Surrey Constabulary History

'An in depth history of policing in Surrey'

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www.surrey-constabulary.com

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1930s Prince of Wales inspects scouts at the Provincial Police Orphanage, Redhill

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1945 Sunbeam Talbot Surrey Constabulary

Sant Cup final at Mount Browne (30 overs each side) Guildford Division
Dave Harding, Alan McArthur, Peter Cairns? Dave Hancock, Pat Faul ? Graham Charman
Eric Hunt, Dave Durrant, Peter Wickens Phil Moss, Dixie Dean

WPS Pam Stevens buttons and badges

Watch Godalming police officers marching on parade about 1911

https://screenarchive.brighton.ac.uk/detail/1290/

Reigate Borough Police visible especially on point duty by the old town hall

A compilation of two films showing the Reigate carnival in 1927 and 1926. The films show the procession through the town as well as portraits of individuals in costumes and on floats.

https://screenarchive.brighton.ac.uk/detail/1773/

Margery Urquhart OBE

Police Sergeant Special Branch Metropolitan Police
Temporary Inspector Surrey Constabulary Women Police
1912-2007

Some of the following was sent to Surrey Constabulary History by the modern historian of the Metropolitan Police **Dick Kirby**, who has kindly agreed to its publication. Miss Urquhart is mentioned in Mr. Kirby's book *IRA Terror on Britain's Streets 1939-1940.*

Robert Simonson of the Family History Centre found an early record of Miss Urquhart in the Surrey Constabulary though the entry seems to have been abandoned possibly indicating a move to personnel files. Appointments book archives reference 9152/1/2/1/5. The additional sheets of information from the Metropolitan Police for Margery Urquhart (copies of front and back supplied) was inserted in the middle of the double page for her entry in the register.

Yet again **Jean Pelham** has used her family history skills to investigate the background of this notable former member of the Surrey Constabulary and Tony Collman for his help with medals.

From Wikipedia[1] : Margery Urquhart OBE (27 August 1912 - 9 May 2007) worked as the Deputy Director of Social Work at Grampian Regional Council but unknown to her colleagues she had an earlier career as a Special Branch agent. She was possibly the first female agent to be recruited by Special Branch; furthermore she was the first female officer to become an Inspector in the Surrey Police Force. Urquhart took part in counter-espionage before and during World War II.[

[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margery_Urquhart

Early life and education: Urquhart was born in Patagonia, Chile. Urquhart's parents, Alexander and Betsy Urquhart, were originally farmers in Milton of Culloden, Scotland, who ran a beef business in Chile. Her early education was carried out by her mother on the ranch. When she was 11 years old the family moved back to Milton of Culloden, Inverness.

She attended The University of Aberdeen, graduating in 1935 with a BSc in Agriculture. This achievement made her the first female to graduate with a degree in Agriculture from the University. After her graduation she moved to Hampshire where she worked on a farm as a dairy maid. (Surrey Constabulary enrolment register)

Career: It was while working on the farm in Hampshire in 1936 that Urquhart decided on a major career shift and subsequently joined the Metropolitan Police. She was recruited by the Special Branch and became involved in covert work monitoring the IRA. In 1944 she transferred to the Surrey Constabulary on promotion to become the first female inspector in the force.[2]

After the end of the war Urquhart remained in Surrey for about a year when once again decided on a change of career and undertook training as a probation officer. By 1949 she was once again in Aberdeen taking on the role of a children's officer. She was the only full-time employee working in childcare. She was responsible for over 400 disadvantaged children and carried out much pioneering work. By the late 1970s Urquhart had risen to become Deputy Director of Social Services at Grampian Council. Urquhart retired in 1977.

After retiring, Urquhart immediately embarked on a political career as Conservative Councillor for the Aberdeen seat of Hazlehead. She was awarded an OBE in the 1977 New Year Honours.

Miss Urquhart developed a particular interest in mental health and subsequently took on several tasks as a retiree including being director of Seabank House, a care home in Aberdeen, from December 1990 to October 1997. She was also a director of the Aberdeen Association of Social Service from June 1986 to March 1989. She was also a director of Mental Health Aberdeen from October 1989 to October 1990. She spent her final years in the Fairview Nursing Home dying in 2007in Bridge of Don, Scotland at the age of 94 years.

"IRA Terror on Britain's Streets 1939-1940"

With permission of the author Dick Kirby

There used to be a saying in the Metropolitan Police regarding women officers carrying out observations in a busy shopping area: 'Put her in plain clothes, give her a shopping bag and no-one will suspect her' but the women used in this complicated and dangerous surveillance task – where crowds were minimal and shopping bags would be of no earthly use - had to be better prepared than that.

Margery Urquhart had been born in Patagonia in 1912 and in 1936, she joined the Metropolitan Police. She served as a uniform officer on 'J' & 'K' (two of the outer divisions) but her capabilities were soon noted and she was seconded to Special Branch. Anne Winterbottom joined one year after Urquhart, and she served on 'A'. 'W' & 'M' divisions before she, too was snapped up by Special Branch.

The surveillance commenced at 6.20pm on 3 May and finished at 2 o'clock the following morning.

The two women saw Patrick Dower and Patrick Joseph McAleer leave their lodgings at Sidmouth Street, WC1 and followed them as they walked a mile to Great Portland Street Underground Station where they met the third member of the gang, Gerard Bradford. From there, the three men travelled on to Baker Street Underground Station where they met Timothy Murray plus Gerald Lyons and one other man, where it appeared that Bradford was giving instructions to the others; and from time to time during that evening, McAleer met up with various of the gang. Shortly afterwards the group split up – so did the watchers. Miss Urquhart followed Dower, Murray and the other man. At 11.35pm, in the Euston Road, she saw Dower put something through the letterbox of George Newman & Co., motor car agents at No. 369. Shortly afterwards, the men went to Com-Motors at No. 349 where Miss Urquhart saw Murray insert something into that company's letter box. The two men split up, so it was only Murray, whom she did not know, who was followed; he went alone to the Edgware Road where he was seen speaking to two girls and some young men after which he took the long route home to his lodgings at St Mary's Terrace, Paddington, arriving there at 1am. Fortunately, the two empty milk bottles that Miss Urquhart had put into her handbag for protection, were not needed.

Meanwhile, Miss Winterbottom had followed Bradford and Lyons to the Aldwych where, at 12.30am outside the Aldwych Theatre she saw Bradford take something out of his coat pocket. Both men spent five minutes looking around them before walking away, into Kingsway where she saw them go to the shop premises of D. Gestetner Ltd. From there, the men walked and ran north, to High Holborn and when Miss Winterbottom was able to catch up to them, she saw them walking away from the Crittall Manufacturing Co. Ltd. By now, the streets were pretty-well deserted and it would have been foolish indeed for one woman to try to continue to follow two very dangerous individuals. It is more than probable that the two men were responsible for planting bombs at Tottenham Court Road and Charing Cross Road; they were already heading in that direction, up Denmark Street to Charing Cross Road, then north, into Tottenham Court Road before a leisurely stroll back to their lodgings at Acton Street, but if they did, nobody saw them. The two men returned home at 2am.

The women returned to the Yard to be de-briefed and one would have thought that officers would have been dispatched to the various premises that the gang had visited and the keyholders called out so that the premises might be searched but for whatever reason, they were not. It has since been stated that 'the other man' with Dower and Murray was John Joseph Keane but this, of course, is nonsense. As has already been seen, Keane was arrested with others on 18 April, two weeks prior to the surveillance operation and remained in custody until he was later sentenced to 10 years' penal servitude. So, who was 'the other man' who was never caught? If he was a participating informant for Special Branch, it would explain why no action was taken to stop the bombs detonating, to prevent suspicion falling on him. It would also explain why the gang were able to be charged with planting the bombs at Tottenham Court Road and Charing Cross Road, even though none of the police officers saw them do it. All a bit bewildering, isn't it? Back now, to the early hours of 4 May.

At 1am – and this would have been minutes after Miss Winterbottom saw the two men at Gestetner's – just by chance, patrolling Police Constable 164 'E' Blake found a parcel outside the premises which contained two balloons, one inside the other filled with liquid and a stick of gelignite and a detonator. The parcel was placed in a bucket of water and he was later commended by the commissioner for his actions.

There were explosions where Dower and Murray had been seen at George Newman's in the Euston Road at 2.25am where the shop front was blown out and damage estimated at £90 was caused and also where Bradford and Lyons had been seen at Crittall's in High Holborn at 2.41am which caused £125's-worth of damage.

At 5.15am and again, just by chance - Police Constable 560 'C' Ernest Haywood discovered a brown paper parcel in the doorway of the furnishing company Heal & Son Ltd., in Tottenham Court Road. Opening it, he found a balloon, a stick of gelignite and a fuse; after separating the gelignite from the balloon, he immersed the items in a bucket of water which he then took to the police station. He was later awarded £15 from the Bow Street Reward Fund and awarded the King's Police Medal for gallantry.

Police Constable William Marshall was called to the explosion at Com-Motors – again, this was where Dower and Murray had been seen - which occurred at 8.45am and where the shop front was blown out; 21 year old Miss Amy Brand, standing at an adjoining tobacconist's kiosk was taken to hospital having been injured by wood splinters from Com-Motors. Similarly, Edward Buckland who was a timekeeper to Selmer & Co., musical instrument makers at Charing Cross Road found a parcel inside the shop and believing it had been delivered to the firm, placed it on a desk. When he picked it up at 9.15am, it exploded in his hands and he threw it on the floor, whereupon it burst into flames. Curtains were thrown on to it and while Mr Buckland was trying to stamp out the flames, there was a second explosion and he and John Ivor Lloyd, a salesman, were thrown to the floor. Both men were taken to hospital, Mr Buckland suffering from leg injuries.

That morning, the bombers three addresses were raided by a mixture of Special Branch men and CID officers and were asked to account for their movements over the past few hours. Patrick Dower told Inspector Bridges that the case was a frame-up and that he had nothing further to say, then changed his mind and said, 'I'll take the lot. I'm standing up to my principals. I have nothing further to say'. When Patrick McAleer was arrested, two detonators were found on him. 'I have nothing to say at all', he said. 'I think it's a frame-up by your people of the Special Branch. I have nothing to say at all; that's definite'.

Gerard Bradford told the arresting officers, 'I don't wish to make any statement', Lyons said, 'As to my movements, I don't think that matters" and Murray made a signed statement.

Charged with conspiracy to cause explosions and with causing or attempting to cause explosions during 3-4 May the men appeared at the Old Bailey before the Common Serjeant who conducted an extremely fair trial against the terrorists. He ruled that there was no evidence to suggest that any of the defendants were guilty of the explosion in Charing Cross Road, nor that McAleer, Bradford or Lyons were guilty of the explosions in Euston Road nor the attempt at Tottenham Court Road. Additionally, he ruled there was no evidence to show that Dower, McAleer or Murray were responsible for the explosion at High Holborn or the attempt at Kingsway, nor that McAleer could be connected with any explosion.

If the bombers were pleased at this dispensation of British justice, which they despised, they gave no indication of it, sitting sullenly in the dock, saying nothing.

Found guilty of conspiracy to cause explosions, Inspector Bridges informed the court that Dower was a member of the IRA, was a section commander and a trusted soldier of the Republic. McAleer was a volunteer in the IRA and when Inspector Bridges stated that he had been receiving treatment for tuberculosis, it caused McAleer to bellow from the dock, 'I don't want sympathy from this court on account of my health!'

Bradford's arrest was, said Inspector Bridges, 'regarded by the police as of considerable importance'. His real name was Kirk and he had attended an IRA course of bomb instruction in Ireland, while Murray was a member of the IRA who had for some time been closely associated with fellow Irishmen who had been causing explosions in London.

Sentenced to 20 years' penal servitude each, Dower, McAleer, Bradford and Murray all struggled violently in the dock with warders before being removed, with McAleer shouting, 'Long live the Irish Republic!'

The identities of the two policewomen had not been disclosed in court; they were referred to simply as 'Miss A' and 'Miss B'. Now, the Common Sergeant called them before him and told them:

> I think it right to express the appreciation of the court to you for the fine police work you did during all those hours and also for the way in which you both gave evidence in this trial. I hope the attention of the Commissioner of Police may be called to what I have said.

It was. While Inspector Bridges and seven other officers were commended by the commissioner 'for ability and persistence in a difficult case of conspiracy to cause explosions' which was published in *Police Orders*, a footnote added that 'two women police constables who were engaged in the above have been highly commended by the commissioner'. No names were given – the high commendation was appended to their personal records, although no details were disclosed – and both were appointed to Special Branch thereafter as women detective constables.

The events covered by Dick Kirby were also written up in "Special Branch A History 1883-2006" by the late Ray Wilson and Ian Adams published in 2015 page 196.

Surrey Constabulary's First Woman Inspector

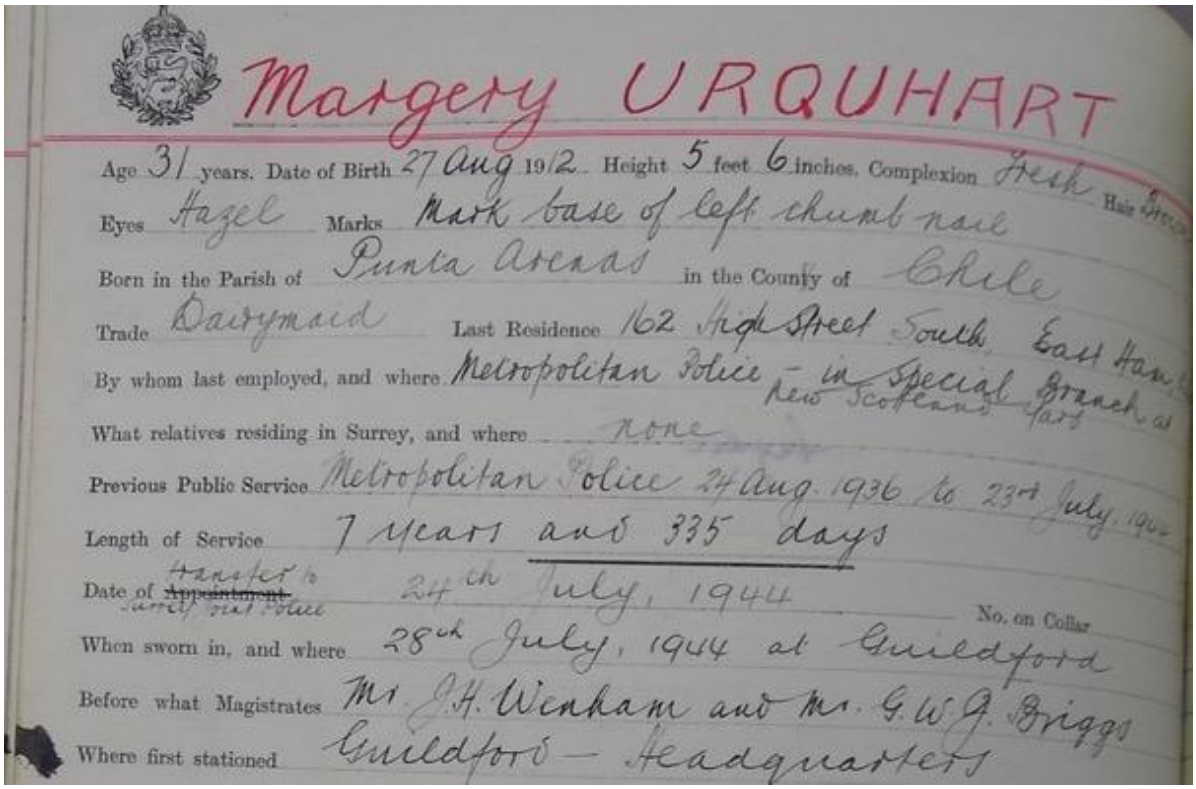
After almost 8 years in the Metropolitan Police Sergeant Urquhart transferred to the Surrey Constabulary on 24 July 1944 as a temporary inspector. The war was still going at a pace with Surrey an armed camp as the Canadian divisions and others formed up with all their hardware to cross to France. Across the county there were numerous secret establishments and the Surrey Constabulary's E Department undertook a great deal of the confidential and secret work under Detective Superintendent Tom Roberts. This was a strange career choice for Miss Urquhart as a great deal of her work was to be associated with lady camp followers and the children and young person duties that became the major role of the policewoman. She was posted to Tom Robert's department which may mean she remained involved in secret work? It could be that E Department's close involvement with the military meant they had a responsibility for the lady camp followers, often very young, and thus the policewomen.

