Booker who had followed me up and continued with my dog tracking towards the electrified railway lines. On reaching the lines my dog could not pick up a track at the side of the rails but wanted to go onto the track itself. I informed Operations and they told me to go no further until they had arranged for the power to be switched off. Before this could be done the Metropolitan Police turned up in numbers having walked from the village of Whyteleafe. This made any further tracking impossible. Enquiries later revealed that the murderer Egon Von Bulow had walked along the lines to Whytelefe where he left the railway to flag down a car on the A22 and make his escape.

The contents of the bags my dog found identified Von Bulow, and even contained a set of number plates he had made to fit a motorcycle at a house along Croydon Road that he intended to use as his means of escape. He had planted a live bomb in the pedestrian walkway under Wapsies roundabout on the A22. The murder weapon, a .22 pistol, was never found, but it is believed it was thrown into the Irish Sea when Von Bulow visited Ireland prior to his arrest.

I attended the trial at the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey) and gave evidence of my police dog Dolf tracking from the murder scene to the two bags on the railway embankment. This evidence not only corroborated that of Jim Findlay who picked out Von Bulow on the ID Parade but linked the killer to the scene. He had pleaded 'not guilty' but was found guilty of murder and attempted murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. I understand he is still in prison where he has shown no remorse and failed to attend any rehabilitation.

Jim Findlay's life had been saved by the leather pocketbook wallet issued by the Surrey Constabulary and kept in the left breast pocket of the tunic, which still contained the .22 bullet. (This pocketbook is now in the Surrey Police Museum)

It was ironic that PC John Schofield as an even younger man had emigrated to Australia joining the Army and served in the Vietnam War which he came through without a scratch only to be shot dead in the quiet Surrey town of Caterham. A true hero!

Commendations didn't come easy in those days for man or dog, and nothing was given, but a local magistrate Mr Neville Rayner (of Rayners Estate Agents) put me forward for the Freedom of the City of London. This was awarded on the 1st of December 1978 in the Guildhall in the City. It is a great and ancient honour but with few advantages. One, however, is permission to drive a flock of sheep over London Bridge. Something I've always threatened to do.[1]

Three Retired Dog Handlers 2012
Former PS Fred Booker Roger and the late John Worgan

[1] Email to Robert Bartlett several years ago

A Day in Court!

David Hancock alias The Major[2]

David in retirement!

Below are newspaper cuttings relating to six charges against me under the Official Secrets Act 1911.The committal proceedings took place in August 1982 at Guildford Magistrates Court. Following this saga, sometime later, I was positively vetted for another post. The cuttings have been unearthed from my vetting papers. As far as I know no other record of this hearing is in existence, I have been advised that the Surrey Constabulary file on this case has been destroyed.

Suspended 4th December 1981
Charged 10th June 1982
Committal proceedings Monday 23rd August until Friday 27th,1982
Returned to work following Monday 30th August,1982

Burglary Squad DC Bob "Trooper" Cooper, DS Dave "Major" Hancock and DC Neil Boon

[2] Press cuttings from David Hancock to Robert Bartlett November 2022 – David agreed to publication

Private eye fined for Secrets Act offences

A PRIVATE detective has admitted passing on information to solicitors about individuals' criminal records in contravention of the Official Secrets Act.

The information came from a Surrey police officer, said the prosecution at Guildford Magistrates' Court.

The investigator, David James Layton (39), of Oakley Road, Oxford, admitted five charges of communicating the records to unauthorised people. Six other charges of receiving the information from Det.-Sgt. Ronald David Hancock knowing that it was in contravention of the Act were dismissed.

Mr. Michael Bibby, prosecuting for the police, said Det.-Sgt. Hancock of Dorking Police had access to information at the Criminal Records Office and was said to have passed details to Mr. Layton. Mr. Layton then compiled reports incorporating the information and sent it to his clients — usually solicitors.

Mr. Bibby said Mr. Layton had made "a full and frank admission" that all the information he received had come from the Surrey police officer.

The five charges of passing information to which Mr. Layton pleaded guilty did not mention the policeman.

After Mr. Layton had pleaded not guilty to the six charges of receiving the information from Det.-Sgt. Hancock, knowing it contravened the Act, the prosecution offered no evidence and these charges were dismissed.

Mr. Anthony McGeorge, defending, told the court Mr. Layton did not have the faintest idea he was contravening the Official Secrets Act, 1911, and that what he was doing was wrong. In fact the private investigator had boasted of his ability to obtain information on people's previous convictions in more than 100 letters he circulated to solicitors in the Oxford area when he set up his business.

"This really is a case where the defendant bears no moral blame whatsoever for what he has done," said Mr. McGeorge.

He stressed that no money was paid in the transaction. It was "an unofficial transfer of information."

The magistrates were told Mr. Layton had only been in business a few months when the offences came to light.

He was fined £100 on each offence — a total of £500.

At a separate magistrates' court hearing at Guildford on Wednesday Ronald David Hancock (39), a detective sergeant at Dorking, opted to stand trial on six charges.

The officer, who lives at Strathavan Close, Cranleigh, faces six charges of passing information on criminal records to David Layton, a person to whom he was not authorised to communicate it.

Committal proceedings are to be held at Guildford Magistrates' Court on August 23. The officer was released on unconditional bail.

Secrets case policeman is back in uniform

by Geraldine Banks
Crime Reporter

THE Surrey police officer who was last week acquitted of charges under the Official Secrets Act is back at work.

David Hancock of Strathavan Close, Cranleigh, returned to duty on Friday after being told by senior officers his suspension was lifted and there were to be no disciplinary proceedings against him.

The 39-year-old officer is now working at Guildford as a uniformed sergeant.

His return to work marks the end of a traumatic 10 months for both the police officer and his family.

It was last October the detective at Dorking was confronted with allegations of passing information on people's criminal convictions to a private investigator in Oxford.

Since then the cloud of suspicion has hovered over him.

He was suspended from duty, told to have no contact with his police colleagues and, in effect excommunicated from the Force until the matter was resolved.

Last Thursday that suspicion was removed. At the end of lengthy committal proceedings, the stipendary magistrate said there was no proof the person supplying the information was the Dorking policeman and any circumstantial evidence was "too tenuous."

Sgt. Hancock said at the time: "I am very happy."

Understandably the police officer now wants to forget about the incident. "The whole thing has been aired in court. I am innocent and I was acquitted. I just want to put the whole thing behind me."

As he set about his duties at Guildford police station this week, Sgt. Hancock said: "I am delighted to be back at work."

System must be tightened

THE hearing at Guildford Court last week which acquitted a Surrey police officer of alleged offences under the Official Secrets Act revealed some worrying and disturbing facts.

Broadly, it showed the security surrounding confidential police information was not as tight as it should be.

The case centred on the passing of information relating to people's criminal convictions to a private investigator, a person not authorised to receive such information.

During the hearing it was stated that information relating to criminal convictions was kept at New Scotland Yard in the Criminal Records Office and on the Police National Computer. A complicated system of codes and checks was in force to prevent any unauthorised person getting hold of the information.

But the stipendary magistrate hearing the proceedings admitted in open court that it was not beyond the realms of possibility that someone might be able to obtain details of people's previous convictions from the New Scotland Yard Criminal Records Office without the inquiry being logged.

He was referring to evidence given by Superintendent Peter Stevens, who was in charge of the investigation, who said on oath that it was possible to for someone to go to New Scotland Yard and ask for details of people's previous convictions "over the counter." He said such an inquiry should be recorded, but admitted: "Sometimes it's not."

He also said microfiches of criminal convictions were sent to officers on request and it was possible that they were retained and not returned to New Scotland Yard.

The magistrate said: "These sources (of information) are undesirable and contrary to police regulations."

With such security flaws exposed during the court hearing, it can only be assumed that further leakages of confidential information will take place unless Scotland Yard takes heed and tightens up its system.

Geraldine Banks

Baha'is move

SURREY has this month lost one of its best-known Baha'i families. Dr. Frank Bonner, his wife Guitti, her mother Mrs. Jazbieh Forzar, and their baby son Alexander Momen, have left for Alnwick, 30 miles north of Newcastle, where Dr. Bonner will take up a senior position with Sterling Winthrop.

The Bonners came to Surrey in 1973, Guitti to take a degree course in human biology and Frank in bio-chemistry. Guitti then did a teaching diploma at Gypsy Hill while Frank did his Ph.D. in toxicology, remaining for a further three years on a post-doctoral grant. While achieving academic success, the couple also served the Baha'i faith in many capacities during the nine years they were in Surrey.

There have been several farewell parties, dinners and presentations for this well-loved family.

Meter burgled

BURGLARS broke open an electricity meter in a house in South Street, Godalming on Tuesday and made off with £30 in 50p pieces.

'Secrets' charges against CID man thrown out

CHARGES against a Surrey police officer alleging he passed confidential information to a private investigator have been thrown out of court.

A stipendiary magistrate ruled at Guildford Magistrates' Court this week that a properly directed jury could not convict the detective of five charges on the evidence.

Det. Sgt. Ronald David Hancock, 39, a CID officer at Dorking, stood charged with six offences under the Official Secrets Act of passing information relating to people's criminal convictions to private investigator Mr. David Layton, of Chinnor, Oxfordshire.

Sgt. Hancock had opted to go for trial and the committal proceedings were heard by a stipendiary magistrate, Mr. P. G. N. Badge, who gave his ruling on the third day of the case after hearing the prosecution evidence against Det. Sgt. Hancock, of Strathavan Close, Cranleigh.

He said the information in five cases could have come from a number of different sources — both official and unofficial — and there was no proof that the CID officer was the person who supplied it to Mr. Layton.

The magistrate said the evidence was circumstantial. The detective and the private investigator knew one another and on a number of occasions Mr. Layton gave the policeman criminal information. Mr. Layton had also mentioned to the detective names of people that he himself was interested in.

When police searched the private investigator's home, they found documents indicating he was in possession of information about people's criminal convictions.

The magistrate said Mr. Layton had a number of police contacts in a number of different forces and by looking at the papers in the case it clearly showed the private investigator had considerable information going well beyond lists of criminal convictions which in some cases must have emanated from police stations and even courts.

The magistrate continued that "no reliance" should be placed on the assertion by Mr. Layton that all his information came from one source.

He said the detective had sought information relating to the convictions of people whose names appeared in papers taken by police from Mr. Layton's home.

From the outset, Det. Sgt. Hancock denied ever supplying the criminal record details to Mr. Layton.

The magistrate said there was evidence that the detective was an unusually assiduous collector of criminal intelligence, "a fact of considerable significance in this case." He pointed out that the detective had worked in Scotland Yard and could be expected to take an interest in London criminals as well as those in Surrey.

The magistrate referred to a statement made by Det. Con. Leslie Martin who told the court Det. Sgt. Hancock had warned his colleagues about Mr. Layton and was anxious not to have contact with him.

