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# Surrey Constabulary History Journal 9

# The Surrey Home Front

# Second World War

# Part Two

**1942 23/24 February PC 41 William George Richards, Guildford Borough aged 19.** PC Richards died as a result of injuries received in a road traffic accident whilst on his bicycle in Boxgrove Road Guildford. He was dealing with a Home Guard member for a cycling offence. PC Richards was the son of a police sergeant from the Metropolitan Police.[1] [2]

**Bill Leahy:** William was the son of a serving police officer who had just joined the police. During the blackout he stopped a lad riding his bike without a light and whilst taking his details was struck by a car in the dark. The headmaster at the boy's school caused a local outcry by hauling the lad before the school and accusing him of having caused the death of the policeman.[3]

**1942 Guildford Borough:** During an exercise the police **Norton HPL498** was destroyed by fire caused by a backfire through the carburettor igniting the petrol. [4]

**1942 April 3 Wilful damage in Dorking:** The chairman of the ARP Committee spoke strongly about damage being done at the shelters after a key had gone missing. Equipment and utensils in the shelters had been damaged or taken and doors had been broken open. He asked that anyone knowing anything should report to the police.[5]

**1942: April: A new temporary glass house** for Canadians was established at Witley and moved in April 1942 to Headley Down in Hampshire to where six hundred and fifty inmates were moved. In April 1945 the new camp suffered a riot and mass break out which resulted in the deployment of troops and police.

**1942 May 1: Ranmore, Dorking:** A military gun-towing vehicle weighing 8 tones was going down the steep hill from Ranmore Common into Dorking when the brakes failed and the vehicle overturned. On of the soldiers was killed instantly and three others injured.[6]

**1942 May 4: PS George Capelin** congratulated by the Chief Constable Reigate Borough Police for his assistance to Police Sergeant Kimber in a case involving a pedal cycle – FA Crodden.[7]

**1942 May 6: Friday Street explosion:** The ammunition Dump at Friday Street blew up during a bush fire. People in Friday Street were evacuated.[8] **1942 summer:** Ammunition dump between **Friday Street** and Leylands caught fire with monster explosions scattering ammunition all over Leith Hill[9]

**1942 May 8: The King** made a seven hour visit to Armoured Divisions in the area of Boxhill and Pixham, Dorking before inspecting troops on **Brockham Green.**

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[1] Researched by Richard Ford from Watch Committee papers and Surrey Advertiser 28 February 1942
[2] No Police service record, details confirmed Surrey Advertiser 28 2 1942 – research Robert Bartlett
[3] In conversation with the author
[4] Researched by Richard Ford Watch Committee papers and Surrey Advertiser 28 February 1942
[5] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[6] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[7] Surrey Constabulary Appointment book George Ellis James Capelin
[8] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[9] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated

**1942 May 21: King's Police Medal** awarded to Reginald Carpenter, War Reserve Metropolitan Police, George Sidney Grant, Metropolitan Police, Charles Lindsell, Metropolitan Police, Percy Henry Salter Metropolitan Police: At about 0315 a Canadian soldier **stationed in Surrey** stole a Thompson sub-machine gun and a revolver from the armoury at his depot, held up the picket at the transport park and stole a lorry and headed for London. Cordons were set up across the main road at **Bagshot and Egham** but the soldier drove through both of them. Police Constables Lindsell and Salter of the Metropolitan Police were directed to set up a roadblock at Staines Bridge and with Constables Carpenter and Grant they waited. When the lorry approached PC Lindsell switched on the headlights of his car, blinding the fugitives, causing him to swerve into the kerb. PCs Carpenter and Grant jumped up onto the cab of the lorry and disarmed the soldier before he could use any of the weapons. PC Lindsell had sat the car in the middle of the road, knowing the lorry had been driven through two cordons. (All four officers were rewarded from the Bow Street Fund)[10]

**1942 May 22: The King visited Betchworth** Lime Works to witness military exercises.

**1942 June 9:** The **body** of the three month old **grandson** of Admiral Craig- Waller was found in the **lake** of Burwood Park, Walton on Thames. The baby had been parked in his pram and was left briefly by his mother who told police she **saw a man** lift the baby out of the pram. She ran after the man who made off in a motorcycle. Attempts were made to resuscitate the baby without success. Superintendent Curry is Officer in Case.[11]