Tom Roberts wrote a biography “Friends and Villains” published in 1987 and mentions the recruitment of Miss Urquhart. During the war, Surrey like police forces throughout the country had recruited many women as temporary WPCs to replace the men who had been called up and were serving in the forces. Usually, the women dealt with clerical and administrative work and were not asked to do patrol duties. It was not long before a powerful lobby was building up in favour of a permanent force of policewomen. --- The Surrey Standing Joint Committee eventually agreed to the appointment of a woman police inspector and ten policewomen to cover the county.

The post was advertised in Police Review for substantive sergeants. “The Chief Constable told me that the new inspector would be a part of my department as I had been in favour of the appointment and would cope with any problems that might arise. Final interviews with a short list of two, were held on the 20th July 1944 and Miss Urquhart from the Metropolitan Police SB was offered the job. She was a first-class highly competent officer who became very popular throughout the Force. Not wishing to spend the rest of her working life in the police after three years she left to become a children’s officer in Aberdeen late being awarded the OBE for her work. Miss Urquhart was replaced by Miss McKenzie from Kent.”

Miss Urquhart sat in front row, centre

The following are copies of the personal record now stored at the Surrey History Centre archives. There are two pages that came with Miss Urquhart from the Metropolitan Police.



Margery URQUHART

Age 31 years. Date of Birth 27 Aug 1912 Height 5 feet 6 inches. Complexion Fresh Hair Brown

Eyes Hazel Marks Mark base of left thumb nail

Born in the Parish of Punta Arenas in the County of Chile

Trade Dairymaid Last Residence 162 High Street South East Ham

By whom last employed, and where Metropolitan Police - in Special Branch at New Scotland Yard

What relatives residing in Surrey, and where none

Previous Public Service Metropolitan Police 24 Aug 1936 to 23rd July 1944

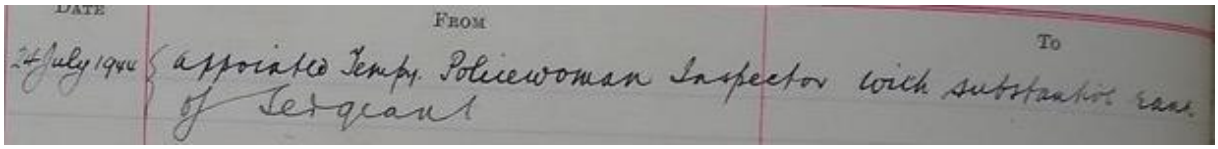
Length of Service 7 years and 335 days

Date of ~~Appointment~~ Transfer to Surrey Constabulary 24th July, 1944 No. on Collar

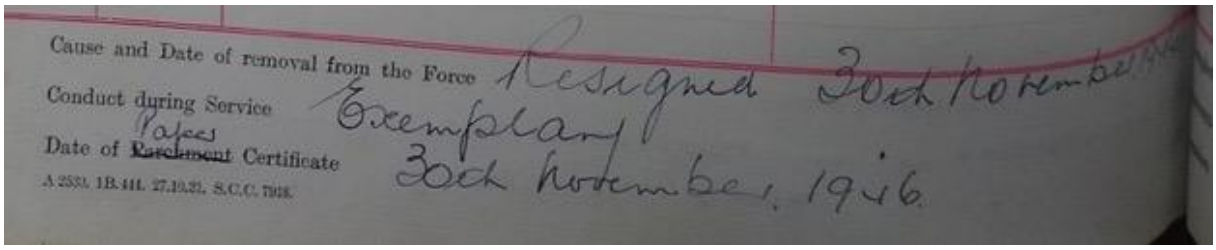
When sworn in, and where 28th July, 1944 at Guildford

Before what Magistrates Mr. J.H. Wenham and Mr. G.W.J. Briggs

Where first stationed Guildford - Headquarters



Date	From	To
24 July 1944	appointed Temp. Policewoman Inspector with substantive rank of Sergeant	

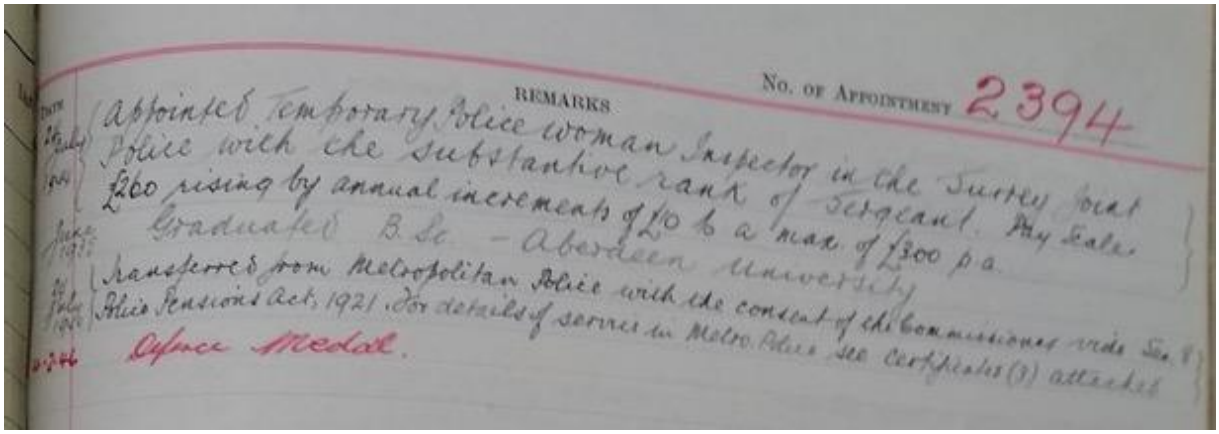


Cause and Date of removal from the Force Resigned 30th November 1946

Conduct during Service Exemplary

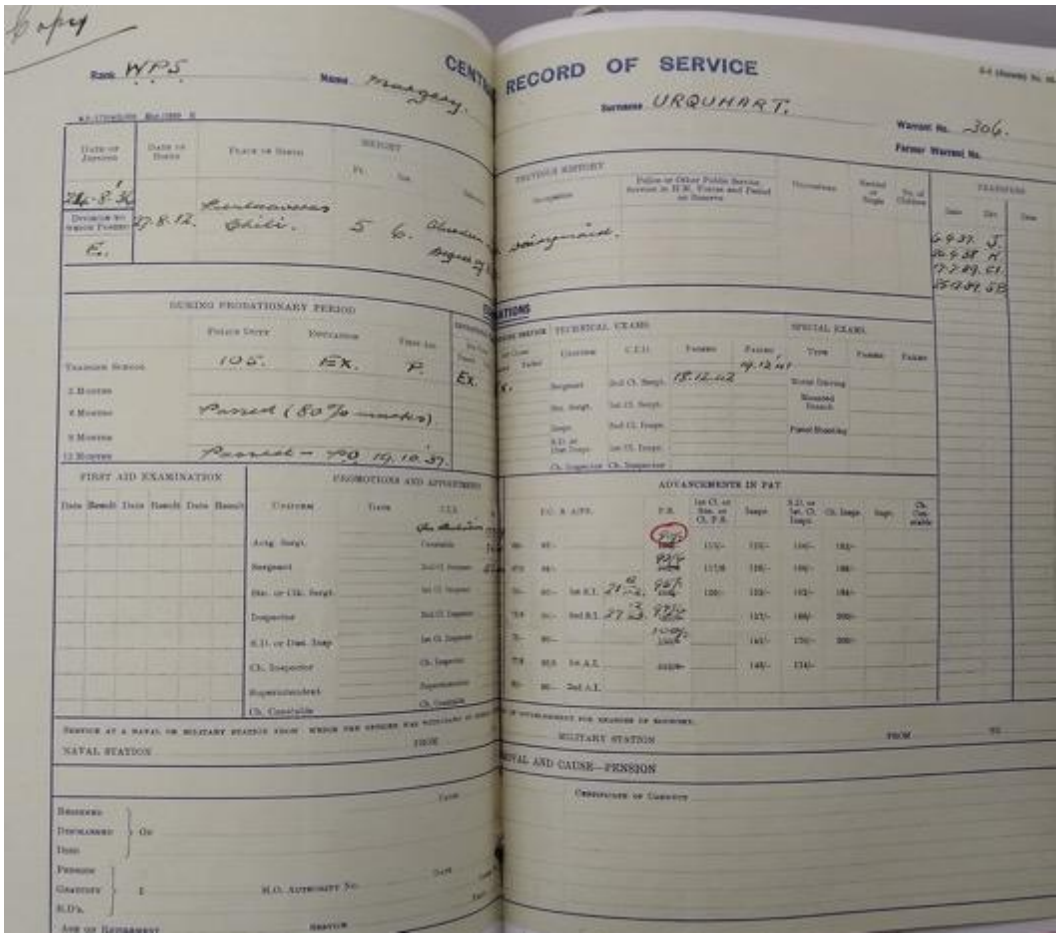
Date of ~~Parchment~~ Paper Certificate 30th November, 1946

A 2531. 1B.41L. 27.10.21. S.C.C. 7938.



No. of Appointment 2394

Date	Remarks
24 July 1944	Appointed Temporary Police woman Inspector in the Surrey Police with the substantive rank of Sergeant. Pay Scale £260 rising by annual increments of £10 to a max of £300 p.a.
June 1937	Graduated B.Sc - Aberdeen University
24 July 1944	Transferred from Metropolitan Police with the consent of the Commissioner vide Sec. 8 Police Pensions Act, 1921. For details of service in Metro. Police see Certificate (1) attached
9.3.44	Defence Medal.



RECORD OF SERVICE

Surname URQUHART.

Warrant No. 306.

Former Warrant No.

Rank WPS

Name Margery.

No.	Date of P.O.	Amount	COMMENDATIONS AND AWARDS. By whom and for what Service
1.	31.7.39		Comm^t: Highly commended.
2.	10.7.41		Comm^t: Case under Defence Regulation
3.	5.10.43		Comm^t: Case under Official Secrets act. (with other officers).

Margery Urquhart from appointments book 9152/1/2/1/5

Margery Urquhart a graduate with a BSc in agriculture from Aberdeen University in 1935, continued working with Special Branch. As can be seen above she was commended on three occasions, one being highly commended which did not come with the rations! Two months after having been promoted to woman detective sergeant, she resigned on 23 July 1944 with the permission of the commissioner, to transfer to the Surrey Constabulary as a temporary woman inspector. There followed other employments, including being a probation officer before becoming director of Grampian's social services. She retired in 1977, when she was appointed OBE; she never married and died in an Aberdeen nursing home at the age of 94. But she was the soul of discretion; following her resignation from the police, she never mentioned her activities with Special Branch.

Margery Urquhart with her brother and sister receiving her OBE (Photo from Dick Kirby)

From Jean Pelham: I cannot establish a definite record for Margery Urquhart, other than she was born in Patagonia, Argentina in 1912 and died in 2007 in Aberdeen, she doesn't appear on any Census forms, birth or death records. I have come across the attached which I found on **The Herald dated May 2007**. Which gives us a few details of her life.

MARGERY URQUHART

Born 27th August 1912 – Argentina died 9th May 2007 – Aberdeen, Scotland

Parents: Alexander and Betsy Urquhart: Margery Urquhart was born in Patagonia, Argentina where her father ran a Beef Business. Until she was 11 her mother educated her on the ranch, before the family returned home to Milton of Culloden, Inverness. She graduated from Aberdeen University in 1935 and heading to Hampshire to begin Farming.

Social Work Chief and Special Branch Agent. No one would have known that Margery had been a spy, certainly not her colleagues at Grampian Regional Council, where, in her role as director of social work, her trademark was an unassuming demeanour. She personified the cliché that no one would have picked her out in a crowd. Her record is that she was probably the first female agent recruited by Special Branch, she was the first female to reach senior rank in the Home Counties Police Force and she played an unknown role in counter espionage in the UK before and during the Second World War.

Alongside this, it's almost an incidental that she was one of the first women anywhere to graduate with a BSc in Agriculture, and that she helped pioneer children's welfare as part of Local Authority responsibility.

Then, in the first of a series of career switches which frequently left her colleagues both baffled and in admiration of her polymathic abilities, she dropped plans for a career in agriculture to join the Metropolitan Police. Even within the police, she switched. In a pioneering role she developed her work to become involved in crimes by and against children, and rape. It was her police background allied her ability to change guises so convincingly that brought her to the attention of Special Branch. She had been 'noted' by a local head of Special Branch, and he recruited her as his first female agent. After training, she was used in covert operations pre-war against IRA agents. This was serious business, for in Coventry in 1937 the IRA had exploded the first cycle bomb.

Though her male colleagues were frequently armed, Margery was not. But on one occasion, knowing that violence might ensure, she armed herself with two empty half pint milk bottles in her handbag. She also chased an armed IRA man along The Strand in London, and when he jumped on a bus to elude her, she followed on the next bus.

To the end of her life – and she died in her 95th year – she refused to discuss her Special Branch role or the fact that she had also been involved in Counter Espionage work, gently pushing aside all references to it. Councillor John Porter, Tory group leader on the Aberdeen City Council and a one time colleague, said 'I don't think anyone will ever know exactly what she did'. To look at her, you would think she had just put down her knitting.

When Surrey Police Force recruited women for the first time in 1942 – initially employed only on a temporary basis and known as the Women's Auxiliary Police Corps – Miss Urquhart took command as first women inspector in the Home Counties in 1944 when permanent establishment of the corps was authorised. The recruiting notice for women officers stated that they had to be "of average intelligence and single, although they could be widows."

Two years later in 1946, she promptly changed direction yet again, to train as a probation officer in London, saying that children were her first love.

In 1949 she returned to Aberdeen, becoming first children's officer for the city. This, too, was something of a pioneering role, with Margery making clear the value she put on steering broken families and troubled children towards better paths. Of those early days Margery herself said 'There was a sense of mission. I left the police but I could not leave child care." That sense of mission manifested itself with Margery herself appearing at children's homes at weekends to help care for youngsters. 'Her' children had reason to be grateful to her, and many kept in touch for years afterwards.

She became the first Head of Social work for the old counties of Aberdeen and Kincardine in 1969, and six years later became deputy director of social work for the newly formed Grampian Region, later rising to director. Her reputation for keeping her own counsel and maintaining an unassuming manner greatly impressed all who came into contact with her. A warm caring person who remained calm no matter the stresses she always gave a good account of herself in local authority work, impressing elected members with the ability to present arguments and Marshall Facts.

She retired in 1977 and soon afterwards stood for her old council, gaining the Aberdeen Tory seat for Hazlehead. Back in Grampian Regional Council, in her new guise, she worked quietly and rarely spoke – though when she did her audience tended to pay attention. In 1977 she was made OBE, and her investiture at Buckingham Palace memorable for two reasons, waiting outside to congratulate her was one of 'her' boys, a onetime tearaway from a broken home in Aberdeen but now a successful businessman. Then on the tube, in what was for her an unusual moment of forgetfulness, she left behind her hat and the shiny new insignia of her OBE. Happily both were returned to her.