"The defendant (Hancock) is not only a man of previous good character but an officer who is held in high esteem by his colleagues. The character is of importance because it makes any jury ask the question — is it likely that a man of such character would commit all, or any, of the offences of which he is charged? said the magistrate.

He referred to the prosecution evidence as "too tenuous." He said: "What the evidence amounts to is proof of association and discussion of criminal matters between the defendant and Mr. Layton and the fact that the defendant has sought and obtained information concerning the criminal records of the men mentioned in the charges. But there is also evidence that Mr. Layton had a considerable number of police contacts, in addition to the defendant, from whom he had obtained information."

Mr. Badge said the official sources of information on criminal records during the relevant period were not only to be found in the Police National Computer and the Criminal Records Office at New Scotland Yard, but also in the Criminal Records Offices of a number of other police forces outside the Metropolitan Police area, i.e. the Thames Valley police force. In addition it was realistic to expect there to be many other sources such

as police stations, whose officers might maintain their own records or retain micro fiches which had not been returned. In addition, it was not beyond the realms of possibility that information from the CRO, New Scotland Yard might be obtained without a record of its obtaining being kept. All these sources were undesirable and contrary to police regulations, but they possibly existed.

During the hearing, Mr. Layton, the private investigator, had been called to give evidence. In a dramatic display of emotion from the witness box, he said he could not name the source of his information. He said the person was "a compassionate, sympathetic friend" who was in the police service.

At one stage Mr. Layton bowed his head, closed his eyes and shook when asked to name this "friend."

Later, Superintendent Peter Stevens told the court that the private investigator had pleaded guilty to five charges of passing to solicitors information he had obtained in breach of the Official Secrets Act. The details concerned the people named in the charges now alleged against Det. Sgt. Hancock.

At the end of the prosecution case the magistrate had ruled that there was no case to answer on five of the charges but that he found there was on a sixth charge.

There was an adjournment until Thursday when the defence was to call evidence on the sixth charge but when the court resumed the prosecution asked for the sixth charge to be withdrawn and the magistrate agreed.

There being no case to go to a higher court the proceedings fail.

When the hearing concluded Det. Sgt. Hancock said: "I am very happy about it."

The prosecution presented evidence from 23 witnesses. They included several clerical officers from the New Scotland Yard criminal records office; the operations manager at the Police National Computer; a senior officer from Thames Valley and Surrey officers.

The commital proceedings were originally to be heard by lay magistrates but Clerk of the Court Mr. Kevin McCormack explained later they had to change their plans following the publication of an article in the *Surrey Advertiser*.

"Defence solicitors drew to the attention of the court and attention of the Director of Public Prosecutions to an article which appeared in the paper on June 25 which referred to Det. Sgt. Hancock by name.

"That having appeared in a newspaper circulating in the area where magistrates live, it was felt by lawyers and me that the defendant could come to the conclusion that it had been read by magistrates who would form an opinion and make it difficult to be impartial on the matter." The Lord Chancellor agreed to the request for a stipendiary magistrate.

Surrey Constabulary Burglary Squad December 1985
David Hancock centre row five from left

Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct

A copy of this photograph recently appeared on an auction site. This is PC Dave Shepherd whose dog Idol was shot dead at Egham with his new dog. (This copy from the Surrey Constabulary History archive)

1969 September: PC D Shepherd, DI L Phillips, DS G Smith and PC G Queen awarded the **Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct** in recognition of their courage in the arrest of an armed man. **Len**

Phillips: Chris Rowe was in charge of this operation; the culprit had been given a bottle of whisky by his mother whilst in hospital he drank it discharged himself and went on a rampage with a loaded shotgun. He eventually holed up in a social centre. Me, Gordon Smith, Dave Shepherd and Gerry Queen went in at the rear and made the arrest. Unfortunately, the police dog was mortally wounded. I believe that during the incident a police car had its windows blown out. The shooting was at Egham I think it was Hythe Social Centre. Gordon Smith and I had just got back from Wales where we had been for some weeks investigating cattle rustling and theft of JCBs and other large items of earth moving equipment, which was being taken to Haverforwest by a pair of ex-Chertsey brothers who had a farm there. We picked up the incident on the force radio and just went along to see what was happening.

PC D Shepherd, D/Inspector L Phillips,
DS G Smith, PC G Queen.

1969 October 30: Youth killed police dog: Three police officers dived for cover as a youth fired at them with with a 12 bore shotgun it was stated at Surrey Assizes. They wree unhurt but a police dog was shot dead. Police surrounded the Hythe social club at Egham after the youth Brian Mitchell, 20, had entered brandishing a weapon. He shot the police dog and police rushed him as he tried to reload. Mitchell pleaded guilty to a number of charges and charges of attempted murder were dropped. He was sent to Broadmoor.[3] **The late Mick Juniper:** The incident happened at Pooly Green, Egham at a social club. It came about as a result of some sort of domestic dispute and the first officer on the scene before he became a dog handler was John Davey. As he approached the club the offender discharged the weapon at him, which was a single barrelled shotgun. The incident developed and an ACC took charge of the operation, I believe it was Rowe. By this time the offender was outside the premises, still

[3] The Times 30 October 1969

armed but stationary. Dave Shepherd was instructed to deploy Idol who ran to the man but hesitated on his approach. As Dave relates the story Idol was intending to stand out on the offender who then shot at the dog at close range, the shot entering at the top of the dog's muzzle shattering his lower jaw. I was called out from home at that time but prior to my arrival Dave and another officer had "dealt" with offender and he was in custody with check chain injuries to his face and was hospitalised. Idol was taken to a vet who decided his injuries where such that the only course was to put the dog down. Dave was subsequently honoured along with other officers and I also believe Idol got some sort of canine award.

FOUR officers of the Surrey Constabulary have been awarded Her Majesty the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct, it was announced in the supplement in the London Gazette on Tuesday.

They are: Det. Insp. Leonard John Philips (39), stationed at Addlestone; Det. Sgt. Gordon Goudder Smith (47), attached to a regional crime squad in London; P.C. David William Shepherd (27) stationed at Addlestone; P.C. Gerald Keith Queen (26), stationed at Chertsey traffic centre.

At 9.45 p.m. on September 20th, 1969, at Thorpe Road, Egham, Surrey, a 20-years-old man broke into the Hythe Social Centre. He was armed with a shotgun and for the next hour and three quarters he fired this weapon at several policemen in an attempt to prevent his arrest.

The area was quickly sealed off by a large number of policemen. Insp. Philips, Sgt. Smith and P.C. Shepherd entered the rear of the building.

Insp. Philips and Sgt. Smith talked to the man in an attempt to make him put down his gun but the man fired at them from about four yards' distance, narrowly missing them. They then withdrew.

He eventually came out into the road and forced one policeman to retreat at gun point. P.C. Shepherd, a dog handler and P.C. Queen pushed a police car towards the man and reached a point about 20 feet from him. The man was standing with the gun aimed at them. To draw the man's fire a police dog was sent in. The man shot the dog at point blank range in the head. P.C. Shepherd then ran up to the man and struck him with a dog chain.

The four policemen with others, then closed with the man, disarmed and arrested him.

Mr. Philips has been a policeman for 16 years. After serving on the beat at Leatherhead, Guildford and Camberley, he became a detective and in June 1965 was promoted to Det. Sgt. and remained at Camberley. In June 1967, he was promoted to Det. Insp. and stationed at Weybridge and then Addlestone.

He lives at Weybridge with his wife and 15-years-old daughter.

Mr. Smith who has been a policeman for nearly 19 years, transferred to the Surrey Constabulary from the East Sussex Constabulary in February 1960. He was stationed at Guildford and Ashtead before becoming a detective at Leatherhead.

He was promoted to Sergeant in August 1965 and was stationed at Walton until he was appointed Det. Sgt. in January 1966 and moved to Chertsey. Since September 1968 he has been seconded to a regional crime squad based in London.

In 1965 he was commended by his Chief Constable for courage in effecting the arrest of a youth for larceny in the face of an unruly and vicious mob of hooligans.

He lives with his wife and family at Chertsey. He has a son aged 19 and two daughters aged 17 and 9.

P.C. Shepherd is married and lives with his wife, Carol, and their two children, Garry (3) and Sandra, aged 18 months, in a police house at Sunningdale. They have lived there for three years.

A policeman for eight years P.C. Shepherd has been a dog handler for four years.

P.C. Queen has been a policeman for six-and-a-half years. After serving at Farnham, Godalming and Walton, he joined the Force Traffic Department in October 1966 and since then has been a member of a patrol car crew operating from Chertsey.

He lives with his wife at Chertsey.

The date of the presentations will be announced later.

Surrey Adv. 15.5.70

Inspr. Leonard J. Phillips, Sergt. Gordon G. Smith, and P.Cs David W. Shepherd and Keith Queen (Surrey).

A man broke into a social centre armed with a shot gun and fired several shots at the officers when they arrived with a Police dog. They got near and tried to talk the man into giving up the gun without success. Seeing that the gun was single barrelled the dog was sent to distract the man but this failed and the officers then pushed an empty Police car to within 20 yards and then sent in the dog again. The dog was shot in the head but his handler P.C. Shepherd ran to the man and hit him with the dog chain and the other officers were able to overpower him.

Police Review 22.5.70

The late Timber' Wood: The story was that the dog was sent in against a man with a shotgun. Instead of going in for the arm, it was thought that the dog circled and barked thinking it was a stick. The dog, named Bowesmoor Idol, was shot and later destroyed. We were offered a gift puppy, which David and I went to look at and we bought it home. It was trained but David never got on with it because it was a little soft as a youngster and after his experience, he wanted a harder dog. Dave came off the section and resigned and later joined BAA Police at Gatwick. The gift dog was to become John Worgan's first police dog with which he had great success both operational and in police dog trials.

JUSTICE BY CHANCE

CHAPTER ONE

Alan Bridgman, Surrey Constabulary Policeman 1967 -1992

The Richards brothers were arrested in France. Jason is on the right.

"I've got so much to do; I won't have time for lunch." It was 12.40pm on Tuesday, 24th April 1979. These would be the last words John George spoke to anyone who knew him. By 3.00pm he would be dead, with three bullets in the back of his head, and a bizarre international murder enquiry would ensue, which would demonstrate the frailties of the Criminal Justice system -- and much else besides.

It had started as an ordinary working day for John George, a 59-year-old Water Board official at Godalming in Surrey. He was an entirely unremarkable individual and was perfectly content to be so. He had made a career as a District Inspector for the Thames Water Authority. He was competent, conscientious, and reliable. He was married and lived quietly and respectably with his wife in the village of Elstead, near Godalming. His hobby was archery, and he was interested in birdwatching. On the scale of things, he was a perfectly ordinary citizen, who had made his way honestly and industriously through life, raised a family, remained happily married, enjoyed his work and his hobbies, and did not upset others. He was not aggressive and was apparently not in the heroic mould. How then, could he come to be executed on a pleasant Spring day in a pretty Surrey wood? By chance? By involvement in crime and intrigue? By virtue of being in the wrong place at the wrong time? Was it simply, for those who believe in such things, his destiny to die suddenly and brutally, for no good reason? And if it was, what

had he done to deserve such a fate?