**Express Staff Reporter: Yard Aids `Baby in Lake` Case Walton-on-Thames (Surrey), Wednesday***:* Scotland -Yard is now helping to investigate the mystery of the baby in the lake. The baby, three-month-old David Craig Waller, grandson of Vice-Admiral A. Craig Waller, was found dead in an ornamental lake in Burwood Park, Walton-on-Thames, on Sunday. Statements made to Surrey police are that a strange man took the baby from a perambulator in the temporary absence of his mother, 22-year-old Mrs Patricia Craig Waller, and later rode off on a motorcycle. Mrs Craig Waller gave chase. Mr Donald Kellie, a special constable, was called, and recovered the baby from the water. Detective Inspector Davis and Detective Sergeant Fisk of Scotland-Yard conferred today with Superintendent Curry of Surrey Police, examined the lake, and interviewed the neighbours.

[10] Police Gallantry 1909-1978 J. Peter Farmer page 172
[11] 1942 9 June: The Times

**1942 June 15** Mrs Patricia Waller was charged with the murder of her three month old son David. Mrs Waller attended Weybridge police station on Saturday night where she appeared before Mrs Barton a magistrate when Detective Inspector Tappenden gave evidence of arrest.[12]

**1942 June 11: Supplement to the London Gazette:** Kings Police Medal for Distinguished Service William Henry Beacher, Chief Constable of Reigate Borough Police Force.

**1942 July 1:** All regular constables of up to twenty five years of age and all Police War Reserve under thirty were **de-reserved** and their call up followed gradually. One hundred regulars and fourteen Police War Reserves were called to the Colours.[13]

**1942 July:** Raiders tried to demolish searchlights at **Cut Mill** missing and setting fire to **Puttenham Common,** which burned for two days. [14]

**1942 July: Abinger Common** set on fire and the village had to be evacuated- the fire reached the rifle range and a huge explosion wrecked most of the houses in the village.[15]

**1942 August: Brandy from Godstone Caves: Canadian Soldier Sent for Trial:** Three Other Soldiers Fined for Receiving. Four Canadian soldiers were concerned in charges at the Oxted Court on Monday about the disappearance of 83 bottles of brandy (Prunier and Auduoin Freres) and five bottles of wine value £210 17s. 6d., from a store in the Godstone caves between August 3rd and 7th. Pte. Hedley George Cooke (40) was charged with stealing the brandy and wine, and Ptes Henry McKenzie (37), Henry Edmund Hoyt (32), and Robert Vaughan Crossman (36) with receiving it from Cooke.

On the theft charge, Albert Edward Snook, caretaker of Godstone Caves, who lives in a caravan near the entrance, said the double main gates on the quarry entrance had three padlocks and the quarry foreman and himself held the keys jointly. Neither the foreman nor himself could open the gates without the other being present. On August 4th the foreman and himself locked the gates at 5 pm. During the evening he was patrolling the road outside the quarry, for part of the time being joined by another watchman. He went to his caravan about midnight and put his keys under the bed. He heard nothing during the night, and next morning the gates were still locked and seemingly untouched. There was no other way into the caves, but when the gates were opened he found the door to one of the stores had been forced. On August 12th the police showed him a hammer and wrench, which had been taken from a box in the yard.

George Frederick Smith, quarry foreman, 10, Green View, Godstone, said he worked at another quarry and there was no way from this into the disused quarry used as a store. The top of the gate was flush with the roof of the quarry, and when after he locked it on August 4th it would not be possible for anyone to get through or over it.

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[12] 1942 15 June Glasgow Herald
[13] CC notes 1945 on the administration of the county police during the war.
[14] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[15] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated

Otto Hallgarten, wine merchant and importer, Crespigny-road, Hendon, said he rented a store in the caves and kept there a large quantity of wines and spirits. The store was locked, and he and his brother held the only keys. He last visited the store on July 13th, when everything was in order. He was called there again on August 5th, and found the door open and seven brandy and two wine cases open: the brandy cases were empty, but only one bottle of each wine case missing, the other bottles being on the floor. Several other wine cases had been opened and one bottle taken from each. On August 12th, at Oxted Police Station, he was shown the bottles of brandy, which had been recovered.