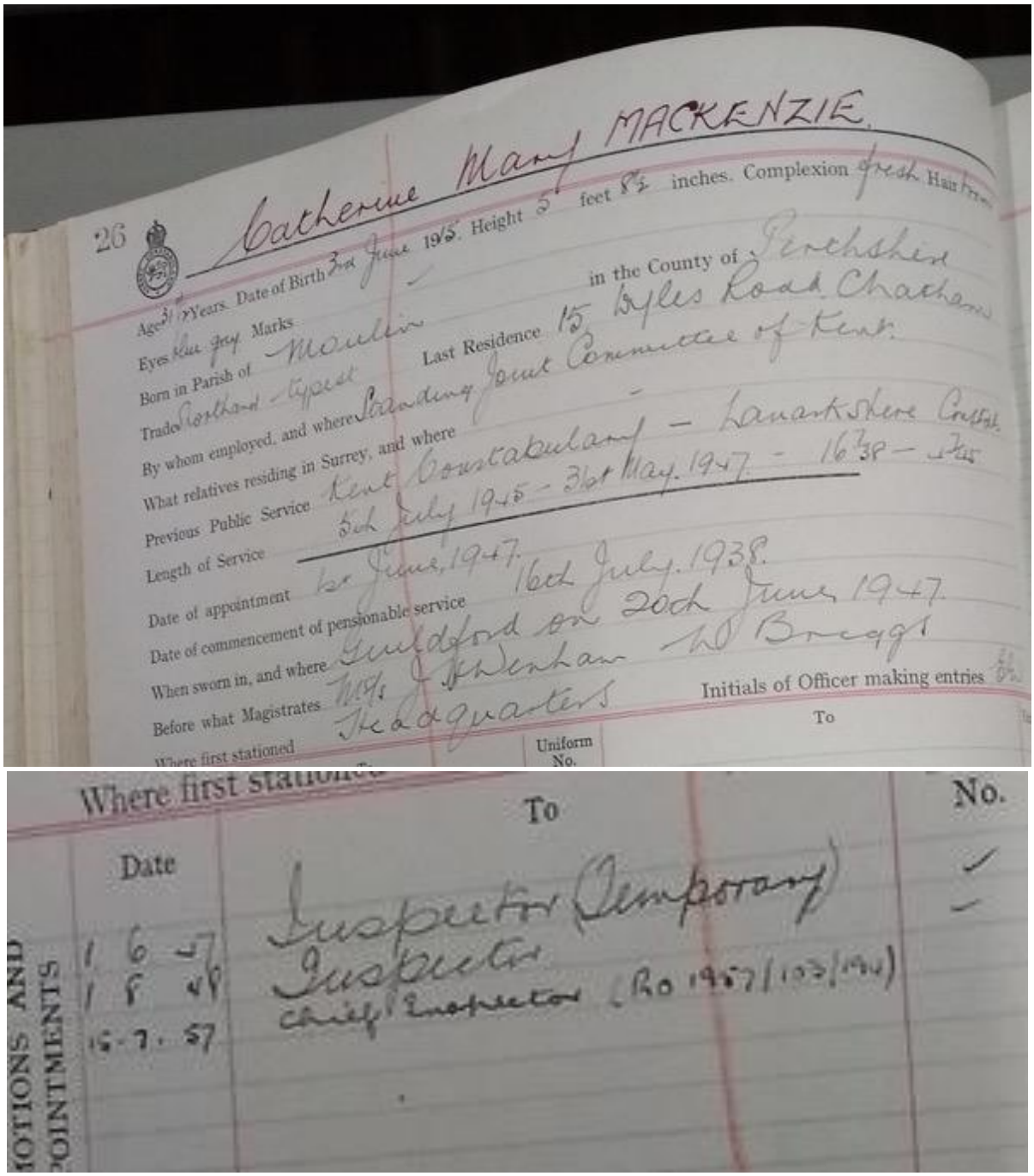
She never married, and died in a nursing Home in Aberdeen, Fairview Nursing Home, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen.

Woman Chief Inspector Catherine Mackenzie BEM Lanarkshire Constabulary, Kent Constabulary, Surrey Constabulary born 3 June 1915

Mount Browne collection

1 January 1962 New Year Honours awarded BEM[2]

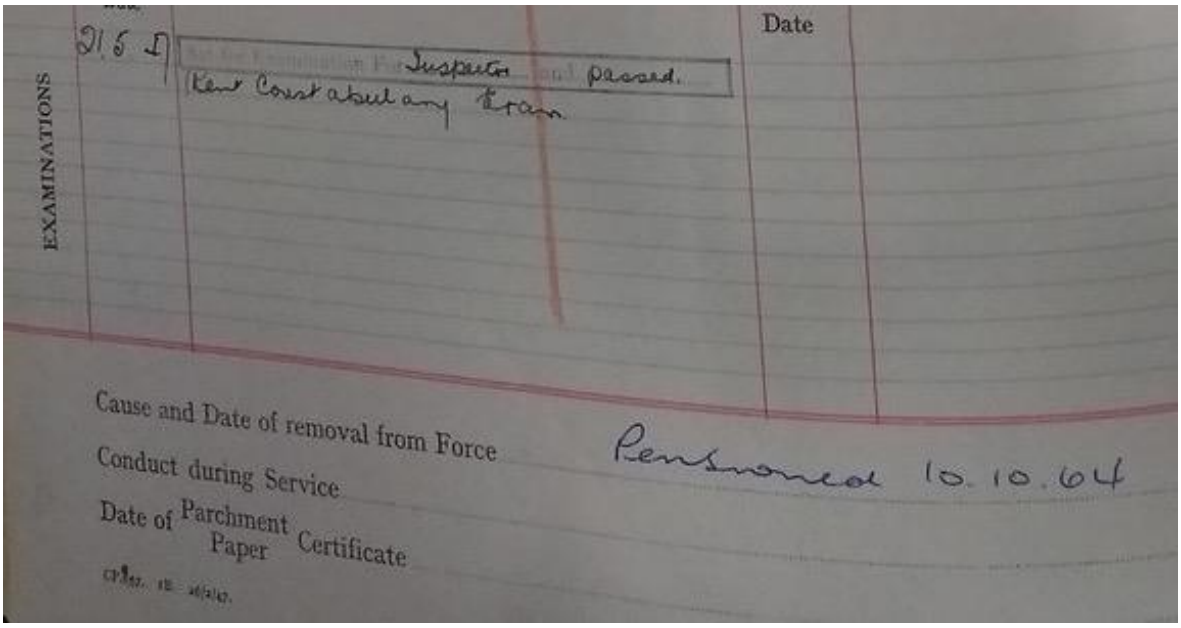
[2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1962_New_Year_Honours

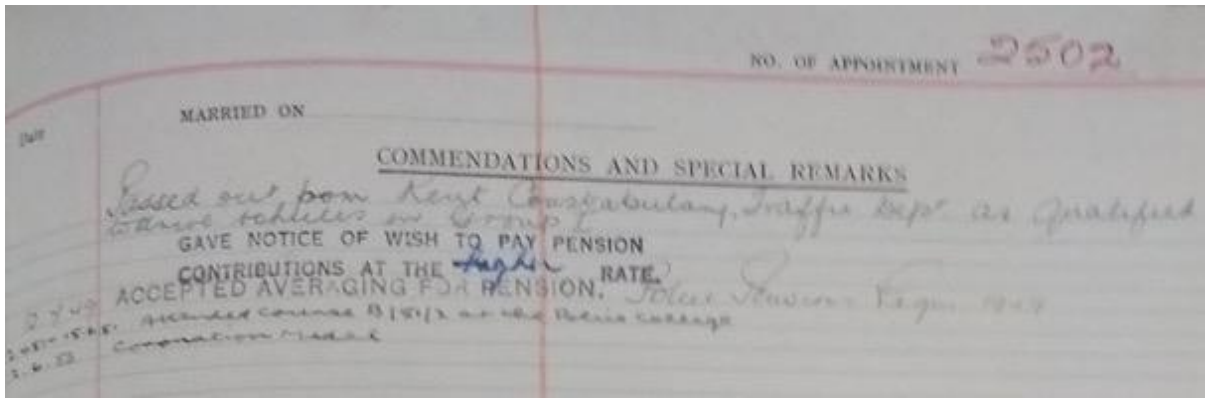

26 Catherine Mary MACKENZIE.
Age 31 Years. Date of Birth 3rd June 1915. Height 5 feet 8½ inches. Complexion fresh. Hair brown
Eyes blue grey Marks
Born in Parish of Moulin in the County of Perthshire
Trade Scotland - Typist Last Residence 15 Byles Road Chatham
By whom employed, and where Reading Joint Committee of Kent.
What relatives residing in Surrey, and where
Previous Public Service Kent Constabulary - Lanarkshire Constab.
Length of Service 5th July 1945 - 31st May 1947 - 16/38 - 7/45
Date of appointment 1st June, 1947.
Date of commencement of pensionable service 16th July 1938.
When sworn in, and where Guildford on 20th June 1947.
Before what Magistrates W.H.S. Newham
Where first stationed Headquarters
Initials of Officer making entries
Uniform No.
To

Where first stationed
To
No.
Date
16-7-47 Inspector (Temporary)
1 8 48 Inspector
16.7.57 Chief Inspector (Ro 1957/103/Pay)
PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

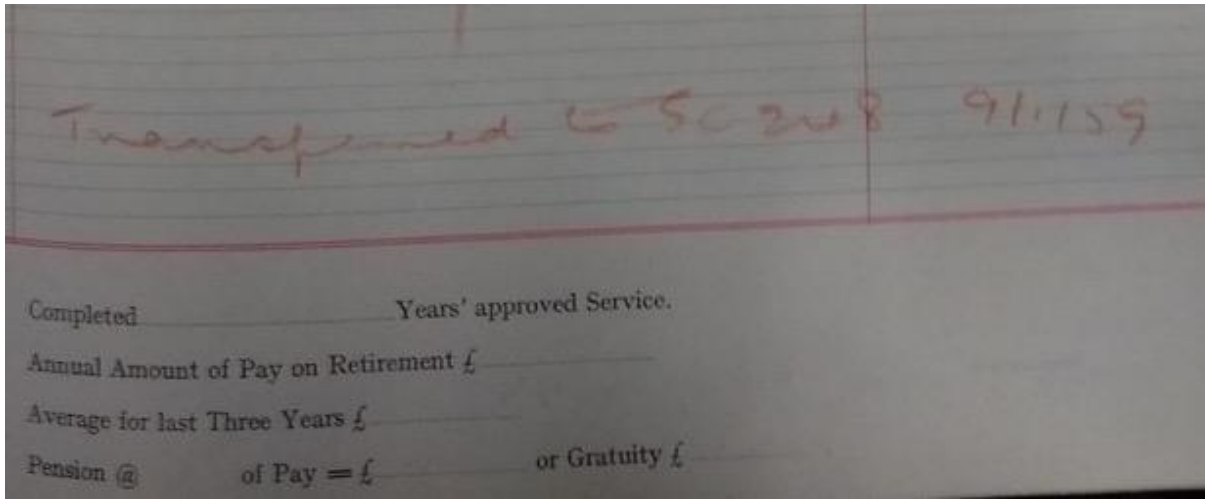
Catherine Mackenzie from appointments book 9152/1/2/1/6

Miss McKenzie born in 1915 came to Surrey from Kent as a temporary inspector to replace Miss Urquhart also the holder of temporary inspector rank. It may well be that in the early days regulations for a constabulary restricted the appointment of women to police senior ranks. She was appointed to the Surrey Constabulary on the 20 June 1947 with police service reckoned from 16 July 1938 which was no doubt Lanarkshire appointment date. Miss Mackenzie was appointed Inspector in August 1948 having passed the examination in May 1947 and chief inspector in July 1957. She was pensioned in October 1964.





Attended course B/51/2 Police College 3 April 1951 – 15 June 1951



Inspector Mackenzie meeting King George VI after receiving The Defence Medal.

It may well be that the inspector in the middle is a special constable

Leaving the force in 1946, Miss Urquhart was replaced by Miss Catherine Mackenzie (known as Kathy) who was formerly served in Lanarkshire and as a sergeant in Kent[3] and came on the recommendation of her predecessor.[4] Writing in 1950 the first historian of the force Superintendent Durrant wrote, "There has never been much doubt in the mind of modern police officers that policewomen can do a lot in preventative and detective work when working in plain clothes. Patrol work is now well within their sphere and they carry out a good deal of such work in uniform. In addition to this, women in uniform fit well into court and escort work. As with men, the greatest difficulty of all is recruitment. Young women apparently do not find the police service very attractive."[5]

In 1947 six years after Reading Borough gained its first female officers, its Chief Constable reported of the "Women Police Department" that "although this is a comparatively new department, and in spite of the fact that in many quarters the introduction of policewomen was strongly opposed, experience has proved conclusively that such a department is not only desirable but that it is indispensable".[6]

So far there are few operational references found for policewomen in Surrey for this period. The opening of Mount Browne as an HQ in 1949 gave Inspector Mackenzie the task of arranging for policewomen to be suitably placed so as to direct and assist ladies present. Important guests were to be escorted through the building in nine parties. On their partaking of tea at approximately 4.30 pm, officers and men from the parade would be allowed to inspect the buildings, again in escorted parties. No smoking was to be allowed.

The Home Secretary opening Mount Browne – Miss Mackenzie far left

[3] Off Beat May 1976
[4] Tom Roberts Friends and Villains page 90
[5] Durrant "A Hundred Years of the Surrey Constabulary" Page 62
[6] http://www.bawp.org/Resources/Documents/History%20of%20women%20police.pdf

In 1950 on June 9 and 13 advertisements appeared in a Scottish newspaper for policewomen: "There are vacancies in the Surrey Constabulary for women of good education who are looking for an interesting career. The work entails uniform street patrol, dealing with women and girls who are the subject of police enquiries and plain-clothes duties in the CID. Candidates should be between 22 and 35 years of age, not less than 5 feet 4 ins in height and in good health. The service is pensionable and a constable's pay on appointment is £5.11s.2d a week rising to £7 5s 8d (plus allowances of approximately 18 shillings a week after training). Women are eligible for promotion to higher ranks. An attractive uniform is provided and recruits are given 3 months residential training after joining."[7] It is clear that from the early days of deploying policewomen in the county foot patrol and work on CID were considered the norm, they were not there just to deal with women and children and to wait around for something to turn up.

WPC Irene Coomber and WPC2 Janet Tripney 1953

A cadet working at the Guildford police station in Woodbridge Road, a building one the HQ of the Surrey Constabulary, was where Miss McKenzie worked in the early 1960s. Cadet duties consisted importantly of making the tea for all those on duty in the morning and afternoon. Tea and biscuits we carried around all the offices and the cadets took a great deal of time over what was never seen as too much of a chore more a skive! The biscuits were something of an institution, being chocolate McVities, individually wrapped and either milk or plain. They were not included in the tea fund and the biscuits had to be paid for as they were delivered with the tea. There were set times for tea with many a phone call if we were delayed. The worst office to go into was where the policewomen were based, as it was always full of smoke from the cigarettes of Miss Mackenzie the Inspector. [8] Miss Mackenzie had by then served for 20 years in the Surrey Constabulary.

[7] 1950 9 and 13 June: The Scotsman
[8] Surrey Constabulary History Part 4 www.surrey-constabulary.com

Mid to late 1950s at Mount Browne with Inspector McKenzie sergeant believed to be Holman

Miss Urquart left the police service for the probation service and when I visited ex-Supt. Drake some years ago, I found she was at Aberdeen. She was succeeded by the late W/Insp. Kathy Mackenzie, formerly of the Lanarkshire and Kent Constabulary.

Miss Mackenzie had to suffer a lot of banter from her male contempories and was often accused of running a 'Marriage bureau'. I heard her silence one of her critics when she witheringly said in her best Scottish accent "Well, if they make as good wives as they do policewomen, I'm satisfied". Incidentally of those in

Yours sincerely,
Mr. R. C. Nicholls,
ex-Insp. (Bramley).

Extract from Off Beat

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

Miss Mackenzie's Medals

Mrs E Legg, Surrey's first female police officer

Surrey Police have released a picture of the county's first policewoman - who was stationed in Farncombe.