The philosophical questions were debated at length by the members of the Murder Squad, and still are, twenty years later; but the first questions to be answered were entirely practical; who killed John George? where, when, and why ? And how could the facts be proved?

John had driven to work as normal in his blue Renault 25 estate, laden with his Water Board equipment. The car was nearly new and bore the prestigious "S" plate of a 1978 registered vehicle, -- SHC 286S. At 10.00am he met his colleague Bob Tribe at Slyfield Green at Guildford, and they carried out flow tests on Water Board installations. They carried on to another site at Highview Road, Guildford, to check water services laid to new houses. All routine work on a routine day. When they finished, Bob noted that it was 12.40pm-- "Nearly dinnertime". They each had time to drive back to the office for the standard 1-2pm lunch-hour, but John said no; he had too much to do. He had a quick inspection to make on the A3 at Compton, and then he was due at 2.00pm at the new Royal Surrey County Hospital site at Park Barn, to check meter installations with colleague Eric Baldwin. Bob left him, knowing that he often carried a flask and packed lunch in his car, and was quite happy to park up somewhere quiet, where he could eat his sandwiches, and perhaps do a few minutes birdwatching at the same time. Bob didn't expect to see John again that day. He would never see him again, ever.

At 2.00pm Eric Baldwin was at the hospital site, two miles west of Guildford town, and waiting for John George, who was late. Eric got on with the work he could do himself, and at 3.15pm gave up waiting for John and went back to the office. Once there he asked if anyone knew where John had got to. Nobody did. John's car was fitted with a two-way radio, but he wasn't responding to calls. His failure to make the appointment with Eric was put down to forgetfulness, or maybe a hitch with a previous job, or any one of the many routine excuses which any worker might find for simply missing a routine appointment. There was no reason to suppose that anything untoward had happened.

At about the same time that Eric was waiting for John two miles to the west of Guildford, two Water Board trenchmen were on their way to a Pumping Station at a remote rural site six miles south of Guildford town. The site was known as The Nore, at Hascombe. It was in a field, behind a wooded copse, and was approached by a narrow bridleway which led off the main A281 Horsham to Guildford Road. The contrast between the noise of the busy main road, and the tranquillity of the woodland scene either side of the bridleway, was striking, even to the casual observer. The bridleway led to Nore Farm, and a handful of choice private houses, and was a cul-de-sac for motor traffic.

The trenchmen were Ernest Thrumble, at 59 the same age as John George, and Tony Gamblin, aged 24. They'd been working together all day and had stopped for lunch at the Leathern Bottle pub at Grafham, only half a mile from the Nore bridleway. They left there at 1.45pm, and Tony parked the distinctive white Water Board lorry to the left of the bridleway about five minutes later. As he was concentrating on manoeuvring the lorry, he didn't notice what his passenger had seen from the cab. Ernie had spotted the figures of three men walking side by side into woodland to the right of the bridleway, about 200 yards ahead. He had a clear view across the open field to the right of the track. Just by chance, Ernie happened to be a keen country sportsman and rough shooter. On seeing those three men, in that location,

at that time on a working day, it occurred to him that they might be poachers. The area was well stocked with deer, rabbits and birdlife, and the local gamekeeper lived not far away. Ernie couldn't see if they were carrying anything, but he did see two cars parked to the right of the bridleway, adjacent to the woodland. He didn't immediately connect the men with the cars. His first thought was the job in hand. He and Tony got out of the lorry and unloaded the tools which they then had to carry across a field to the pumping station. As they did so, Tony also noticed the two cars parked further up the track, on the far side. One was a blue saloon, backed up on the grass verge, and facing the lane. The other was a white estate, parked parallel to the track, and facing the main road. He saw that there was no-one with the cars. He also noticed that the morning's light rain had stopped, and it had become quite bright, which was fortunate, given the outside job they had to do. It was a simple repair and took about half an hour to complete. They walked back to the lorry and reloaded the tools. It was now about 2.40pm. As Ernie was about to climb back into the cab, he heard two rapid-fire shots; they were so close together, that he later wondered whether the second wasn't in fact an echo of the first. He knew for sure that they were rifle shots; they weren't shots from a shotgun, and a shotgun was the only weapon likely to be legitimately in use in the locality that day. Tony heard the shots too, but he described them as three to four rapid-fire shots. Just by chance, he too was a keen country sportsman, and knew full well the difference between the crack of a rifle and the boom of a shotgun. They both climbed back in the cab; Tony reached for his work-diary, and made a note of the day and date, and the work just completed, as was his normal practice. He started the lorry and moved forward. As he did so, he saw two young men come running out of the woods beside the two parked cars. He could see clearly that they were both carrying guns. The first man ran from the woods to the nearside of the blue car, round the front of it, and jumped in the driver's seat. He was carrying a short gun, slung over his left shoulder, and across his chest. The gun was only about two feet long and had an ammunition magazine beneath it. The second man ran between the two cars and jumped into the driver's seat of the white car. He was carrying a similar magazine fed short gun in one hand. Ernie saw them too; the lorry was only about 100 yards away now. The men were youngsters, in their twenties. One was taller than the other; the taller one got into the blue car. "They were really dashing away from the woods" noted Ernie; "Running out like they did, I thought something was up." It crossed his mind that these were two of the three men he'd noticed earlier. Ernie noticed that the shorter man's gun was on a sling round his neck, and he lifted it off over his head as he got in his car.

Both cars moved off towards the main road, towards the oncoming lorry, which was partially blocking the narrow track. Tony stopped the lorry, leaving room for the cars to pass, but as they approached, Ernie read out the registration numbers, and Tony wrote them down immediately in his work diary, above the entry he'd just made. The white car was VFX 591L; the blue car was SHC286S -- John George's car. Neither Tony nor Ernie recognised the car as John's, but both men immediately suspected that the armed men were poachers, up to no good. They were both country sportsmen; they'd both heard distinctive rifle shots in a wooded area, noted for its game, and they knew that poaching was an ongoing problem. They each assumed that the suspicious behaviour of the two men would be related to poaching, and agreed that they should notify the local gamekeeper, who they both knew.

But first they had to drive up the lane to a house called "The Pheasantry" and collect a water bowser that had been left there. They told the lady of the house of the poachers they'd just seen, and she offered to phone the gamekeeper, Peter Drayson, straight away. Peter lived adjacent to the main road, at the bottom

of the bridleway. As Tony and Ernie were going to have to pass his house, they decided to stop in and tell him themselves. It was now about 3.00pm. Tony drove straight to the gamekeeper's house, less than five minutes away. Peter the keeper was out, but just by chance, he turned up as Tony was about to drive off. Tony told the tale of the rapid-fire shots, the two men running from the woods, and the two cars and their index numbers. Satisfied that he'd told the right person of what had gone on, he drove on, back to his depot. Peter Drayson took the most sensible course of action open to him in the circumstances; he phoned the local police to report suspected poachers on the Nore Estate. Having taken Peter's call, the station officer at Godalming police station radioed the area patrol car at 3.10pm and dispatched them to deal with the incident reported --"Suspected Poachers at the Nore".

The area car was crewed by PC 749 Neil Hansford, and PC 1177 Lawrie. They drove straight to the gamekeeper's cottage and arrived there at 3.30pm. The only specific information Peter Drayson could give them was the two registration numbers. There was no direct evidence of poaching, but the behaviour of the two men with guns was worth checking out. There was no point in cruising round the area looking for the cars; they'd been gone for nearly an hour now and could have gone in any one of four directions on leaving the bridleway. PC Hansford pursued the only line of enquiry immediately open to him. He radioed for checks on the registration numbers of the two vehicles. VFX 591L was a white Citroen estate, registered to an address in Bournemouth, so no immediate enquiry possible there.

SHC 286S was a blue Renault saloon, registered to a Mr John George at 3, The Grange, Elstead. This address was only about six miles away, and still within the Godalming patrol area. This was worth a check, decided PC Hansford. There was still no direct evidence of an offence, but the details of the registered vehicles fitted the descriptions given by the witnesses, which was a start, and it was worthwhile calling at the Elstead address to ask the elementary questions; "Does John George still own this car? Who was using it between 2.00 and 3.00pm today? Why was it at the Nore? Did the user of the vehicle own a firearm?" PC Hansford drove straight there and knocked on the door at 4.30pm. There was no reply. That was typical of any interesting -looking job, as Hansford well knew. First line of enquiry draws a blank, and you just can't get round it. He'd have to come back later. One incident of suspected poaching wasn't exactly earth-shattering in importance, but it was of interest. Poaching goes on in all country areas, as it always has, but it is rare for police to detect the offence, because rarely is it witnessed. This job had two witnesses, and it might lead to one of the commercially organised poaching gangs, which operated then and now throughout the Home Counties. Being a good country copper, Neil Hansford wanted to get to the bottom of it.

It was 8.45pm before he got the chance to call back at the Elstead address. This time the door was opened by Mrs George, who was more than a little alarmed to find two policemen on her doorstep. Like many people who receive an unexpected visit from uniform police officers, she feared they were bringing bad news about an accident of some sort; and she was already worried, because her husband had not yet returned from work. PC Hansford reassured her; he was not bringing bad news; he was making a routine enquiry about the movements of a car at The Nore at Hascombe earlier that day. He didn't mention poaching, but he did feel obliged to state that rifle shots had been heard by Water Board employees in the vicinity. Mrs George confirmed that her husband certainly owned SHC 286S; he had gone to work in it that morning, and he hadn't yet come home, which was completely unusual, but he too worked for

the Water Board, so that might be something to do with it. No alarm bells rang for PC Hansford or PC Lawrie. If John George wasn't a poacher, then he might be late home for any number of innocent reasons; if he was a poacher, who knew he'd been seen leaving The Nore, he might well be staying out deliberately, in order to avoid having to answer questions from nosey policemen. The enquiry would just have to wait until tomorrow, they concluded. Mrs George seemed very anxious, but then, most wives appear anxious when policemen call to enquire about the whereabouts of their husbands. They left the house and knocked off duty at Godalming police station at 10.00pm. Hansford marked the incident file "Enquiries continuing into poaching offences."