Snook, recalled at defendant's request, agreed Cooke was with him all night on August 3rd and every evening up to the 7th until nine or ten. The night before the caves were broken into Cooke was with him up to 10.45 pm. P.C. Bywater said the hasps of the padlocks on the Hallgarten store had been wrenched off the doorpost. On August 6th, in consequence of information received, he went to a spot in Marden Park, where in some bushes he found three sacks containing 39 bottles of brandy, a bottle of wine, two empty brandy bottles, eight straws, and a hammer and wrench. P.S. Beeney said he found a sack containing twenty bottles of brandy and two straws in a wood in Marden Park.

Detective Hibbard said that on August 7th he saw Cooke at Forest Row and told him there was reason to believe he was concerned in a case of store breaking at Godstone. He said: "I have nothing to say about anything." In a statement later he said he had been absent from his unit since November 1941, and had been living at Godstone. He got to know Snook and had done a considerable amount of work for him. He had helped Snook to carry liquor to the stores in the caves. On August Bank Holiday, while Snook was in the caves, he took the hammer and wrench. Later he was with Snook in the office when the other watchman wanted to borrow two keys and Snook produced his bunch, which he put down and a hat was put over it. About 12.45 am he returned to the yard and went into the office, where he picked up the keys, among which were two operating two of the three padlocks on the gates. Entering the caves he walked down the main tunnel and broke into a store, but could not find any whisky, which he was looking for. He then went to the end of the tunnel and to another store. He filled sacks with the bottles and got a wheelbarrow, on which he carried the sacks. Seeing there was no one about, he carried the sacks on his back from the yard, locked the doors again, and then hid the sacks in a field. He went into the office and put the keys back under the hat. He took the stuff with the intention of selling it, but had no time of finding anyone to buy it as he was arrested by the military police.

On this evidence Cooke was committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court on September 8th.

Pte Hayes said he was directed to drive McKenzie, who had told him he knew where there was some liquor "planted." He drove the car with McKenzie, and saw him collect some sacks, which were taken to Marden Park and hidden under some bushes. P.S. Beeney said Hoyt made a statement in which he said he and the other defendants went to see a man in a house off the main road whom he knew was Cooke, a Canadian soldier. Cooke told them where the stuff was, and they went there, took a

bottle each, and left the rest there. When charged, Hoyt and Crossman said: "We didn't receive all that lot; we just got three bottles."

Evidence was also given of statements made by McKenzie and Crossman, and McKenzie, who elected to give evidence, agreed he offered to give the staff-sergeant half-a-dozen bottles and the driver one bottle. All three men were stated to have good Army records.

The Chairman (Mr. F.H. Elliott) said defendants were apparently good soldiers. McKenzie who organised this would be fined £7 10s and Hoyt and Crossman £5 each.[16]

## The Wigwam Murder

**1942** Wigwam murder of Joan Wolfe on Hankley Common August Sangret (28 August 1913 – 29 April 1943) was a French-Canadian soldier of native Indian birth who murdered Joan Wolfe in Surrey. Two marines on exercise 7 October 1942 William Moore and Geoffrey Cook found a woman's arm protruding from the sandy soil. Sergeant Ballard of Surrey Constabulary attended with two PCs, followed by the Godalming superintendent Webb and later Detective Superintendent Roberts and Detective Inspector Boshier.

It was getting dark and so the scene was secured with a tarpaulin was placed over the gravesite and arrangements made for a twenty-four hour police guard pending investigations the following day. Dr Keith Simpson a lecturer in forensic medicine at Guy's and Dr Eric Gardner a consultant pathologist at Weybridge Hospital attended. Fully dressed with underclothing in place, maggots and rodent damage, the body was taken to Guys and immersed in a tank of carbolic disinfectant prior to PM. Death believed caused by a blow to the back of the head. Stab wounds and defensive wounds also found. The victim was identified as Joan Pearl Wolfe, a nineteen-year-old girl who had run away from home and lived in the woods near the army base.