Not a lot is known about the career of Mrs E Legg, a sergeant who was posted to the village in 1918.

She was a pioneer: women had only been admitted to the force four years previously.

The Women Police Volunteer Service, later renamed the Women Police Service, was founded by Margaret Dawson and Nina Boyle in 1914. The service was originally formed to discourage young women from being lured into prostitution, and to help protect them.

Provincial police forces began to see the benefit of using policewomen to deal with cases involving women and children and asked the WPS to supply them on a casual basis, when needed. Surrey Constabulary was one of those forces and seeing the value of using women in sensitive cases, began to recruit and deploy female officers.

https://godalming.nub.news/news/local-news/meet-mrs-e-legg-surrey39s-first-female-police-officer

Records of the Surrey Special Constabulary

Robert Simonson Surrey History Centre

There is no information on special constables in the Surrey Police archives, except for one item described as:

Folder of items relating to Surrey Special Constabulary including 'Notes on the Duties of a Special Constable' by Chief Inspector Theodore Goddard, Metropolitan Special Constabulary, 1917; Surrey Special Constabulary Handbooks, c.1930s and 1957, Standing Orders, 1958, training lecture programme, 1969/70, blank constable's notebook, with instructions for use, 1948, magazine containing divisional annual report and lists of officers, 1947; 'An ABC for Special Constables and Police War Reserves', c.1942, signed inside front cover 'W G Larby, 70 West Street, Farnham'; leaflets promoting the work of special constables and blank application forms for appointment, c.1950s-1970s; programme for Surrey Special Constabulary annual parade and inspection, 1972 (ref. 9017/1/18/1-16)

If you have any material on the special constabulary let the editor know and if you are willing, arrange for it to be deposited within the county archives.

This second photograph was taken in Church Street, Godalming, shows a contingent of the Special Constabulary on parade to mark the funeral of King Edward VII on 20th May, 1910. Photograph courtesy of Mr. Smith, New Road, Milford.

What appears to be the regular officers appear to have a ceremonial uniform and helmet

A Young Bobby's Lot

Graham Richings

Having run my own successful business until 1965 and planning to get married, I decided to follow my father's footsteps, and join the police force. My father had been a sergeant in the Metropolitan Police and had retired in 1954 when stationed at Wealdstone Police Station. So, on 15th December 1965 I joined the Surrey Constabulary and after being kitted out by George Ball, went off to Sandgate on 19th December. I was just in time to help Gerry Atfield,[9] who was then a training sergeant there, go off into Folkestone and buy raffle prizes for the forthcoming Christmas function!

Like most of us, from time to time, I think back on my thirty years experience with the Surrey Constabulary and some of the things that I got involved in. Like others I did my two years "On the beat" before I moved onto Traffic Department, where I spent the next twenty or so years. (Lots of courses!). Two years as a PC, four years as a sergeant and the remaining years as an inspector, serving at all three traffic centres and Mount Browne. Seeing out final nine year of my service at Headquarters in the Computer/IT Department.

The "On the beat" bit was probably not a typical two years and some of it was like policing "Fairyland"! After leaving Sandgate, and initial training, I was posted to Weybridge Division in April 1966, as PC 733 Richings, and moved into the section house attached to the old Weybridge Police Station on what was then 'A' Division. There to be fed by Maurice Jackman's (Jacko's) mum, Mrs Griffiths, who was the section house cook. Not a diet that I would recommend, unless you actually like solid custard that is! I am told by those who lodged with her, Robin Brown and Mike Davies that her home cooking was on a somewhat higher plane!

Weybridge section house was a noisy, echoey place. There were no carpets on the floor. You could lie in bed and hear the snooker balls bouncing around the snooker table in the lounge area. Never a good thing when you had just come off night duty. The infants' school with its playground right next door did not help! My first duty there was early turn (7-3) and the first job was point duty at Burley's Corner, the "T" junction of Byfleet Road and Brooklands Road ready for the influx of British Aerospace worker's cars and pedal cycles. No roundabout there in those days and you were thrown in at the deep end. Probably the sense of humour of the sergeant who mapped out the duties, one Arthur Mace. That junction was manned as a priority every weekday morning. My duties were split between Weybridge Police Station and Walton on Thames. Night duty was always worked from the latter police station under the supervision of sergeants Roland Sice, Derick (Dolly) Stratton, John Horton and Ian McGreggor. Alan Longhurst, I think, shuttled between the two police stations. How times have changed. We used to field at least six to eight officers on nights plus supervisors. Now I'm reliably informed that they don't even have a police station! (In fact, as at 2020 there are only about three police stations in Surrey!) A more relaxing shift was eight hours checking unoccupied houses on St George's Hills Estate. Bearing in mind that this was before the days of personal radios you could really loose yourself in "The Hills" on a nice sunny day. No telephone kiosks to make points at up there but we had

[9] Later my chief superintendent and friend after our retirement

an arrangement with some of the big houses on the estate. We would be outside certain houses at specific times and if we were wanted a call would be made to the house, and somebody, maybe a butler, would call us in to the telephone. In early June when the Rhododendrons were in full flower this was a bit like policing fairyland on a bicycle.

The Weybridge posting came to an end in late September 1966 when I was to be married. I had applied for a police house and one-day I was making a point in Weybridge High Street by the telephone kiosk outside the post office when the phone rang and I was told to go to the police station and report of Chief Superintendent Henry Plum. He said to me "Can you ride a bike" meaning a motor bike. I had once ridden an old James 150cc on a private road and answered yes but that I did not have a motorcycle licence. He told me to contact Bomber Brown at Headquarters and he would give me a test on a Lambretta Scooter. If I could pass a test then I could have a police house. These scooters were used for beat work at the time. I mentally mugged up on how to ride one of these and reported to PC Brown. He introduced me to a white Lambretta 200 GT and gave me a route to follow from Mount Browne, through Shalford and back through Guildford to Mount Browne. He followed behind me in a driving school car. That really was the extent of my motorcycle experience and at the end of the journey I was given a pink slip and was a qualified motorcyclist! I had run my own driving school for three years before joining the Constabulary so I was actually familiar with the requirements of the motorcycle test. The upshot of this was that I was issued a police house in Christchurch Road, Virginia Water next door to PC 304 Denis Smith (and his wife Sheila). We were to share a Lambretta Scooter call sign Alpha 29. The radio and speaker mounted on the rear of the machine for all the world to hear between the pip tones! PC Ken Reid, from Englefield Green, also shared this machine.

PC 733 Richings on Alpha 29

I was now on the Egham and Chertsey sub-division where Maurice Jackman was the Chief Inspector (pictured below) with Archie Maxwell as his Scottish inspector. I can still hear the dulcet tones of Maurice Jackman's voice, on the first floor, shouting "***Archie***" at the top of his voice as he summoned the inspector to his office, where he sat surrounded by his law books. As a young in service PC one tended to try and avoid the great man, but one soon got to realise that his bark was worse than his bite. Unless you really had done something silly. Like reporting one of his personal friends for a traffic offence, and accidentally submitting a duplicate report after he had destroyed the first one! The second one slipped through, and summonses were issued!! I can laugh now but it was not funny then! He was

very prone to appearing in the police station in the early hours of the morning. I remember one winter's night when on night duty and I was riding the Lambretta, going into Egham nick about 2:30 in the morning, freezing cold and with my great coat covered in frost. Jacko was sitting by the fire in the office in a duffle coat and on seeing me said "What are you doing in here?" He promptly sent me back out into the cold. I knew that he had some acquaintances on the Wentworth Estate so I tootled off up there and parked the scooter near one of their houses and turned up the radio with external speaker on full volume with pips and speech coming out loud and clear. I hoped that someone would complain to him!

Maurice Jackman

So now I was to police Wentworth Estate, more *fairyland* policing, but this time on a scooter. Again, much time was spent checking very large unoccupied houses and chatting up the gardeners. At night in the summer when Ted Annetts, (An Ex POW), was the duty sergeant he would quite often fancy a dip in the pool at Wentworth Golf Club and one of us would drive him up there with his towel and trunks and he would take a dip! (I was not aware until recent years that Ted Annetts had spent five years in a German POW camp. See his book "Campaign Without Medals") Jacko was himself a keen golfer, as was I, and we had many a game of golf on the Wentworth Courses with other of our colleagues. (Jamie Donaldson, Ted Annetts, Ted Sellers & Terry Bland to name but a few). We had the freedom of the course because those living up there saw our presence as being good for keeping the burglars away or catching them as the case may be. My wife got herself a nice little job in the pro's shop working for Tom Haliburton who was the professional there at the time. Plenty of celebrities playing up there at the time, Sean Connery, Charlie Drake, Ronnie Corbett and of course Bruce Forsythe (Brucey) who lived there for many years. There was plenty of routine police work to be done on the rest of the sub-division but the policing of Wentworth Estate and Sunningdale made for some very enjoyable shifts. Domestically it was a nice area to live. Our little police house overlooked Windsor Great Park at the front. It was not always peaceful. We could lie in bed and watch the headlights and listen to the engine of the Caravels as they took off from Heathrow. My newly born son would sleep in his pram in the garden during the day and not hear a thing! Down at the local parade of shops the locals would spend on one joint of meat more than my wife would spend on a week's supply of meat. Some years ago Surrey County Council sold that police house for about £160,000. It has since been extended and in July 2014 was available for rent for £3,000 per month! Diana Doors, who lived just down the road, was a regular at the parade of shops with her Bentley.

In 1968 I moved to Chertsey Traffic Centre (HT-C). I worked on the Traffic cars with some very good policeman and was lucky enough to be crewed with Roy Coole, a really good first-class driver with a very high mark and an excellent policeman. We had some good arrests together. Mick Wicks and John

Hitt were the sergeants there with Ron Brake as the Inspector. Whilst I was stationed at HT-C Vic Drummond was posted there as the Chief Inspector. Living at Virginia Water all came to an end in January 1970 when I was promoted sergeant and sent to Godstone Traffic Centre (HT-G). Four happy years were spent at Godstone. A very friendly Centre with experienced personnel. Godstone itself had a very villagey atmosphere. Ray Searle was the Inspector and Denis Hughes the Chief Inspector. Bob Heaton was my fellow sergeant whilst Peter Devereaux and Pip Kerridge, the two traffic sergeants from Dorking Traffic Centre gave their support. One of the traffic sergeants from one of the traffic centres (Burpham, Dorking, Chertsey and Godstone) took it in turns to cover night duty across the county. (Ray Searle had been a war time pilot and when he retired Denis Hughes became a vicar).

In the summer of 1974, I was promoted to inspector and spent some months in the old Control Room at Mount Browne before being called in to chief constable's office and given the job of Road Survey Inspector, taking over from Geoff Breckle up in the attic of the old house. This involved dealing with correspondence on behalf of the chief constable, Sir Peter Mathews, and attending site meetings with the Highway Authorities. Surrey County Council and Department of Transport. I gained a lot of admin experience in this role for three years, becoming a first class letter writer! In 1977 I was posted to Burpham Traffic Centre and remained there until 16th October 1987. That night the great storm blew. I always said that the storm was God's way of showing his displeasure of my being moved off Traffic! I was moved back to Mount Browne and into the IT Department where I was responsible for purchasing and installing personal computers. Fred Page was the Superintendent and Dave Vigar the Chief Inspector (He had been a PC when I was a sergeant at Godstone) and we occupied one of the old police houses near the Dog School. At that time, we had two desktop computers in the entire Force, both funded by the Home Office. I helped install numerous computers around the Headquarters building, including all of the secretaries who had up until then been using electric typewriters. I retired from that department in 1st January 1996 and by then had installed and purchased about 400 machines around the County.

Although it was not typical police career, I thoroughly enjoyed my thirty years and would do it all again tomorrow! But not in today's environment. Standards are not what they were!

Tony Luff, Pixie Parkes, Fred Page, Aiden Mahan, Harry McGarrigle about 1972

Woking Bikeathon in April 1995. L/R

William Kenward

Graham Ritchings

William Kenward was my wife's great uncle, her mother's father's brother!

William Kenward KPM [10]
December 1875 - 14 May 1932
Surrey Constabulary
1899-1931
Superintendent and Deputy Chief Constable Surrey Constabulary

From www.surrey-constabulary.com - Biographies

William Kenward had a remarkable career within the Surrey Constabulary an organisation he joined in 1899 the same year as the second chief constable, Captain Sant. Between 1899 and 1922 William was promoted to inspector and then in 1922 to superintendent with the appointment of deputy chief constable. He was awarded a well-earned King's Police Medal for Gallantry. Retiring in 1931 he died suddenly in 1932.

[10] Surrey Constabulary appointments book – Surrey Police December 2012

William Kenward was born in December 1875 in Lynn, Norfolk and was almost 24 when he joined the Surrey Constabulary on the 20 November 1899. He was 5 feet 10 inches tall, fair complexion with light brown hair and blue eyes. When he joined, he was a gardener employed by Mr T. Wells of Aldershot and he was living at Park Side Villas, St Georges (sic) Road, Aldershot. His only relative in Surrey was an aunt living at Godstone.[11]

Allocated the collar number PC96 and later PC47, William was sworn in before the court in Guildford on the 25 November 1899 before magistrates Messrs Henning and Wrist. His first posting was to Guildford Division, not to be confused with the Guildford Borough Police and rather strangely "in plain clothes." This was a time when there was no CID in the county. The police station for the county men was in Woodbridge Road about 100 yards or so from the Borough police station, which was in North Street.

Promotions

Date	**From**	**To**
25 Nov 1899	Third Class Constable	
Jan 1/1901	Third Class Constable	Second Class Constable
Jan 1/ 1905	Second Class Constable	First Class Constable
May 1/1910	First Class Constable	Sergeant
Aug 31/1919	Sergeant	Inspector
May 1/1921	Inspector	Superintendent
Nov 1/1922	Appointed Deputy Chief Constable	

Removals

Date	**From**	**To**
Dec 2/1901	Guildford	Chertsey
Dec 9/1904	Chertsey	Chobham
Aug 21/1906	Chobham	Brookwood
Mar 18/1908	Brookwood	Woking
May 26/1910	Woking	Camberley
Aug 31/1919	Camberley	Woking
May 1/1921	Woking	Godalming
Nov 1/1922	Godalming	Headquarters

Examinations: June 3, 1908 Passed 3rd Examination St John Ambulance Association

[11] Surrey Constabulary appointments register

COMMENDATION AND SPECIAL REMARKS

March/1900	Highly commended by Chief Constable for excellent detective work and courageous conduct in the licensed victualling cases at Haslemere and Puttenham.
July 1903	Commended by Chief Constable for ability and energy in the capture of Charles Vincent for burglary at Frimley.
Aug 31, 1909	Commended by the Woking bench for rendering first aid to a man who had cut his throat.
31 Dec 1921	Awarded King's Police Medal for courageous conduct in the apprehension of an armed lunatic.

CAUSE AND DATE OF REMOVAL FROM THE FORCE
Pensioned on completion of service 1 August 1931
CONDUCT DURING SERVICE Exemplary
DATE OF CERTIFICATE 26 October 1931 (Died 14 May 1932)
COMPLETED 31 **Years, Approved Service**

John Molyneux: William Kenward married Naomi Berks at Farnham in 1902.[12] She died 14 April 1949 at 30 Barleycroft Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire and left her estate, value £902.10s.5d, to Adelaide Berks[13]. The 1881 census shows that Adelaide was Naomi's elder sister. They were both born in Wolverhampton, Naomi in 1876 and Adelaide in 1870, and were then living with their widowed mother in Field Street, Springfields, in Wolverhampton. In 1891 Naomi Berks was a nurse/ domestic servant, living at 92 Lettenhall Road, Wolverhampton. [14]

Naomi Berks could not be traced in the 1901 census, but Naomi Birles, a nurse at Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford does appear. All the other details fit i.e., born Wolverhampton in 1876 and single so it is thought to be the same person - although the enumerator's writing is clearly 'Birles', he probably copied (wrongly) the name from a list supplied by the hospital.