Mrs George watched the policemen leave, then waited a bit longer, hoping desperately that John would turn up, safe and well, delayed only by an urgent job of work, or a puncture or something. But she knew that John would never have left her fretting if he could have got a message to her. He had a two-way radio in the car; he could have radioed the Water Board control room, even if he couldn't get to a phone himself. He was over three hours late now, and still no word. It was so completely out of character for John to be late, that there had to be something seriously wrong. She rang the Water Board control room herself and explained her worries. It was now about 9.30pm. The lady control room operator radioed John. There was no reply. She also rang round some of his colleagues to see if they had seen him. They hadn't. The operator finally rang David Try, the Engineering Services manager, and John's immediate boss, and explained the problem, just before 10.00pm. David Try took his position seriously and appreciated Mrs George's anxiety. He rang round several other of his employees, to see if they knew of any works at the Nore that day. They didn't. He then rang Mrs George direct. She related the simple facts she knew; John had not come home, and had not phoned her; police had called, and spoken of John's car at The Nore that afternoon, when shots had been heard, and a Water Board lorry had been present. She was now frantically worried, and she begged him to organise a search party at The Nore. As a man who knew John George well, Try realised that his unexplained absence was indeed utterly out of character and was more than likely to be involuntary in origin. Perhaps John had had some sort of accident at The Nore? Try agreed that a search party seemed a reasonable course of action and rang Godalming police station to request assistance. It was now about 10.30pm, and he spoke to the night-turn duty sergeant, PS Bruce Dew, a most competent policeman, and, just by chance, an experienced dog handler. A request to launch a search party in the dark for a middle-aged man who was late home from work, was not the sort of request that would be automatically acceded to. It didn't take an experienced policeman to work out that there were many far more likely explanations for such lateness than mysterious accidents in remote woods. PS Dew told Try that he would make some checks and call him back. He checked the incident reports of the 2-10 shift, and there read PC Hansford's job, marked "Enquiries continuing into poaching offences". All that was clear was that John George's car had been seen driving away from the Nore at just before 3.00pm, after shots had been heard; John George had not returned home; he was a man not known to police; the informant Mr Try vouched that it was unthinkable that John was involved in poaching, or any kind of unlawful or unsavoury activity. PS Dew concluded that further action was justified. Something was not right. He rang Mr Try back and invited him to rendezvous at the police station at 11.15pm, to assist with arrangements for a search. Try also arranged for Ray Williams and John Nettleton to be there. Williams was another employee, who knew The Nore particularly well, and Nettleton was the area boss, who shared Try's view that something must be seriously wrong to keep John George from his home. Before leaving the police station, PS Dew went

through the story again, to ensure he had all available information to hand. Searching an unlit wooded area by night was going to be difficult as it was, and he needed every possible clue as to where he should be concentrating his search.

The Water Board men worked out which maintenance crew must have been in the lorry at The Nore that afternoon, and phoned Tony Gamblin. Tony was able to explain precisely to PS Dew the spot where the two cars had been parked, and Dew used that as the baseline for the search, which finally got under way at about midnight. Dog handler PC 1062 Griffiths led the search. It had rained heavily throughout the evening and was still drizzling now. The ground was soaking wet. The bridleway itself, and the fire-gaps through the woods were straightforward enough to search, but the actual woods were covered in deep bracken and felled brushwood. There was no moon, and the task in hand really was akin to looking for a needle in a haystack. Nonetheless, PC Griffiths' dog rapidly sniffed out the entrails of a recently killed deer, which lent weight to the possibility that poaching had taken place and might be relevant to this enquiry. By 3.00 am PC Griffiths reported that he had searched as far as he was able in the prevailing conditions, but was not satisfied that the wooded, bracken covered areas had been adequately covered. He suggested the search be postponed until daylight, and his pragmatic advice was accepted.

The night duty officer, Inspector Bob Ball, spent the rest of the morning organizing the manpower for the daylight search party, so he had plenty to do. He was sure a large-scale search was justified, although there was still no direct evidence that John George was in danger, or even still in the area; but you had to start somewhere. The only sure thing at the moment was that John George's continuing absence was completely and utterly out of character; the policeman's discreet suggestions that John's absence might be attributable to either a night's excessive drinking, or perhaps a romantic liaison – the more usual explanations for the absence of a husband – had been universally and categorically dismissed by all of John's workmates.

Bob Ball handed over responsibility for the search at 6.00am to the Early Turn officer, Inspector Bob Heaton, who went straight to The Nore to brief three fresh dog-handlers. The morning was fortunately dry and bright, a really pleasant Spring day, so conditions were fairly well ideal for an outdoor search. Sergeant 619 Keith Simmonds was the senior dog-handler present, together with PCs 1071 Les Page and 706 Clive Cutts. All were experienced and capable men, and all could see that the woodland to be searched, piled as it was with thinned larch cuttings, ferns and bracken, would make a tricky search area. They formed up in a line, twenty yards apart, on the firebreak along which the three men had been seen walking by Ernie Thrumble 17 hours previously. The dogs were ordered to search for a person hiding, and all three dog teams entered the woodland, the dogs sniffing vigorously, and the handlers scanning all round for any sign of life. They went right through the wood to the next firebreak, and on through the next copse. On completing that, they returned the way they had come, checking everything a second time. There was no sign of life. It was now about 8.30am., and Ernie Thrumble and Tony Gamblin had arrived at the scene, anxious to help. PS Simmonds spoke with them and listened with interest to their descriptions of the gunshots they had heard. He decided to try a different tack with his search. He took from his van two used .38 calibre cartridge cases, used in routine search training, and concealed them just inside the wood. He released his dog Mandy, with the order to search for property with human scent. Within two minutes Mandy had located both cartridges and received the reward of due praise and

encouragement from her master, which is central to the partnership of man and dog. Simmonds then continued into the wood, Mandy ahead of him, still searching for human scent. The dog cast about methodically to left and right, in sight of her handler, but fifty yards into the wood had found nothing. Suddenly she stopped and raised her head, and sniffed the air; then she ran forward, and disappeared from view behind piles of bracken. Ps Simmonds followed and found Mandy lying to his right thirty yards ahead. Her head was facing a mound of bracken and ferns, which was topped by a lopped larch branch, and she was wagging her tail happily, indicating to Simmonds that she had found something. He went to her and stood right next to the pile of bracken. He could see nothing to distinguish it from all the other piles of bracken in the wood. He commanded Mandy to retrieve whatever it was she had scented. She pushed her nose into the bracken and pawed at it. Simmonds knelt beside her head and peered at the mound. All he could see was bracken, but he trusted that the dog had some reason for marking this spot. He moved the bracken she was pawing at and found himself looking at a man's shoe. He pulled some ferns aside, and revealed a blue sock in the shoe, and the skin of a human leg. The colour of the skin told him instantly that this was a corpse. He moved to the other end of the mound and peered through the ferns. He could see the back of a man's head, with small holes behind the left ear. Bullet holes. He had found the remains of John George – or more precisely, Mandy had, for the corpse was so well concealed beneath the mound of interlinked bracken, that it was not visible to the human eye even when standing directly next to it. He marked the nearest tree with a cross, and shouted out that he had found a body, then with cool professionalism moved away from the site, though keeping it always in his view. It was vital now that the scene was preserved for forensic investigation, and that no-one interfered with it. This was the beginning of a murder enquiry.

Murder in the woods

Victim found shot through the head

By Jeremy Jehu, Jackie Wilks and Kathy Rochford

A MASSIVE murder hunt is sweeping Surrey after the vicious and cold-blooded murder of a middle-aged water board official.

The bound body of Mr. John George (58) was found hidden in a Dunsfold copse yesterday - he had been shot in the head.

Savage

Chapter Two

By 10.00am Detective Superintendent Don Woodhams had arrived at The Nore, from his office at Surrey Constabulary Headquarters at Guildford. So far as he was formally concerned at this stage, all he knew was that a body had been found in suspicious circumstances at 9.00am that morning, and may be

connected with a person named John George, reported as a Missing Person the previous day. Beyond that, everything at this stage was conjecture, and it was his responsibility to organise the enquiry that would establish the facts of the matter. That would be a far bigger job than the non-policeman would possibly envisage, for every single scrap of evidence had to be clinically isolated and defined in such a way that it would leave no room for doubt as to what had happened; not in the mind of the professionally cynical officers investigating the case, and especially not in the mind of the twelve inexperienced, untutored and unprepared citizens who would eventually be chosen by chance to assess the true worth of that evidence.

The first thing to establish was whether the body was dead. Police Standing Orders dictated that death could only be pronounced by a qualified Medical Practitioner "except in cases of obvious absence of life, such as in decapitation". The officers at the scene were all satisfied that a cold and motionless body, with two or more holes in the back of the head, which clearly had not moved for seventeen hours, was dead. So satisfied of this were they, that they had not attempted to uncover the body any further. Less experienced officers might have been tempted to abide strictly by the rules and call for a GP to pronounce death, or even call for an ambulance.

To preserve the continuity of evidence, PS Simmonds led three officers to the body just after 10.00am, having guarded it since its discovery. They were Don Woodhams, together with the divisional commander Chief Superintendent Frank Trussler, who was keen to be involved, even though the investigation would be a CID responsibility, and Scenes of Crime Officer (SOCO) Vic Woodman. They had no doubt that this man was dead. Woodhams called for the urgent attendance of Professor Arthur Keith Mant, a leading Forensic Pathologist highly respected by members of Surrey Constabulary. He arrived at The Nore and commenced his inspection at 12.30pm. Waiting for him were Vic Woodman, and Jerry Coombes of the Police Photographic Department.

Woodman carefully removed the bracken and branches from over the body, all of which would have to be retained for forensic examination. The body was fully clothed, but the Forensic Team was astonished to find that it was trussed up to a ridiculous extent. The wrists were tightly bound behind the back with distinctive yellow and green insulating tape. The same tape was wound round and round the man's ankles and knees. Altogether some 19 yards of tape – a whole roll – had been used to incapacitate him. Additionally, twenty yards of marine rope was tied around his neck, body and legs. He was tied so tightly that the hands were blue and swollen, and he was gagged with his own tie. These facts were remarkable; what sort of killer would go to the trouble of trussing up a victim in such a way and then shoot him three times in the back of the head? In 1979 the Irish Republican Army was active in Northern Ireland and in mainland England, so it was considered initially that this shooting may be connected to the IRA – but that possibility was soon ruled out.

By 3.00pm a Murder Squad had been formed and set up in a spare office at Godalming Police Station. Detective Sergeant Pat Crossan of HQ Crime Bureau set it up and called in DC Graham Charman to be Incident Room clerk. This was a most important position, for Graham would have to record every single enquiry made in the course of the case. The Detective Chief Superintendent of Surrey Constabulary was Ronald Underwood, a most experienced and capable investigator, and he took control of the

investigation.