A search of the vicinity revealed a number of finds including a birch stake, which matched the size of a missing piece of skull. National Insurance card in the name of Joan Pearl White was found, as was an army marriage application in her name with

[16] Surrey Mirror, 21st August 1942

date of birth 11 March 1923. A letter was found, written by Joan to August Sangret. The letter informed Sangret that Wolfe was pregnant. Wolfe was a camp follower and well known locally as the "wigwam girl" who lived in a kind of wigwam or shack built from branches and twigs by a French Canadian soldier, part Cree Indian, aged 29 years, August Sangret from nearby Jasper Camp. Sangret had met Joan Wolfe in Godalming on 17 July 1942 and she became pregnant by him. Sangret told his friends that she was missing and with their help searched where Wolfe had been staying without success. Sangret made a fuss about missing his knife and getting his friends to look for it.


CHIEF INSPTR. Edwd. GREENO

Chief Inspector Greeno of Scotland Yard was called in. There were one hundred thousand soldiers based in three camps within the vicinity, but links with Sangret were soon established. He made a lengthy statement to Greeno. Bloodstains were found on one of his army blankets but the analyst was unable to say for certain that it was blood let alone any grouping. Greeno thought that the stains were where a person 5ft 4 inches in height and stabbed in the same place, as Joan would leave stains. Greeno then turned to the local policemen. PC Tim Halloran stationed at Godalming remembered a woman in July who looked as though she had been living rough. He had taken her to the police station for questioning together with her boyfriend. Halloran recalled that the man had been an Indian type, and he had written in his book his name. It was August Sangret, aged twenty-eight, of the Regina Rifles stationed at Jasper Camp. He had made a note of the woman's name Joan Pearl Wolfe. He described her as 5ft 4ins tall with big breasts and big uneven teeth. She had dressed like a tramp but had a good speaking voice and she had worn a crucifix. On Monday 27th the knife was found in a waste pipe in the shower block at the camp and Simpson as able to prove this was the murder weapon.

**Professor Keith Simpson:** "Major Nicholson the chief constable, Detective Superintendent Roberts, head of Surrey CID, and sundry other police officers including the photographer, Dr. Eric Gardner instructed by the Coroner and I as medico-legal adviser to the Surrey Constabulary. The famous Detective Chief Inspector Ted Greeno was on his way from Scotland Yard. Sangret was to make a seventeen thousand-word statement but Greeno had to let him go – there were grounds for suspicion but no proof. On Sangret's clothes were found bloodstains, and his army knife was found soon after in a drainpipe. Sangret was charged with Wolfe's murder. He was tried and convicted in February 1943. The jury, who took two hours to reach their verdict, made a strong recommendation to mercy. Before sentence of death was passed, Sangret declared: "I am not guilty. " "[17]

Professor Keith Simpson concluded that the woman had been stabbed with a hooked-tipped knife, and that she was then killed with a heavy blunt instrument. He also deduced that the attack had occurred elsewhere, and the woman's corpse dragged to the ridge where it was buried. The woman was eventually identified as Joan Pearl Wolfe, who was living rough in a crude shelter made of tree branches, and so the newspapers gave her the nickname of "Wigwam Girl".