Ken Clarke In July 1912 Kenwood was one of the tug-of-war team in a competition held at the London Road Recreation Ground in Camberley, which they won. Others in the team were police constable's Chinery, Worsfold, Butler, Page, Harris, Pink, Coach, Hoare and ex-PC Kinsman. [15]

In 1913 Sergeant Kenward and six constables were the total strength of Camberley's police force. [16]

1913: Kenwood dealt with t theft of a motorcycle from a club in Camberley. [17]

[12] Farnham Surrey book 2a, page 220 refers
[13] National Probate Calendar 1949, page 21
[14] Email from John Molyneux to Robert Bartlett October 2013
[15] Email from Ken Clarke to Robert Bartlett October 2013
[16] Email from Ken Clarke to Robert Bartlett October 2013
[17] Email from Ken Clarke to Robert Bartlett October 2013

1914: There were three deaths all in 1914 at Frith Hill Concentration Camp for enemy prisoners, which was on the common just off the Old Bisley Road in Frimley. A Robert Adler died of pneumonia in September, Josef Gillies died in October, and his death was described as accidental. In November Gemeiner Wilhelm Schneips died from septic poisoning. All three were buried at Deepcut. In October 1962 all three were exhumed and moved to the German Military Cemetery in Cannock Chase, north of Birmingham.

Many of the prisoners arrived at Frimley railway station and were marched to the camp which at one time it contained some 2,500/3,000 inmates. When it opened it contained civilian internees, as well as military prisoners, all behind barbed wire, and living in tents. At the weekends the police had to perform traffic duty due to large numbers of residents who visited just to look at "the enemy". One comment made by the matron of the nearby Brompton Sanatorium was that "the contents of sanitary arrangements from the Concentration Camp nearby, were being deposited close to the Sanatorium, and causing offence"; what a polite way to put it. [18]

November 1914, in a case at Camberley Court, Sergeant Kenward was giving evidence. "A man who was drunk in Park Street kept asking the constable to lock him up, when he extended the same request to me, I duly obliged him". For his trouble Harry Langham was fined 5 shillings. [19]

Raid on circus September 1916: Ken Clarke In September 1916 a circus arrived on Doman's Meadow, which adjoined the Frimley Road in Camberley. Colonel Ponsonby Watts the local recruiting officer and other military representatives, knowing that visiting circus were always well patronised, decided to have a great round up of eligible young men who had not reported themselves for service. He arranged the raid with Sergeant Kenward and members of the Special Constabulary, plus the Camberley and York Town platoon of the Volunteer Training Corps.

The performance commenced at 8pm, and the tent was crowded, probably between three and four thousand people. Between 8pm and 9pm the police and special constables, according to instructions, waited in Woodland Road, while Colonel Watts and Sergeant Kenward went to the circus and notified the proprietors of what they intended to do. Sergeant Kenward then went to the Drill Hall where the Volunteer Training Corps were being drilled, and with the platoon commander's consent, marched the platoon to Woodland Road to join the police.

Arriving at the circus the police and volunteers secured the exits to make sure no man of military age left the tent and then Colonel Watts and Sergeant Kenward entered the ring. The Colonel then informed the audience that he and those with him were there for the purpose of examining the papers and documents of men of military age and added that what was being done was in the name of the King; an announcement that was greeted with applause.

[18] Email from Ken Clarke to Robert Bartlett October 2013
[19] Email from Ken Clarke to Robert Bartlett October 2013

The sergeant then requested that all men of military age enter the ring. A great many did and an examination of their papers commenced, whilst the details of those who did not have the necessary papers were taken. There were of course a number of "shy gentlemen" who did not believe in putting themselves forward and stayed in their seats. One local man left by going out under the canvas side of the tent, only to be promptly grabbed by three members of the Volunteer Training Corps. One of the female performers, dressed in male attire for her act asked, "Do you want me? I am of military age and wear the breeches."

Suddenly all the lights went out the big-top descending into complete darkness. Women were shrieking and children started to cry. The police tried to calm the people down and luckily nothing untoward happened to anybody although one of the constables, PC Reed found himself in an uncomfortable position. Having been put in charge of one of the exits to prevent people leaving, the officer all of a sudden found three performing horses behind him evidently anxious to enter the ring to perform. However, in the true tradition of the police he managed to prevent the horses from passing him.

The circus tent was illuminated for the performance by acetylene gas jets supplied from a generator at the foot of the centre tent pole. Those who were present were of the opinion that the gas had been shut off deliberately by a man who perhaps had no papers to show and had no wish to answer embarrassing questions.

As if that was not enough for one night, worse was to follow when a match was thrown into the generator, which immediately started to burn. This was quickly extinguished but it was not possible to relight the jets. The proprietors provided a hurricane hand-lamp but the inspection of papers and the circus performance had to be abandoned.

The possibility of panic remained, but Sergeant Kenward rose to the occasion and averted this by thanking the audience for the great forbearance they had shown, for the coolness with which they had behaved, and for the keenness with which they had assisted. He reminded them that the action taken was a matter of national duty. Then he did what any showman would have done and invited them to join him in singing the National Anthem, which they did with great gusto.

The whole event was headlines in the local paper and had the desired effect Colonel Watts had the names of 60 lads under the age of 18, who said they would attest in the new B Group which had just been created. [20]

In September 1916 it transpired that after returning from work three Germans were missing, two sailors and one aircraftsman, they had been at the **Frith Hill Concentration Camp**, which was on the common, just off the Old Bisley Road in Frimley. A hue and a cry followed and the names of the escapee were sent through to the police stations at Camberley and Aldershot, as well as to Scotland Yard. Special Constables were called out, and Sergeant Kenward from Camberley attended with three bloodhounds and tracked them as far as Brookwood. Nothing was seen of them however, until the next day when three were caught near Ascot by a special constable, who found them asleep by the roadside, and took

[20] Email from Ken Clarke to Robert Bartlett October 2013

them to a nearby hotel, where they were escorted back by a detachment of the Royal Flying Corps. They said they had kept to the woods and only travelled at night, and they were glad to surrender. [21]

1914-1918 Denis Turner. The **earliest record of dogs** being used by the Surrey Constabulary as during the First World War. A prisoner of war camp had been established at Frith Hill, Frimley and although most inmates were quite happy to sit out the war, from time to time some thought it their duty to escape. The surrounding countryside was ideal cover for the escapees. To assist in searching for them the police at Camberley obtained three Bloodhounds for the purposes of tracking. Kennelled at Camberley Police Station and handled by Sergeant. Kenward and his assistant PC Pink they were used several times with some success but their use was discontinued after the war. [22]**:**

May 1916 Sergeant Kenward and his fellow officers had **timed 23 Aldershot and District buses** on a badly repaired stretch of road, and only two of them had exceeded the 12mph speed limit. Both drivers were fined 10 shillings. [23]

On 23rd March 1918 George Henry Batt, a ganger at Blackdown Camp pleaded guilty, but ignorant of the charge, of receiving a military overcoat at Deepcut. He said he had bought the coat for two shillings from a soldier, who had said he wanted a drink. When charged by Sergeant Kenward he said, "The soldier wanted a drink of beer and I gave him two shillings for it, but I didn't know it was an overcoat. I am as innocent as a donkey sir". His explanation was not accepted and he was fined 40 shillings, plus 23 shillings the value of the overcoat, and six shillings for the hire of the taxicab, in which he was taken to the police station. [24]

1918

[21] Email from Ken Clarke to Robert Bartlett October 2013
[22] http://www.surrey-constabulary.com
[23] Email from Ken Clarke to Robert Bartlett October 2013
[24] Email from Ken Clarke to Robert Bartlett October 2013

1920 Inspector William Kenward was awarded **King's Police Medal for Gallantry** after he tackled and arrested a madman armed with a rifle at Woking who had already wounded a constable.

1921 June 27: The Scotsman: His Majesty the King bestowed the **King's Police Medal** upon Inspector William **Kenward** Surrey Constabulary for acts of special gallantry

1923 August 30: The Scotsman: Road dangers: An excellent example of the unintelligent criticism of the motorist is that of Superintendent Kenward of the Surrey Police (sic). He takes the view that it should be an offence to build a touring car which has a greater speed than thirty miles per hour. No more reactionary opinion has ever been expressed. The superintendent's alarm at the "ever increasing toll of accidents" is apparently not shared by the officials of the Ministry of Transport, one of whom stated last week that the number of accidents was not increasing.

1924 Blue Anchor Hotel Byfleet poisoning: The John Pierre Vaquier case. Press cuttings and copy-correspondence regarding press interference with witnesses are held at the Surrey Record Centre. The story is of a vain Frenchman who poisoned his mistress's husband, Alfred Jones. Meeting Mabel Theresa Jones, wife of a Surrey hotel owner, whilst she was on holiday in France in 1924, Vaquier followed her back to England. In March of the same year, he went to London to purchase poison. He signed the register with a false name but put the address of the Jones' hotel. When Mr Jones died, investigations led police to the chemist who identified Vaquier; charged with murder by strychnine and appeared before at Surrey Assizes Guildford in July 1924 where he was found guilty and later hanged. The crime was investigated by Superintendent Boshier of Woking Division and DCC Kenward. One officer who had charge of the prisoner was PC H Minter, later Superintendent, the one man in the force to work continuously in plain clothes in the county.

The Scotsman reported: Hotel Keeper's Body Exhumed: A sensational development in connection with the Byfleet tragedy occurred on Friday night when the body of Mr Jones a former licensee of the Blue Anchor Hotel, Byfleet was exhumed. A representative of the Home Office, the deputy chief constable of Surrey and Police Superintendent Boshier were present. Digging operations at the cemetery began at 11.20 and the coffin was drawn up just before midnight. It was taken on a motor hearse to the mortuary at West Byfleet about one and a half miles distant. The key to the mortuary had been lost and it became necessary to force the padlock before the body could be taken inside. During the exhumation the cemetery was surrounded by constables and the public were not allowed to enter. After the PM where the DCC Kenward and Superintendent Boshier were in attendance Sir Bernard Spilbury took with him two handbags containing it is believed certain organs of the body.

Jean-Pierre Vaquier was only forty-five years old when he was sentenced to death. His trial took place at Guildford Assizes on the 5 July where he was convicted of the murder of Alfred Jones. It had all begun while Vaquier was in France and had met up with the wife of Alfred Jones. They had enjoyed an affair but instead of it being just a holiday romance a few weeks after Mrs Jones had returned from holiday to the Blue Anchor Hotel, which she ran with her husband Vaquier once again turned up only this time as a guest. Obviously, Alfred Jones was unaware of the fact that his wife and Vaquier were already lovers. Vaquier informed Mr Jones that he was in the country on business and intended to use the hotel as a base. He stayed for six weeks without paying, every time Mr Jones asked for money, he would tell him he was waiting on a cheque from a business deal. Every morning Mr Jones would start the day by drinking a glass of health salts. He did this as usual on the 29 March, but it did not taste right and he complained about the bitter taste, he was to die in agony a few hours later. Due to the suddenness of the death the police had the body analysed and it was found to contain strychnine. Vaquier and Mrs Jones were both questioned, and a photograph of the Frenchman appeared in the evening newspaper. This photograph was recognised by a chemist from a nearby town who contacted the police to tell them that he remembered the man in the photo as a customer who had purchased poison. Vaquier protested his innocence throughout the trial but was convicted on overwhelming evidence. He was sentenced to death and hanged.

1926 December: The Force was alerted to the disappearance of **Agatha Christie** when her car was found abandoned near Newlands Corner. Deputy Chief Constable, Superintendent Kenward took charge and ordered the local area to be searched but without success. Mrs Christie was later discovered alive and well in Harrogate. The case continues to generate much interest and many books have been written and documentaries filmed about the incident.

1926 December 7: The Scotsman: The **abandoned car** contained the missing lady's driving licence, but the police had no clues as to what had happened to her. The searchers worked in three sections, about eighty men, under the direction of Captain Sant the chief constable of Surrey, and Superintendent

Kenward the deputy chief constable. They covered a good deal of country on both sides of the Downs and searched the watercourses in the valley almost into Guildford. They continued until darkness set in.

DCC Kenward with KPM

1926 December 14: The Scotsman: Mrs Christie mystery- diver may search pools: A Sectional "comb out" of forty square miles of country and the possibility of a diver assisting in the work are the latest phases of the search for Mrs Christie. For ten days police and their helpers have scoured the countryside. Surrounded by maps Mr Kenward said the area to be covered was about forty square miles and covered the Downs as far as Ranmore Common at Dorking embracing Albury and Hurtwood. He had received an offer from a London team of divers to search the pools and he would probably accept the offer. It is stated that the search has already involved the police authorities in expenditure of about £1000.

Jack Best at the place where he found the car abandoned.

1926 December 15: The Scotsman: Novelist Found. In a Harrogate Hydro: After being missing for ten days Mrs Christie was found in Harrogate where she had been since the search commenced. She had read of the search, but it was maids at the hotel who alerted the management who told the police. Colonel Christie, the novelist's husband travelled to Harrogate and was reunited with his wife who was suffering from a loss of memory. Great credit was due to the police to whom he expressed his thanks.

The Times October 3, 2007: The most intriguing part of her life is of course, the mysterious episode in 1926, when, having been told by Archie that he wanted a divorce, Christie drove off alone from their Sunningdale home, abandoned the car, then took a train to Harrogate where she registered herself at the Hydro Hotel as Mrs. Neale (the name of her husband's mistress, which she later gave to one of her intelligent police inspectors). She spent twelve days in Harrogate, shopping, lunching in tea rooms, having beauty treatments, and even singing with the hotel's dance band, while all the time following the story of the police hunt for the missing Mrs. Christie in the Daily Mail and the Daily Sketch. It is the incidental detail however, that has the odd fictional quality. Christie left her car, with her fur coat and driving license, on the edge of a quarry; it was found early the next morning by "a gypsy boy." Ponds were dragged and the surrounding countryside searched by police and volunteers, because bungling Superintendent Kenward of the Surrey Constabulary was convinced that Archie had murdered his wife; sightings were reported all over the country

DCC Kenwood leading the hunt for Christie

1927 January 5: The Scotsman. The public have sent so many **contributions to the cost** of the police search for Mrs Christie the total would be enough to build a house. One man wrote offering to meet all the expenses. Mr Kenward said all the contributions, which were unsolicited would be returned.

1928 March 19: The Scotsman: Secret Exhumation – retired farmer's body – a Surrey mystery: A body so mysteriously exhumed by the Surrey police (sic) from the little churchyard of St Johns near Woking was that of an aged farmer who came from a distance to live in the district. Extraordinary precautions were taken to prevent the identity of the person becoming known. Enquiries were made in the district for many months prior to the exhumation and every witness was pledged to secrecy. At the time of the exhumation a piece of the common was also dug, it seems as a distraction from the real work. The deceased went to the neighbourhood of Woking in the summer of 1926 and was aged seventy living with friends in a large house on the outskirts of the town. Certain organs have been removed for analyses by Sir Bernard Spilsbury and the body was reinterred. Deputy Chief Constable Kenward and Superintendent Boshier of Woking who are in charge of the investigation have made several visits to the Home Office and a conference was held at Surrey Constabulary headquarters on Saturday night.

1931 January 10: The Scotsman: Early yesterday a party of Surrey police officers some carrying spades set out on an extensive search of the vicinity of Virginia Water and of parts of Windsor Great Park for clues to the **disappearance seventeen months ago** of Winifred Parrant then aged eighteen. This was the sixth day of the search, which so far has produced two outstanding finds, a woman's hat and an attaché case. The girl went missing on August 13, 1929 and an extensive search was undertaken then without result. The search was re-activated following information from a soldier who had been stationed in the area. A conference was held in Guildford attended by Deputy Chief Constable Kenward and Inspector Head of Esher which resulted in a search of Clock Case Plantation. The deputy chief constable and Superintendent Gray of Chertsey and seven constables left Chertsey police station early in motor cars. The policemen were wearing workmen's clothes in order to avoid attracting attention.