This started with the mission to identify the whereabouts of the two vehicles seen at the scene in The Noor. The Renault 20 belonging to John George was missing; the Citroen VFX 591L was registered to a Nichols Manikum in Bournemouth. Manikum had a CRO record, and a younger brother named Jason Richards. A team of detectives went to the address in Bournemouth and were armed with pistols – just in case. They knocked the door and heard a woman's voice saying, "Be quiet Jason". Fingers tightened on triggers as the door opened – to reveal the householder Mrs. Jean Haberfield, holding back her dog Jason! Jean was a lady aged about 60 years; she confirmed that Nicolas Manikum, age 22 was her lodger, and that he had phoned her on the night of 24th April and asked her to meet him in his car near Bournemouth. There he had explained that he was in trouble since brother Jason had shot dead a man that morning, and he would have to leave the country. Mrs Haberfield would make several statements to police, each more detailed than the last, and would reveal that she and he had been lovers. Nicolas left her after this meeting, saying he was heading for Spain. In fact he picked up Jason and drove to Cadnam in the New Forest, where he knew of a French restaurant. He wasn't interested in eating; he intended to rob it of its takings. He and Jason waited until 11pm then donned two full face masks and entered the restaurant waving their sawn-off M16 type rifles. They shut the staff in the cellar and stole all the cash they could find. I subsequently interviewed the restauranteur, who was a retired French paratrooper. He said that he had recognized the type of rifles pointed at him and realized that both these robbers were quite prepared to shoot if they met any resistance. He and his staff offered none. Having conducted this successful armed robbery, the brothers drove to Poole in Dorset and caught the night ferry to Guernsey. Being completely confident that their connection to one murder, one theft of car and one-armed robbery was unknown, they gave their correct details when buying their ferry tickets. When speaking on this subject to any paying audience I always recommended that anyone performing similar crimes should follow this example!

By the 28th April, 1979 both brothers were circulated as "Wanted for Murder" by telex. A further telex was sent via Interpol to advise Spanish Police in Minorca that Surrey detectives were flying out there to make enquiries. Spanish police were most helpful in the enquiry. A further telex was sent to French Police Interpol advising that the suspects' motor car had been recovered at St Peters Port, he station officer, from where a £60,000 motor launch had been stolen, and that it might head for France. Guernsey Police had also advised France of the theft of the boat. There was no reaction from France.

On 30th April, 1979 a resident of Guernsey returned home from a short stay in the port of Mogueric, France. He picked up the previous week's local paper and saw the report and photo of the stolen boat "Memel". He walked to the local nick and reported that he had seen this boat in Mogueric the previous day; the station officer said he'd better tell this to Surrey DS Eric Anderson who was upstairs in the CID office. This he did, and Eric told him to phone his mate in Mogueric and confirm that the boat was still there. This he did, and the boat was still present. Eric told him to tell his mate to call the local Gendarmerie and tell them to arrest the occupants of the boat for murder. This he did and met all the suspicion you can imagine from the officer receiving the call. Only when a fellow gendarme checked the incoming telexes did they accept that they should act, and without delay. This they did, and a squad of Gendarmes surrounded the boat, which was laying on the sea-floor adjacent to the harbour wall. The

two brothers were greatly surprised to look up from their repose on the deck to see submachine guns trained on them. The arrest was confirmed by phone to the Murder Squad at Godalming, and the process of extradition proceeding began.

Interestingly the Guernsey fisherman reported that he and his mate had seen the large yacht arrive in Mogueric, which is a rather small fishing-boat harbour. The crew of the boat didn't appear to know how to moor it, so the Frenchman rowed out to it and offered assistance, which was gratefully accepted. The boat was moored beside the harbour wall, the Frenchman accepted a glass of wine on board, and then he rowed away chucking merrily. He explained to his mate that the two Englishmen on board would awake in the morning to find themselves stranded on the seabed! Such things always amuse the French, since they have never forgiven the English for their defeat at the battle of Agincourt in 1415!

On the 30th April, 1979 Interpol Paris confirmed the arrests and required telex confirmation that extradition would be required before 15.00 hours on May 1st. This confirmation was telexed back within two hours, and all was thought to be well – but it was not! The Surrey telex was received in Paris on May 1st – which is a Bank Holiday in France. The Interpol office was staffed only by a clerk, who did not speak English. Thus, the confirmation of Extradition Proceedings would not be formally acknowledged until 2nd May, by which time the Morlaix Procureur (the civilian magistrate in charge of the case) could have granted bail to the two brothers in accordance with French law, despite the fact that they had no fixed abode in France.

D/C/S Underwood had a telephone enquiry made to ensure that everything necessary was being done. This confirmed that this was NOT so NSY Interpol rang to say that he should ring a Colonel Pluto of the Gendarmerie in Paris. I was called in to act as Interpreter for the squad, and confirmed that Colonel Pluto was in fact Colonel Proutaud, who ran the Gendarmerie Intelligence department in Paris. I spoke with him and he offered every possible assistance to Surrey Constabulary. We arranged for a visit to Paris on 5th May, in the hope of (1) interviewing the suspects; (2) examining the stolen yacht for forensic evidence; (3) seizing the firearms for ballistic tests. A formal letter of introduction was sent from the DPP's office to the French authorities in the Diplomatic postbag, seeking their cooperation. As this letter would not arrive until 7th May, a full copy of the letter was given to Ron Underwood and he, DS Jamie Donaldson and I flew to Paris from Heathrow. Jamie and I bought a bottle of Scotch each at Duty Free, which turned out to be a wise move.

On arrival at Charles de Gaulle airport, we all descended the escalator to the arrival's hall. As we descended, I could see the figure of Colonel Proutaud in full and resplendent uniform at the bottom of the escalator. When we reached him, I introduced us all and he exclaimed "Thank God you've arrived! About 90 people have asked me the way to the toilets!" Such is the danger of wearing a smart uniform in a public place! We drove to his impressive office in Paris and he gave us a tour of the main office and proudly showed us the wall maps covered in different colour pins. He explained in French the symbolism of the colour codes and I translated to Ron and Jamie. The French system appeared to be about twenty years behind that used in Surrey, and I fear my translations were rather critical of the French. Ron and Jamie kept straight faces, and then we adjourned for a magnificent lunch at the home of Colonel Proutaud. He was a most generous host and having eaten we were taken to the airport to catch a plane

to Morlaix in Britanny. There we were met by the local Gendarmerie Captain Le Goc. He was a most impressive fellow and took us straightaway to the office of the Procureur.

I introduced Detective Chief Superintendent Underwood and handed over the copy letter from the DPP. The Procureur read it and said he would be delighted to give every assistance – once he had received the original letter from Paris! I explained this to Ron, who was amazed at the response and told me to explain again the importance of our mission. I did so – and received the same response. This proved to be the first encounter with the French principle that "*Nothing happens in France until authority is granted from Paris".* I was to meet it frequently in future visits to the country. It is why the average Frenchman detests all those who come from Paris.

As we left his office, he handed me two pieces of paper which he said had been seized from the back pocket of younger brother Jason while in custody at the prison in Rennes. We got in the car to be taken back to the hotel and translated the contents as we rode. One piece of paper contained a handwritten coded message from Jason to older brother Nicholas. The other contained the dictionary of the code used. Ron translated it as we rode. The coded message read "*Got a very strange idea. We got many a bad time with England and Police. It is too quiet on radio. No news of N and J. (i.e., Nicholas & Jason) I say we no chance in England with Police. Many days in prison for Gun and Murder. We got no friend in Police. No chance. We must escape prison France and England. Very careful with Consul. We have little chance to escape with the consul from Brest to Israel. We must escape here. No chance in England. Be careful. Jase.*
P.S. for murder we no chance in England."

This message from one suspect to the other was clearly of intense evidential value to the Murder Squad. But to the French procureur it was simply a note seized by French prison guards at Brest prior to the brothers having a meeting with the English consul. Under French procedure it was apparently sufficient for the governor of the prison to say that his guards had searched the two prisoners and seized a coded note found in Jason's back pocket. The content of the note was of no interest to the Morlaix procureur. We were amazed to hear this – but not entirely surprised. The French seem to do everything differently to the British! Mind you they are not wrong all the time; we mentioned that the barrister representing the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions was considering applying for extradition of the two suspects on the basis of the theft of the yacht from Guernsey, involving two witnesses, rather than for the murder in Surrey which required twenty-nine witnesses. "Non" said the procureur; extradition is not possible on a simple charge of theft. He was right too!

We left his office and were taken to the harbour where we could inspect the stolen yacht. We did so, and en-route to the hotel I explained to Capitaine Le Goc that we urgently needed to test fire the two rifles seized from the suspects. I mentioned that we had two bottles of finest Scotch whiskey which he might like to taste; he said if we appeared at the Gendarmerie at 0600 hours on the Sunday morning, we might be able to test-fire the weapons. We were there promptly at six a.m. We went to a shooting range behind the Gendarmerie, and Jamie was able to fire two test rounds from each rifle. He bagged and labelled the cartridge cases and preserved them carefully in his pocket. We flew back to Heathrow on a flight which lasted one and a half hours. We then drove straight from Heathrow to the Police Forensic Science

laboratory in London in a trip which lasted two and a half hours! There the specimen cartridges were compared with the cartridges recovered from the scene of the murder; this confirmed that the weapon which had fired the fatal shots was the sawn-off black Squires Bingham – which belonged to Nicholas Manikum. Thus, we had established the identity of the murder weapon, and would now have to prepare all the available evidence for a trial at the Old Bailey.

As an example of the differences in procedures between France and England I can relay the tale of the committal proceedings held at Guildford Magistrates Court on 9th May, 1979. This involved 29 witnesses and was successful in gaining an Extradition Order. On 10th May the court file was delivered personally to the DPP's office; from there it went straight to the Home Office. On 11th May it was flown to the UK Embassy in Paris in the Diplomatic Bag; it was then served on the office of the Ministry of Justice in Paris on Friday, 12th May, two days within the specified time limit. Extradition appeared imminent! But on Monday 15th May the said Ministry graciously requested that the entire file be translated from English into French! The UK Embassy agreed and sent the whole file back to UK, where it arrived on 17th May. On 22nd May the translated file is returned to the DPP, who sends it back to Paris on 25th May. It remained there for one week before being sent to the Court of Appeal at Rennes, where it arrived on 7th June. The suspects then requested an eight-day adjournment to prepare their defence. Thus, though the suspects had been identified and arrested within six days of the offence, it took over six weeks for the file to reach the appropriate court in France!

A formal request was made to the French to obtain statements from witnesses, since it was unlawful in France for English police to take statements from French citizens. Enquiries were possible, and I went to France with DC Graham Charman to establish where the two murder weapons had been purchased. Graham was puzzled as to why he was sent to France since he spoke no French, but he did say that DCS Underwood had told him to keep an eye on me! After a very gracious reception by the Gendarmerie, we were allocated a gendarme to guide us round the seven supermarkets in Biarritz which sold firearms. The gendarme said he would start at the supermarket where his wife worked. We went to the office of the manager responsible for firearms sales and he opened the register of sales for January 1979. I sat beside him while Graham stood six feet in front of the desk as I started to read Graham said "*That's it Al."* He had recognized the signature of Nicholas Manikum made at the time he had purchased the murder weapon on 4th January 1979. Great observation by a detective reading upside down from six feet away in a foreign-language sales register! Having completed our mission, we were escorted to the nearby beach where we were able to observe the practice of topless bathing by young and attractive French ladies. This had not yet caught on in England!