PC Herbert Victor Smythe
SAS, Surrey Constabulary
Retired Woking
Born 1921 died 1973

Tony Collman

A professional soldier before the Second World War who served in the SAS in Greece.[25] The Special Boat Service also made up from army personnel were heavily engaged in the Dodecanese, Aegean and Greek Islands.

Barrie Friend Military Historian: Herbert Victor Smyth apart from maybe confirming what has been reported have mainly drawn a blank.

Boy Soldier photo - 'early 1930s' - cannot clearly see the regimental badge.

Forces War Records - nothing for WWII

[25] Information from Peter Bradley 2 Nov 2004: retired PC Victor Smythe was in the SAS and spent most of the war behind the lines, Greece or it's islands l think. Never took prisoners he once told me, got what info they could then shot them

Google search on his name with WWII SAS - nothing (cannot find an SAS site I can trust)

WW2talk - nothing

Ancestry b 1920, d July 1973, m Surrey lived Maple Grove, Westfield, Woking possibly m Ruth Hansell Oct 1949 Gloucester (why Gloucester?);

H V SMYTH

Born 12-11-1921 Vic Smyth travelled to India (around age 8) and Egypt (early to mid teens) with his parents, his father serving in the army. Vic Smyth was enlisted in Boys' Service. During WW2 he found behind enemy lines in Europe for some months, later in Egypt/North Africa (the Bedouin were the enemy he most respected in the whole war), then at Monte Casino. Following the war he served in Palestine before leaving military life. He was a police constable for nearly 3 decades in Woking, Surrey. In his last years in the Surrey Constabulary he was one of the first 'collators' in the country, collecting and sorting information now carried out with computer assistance. He died 1-9-1973.

Boys' Service, early 1930s

P.C. Smyth, collator, early 1970s

1939-1945 Star, Africa Star – bar 1st Army, Italy Star, War Medal, Defence Medal Police Long Service

P.C. Smyth, collator, early 1970s

PC Smyth as boy soldier and in regular army

Special Constable John Kirkland
Surrey Constabulary, Dorking Division

Tony Collman

Medals awarded to John Kirkland, Surrey Special Constabulary Dorking.

There is a Special Constabulary medal and two LCC medals which state 'Awarded by the London County Council for Attendance Conduct and Industry During The Year'. The other chrome coloured medal states on the back 'National Union Of School Orchestras Annual Festival Crystal Palace June 20th 1914 Intermediate Orchestra'. The problem with Special's medals their police service records have been destroyed.

Reigate Borough Police

Robert Bartlett - continued

1930 December 31: Head Constable **James Metcalfe retired** on the last day of 1930. He had joined Accrington Police six years later becoming a clerical sergeant and later an inspector at Bacup. He

came to Reigate as Head Constable on December 22, 1891. On retirement he was permitted to retain his uniform and bicycle.[26]

James Metcalfe[27]

1930: With the retirement of Mr Metcalfe in 1930, William Beacher was appointed to head the borough force on 1 January 1931 and adopted the title of chief constable. He remained in post until the amalgamation with the county force in 1947 and was looked upon as both a caring and innovative chief. The best use of manpower seems to have been high on the agenda during his first years, with the Home Office pressing for the installation of more traffic lights to relieve policemen from point duty. Additional fine-tuning resulted in co-operation with the fire brigade and a fireman taking over the duty of ambulance driving. The fire brigade also agreed to "…take charge of and exercise and feed any stray dogs impounded by the police." [28]

William Henry Beacher had been an inspector at Worthing and a superintendent of the West Sussex Constabulary, became the new head constable of the Borough as from the first day of 1931, his pay of £460pa to rise in five years to £560 with free residence. Some controversy in Council arose over his request for his dress uniform to include a sword, as the previous Head Constable had not had one. The cost of four guineas was approved, however. He also had £100 per year for upkeep of his motor vehicle. The new man was an accomplished horseman and was often to be seen on duty in the area on horseback, although he also had an official car. Athletics was also an interest of his, and not just as a spectator, as he was winner of a 100 yards handicap race at one of the police sports events. [29]

[26] A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary Gerry Middleton Stewart
[27] Private collection Robert Bartlett
[28] A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary Gerry Middleton Stewart
[29] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm

1931 January 8: West Sussex Gazette: The new Chief Constable, Mr W H Beacher was formerly welcomed at a parade of Reigate Borough Police on Friday by the retiring Chief Constable, Mr J Metcalf who bade farewell to the force of which he has been head since December 1894.
Mr Beacher had started a tug-of -war team when in the West Sussex police and he brought his knowledge of the sport with him to Reigate. In 1951 he retired from the police force but remained interested in tug-of -war becoming the A.A.A Chief Judge by 1959.

Research by Jenny Tuffs found that Mr. Beacher's Army Medical Report 29th May 1915 reports: "This man states he was in France for 5 months in the trenches and in January was sent home with rheumatism to Horsham Hospital and was there for 4 months and then transferred to Brighton Military Hospital. He rejoined his Depot after 3 months leave but could not walk and has been in hospital ever since.

His present condition is this man is suffering from progressive rheumatism, (probably progressive rheumatoid arthritis) attacking all his joints especially the legs. He can't walk and at times his pain is very acute, the joints becoming swollen and tender. On 6th July 1915 he was discharged from the army as no longer physically fit for war service."

It obviously did not cause him too much trouble later as he seemed to live an active life. It is noticeable how neat his handwriting was on his service documents.

The press cutting "Court Farewell to Supt W H Beacher" states he rejoined West Sussex Police in 1918 but he is mentioned in newspaper reports of 1916 and 1917 as a PC at Horsham so I imagine he re-joined after his discharge from the army in 1915.

1931 July 3: Surrey Mirror 3rd July: Police at Sport- Members of the Reigate Borough Police journeyed to Bexhill-on-Sea on Wednesday to take part in the East Sussex Police Sports and the newly formed tug-of -war team coached by the Chief Constable, Mr W H Beacher, entered a competition in which they were beaten by Horsham Division of West Sussex Constabulary, by coincidence Mr Beacher's old team. The Borough team suffered defeat by two straight pulls.PS Beedell and PC Laycock ran in the sprinting heats each taking third place. The journey organized by the Borough Police Sports and Social Club proved an enjoyable one.

1931 July 17: Surrey Mirror: Cricket – East Surrey Traction Co v Reigate Borough Police- Played at Reigate Heath resulted in a win for the Police – Score East Surrey Traction Co 32, Reigate Borough Police 72.

1931 August: Death of Mr Metcalfe only eight months into his retirement in August 1931, aged 67. [30]

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

Chief Constable Beacher at the scene of a road traffic accident

1931 August 21: Surrey Mirror: Reigate Borough **Police Sports** -a successful first Meeting with many prizes. Despite previous heavy rain and a soggy ground the first annual sports meeting organized by Reigate Borough Police and open to members of other forces was held on Wednesday August 19TH at the Memorial Sports, Redhill proved a very encouraging effort and met with far greater success than many had anticipated. The fact that the ground was a severe handicap to good running, cycling and other forms of competition had of course a marked effect on the contests, but for all there was plenty of interesting sport both in the Borough and the open events. Several members of the Borough Police won prizes, while all exhibited a strikingly good standard of fitness and smartness- two of the main qualifications for life in the force.

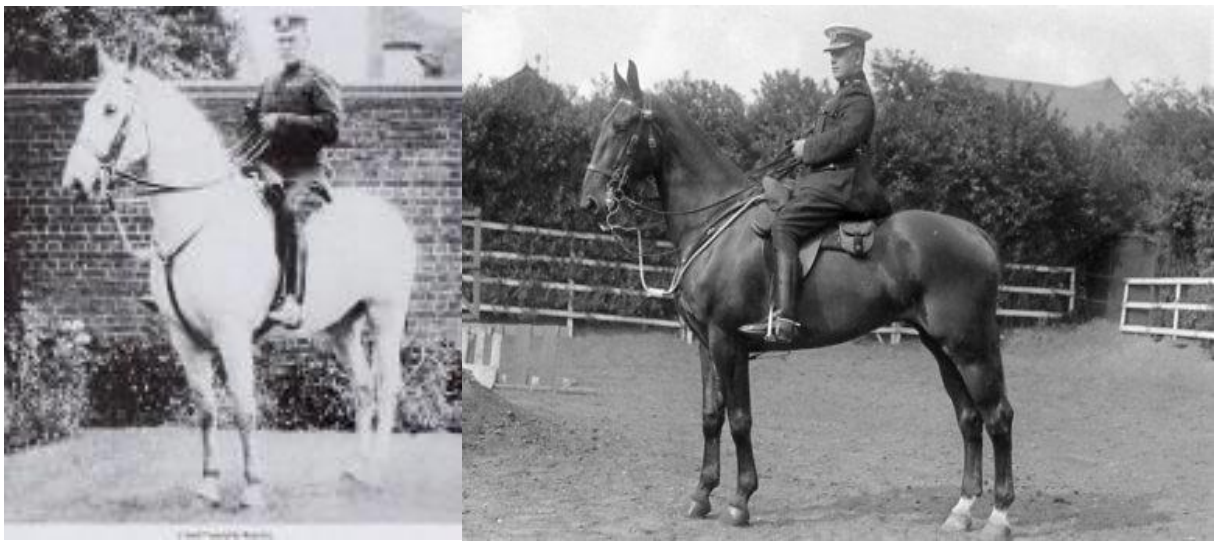
The tug-of-war team entered into a spirited contest with sides of far more mature experience and training and while out classed after a sturdy pull in the open event succeeded in taking the cup in the Borough event. The overall winners in the open event, Luton Borough Police receiving Sir Malcolm Campbell's Challenge Cup. Chief Constable, Mr W H Beacher was a competitor in the 100 yards flat handicap for officers with from 17 to 20 years' service and to the great approval of the crowd quickly took and maintained the lead, winning a well-run race and a trousers press, one of the numerous forms that the prizes took. At the finish of the meeting the local officer scoring most points was Sgt Beedell and the Challenge Cup presented by the chief constable for the division in the borough gaining most points went to Redhill Division. The proceeds from the event being for the purposes of local charities as well as the Police Sports and Social Club.

1931 September 11: Surrey Mirror: Reigate Carnival Tug–of-war. There were some quite exciting moments during the various pulls in the tug-of-war contest in which a number of local teams competed for a challenge cup offered by Reigate Borough Police. The Police team who won their

own cup never lost a pull. They had obviously been well trained by their coach, Mr W H Beacher, the Chief Constable, and dropped smartly onto the rope, pulling with precision and confidence. Of the two teams were entered by the East Surrey Water Company, the "B" team were the runners up.

1931 September 18: Surrey Mirror: Tug-of -war. The members of Reigate Borough Police tug-of-war team have every reason to be satisfied with the result of their outing to Sunbury on Saturday, when they went through three rounds and into the final, and then were only defeated by a team with an almost unbeaten record, the R.A.S.C. (Feltham Depot), in a hundred stone competition. The Army team, having drawn a bye only had one pull prior to the final, the Borough Police having previously pulled against Nine Elms Gas Co and the East Surrey Water Co Redhill. They were accompanied by the Chief Constable, Mr W H Beacher, to whom great credit is due for the success which the police team has so far achieved since its recent formation. Mr Beacher has taken a considerable personal interest in the training and his experience has been invaluable in the coaching of the team which he has personally undertaken. The team was as follows – PC'S Brownlow, Mason, Wing, Thorpe, Richardson, Dean, Saunders and Smith with PC Capling as reserve.

1931 November 27: Surrey Mirror: Football - A friendly match on Wednesday November 25th between St John's Wednesday and Reigate Borough Police resulted in a win for the Police by five goals to three.



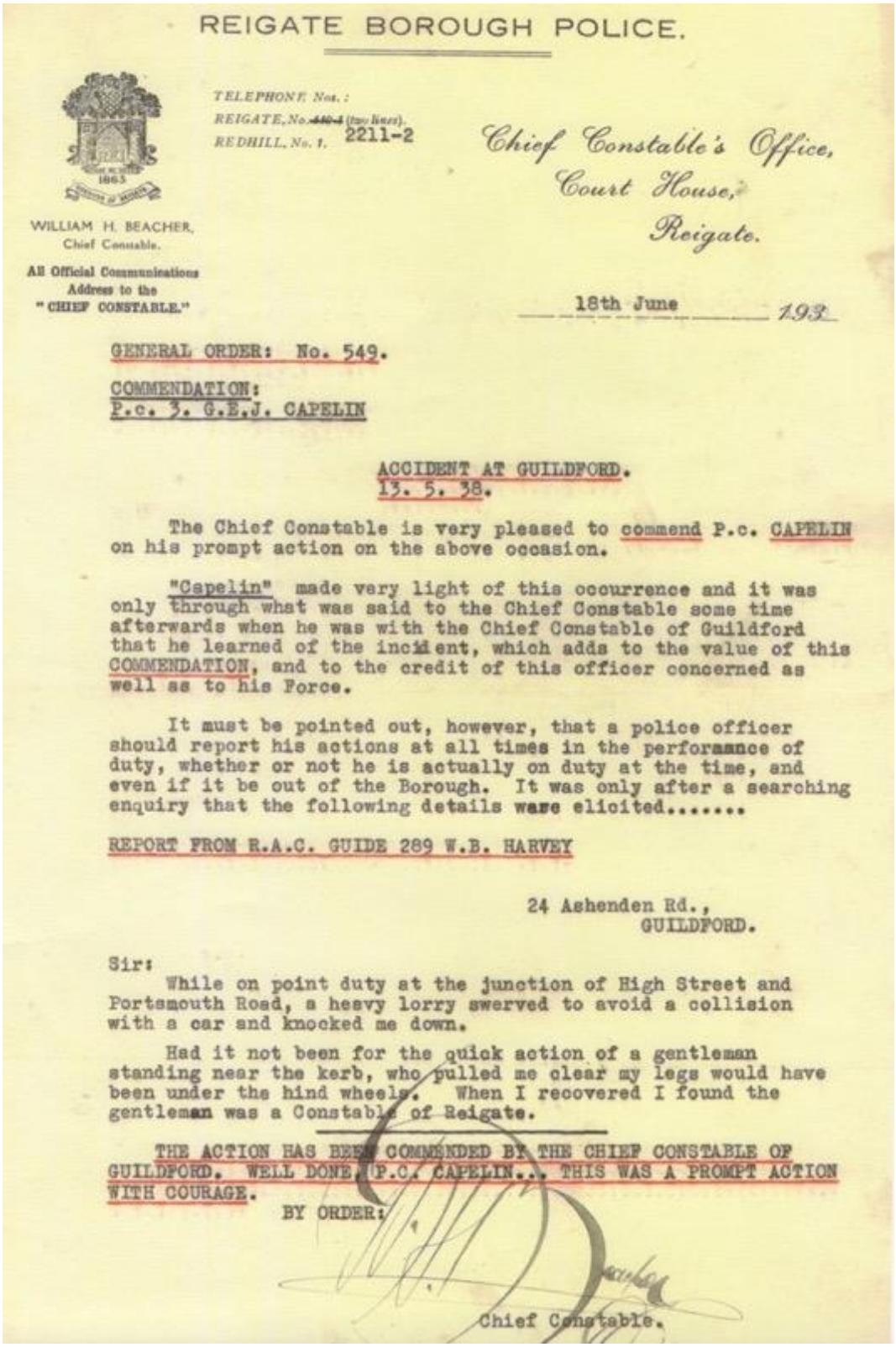
William Beacher

William Beacher, chief constable Reigate Borough Police
1931 - 1947

This Photograph was on the wall of the chief superintendent Eastern Division, who was based at Reigate until the early 1990s.

It would seem that Surrey has a strong tradition for 'sporting Chief Constables'.
This marvellous picture shows Mr W H Beacher, then Chief Constable of Reigate Borough Police, winning the 100 yrds Officers' Race during the Borough Police Sports in 1931.
The photo was kindly provided by ex-Inspector Richard Ford and as he says "Even in the heat of the chase, decorum prevailed, the Chief was still wearing his collar and tie when he reached the winning post!"

1931 fully recovered from rheumatism [31]



REIGATE BOROUGH POLICE.

TELEPHONE Nos.:
REIGATE, No. ~~440~~ (two lines).
REDHILL, No. 1. 2211-2

Chief Constable's Office,
Court House,
Reigate.

WILLIAM H. BEACHER,
Chief Constable.

All Official Communications
Address to the
"CHIEF CONSTABLE."

18th June 193

GENERAL ORDER: No. 549.

COMMENDATION:
P.c. 3. G.E.J. CAPELIN

ACCIDENT AT GUILDFORD.
13. 5. 38.

The Chief Constable is very pleased to commend P.c. CAPELIN on his prompt action on the above occasion.

"Capelin" made very light of this occurrence and it was only through what was said to the Chief Constable some time afterwards when he was with the Chief Constable of Guildford that he learned of the incident, which adds to the value of this COMMENDATION, and to the credit of this officer concerned as well as to his Force.

It must be pointed out, however, that a police officer should report his actions at all times in the performance of duty, whether or not he is actually on duty at the time, and even if it be out of the Borough. It was only after a searching enquiry that the following details were elicited.....

REPORT FROM R.A.C. GUIDE 289 W.B. HARVEY

24 Ashenden Rd.,
GUILDFORD.

Sir:
While on point duty at the junction of High Street and Portsmouth Road, a heavy lorry swerved to avoid a collision with a car and knocked me down.

Had it not been for the quick action of a gentleman standing near the kerb, who pulled me clear my legs would have been under the hind wheels. When I recovered I found the gentleman was a Constable of Reigate.

THE ACTION HAS BEEN COMMENDED BY THE CHIEF CONSTABLE OF GUILDFORD. WELL DONE, P.C. CAPELIN... THIS WAS A PROMPT ACTION WITH COURAGE.

BY ORDER:

Chief Constable.

The elaborate signature of Mr. Beacher is shown above. How many times a day he had to sign his name!

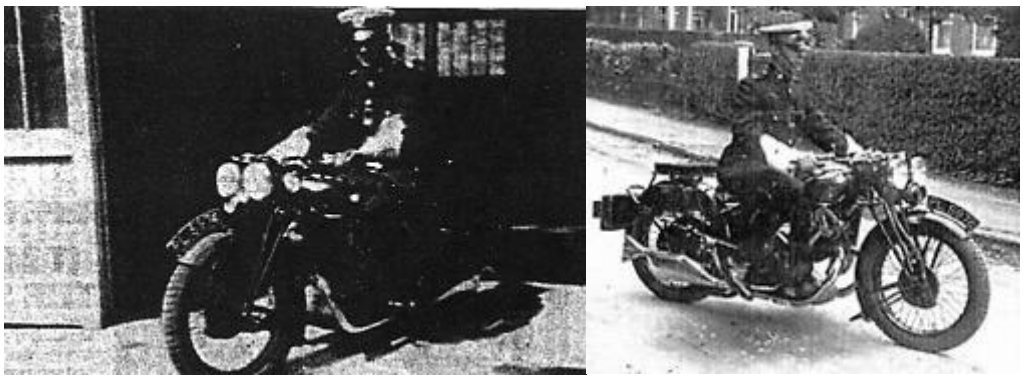
[31] Surrey Police newspaper Off Beat 1982

Reigate Borough Police Chief Constable Beacher horse Aug 1987 Off Beat

1931: In his first annual report to the Watch Committee, Chief Constable W Beacher offered some crime statistics:

98 indictable offences of which 59 were detected
Establishment of 40 officers, 1 CC, 2 inspectors, 5 police sergeants and 32 PCs
Special Constabulary 160
Cost £14217 13s 6d
Population 30,830

"Since my command I have personally instructed the force weekly in drill movements, physical exercise and Ju-Jitsu." (W Beacher) [32]



PC Brownlow PC Mason 1932 Reigate Borough Police

1932: The first motorcycle police in the Borough, Jock Mason and R. Brownlow, were first seen patrolling the streets in 1931/2. Here PC Mason is seen on his machine in 1932.

[32] 1931 Annual Report by the Chief Constable William Beacher CC/98/22/2

1932 Jock Mason

To be replaced by traffic lights in the early 1930s!

Few early postcards of the centre of Redhill fail to show a policeman on point duty. It must have been quite a contrast for residents when this familiar police figure was replaced by traffic lights in the early 1930s. This innovation was something that had been pressed for by the Home Office for a considerable time, the main gain being the manpower saving. More of this was achieved around the same period when it became a fire brigade task to drive the ambulance, although control of the vehicle remained with the police. [33]

Higher Court for Reigate: To send the case for trial at a higher court, the Quarter Sessions (always called the Sessions) or Assizes. The Assizes were for the more serious cases, but a tramp was sent there for stealing biscuits from a baker. Sessions are named at Reigate, Kingston, Guildford and London, Assizes at Kingston and Croydon. Grand Juries are mentioned at Kingston and London Sessions. Events moved quickly, compared with today. A committal for trial at the sessions could result in a finding and punishment within seven days, and three weeks seemed lax. In one case a committal from Dorking for trial was dealt with at Kingston Sessions on the same day![34]

[33] *Picture Alan Moore*
[34] Transcript of the original occurrence book Mr. C.A. Willeard Page 105

1932 Drunkenness convictions[35]

1927	25
1928	16
1929	20
1930	26
1931	8
1932	7

1932 There were no offences **against the person** in 1932. The year has been free of serious crime except for a **series of housebreakings** which are very prevalent throughout the country and are difficult to detect. [36]

1932: At Redhill purpose-built premises were opened in London Road for the combined presence of police and fire brigade. Closer co-operation this year between police and fire brigade at Reigate took the form of one of the firemen being paid to take care of stray dogs kept at the police station.

1932 Annual Report by Chief Constable Beacher

1932 A bloodhound is available to the force by being borrowed from Sussex.

1932 Each CID officer now has a **camera**

1932 Indictable offences

1931	98
1932	101

1932 non-indictable offences

1931	191
1932	187

1932 Fatal Road traffic accidents:

1931	6
1932	5

Injury road traffic accidents

1931	127
1932	111

Damage only road traffic accidents

1931	221
1932	153

[35] 1932 Annual Report by the Chief Constable William Beacher CC/98/22/2
[36] 1932 Annual Report by the Chief Constable William Beacher CC/98/22/2

1932 Mounted force if required would consist of a chief constable, 2 PS and 3 PCs

1932 A police motor ambulance is based at Redhill under the care of the Borough Fire Brigade In the last year the ambulance attended:

Accidents	117
Street illness	19
Private cases	50
Night calls	49
Day calls	137

1932 what could be regarded as one of the most appropriate appointments in the history of Reigate or, indeed, any police force. The chief constable reorganised the Special Constabulary and formed a mobile section under Special Chief Inspector Sir Malcolm Campbell (of Bluebird fame). The mobile specials were divided into two classes:

1st Reserve – Super fast cars
2nd Reserve – Moderately fast cars [37]

A few years later the family connection was extended when Donald Campbell joined the Special Constabulary as a motorcycle dispatch rider.

The economic recession of the early 1930s also affected the police force and there were two cuts in pay.[38]

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

Reigate Borough Police belt buckle

1932 January 9: Surrey Advertiser: Police help Unemployed – The Mayor of Guildford (Mr William Harvey) kicked off in a football match between Guildford Borough Police and Reigate Borough Police at the Sports Ground on Wednesday last week for the benefit of the unemployed. A "gate" of over 300 saw Guildford win a hard game by 6-3 and amusing incidents combined with the intervals of really clever and interesting play made it entertaining football. A collection at the ground for the unemployed realized £6 12s.

1932 May 20: Surrey Mirror: Y.M.C.A. Sports at Redhill- four teams were entered for the tug-of -war – Reigate Borough Police team being PCs Brownlow, W H Mason, T Thorpe, G Capelin, R Dean, F Walker, W Saunders and F Stoneman. The Police beat Mr J Elsey's team in two straight pulls following which the East Surrey Water Company's two teams pulled against one another, the team coached by Mr H Penfold beating that coached by Mr A Penfold also by two straight pulls. In the final two exceedingly good pulls gave the honours to the police who were coached by their Chief Constable.

1932 June 24: Surrey Mirror: Cricket- Redhill and Reigate P.O. V Reigate Borough Police – Played at the Ring, Earlswood on Tuesday resulted in a win for the P.O. Score - Post Office 127, Police 108. Philanthropic Society School v Reigate Borough Police – Played at Redhill on Tuesday June 14th resulted in a win for the School by 148 runs. Score – Reigate Police 48 (Beedell 17, Dean 15). School 196 (Townsend 68, F Worrall 94 not out).

1932 July 8: Surrey Mirror: Cricket – Reigate Borough Police v Oxted Division Surrey County Constabulary-Played at Blindley Heath on Tuesday resulted in a draw, rain stopping play. Clarke for Oxted took seven wickets for 52 runs.

1932 July 15: Surrey Mirror: Cricket – Reigate Borough Police v Guildford Borough Police. Played at Woodlands on Thursday last week resulted in a win for Reigate by one run. Scores - Guildford 137 and Reigate 138.

1932 July 22: Surrey Mirror: Borough Police- Tug-of -war success- After getting into the semi-final at the Police Sports at Brighton the previous Saturday, the Reigate Borough tug-of-war team reached two finals and won one on the following Thursday and Saturday. On Thursday they competed in the Metropolitan Divisional Sports at Leyton, on the Essex County Cricket Ground and were beaten in the final. They drew a bye in the first round, pulled over the Bow Division in the second round and Aylesford Paper Mills in the semi-final. They were beaten by a fine team in the R.A.S.C. in the final. On Saturday they were entered in the Pals' ex Servicemen's A.C. Sports at Cranleigh and had several strong sides to compete against. The favourites were the Long Grove Sports Club and Reigate were drawn against them in the semi-final. After two strenuous pulls the Borough Force had advanced to the semi-final when they beat "D" division Metropolitan Police in two straight pulls having beaten Oakwood Hill by two pulls in the first round. Long Grove, the victors of the London Fire Brigade this season were a difficult team to beat and the Borough Police are to be congratulated on the splendid strides they are making. They became the first holders of a handsome perpetual challenge cup. The team which has the advantage of the experienced coaching of the Chief Constable, Mr W H Beacher was as follows – PC'S Brownlow, Dean, Stoneman, Mason, Saunders, Smith, Richardson and Walker.

1932 July 22: Surrey Mirror: London General Country Services Ltd Sports at the Memorial Ground Redhill. Few expected that the vastly improved Reigate Borough Police team would be seriously extended in the open **tug-of -war** and such proved to be the case. Although the East Surrey Water Company "B" team, victors of the Royal Engineers in the semi-final gave nothing away in the final. Incidentally the Water Works owe much of their proficiency to the coaching of Mr W H Beacher who is doing great things with his police team.

1932 August 5: Surrey Mirror: Oxted Bank Holiday Sports – Reigate Police win tug-of -war. The Reigate team being highly complimented on their triumph over some of the "crack" police teams in the country.

1932 August 5: Surrey Mirror: Cricket – Reigate Borough Police v East Surrey Water Co. played at Woodlands on Tuesday resulted in a draw.

1932 August 12: Surrey Mirror: Cricket – Reigate Borough Police v Guildford Borough Police – Played at Guildford on Wednesday resulting in a win for Guildford. Scores Guildford 70, Reigate 47.

1932 August 19: Surrey Mirror: Cricket – Reigate Borough Police v London General Country Services. Played at Church Fields on, Reigate on Tuesday resulted in a draw.

1932 August 19: Surrey Mirror: Cricket – Reigate Borough Police v Brighton Borough Police - Played at Brighton on Wednesday of last week resulted in a win for Brighton Police.

1932 August 26: Surrey Mirror: - Success of Reigate Borough Force second **annual sports meeting-** The Chief wins again- Not all the competitors were from Reigate and Redhill the sports attracting entries from many forces including several which can boast the possession of some "crack" athletes. A great deal of interest was taken in the purely local event, confined to the Reigate Force and a popular victory was that of the Chief Constable, Mr W H Beacher, in the officer's race. He put on a fine spurt to take first place, Mr Beacher was also" placed" in one or two in the other events. One of the highlights of the afternoon's fun was provided by the one-mile cycle alarm handicap in which members of the Reigate Borough Force had to remove full parade uniform, including boots and redress on the sound of a starters pistol, mount their service machines and ride a mile.

The anxiety of some competitors to get into their uniforms proved the truth of the adage. "More haste, less speed", though the undoubted "nip" in the air may have had something to do with their hurry. In the tug-of -war Reigate Borough Police did excellently in reaching the final, winning three strenuous contests but Luton proved a little too good for them taking the Sir Malcolm Campbell Cup for the second year running. At the presentation of prizes Mr Beacher thanked the public for their support and said it would encourage him to make the sports an annual event, for not only was it good for the public to watch but it was good for the police. It tended to efficiency and sportsmanship in the Police Forces, and he was very proud of the way the Borough Force was coming on in the sports world.

1932 August 30: Mid Sussex Times: Hurstpierpoint Fete – **Tug-of -war** – The competition was run under A.A.A. Rules, Reigate Borough Police completing in the heavy team class (104 stone). Their results were Reigate Borough Police beat East Surrey Waterworks "B" Team 2-1, beat Horsham Police 2-1 and beat Kenley 2-0.

1932 September 2: Surrey Mirror: Redhill and Reigate **Swimming Club Gala**. In the Reigate Borough Police uniform race PC Laycock came 1st and PC Mason 2nd. Police win at Tug-of- war. The Reigate Borough Police tug-of -war team were successful in the tournament which they participated in at Hurstpierpoint Carnival Sports on Saturday and were awarded the cup presented by Sir William Campion. The contest was rendered particularly interesting to the Borough in as much as in the first round the police team beat the East Surrey Water Company team, the winners in two previous encounters with the Borough Police. In the second round the Borough Police beat West Sussex (Horsham) Police and in the final "Z" Division Metropolitan Police. The Borough Police team who thus brought home their 13th prize of the season were coached by the Chief Constable, Mr Beacher. On the previous Saturday the Reigate Borough Police were beaten in the final of the Sunbury Sports by R.A.S.C (Feltham) having beaten Hemel Hempstead and Banstead in previous rounds.

1932 October 7: Surrey Mirror: Constables Success – PC Laycock of Reigate Borough Police was successful in winning three open events at the **Swimming** Sports organized by the Guildford Borough Police this week. Police from various parts of Surrey competed.

1933 February 2: Report of the chief constable to the Watch Committee: Reigate

Acres	59.95
Population	30,830

Valuation	£286,079
Strength	40 [39]

1933: Various **unemployment** demonstrations and marches have taken place in 1933 (March, April, May, July and September) especially affecting Redhill. [40]

1933: Police pay has continued under the reduced scale of pay enforced by the National Economy Crisis. [41]

1933 April 28: Surrey Mirror: Reigate's Mobile Specials: Sir Malcolm Campbell at their fort parade: Making a talkie! Reigate's recently formed Mobile Section of the Special Constabulary hailed at the time as a practical attempt by the Chief Constable WH Beacher to cope with any possible outbreak of motor banditry in the district. Held its first parade at the Municipal Buildings parade ground on Sunday morning, when the Chief Constable, the head Special Constable Captain CJ Sutton, and Sir Malcolm Campbell (chief inspector of the "Flying Squad". The British Movietone and Paramount News films were made of the event. Eight vehicles in all were paraded, three of them being low-slung, powerful-looking racing models driven by Sir Malcolm Campbell, Major Gardner MC, Leonard Bell, Mr. Freshfield junior, G Burtenshaw, Captain Mason and Urling-Clark. The eight car was the chief constables own driven by PC Thorpe. The two mobile members of the regular force PCs Mason and Brownlow also took part. The idea was that of the Chief Constable and had received a ready response. They were not expected to do ordinary police work but called out in special circumstances and then each driver would be accompanied by one or more uniformed officers. It was not meant to alarm the public but to assist in its protection. Equipping the Special Constabulary is only bringing them up to date and adding to its efficiency for if a mobile section was necessary for the regular force it was necessary for the Special Constabulary. At a given signal the vehicles drove out of the Municipal Buildings led by the two regular officers making an impressive spectacle. Further action pictures were taken on the Dorking Road near Reigate Heath.