I later returned to France to collect the witness statements from the gendarmerie. I found that there were no statements from the two prison guards who had seized the coded note from Jason to his brother Nicholas. On the Sunday morning I was allocated a driver to take me back to the airport; I rang Brest prison to enquire whether the two prison guards who had seized the coded note were on duty; fortunately, they were. I told my driver that I'd like to go to the prison en-route to the airport. He drove me there and I was much impressed by the chilling appearance of the prison which was very Bastille-like. We were admitted and I was introduced to the two small warders who proudly told me of how they had searched Jason Richards prior to his visit from the British Consul officer. I congratulated them on their diligence

and efficiency and assured them I would pass their details to my Chief Constable so that they could be properly thanked. They were delighted! I then took note of their names on Surrey Constabulary witness statements which I happened to have with me and asked them to sign the forms at top and bottom, which they were delighted to do. While they spoke, I noted down their evidence on the signed forms and we left them feeling proud and happy. I left the prison as quickly as possible and was very happy to have obtained the evidence necessary to prove the acquisition of the murder weapons in a form recognizable to a British court. Both these guards subsequently attended the Old Bailey, and I am convinced that their evidence was crucial in securing the convictions. How could any jury fail to be impressed by such simple and precise evidence?

With the available evidence collected an extradition file was put together and successfully submitted. Once this was confirmed DCS Underwood told me to buy tickets from Heathrow Airport for an escort party of six to Paris and a return party of eight. I suggested that it might be easier to hire a private aircraft and found that for £600 we could fly such a machine from Dunsfold Airfield, just 10 miles from Godalming to France, collect the prisoners and return to Dunsfold. This was agreed and we booked the aircraft. Pat Crossan and I reconnoitred the airfield and found an emergency exit on to Farnhurst Lane; we arranged for the gate to be unlocked so that we could escort the prisoners off the airfield without using the main airfield entrance. On the day a six-man escort team boarded the private plane and we flew very comfortably to Le Bourget airfield in France. There we were met by a party of gendarmes beside the runway; we signed for the two prisoners and flew off again within minutes. DC Ted King was amazed as he had taken orders for Duty Frees from his colleagues in the office – and had not even got off the plane to be able to buy any! We flew back to Dunsfold and taxied to the very end of the runway, stopping beside a wooded copse; the Godalming blue van and a beat car appeared from behind the trees, the prisoners were loaded and we left the airfield by the back gate. On arrival at Godalming nick we were told that a huge party of reporters and photographers were waiting at the main gate, so were bitterly disappointed that we had evaded them. I never did discover who had informed them of the details of the private flight. A pity!

The prisoners were interviewed by DCS Underwood. Neither made any admission, but Jason was sick after being asked about the day of the murder. They were both committed to Brixton Prison and made weekly visits to Guildford Magistrates for renewal of their custody orders. Their solicitor made no request for bail. One week the solicitor did not appear, being content that his presence was not necessary. Nicholas Manikum immediately asked for bail to the surprise of us all – DS Pat Crossan had to take to the witness box to plead that the circumstances remained unchanged, and the remand was continued. Jason Richards asked Pat to visit him in Brixton, since he wanted to discuss something. Pat was greatly excited and sought out maps of the south of England to take with him to Brixton. Once there, he asked Jason where John George's Renault car as there was an item in it which his widow was anxious to recover. Jason suggested Pat search the harbour at Poole Quay and told Pat they had dumped the car there on the night of the murder. He said they had wedged a weight on the throttle pedal of the car, then selected "Drive" on the automatic gearbox and watched it drive over the edge into the harbour. He said it had balanced precariously on the edge of the quay before the weight of the engine took it over into the sea.

Pat returned to the Squad office and organized a search of Poole Harbour. The Surrey Diving Team attended and commenced a search of the harbour; the water was extremely muddy because of the immense amount of traffic using the harbour. A large crowd of civilians attended the quayside to watch the search in progress. Eventually the divers reported having located a sunken car and attached ropes to it. As it broke the surface the crowd shouted, "*It's a Cortina!"* which it was. As the vehicle was swung over the quayside another shout went up "*There's a man in the driver's seat!"* which was true. As the Cortina bumped onto the quay the driver's head fell off, which certainly thinned out the crowd watching! This was later identified as a suicide, nothing to do with our murder enquiry. A further search located another car which was indeed John George's Renault, and this was returned to land. An early mission of the Murder Squad, within days of the murder, had been to make enquiry at Poole Harbour. The harbourmaster had stated nothing bigger than a supermarket trolley could be in his harbour. He was informed how wrong he could be!

Surrey Constabulary USU recovering vehicle from Poole Harbour

The Murder Squad worked hard to complete the prosecution file and delivered it to the DPP, which appointed a barrister to prosecute. The trial was listed at the Old Baileyon 16th April 1980 before Justice Mars-Jones. I was appointed Exhibits Officer, which meant that I could sit in Court Two and observe everything which transpired. Like all other members of the Murder Squad, I was anxious to see a successful conclusion to the case, which we all viewed as watertight.

I watched as the jury was sworn in and took their places in the Jury Box. The trial began when Prosecuting Barrister Hudson addressed the jury at 11.16. I listened intently knowing exactly how detailed had been the file of evidence presented to him. He said in his stentorian barrister's voice "*Members of the Jury I must reveal to you the details of this utterly brutal and callous murder, when an innocent man has been shot three times in the back of the head, and then tied up with 19 yards of adhesive tape and 20 yards of rope."*

I was appalled! How could anybody get these simple facts so wrong? John George had been wickedly tied up well before being shot! It would take a correction by the assistant prosecutor later in the day to

set the record straight. I sat through the trial for a fortnight, observing the gaffes of the learned barristers and learning never to trust any of them. At the conclusion of the trial the two defendants were found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment. The Murder Squad left the court, as did the jury and everyone else – except me. I went to the jury box and examined each of the 12 notebooks which had been issued to the jury at the commencement of the trial. Ten of them were completely empty, devoid of comment. Two of them had writing on page one, the day of the start of the trial; one page was a game of "Hangman". No evidence had been listed by any member of the jury. As I studied the notebooks an usher appeared and said "*'ere what you doing? These books are all confidential to the court"* I said, "They are all bleeding empty, devoid of evidence!" and he said "*Yeah that often happens here."*

Thus was my education in the practical niceties of the Criminal Law advanced. Did it strengthen my admiration for the system of the jury trial? No – not at all!

Traffic Policewoman

Photos from the family of the late WPS Pamela Stevens

With Wendy White

WPCs Pothecary and Ann Carr

WPC Smith on a private scooter

Policewomen on a course at Maidstone on a visit to a Borstal – Pam Stevens is there - somewhere

Centre back row is Pam Stevens


SURREY CONSTABULARY
WOMEN POLICE

FAREWELL DINNER

To

W/Chief Inspector C. Mackenzie, B.E.M.

on

Wednesday 30th September, 1964

6.45 p.m. for 7.15 p.m.

at

The Corona Restaurant, Guildford.

The highly regarded Woman Chief Inspector Mackenzie
1 January 1962 New Year Honours awarded BEM[4]

[4] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1962_New_Year_Honours

Traffic Man

Graham Richings

Graham Richings at HTB – Burpham Traffic

Ford Cortina GTs outside Mount Brown for the handover of the new fleet Traffic cars


APJ 560Y
Ted Stevens and Clive Warburton
HTB 1985


POLICE
B774 NPG

The 4X4 Sierra was an unmarked patrol car that used to circulate around the traffic centres for a month at a time. At the time that type of vehicle had only recently come out. Sadly, it caught fire and burnt out eventually.

Possibly Taff Evans, Fred Wheelhouse, Ian Robertson & Graham Richings (Circa 1987)

Farewell Norman Jesty from Godstone Traffic – a Peter May photo

RTA Crash Drama!

Ian Cook Tuesday 3rd December 1985

CAMBERLEY MA

(Incorporating the News and Mail)

No. 5817 Price 10p

INSIDE — JUNIOR NEWS & MAIL for the youngsters ★ Hundred

Stolen car in crash drama

ON-lookers watched in horror as a stolen car hit a traffic island and overturned during the rush hour on Wednesday evening.

The driver, who is being hunted by police, climbed out through the smashed windscreen and ran off, apparently uninjured.

SWERVED

The accident happened at Jenkins Hill, Bagshot, at about 6 p.m.

The driver swerved to avoid a cyclist and clipped a traffic island, turning the car over.

When police arrived the driver had gone. A check revealed the car had been stolen earlier in the week from Chiswick.

Traffic was held up for half-an-hour while the car was towed away to a local garage.

HEAVE-HO, LADS — Police and firemen join forces to rock the stolen car upright.

AND OVER SHE GOES — At last the car is pushed up the rush-hour traffic can get moving

Reigate Borough Police

Robert Bartlett - continued

Police Constable 3 Robert Reginald Lawrence Reigate Borough Police

Military Foot Police

Meritorious Service Medal Mentioned in Despatches Twice

Died Bethnal Green Military Hospital 20 July 1919

Lance Corporal Lawrence [5]

[5] Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser 18 September 1915 from Henry Pelham email 16 August 2019

The Mayor and Chief Constable Gavin Stevens Surrey Police in Reigate Town Hall [6]

It has always been reported that there were no fatal casualties amongst Reigate Borough Police members during the First World War. That may be so as Robert Lawrence resigned from the Borough a few weeks before he died in a military hospital 20 July 1919. However, he was notremembered on police war memorials an omission that has been rectified.

From Robert Simonson Surrey History Centre Woking: Police Service
The Reigate Borough Police conduct book (CC98/22/29) gives the following information about Robert Reginald Lawrence:

Appointed 25 March 1913, PC3, 1st grade, trade - library assistant, born 16 October 1899 Dulwich, single, Protestant, age 23 on 16 October 1912, 5ft 9½ins, fresh complexion, brown hair, grey eyes. Robert Lawrence was appointed Reigate Borough Police 25 March 1913 age 23 advancing through the pay grades, even whilst serving in the armed forces:
Appointed 1st grade @ 25/- 25 March 1913 Confirmed by Watch Committee, 16 March 1914Second grade @ £1.7.0 25 March 1914

New scale @ £1.9.0 10 April 1914 Fourth grade @ £1.10.0 25 March 1916 Fifth grade @ £1.11.0 25 March 1918 [7]

From Friends of Surrey Infantry Museum: [8] First record found is as Military Foot Policemana sergeant in 1908 that indicates he had some previous military service before joining the police. Police officers serving with the military during the First World War remained members of their Force and their military service counted towards their pension. This is how PC Lawrence was to advance to the

[6] Memorial funding raised by Robert Bartlett from retired members of the Surrey Police. The memorial is nowdisplayed alongside other memorials at police headquarters Mount Browne
[7] CC98/22/29 Surrey History Centre August 2019 from Robert Simonson
[8] From Dee Hutchison 18 August 2019 with detail from Ancestry email

fifth grade on 25 March 1918 whilst he was a sergeant in the Military Foot Police. Pay was also made up from what they would have received as policemen to what the military paid.
PC Lawrence enlisted in Military Foot Police as lance corporal 21 June 1915 service number P/1824
Acting sergeant when mentioned in despatches: Mention in Despatches (LG Issue 30101 of 29.5.1917 page 5326) Mention in Despatches (LG Issue 30445 of 24.12.1917 page 13492) [9]
Resigned from Reigate Borough Police 30 April 1919

Military Police sergeant when awarded the Meritorious Service Medal 3 June 1919 [10]
Reported he had died in Bethnal Green Military Hospital on 20 July 1919. [11] The hospital record is an alphabetical list of patients and Lawrence appears twice, once in 1908 and again in 1919. No medical information is given.