1933 May 19: Hampshire Telegraph: Cricket: Chichester- Chichester City Police v Reigate Borough Police, The Chief Constable of Reigate, Mr W H Beacher, who was formerly a superintendent of the West Sussex Constabulary brought a team of Reigate Borough Police to Chichester on Tuesday for a cricket match against the West Sussex Police Although they were rather badly beaten, the Reigate men had the satisfaction of being the first police team to encounter West Sussex on their new police sports ground.

1933 May 19: Surrey Mirror: Reigate and Redhill- Police at Sport- The Borough Police **tug-of - war** team commence their season of activity on May 27th when they journey to Hook to compete in the Surrey County Championships Meeting. Arrangements are in hand for the Reigate Borough Police Sports to take place on August 23rd, the proceeds this year will be for the mayor's unemployment relief fund.

[39] 1933 Annual Report by the Chief Constable William Beacher CC/98/22/2
[40] 1933 Annual Report by the Chief Constable William Beacher CC/98/22/2
[41] 1933 Annual Report by the Chief Constable William Beacher CC/98/22/2

1933 June 16: Surrey Mirror: Cricket – Reigate Borough Police XII v Special Constable XII - Played at Reigate Priory on Wednesday resulted in a draw. The Specials made a shaky start, losing their first wicket with only 4 runs on the board. The third wicket was down for 43 but a splendid stand by Dean and Compton- Hall saw the 100 well passed before the fourth fell. A declaration was made at the interval at 141 for eight leaving the regulars an hour and a half in which to get the necessary runs. When stumps were drawn nine of their eleven wickets were down for 89. An early rot which seemed likely to set in was stopped by Atkins whose 36 constituted a classic innings in miniature. Several boundaries were the result of splendidly timed shots

1933 June 23: Surrey Mirror: Cricket – Reigate Borough Police v London General Country Services. Played at The Woodlands Redhill resulted in a win for L.G.C.S, Score Reigate 75 and L.G.C.S. 144.

1933 June 23: West Sussex County Times: Reigate Police Success- At Ember Court Surrey on Friday Reigate Borough Police were victorious in winning the A.A.A. Surrey County Championship for the 100 stone **tug-of-war.** Reigate who were coached by their Chief Constable, Mr W H Beacher had a most strenuous pull against the East Surrey Regiment in the first round, one pull lasting 4 minutes 15 seconds. In the final they met Longrove Mental Institution, the first pull went to Longrove. The second pull lasted three minutes and 28 seconds during which the police were pulled within 6 inches of the line but rallied and gradually with determination pulled their opponents the remaining 23 and a half feet for a win. The championship rested on the third pull and this lasted 2 minutes 38 seconds before the police were able to secure the Championship Cup.

1933 June 27: Mid Sussex Times: British Legion Fete at Cuckfield- Four teams entered the open tug-of-war contest including Reigate Borough Police who won the Surrey Championship on the previous Friday. Reigate Police beat the Carfax Ramblers (Horsham) in the eliminating round by two pulls to nil and in the final met Eastbourne Police. Eastbourne gave Reigate two good pulls in the final but the latter were obviously the better team and deservedly won the handsome challenge cup, which was presented to the Branch by Col Wallinger in 1929.Each member of the Reigate team received a case of tea spoons and the coach a bread saw.

1933 June 30: Surrey Mirror: Cricket – Reigate Borough Police v Guildford Borough Police. Played at The Woodlands resulted in a win for Reigate Police, PC Laycock taking five wickets for 26 runs.
Rifle Shooting- Reigate Police v Reigate Town Silver Band- Monday evening saw the return match on the range of the Reigate Miniature Rifle Club. The duel was fought out in the presence of Mr W H Beacher, Chief Constable who took a very keen interest in the match. The Borough Police won by 77 points.

1933 July 1: Surrey Advertiser: Leatherhead Police and Traders Fete-Disappointment was caused by the fact that only two teams entered for the **tug-of-war** competition, which was inaugurated with marked success last year. A cup for the competition presented this year by Mr W Prutton was won by Reigate Police who defeated the Dorking Police Division by two pulls to nil.

1933 July 14: Surrey Mirror: Rifle Shooting - Reigate Borough Police v Reigate Grammar School O.T.C. -An interesting match was fired at the Tunnel Range on Monday. The conditions were eight to shoot, six to count and the result of the contest was a tie at 538 each.

1933 July 14: Surrey Mirror: Reigate and Redhill – **Tug -of -war** success- Reigate Borough Police were successful in winning the tug-of -war championship at East Sussex Police Sports at East Grinstead last week beating Petersfield in the final. Members of the police team, who were as follows were each presented with a handsome eight -day striking clock, PC'S Brownlow, Richardson, Dean, Saunders, Mason, Smith, Walker and Stoneman. PC Ingram was reserve and PC Dale trainer whilst the team were coached by Mr W H Beacher, Chief Constable. Much pleasure was occasioned at beating Petersfield for the first time. In as much as the members of that team are old stalwarts with a great name in this particular sport. The local team also met with success at recent meetings at Leatherhead and Cuckfield bringing home a trophy in each case. Of nine contests entered the Borough Police have been winners or runners up eight times

1933 July 16: Reynolds's Newspaper: At Brighton Police Sports Petersfield Police won the **tug-of-war** event by two pulls to nil from Reigate Borough Police.

1933 July 21 Surrey Mirror: Cricket – Reigate Borough Police v Dorking Div, Surrey Constabulary. Played at The Woodlands resulted in a win for Reigate by 45runs. PC Dean took four wickets for 5 and PS Beedell three for 6. A notable stand by PC's Wing and Walker produced 43 runs. Score Dorking 50 and Reigate 95.

1933 July 22: Surrey Advertiser: Cranleigh Sports-Police Team too late- Seven teams had entered for the **tug-of-war**, always a popular event but Reigate Police, holders of the Challenge Cup, who had been pulling in Brighton arrived late for the draw and could not compete.

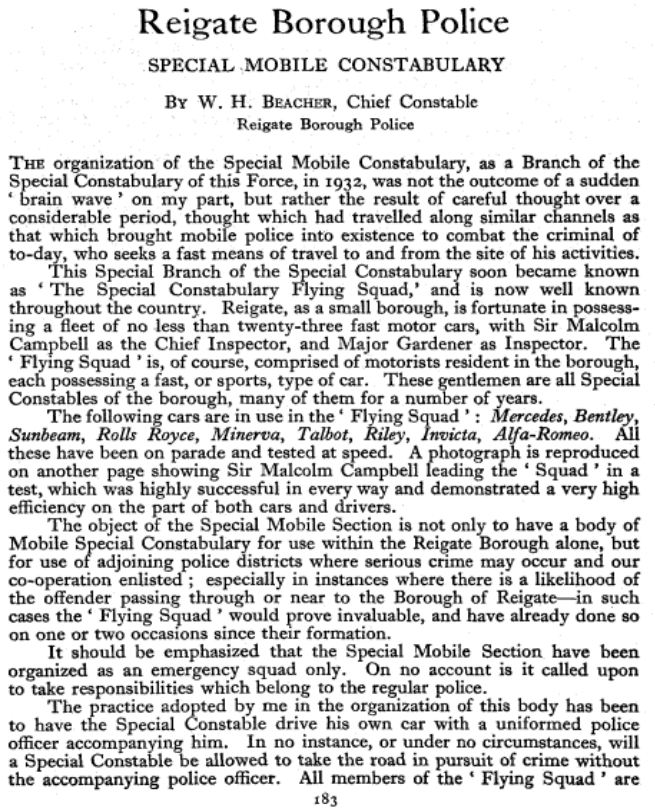
1933 July 29: Surrey Advertiser: **Surrey Constabulary** Sports initial meeting held at Woking- Reigate Borough Police had several successes at this meeting but lost out in the semi- final of the **tug-of-war** to R.A.S.C. Feltham by two pulls to nil.

1933 August 11: Surrey Mirror: Oxted Sports and Fete – Reigate Borough Police again win **tug-of-war.** The annual sports of the Oxted, Limpsfield and Tandridge Sports Club was one of their most successful with glorious weather, record entries, good organisation and an attractive fete. As usual the team events aroused much attention. The tug-of-war provided much excitement and the success of the holders Reigate Borough Police was loudly cheered. In the final Reigate Police beat the East Surrey Water Co in two pulls. The police who are holders of the Surrey Championship were not seriously extended in the final, the first pull took two minutes but the second occupied less than a minute. The police receiving the challenge cup presented by Mr E Strong.

1933 August 11: Surrey Mirror: Cricket – Reigate Borough Police v Brighton Borough Police. Played at Preston Park resulted in a draw.

1933 August 31: West Sussex Gazette: Reigate Borough third **annual Police Sports**- Held at Redhill Memorial Sports Ground on August 23rd attracted a large gate and gained distinction by reason of attracting a number of world champions particularly in the women's events. The most vociferous enthusiasm was provoked by the Police tug-of-war and Reigate Borough were vocally assisted by a large crowd through to the final where they met Dorset who beat them in two straight but very hard pulls, Dorset carrying off Sir Malcolm Campbell's Cup. The Chief Constable won the 100 yards flat handicap for members of the Borough Police with over 17 years' service.

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



Reigate Borough Police

SPECIAL MOBILE CONSTABULARY

By W. H. Beacher, Chief Constable
Reigate Borough Police

The organization of the Special Mobile Constabulary, as a Branch of the Special Constabulary of this Force, in 1932, was not the outcome of a sudden 'brain wave' on my part, but rather the result of careful thought over a considerable period, thought which had travelled along similar channels as that which brought mobile police into existence to combat the criminal of to-day, who seeks a fast means of travel to and from the site of his activities.

This Special Branch of the Special Constabulary soon became known as 'The Special Constabulary Flying Squad,' and is now well known throughout the country. Reigate, as a small borough, is fortunate in possessing a fleet of no less than twenty-three fast motor cars, with Sir Malcolm Campbell as the Chief Inspector, and Major Gardener as Inspector. The 'Flying Squad' is, of course, comprised of motorists resident in the borough, each possessing a fast, or sports, type of car. These gentlemen are all Special Constables of the borough, many of them for a number of years.

The following cars are in use in the 'Flying Squad': *Mercedes, Bentley, Sunbeam, Rolls Royce, Minerva, Talbot, Riley, Invicta, Alfa-Romeo.* All these have been on parade and tested at speed. A photograph is reproduced on another page showing Sir Malcolm Campbell leading the 'Squad' in a test, which was highly successful in every way and demonstrated a very high efficiency on the part of both cars and drivers.

The object of the Special Mobile Section is not only to have a body of Mobile Special Constabulary for use within the Reigate Borough alone, but for use of adjoining police districts where serious crime may occur and our co-operation enlisted; especially in instances where there is a likelihood of the offender passing through or near to the Borough of Reigate—in such cases the 'Flying Squad' would prove invaluable, and have already done so on one or two occasions since their formation.

It should be emphasized that the Special Mobile Section have been organized as an emergency squad only. On no account is it called upon to take responsibilities which belong to the regular police.

The practice adopted by me in the organization of this body has been to have the Special Constable drive his own car with a uniformed police officer accompanying him. In no instance, or under no circumstances, will a Special Constable be allowed to take the road in pursuit of crime without the accompanying police officer. All members of the 'Flying Squad' are

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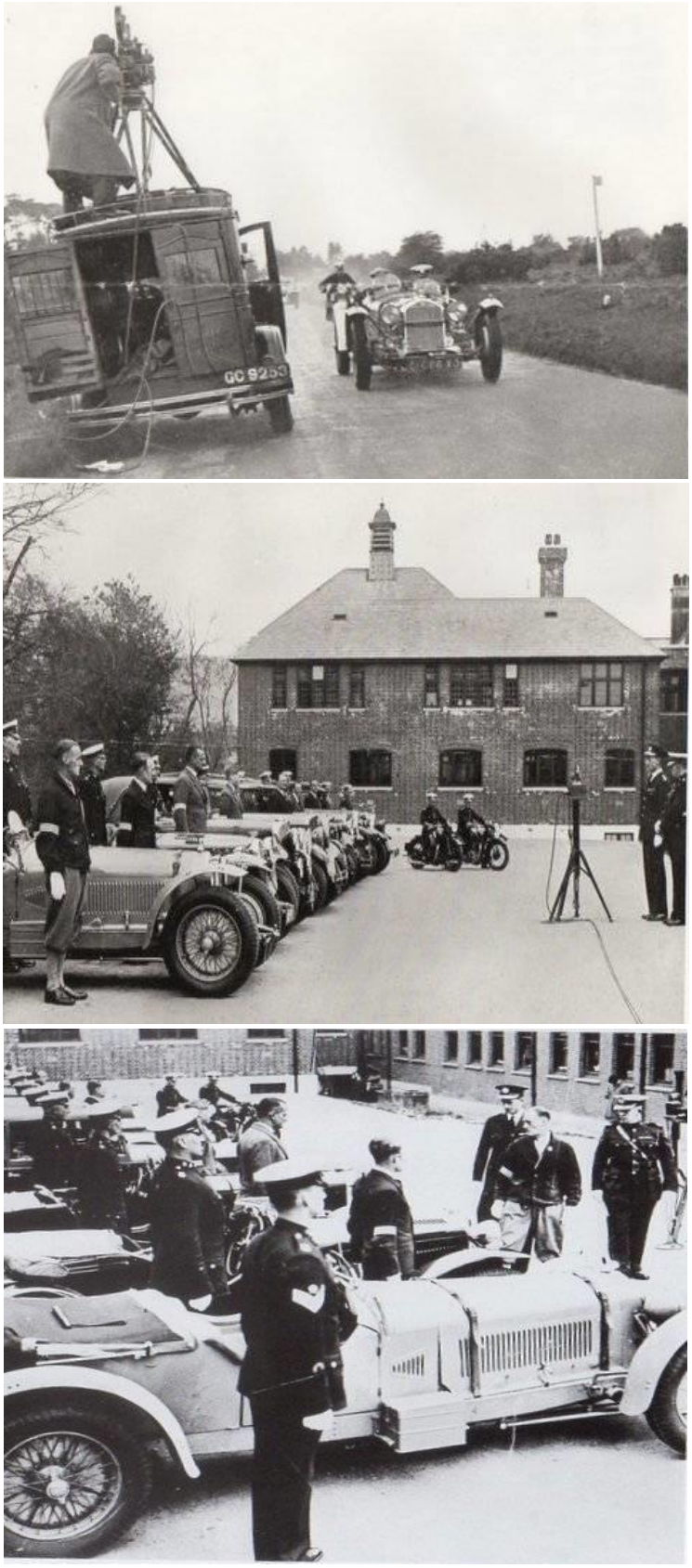
Extract from an article on the Special Mobile Constabulary by Chief Constable Beacher Reigate Borough Police 1934[42]

[42] http://heinonline.org/HOL/LandingPage?handle=hein.journals/policejl7&div=21&id=&page=



Chief Constable Beacher with Sir Malcolm Campbell inspecting the mobile section in 1932[43]

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

Reigate Police Mobile Section with Sir Malcolm Campbell going out on patrol[44]

Reigate Borough Police Motorcyclists with Malcolm Campbell (PC31)

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