The Reigate Borough chief constable's annual report for the year ending 31 December 1919 states: "PC 3 Robert Reginald Lawrence resigned whilst serving in HM Forces and afterwards died." [12]
Unfortunately, there are no reasons given for the resignation or the cause of death. It is possible that the resignation was an acceptance that Lawrence would not return and that he intended tomake a career in the Army. He had been successful. He was a sergeant with two mentions in despatches and had been awarded a Meritorious Service Medal. Or, it may have been that he knew he was dying and that his resignation was to obtain some financial advantage for his descendants.

His death is recorded, and a copy of the certificate has been obtained, diagnosing the cause following a post-mortem at the Bethnal Green Military Hospital: [13]

Pityriasis rubra 2 months
Nephritis

(Pityriasis rubra pilaris is the name given to a group of uncommon skin disorders. The name means scaling (pityriasis), redness (rubra)

Nephritis is a killer as kidneys fail through an inflammation though it is unlikely to follow from pityriasis in any form. It is however, something that is frequently caused as a result of exposureto a toxin, poison, virus, or infection. We may never know now buy we can safely assume thatduring his time at War he would have been exposed to some, if not all, of those dangers.) [236]

Is PC Lawrence a victim of the war? Is that the right question? Has the casualty to die as a direct result of enemy action? It would appear that an individual can become memorialised for being in the armed forces during the war and soon thereafter and dying. It is difficult to understand 100 years on how he became ill, was the illness the reason behind his resignation from the Reigate Borough Police and how his illness resulted in death. Were the illnesses a direct consequence of his war service? Was he gassed? Was he poisoned when in France? These are now unanswerable questions.

[9] Richard Callaghan Military Police Museum curator 19 August 2019 email
[10] London Gazette 31370 - Page 6911 known as the Peace Gazette
[11] The Reigate Borough Police conduct book (CC98/22/29)
[12] The Reigate Borough Chief Constable's annual report for the year ending 31 Dec 1919 (CC98/22/1)
[13] Death certificate DYE 400787 1919 Bethnal Green North East obtained by Jean Pelham 27 August 2019

He had served in the Reigate Borough Police and was a member until a few weeks before he died. He had been called to serve the Colours and it is clear from the death certificate that he was then, primarily a Military Police Sergeant, the word Policeman is entered under occupation.
It was accepted that he was a casualty of war within the criteria of the War Graves Commission,is listed on their website and is remembered on the war memorial for the Streatham area where he was brought up. Therefore, the actual cause of death or modern interpretation is possibly irrelevant. He was in the armed forces because of the war and died in parallel circumstances to flu victims who are memorialised.

Robert Reginald Lawrence memorial dedicated by the Mayor of Reigate in November2019 a century after his death

Police Constable 18 William Parker Reigate Borough Police
Royal Army Medical Corps Warrant Officer
Meritorious Service Medal

Re-called to the army August 5, 1914 re-joined Reigate Borough Police 14 February 1919 being discharged from the army 13 March 1919

Reigate Constable Decorated Meritorious Service Medal to PC Parker

An interesting ceremony took place on Monday evening at the meeting of the Reigate Town Council when PC William Parker, of the Reigate Borough Police Force was publicly presented with the

Meritorious Service Medal awarded to him by the military authorities for his devotedservice as a soldier during the war.[14]

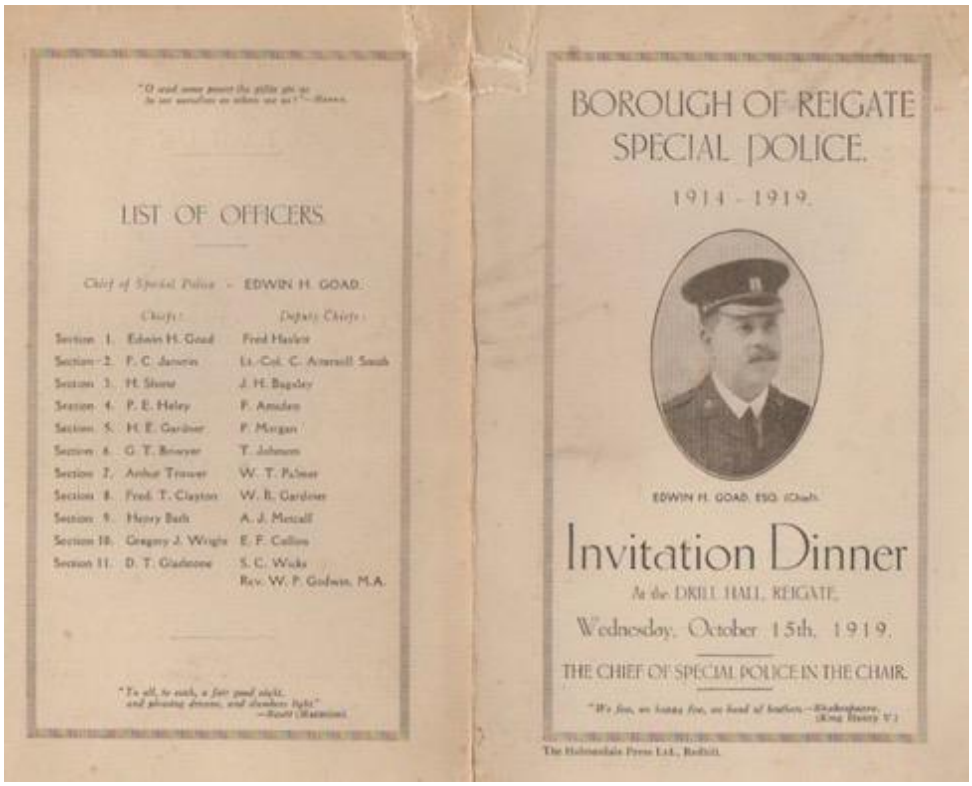
The Mayor, Alderman T Malcolmson said the record of PC Parker was that he joined the Reigate Borough Force in May 1911 when he was in the army reserve. He was recalled to theColours as a private on August 5, 1914, upon the outbreak of war. He passed from lance corporal to acting sergeant and sub-conductor, warrant officer 2nd class in the RAMC. He resumed duty in the Reigate Borough Force on February 16 of this year (1919). He (the mayor)had very much pleasure in presenting that Meritorious Service Medal to PC Parker. He had won it by faithful and diligent discharge of his duty, and they were convinced that while he remained in the police force, he would continue to exercise those qualities, which gained for him that decoration. They were quite convinced that he had won the decoration well and earnestly, and they trusted with satisfaction to himself and his friends. He wished him long lifeand long service in the Borough Police Force, and they hoped to see him obtain the award of diligent service as time went on (applause).

The mayor then pinned the medal on the tunic of the constable and shook hands with him. The constable acknowledged the bestowal of the decoration with a salute.

A constable on traffic duty in the centre of Redhill before trafficlights were installed in the 1930s.

1919 August 29 Surrey Mirror: Racing at Redhill – **Successful sports** by the Trades and Labour Council held at Redhill Sports Ground. A series of events were organised, and the weather was fine, an ideal day for such a fixture. Reigate Borough Police took part in some events. The 880yard scratch race was somewhat of a disappointment with only four lining up. The favourite was Guardsman J O'Donoghue of the Guards Depot, who is looked upon as the coming half-mile Army Champion. Wilkinson of the Reigate Borough Police made a start but had to retire due to leg trouble, O'Donoghue eventually winning the race. Tremendous excitement centred in the tug-of-war for which there were seven teams. The final lay between Reigate Borough Police Team coached by PS Bacon and a N.U.G.W. team coached by Mr Easton. The contest was very keen and the result was not known until the teams had crossed over three times., the final being won by the men in blue whose team members were PS Hood, captain, and PC's Normington, Cooper, Morse, Shepherd, Ash, Forster and Santer.

[14] Surrey Mirror 30 May 1919 from Henry Pelham 16 August 2019



LIST OF OFFICERS

Chief of Special Police - EDWIN H. GOAD.

	Chiefs:	Deputy Chiefs:
Section 1.	Edwin H. Goad	Fred Hasler
Section 2.	P. C. Janvrin	Lt.-Col. C. Arterrell Smith
Section 3.	H. Shore	J. H. Bagsley
Section 4.	P. E. Haley	F. Amsden
Section 5.	H. E. Gardiner	F. Morgan
Section 6.	G. T. Bowyer	T. Johnson
Section 7.	Arthur Trower	W. T. Palmer
Section 8.	Fred. T. Clayton	W. B. Gardiner
Section 9.	Henry Bath	A. J. Metcalf
Section 10.	Gregory J. Wright	E. F. Collins
Section 11.	D. T. Gladstone	S. C. Wicks
		Rev. W. P. Godwin, M.A.

"To all, to each, a fair good night,
and pleasing dreams, and slumbers light."
—Scott (Marmion)

BOROUGH OF REIGATE
SPECIAL POLICE.

1914 - 1919.

EDWIN H. GOAD, ESQ. (Chief).

Invitation Dinner

At the DRILL HALL, REIGATE,

Wednesday, October 15th, 1919.

THE CHIEF OF SPECIAL POLICE IN THE CHAIR.

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers."—Shakespeare.
(King Henry V.)

The Holmesdale Press Ltd., Redhill.

Special Constabulary dinner held at the Drill Hall Reigate October 15, 1919

1919 December 31: Annual Report to the Watch Committee from James Metcalfe includinga report on the activities of the Fire Brigade [15] **Establishment** 40 actual strength 35

1920 outside Reigate HQ[16]

[15] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1919
[16] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm picture Alan Moore

The number of officers wearing medals is obvious and identifies those who served with the colours during the First World War

A policeman on traffic duty at Reigate Market Place dealing with the arrival of one of the coaches run from London to Brighton before World War One (Picture Alan Moore)

An early Reigate Borough police constable wearing a plainer helmet and two unknown Borough officers

1920 September 17: Surrey Mirror: A tug-of -war between Guildford Borough Police and Reigate Borough Police was held at a sports meeting at Guildford Sports Ground, the latter team being

coached by PS Bacon. The Guildford team won the first pull after a fine tussle but the visitors gained the victory in the second quite easily. The third pull was fought gamely but the Guildford Police beat their opponents and won by two pulls to one. The Reigate team consisted of PC'S Normington, Foster, Barnett, Ash, Smith, Morse, Standing and Cooper.

1921 June 17: Surrey Mirror: Cricket- Reigate Borough Police v Railway Athletic-Played at the Sports Ground Redhill on Wednesday last week resulted in a win for the Railwaymen by 84 runs, after an enjoyable game. The police were short of practice and batted weakly, Sutton taking six wickets for 20 runs. For the Railwaymen Cock played a steady innings for 32 and Willetts scored 39. Atkins bowled best for the police taking 6 for 42.

1921 August 5: Surrey Mirror: Cricket - Reigate Borough Police v Oxted Division Police - Played at Reigate resulted in a win for Oxted Division by 21 runs. It was a pleasant and exciting game as at the time for drawing stumps Oxted still required 3 runs to win with 2 wickets to fall, but Reigate sportingly agreed to play on. The ninth wicket fell when the scores were equal and the last man in made the winning hit.

1921 August 12: Surrey Mirror– Police at Cricket- There were some meritorious batting performances in a match played at Kingswood on Tuesday of last week between Kingswood and Reigate Borough Police. The club batted first and ran up the big score of 338 runs. Eight members of the side ran into double figures and the half century was exceeded by three players. The Police replied with a good score of 205 (?). Insp Hood who went in first laid on the wood to a merry tune and scored a splendid 84 before being sent back by Manners. With PC Atkins who notched up 55runs he made a big stand for the second wicket but P Ash alone of the latter batsmen ran into double figures. Batting for a second time the Police scored 79 for the loss of five wickets. Insp Hood carrying out his bat for a well-played 38.

1921 September 16: Surrey Mirror - Cricket - Oxted Division Police v Reigate Borough Police played at Oxted resulted in a win for Oxted Police Division by 21 runs. For the winners PC Williams took 6 wickets for 4 runs and PC Horne 3 for 11. For Reigate Police PC Atkins captured 6 for 12.

1921 December 31: Annual Report to the Watch Committee from James Metcalfe including a report on the activities of the Fire Brigade: A motor ambulance was provided, and it was used on 60 occasions during the year. [17]

1922 Introduction of electric lamps into police use although the head constable decreed that "great care be taken of them and that no more light then is really necessary is to be used." [18]

1922 August 25: Surrey Mirror: Cricket- Reigate Borough Police v Dorking Division Police-Played at Reigate on Tuesday resulting in a win for the visitors by 36 runs. For the Dorking Division Supt Barnard and PC Feasey batted well whilst PC Holloway took seven wickets for 25 runs

[17] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1921
[18] A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary Gerry Middleton Stewart

1923 The Chief Constable issued an order restricting the use of the **new police bicycle** for him and the inspectors. [19]

1926 July 16 Surrey Mirror: Cricket: Reigate Borough Police v Oxted Division Police – Played at Reigate Heath resulted in a win for the Borough Police by 48 runs and six wickets. PC Knott took six wickets for 9 runs and knocked up 33runs.

1926 July 2 Surrey Mirror: Cricket - Reigate Borough Police v St Matthews. Played on the Sports Ground, Redhill resulted in a win for the Police by four wickets and 7 runs. A feature of the match was a brilliant catch in the long field by PC Laycock from a drive by Rev M A Daniell just as he was getting set. Score – St Matthew's 69, Borough Police 76 for 6 wickets (Dean 19)

1926 August 13: Surrey Mirror – Cricket- Reigate Borough Police v The Griffins- Played at St David's Reigate, by kind permission of Mr Fisher Rowe, resulted in a win for the Police by 45runs.PC's Simmonds and Dean were in form with the ball, the former taking 5 for 16 and the latter 5 for 19. The score being Borough Police 83 band Griffins 38.

1926 December 8: Motor's fatal skid – driver's evidence given from stretcher: Two victims of the blazing car tragedy the result of the blazing car turning over and bursting into flames during the early hours of Sunday on the main road between **Merstham and Redhill.** The deceased were Stanley Cohen aged 25 from Clapton Common and Miss Susie Scott from Whitechapel travelling with another man and two women. Wolf Cohen was at the wheel. The car skidded hit the kerb, crossed the road and overturned pinning the occupants underneath and setting fire to the oil tank. The inquest was held at the East Surrey Hospital, Redhill. The driver gave evidence from a stretcher, his arms and hands bandaged. The driver said he was driving at a moderate pace when he felt the car skid, swerved around and immediately overturned with the oil tank igniting. There was a desperate struggle to get from underneath the car which at that time was blazing furiously.

Sergeant Hilton of the Surrey Constabulary said he was on the scene within minutes of the accident. The car was in flames beside the road and there were two deceased and three injured people. Miss Scott was very badly injured but alive and fifty yards towards London he found Stanley Cohen in a very bad state. When the ambulance arrived, it skidded for some distance. The ground was very slippery and covered with ground frost. Medical evidence showed the two deceased were terribly burned their cases being hopeless from the beginning. There was not the least trace, the least smell of alcohol. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death. [20]

1926 December 31: Annual Report to the Watch Committee from James Metcalfe including a report on the activities of the Fire Brigade. [21]

[19] A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary Gerry Middleton Stewart
[20] 1926 8 December: The Scotsman
[21] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1926

PC Wing was **commended** for discovering and extinguishing a fire. He was presented with a **silver watch** by the Watch Committee.
PC Ayres was **commended** for the arrest of a thief
PC Puddy was **commended** for stopping a runaway horse (no mention of the guinea reward)
PC Ingram was **commended** for the arrest of three car thieves
PC28 Ingram was granted the **Merit Badge** for special diligence leading to the arrest of two housebreakers.

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 few photos where such a stripe is obvious. With so many forces and many of them policing small boroughs local chief officers and in borough Watch Committees would designate insignia as suitable.

Probably merit class PC Ingram

PC Claydon was **commended** for his conduct at an accident
PC Dickinson **resigned** on being appointed to the Shanghai Municipal Police

1927 May 20: Surrey Mirror: Cricket- Reigate Borough Police v Reigate and Redhill P.O. played on the Sports Ground, Redhill on Wednesday resulted in a win for the Borough Police by eight wickets. Beedell for the police taking four wickets for 13 runs.

1927 May 27: Surrey Mirror: Cricket – A match between Reigate Borough Police and the Police Orphanage resulted in a win for the Orphanage by 30 runs. Scores Police Orphanage 93, Borough Police 63.

1927 June 10: Surrey Mirror: Cricket - Reigate Borough Police v Oxted Division - Played at Blindley Heath resulted in a win for Reigate by 9 wickets. For Reigate Police PC Simmonds took 8 wickets for 16runs.

1927 July 22: Surrey Mirror: Cricket – Reigate Borough Police v Met Police (Kenley) played at Reigate Heath on Wednesday of last week resulted in a good game with a win for the local Police by 21 runs. Score Reigate Borough 72 and Kenley 51.

1927 July 22: Surrey Mirror: Cricket- Reigate Borough Police v St Matthew's. played at the Sports Ground on Wednesday resulted in a win for the Police by 103 runs. Score – St Matthew's 25 and Borough Police 128

1927 August 12: Surrey Mirror: Cricket – Reigate Borough Police v East Surrey Traction- Played at Churchfields on Wednesday resulted in a win for the East Surrey Traction Co by 67 runs, Sandford taking five wickets for 14 runs and J w Neale knocking up a merry 56 not out. Scores- East Surrey Traction Co 111 and Borough Police 44.

1928 May 4: Surrey Mirror: Cricket – Reigate Borough Police v Southern Prov. Police School. Played at the Police Orphanage Ground on Wednesday resulted in a win for the Borough Police by 5 runs. Score- Reigate Borough Police 32 and Southern Provincial Police School 27.

1928 June 15: Surrey Mirror: Cricket- Reigate Borough Police v L Division Metropolitan Police. Played at Duppas Hill on Wednesday resulted in a win for Reigate by 7 runs and three wickets. PC Knott took five wickets for 16 and knocked up top score of 29 runs.

1928 July 27: Surrey Mirror: Cricket – Reigate Police v Redgate. Played on the Sports Ground on Wednesday resulted in a win for the Police by four wickets and 74 runs.

1928 August 17 Surrey Mirror: Cricket -- Injury to Police Inspector- Whilst keeping wicket for Reigate Police C.C. in their match against the East Surrey Traction Co, Inspector Hood met with a nasty accident, being struck over the eye by a rising ball, which a batsman tipped from the edge of his bat. The injury was a painful one and the Inspector was temporarily incapacitated from his police station.

1928 August 24: Surrey Mirror: Cricket - Borough Police v "Z" Division Metropolitan Police played at Churchfield by kind permission of Mr Godfrey Searle resulted in a win for the visitors, after a keen game, by 14 runs

1928 September 14: Surrey Mirror: Reigate Carnival- Pushball Competition- The novelty game attracted a large crowd in the meadow at Manor Road, kindly lent for the purpose by Mr A B Fyson. The huge ball measured 6ft 6in in diameter and weighed about 100lbs. The game was a strenuous one and the various bouts were divided into 'halves' of only five minutes. Roars of laughter greeted the frequent mishaps to the players who if not sufficiently alert were bowled over like nine pins. Nine teams entered the competition including the Borough Police who despite putting out a strong team were beaten in the preliminary round by East Surrey Traction Co by 2 points to nil.

1929 The Chief Constable ordered that each day there would be a quarter of an hour's drill in 'saluting' until it was thought acceptable by the head constable. [22]

1930/1931 Chief HMI Report: CHMI In the 1930/31 report, total strength 40 – 1 Chief Constable, 2 inspectors, 7 sergeants, 30 constables – population 28,914.

1930 June 6: Surrey Mirror: Cricket - Reigate M.O. V Reigate Borough Police. Played at Reigate Priory on Wednesday last week resulted in a win for the Police by 22 runs. Scores – Reigate M.O. 86 and Borough Police 108

New Book- The Camden Murder

[22] A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary Gerry Middleton Stewart

This is just to let you know that the new Blitz Detective book - The Camden Murder - is published on 15 December. It's 1940, at the height of the Blitz, and police find a man dead in a blazing car in Camden Town, north London - he's Les Latham, a commercial traveller for a confectionery company. He liked to be known as Lucky Les, but it seems his luck has finally run out. When DI John Jago discovers a mysterious photo and some suspicious-looking petrol ration books among the man's belongings, it sets him off on a murky trail of deceit, corruption and murder... This is No. 7 in the Blitz Detective series, and I hope you'll enjoy it!

To hear Mike Hollow chatting about the book on BBC Radio Berkshire at about 12.30 on Saturday 10 December 2022. You can hear it wherever you are (and also for about a month after the live broadcast) via the BBC Sounds app.

https://www.allisonandbusby.com/authors/mike-hollow/