[17] Prof Keith Simpson "Forty Years of Murder" 1978 P 60

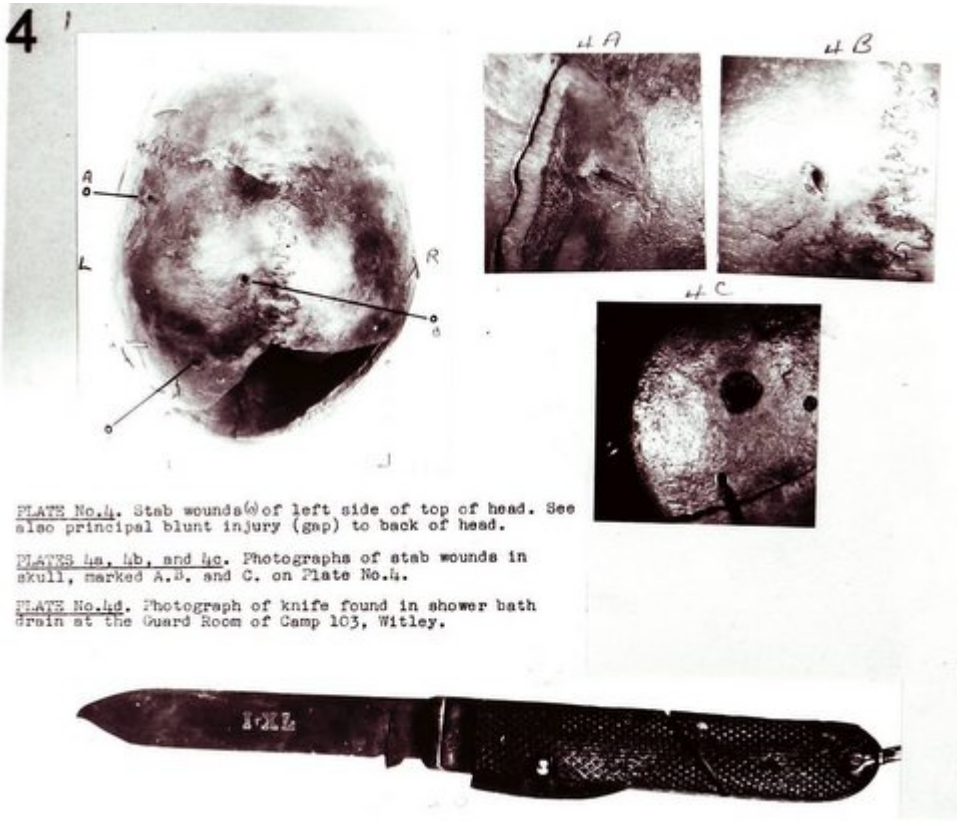



PLATE No.4. Stab wounds(B) of left side of top of head. See also principal blunt injury (gap) to back of head.

PLATES 4a, 4b, and 4c. Photographs of stab wounds in skull, marked A.B. and C. on Plate No.4.

PLATE No.4d. Photograph of knife found in shower bath drain at the Guard Room of Camp 103, Witley.



**The murder weapon**

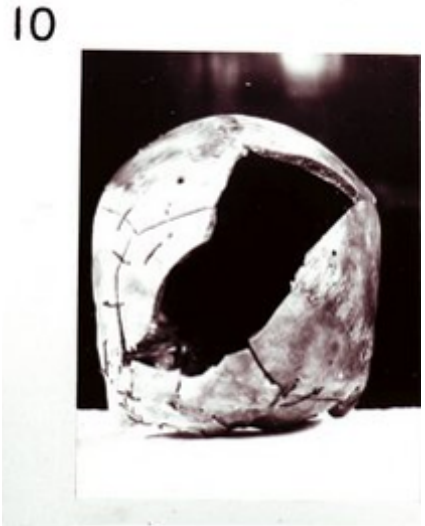



PLATE No.10. Reproduction of Plate No.6., with two detached pieces of bone not fitted into upper end and indicating the extent of the main gap in the skull.

**The victim Joan Wolfe**

PLATE No.1. Condition of remains after removal of clothing, earth, vermin etc. Head (in pieces similar to neck) not included.

PLATE No.11. Stake (exhibit) placed in position suggested at moment of impact upon back of head - showing relation of stake to principal wound.

Trial at Kingston Assizes before Mr Justice MacNaughton, lasted six days in February 1943 and the jury were out for two hours returning a guilty verdict with a strong recommendation for mercy. Appeal 13 April 1943 failed and he was hanged in Wandsworth Prison on 29th April 1943.

Edward Greeno or Ted, was to write in his memoirs, published in 1960, making his opinion quite clear: **"**I had interviewed thousands of people in this case and seventy-four of them went into the witness-box. The case was so watertight that, as Sir Norman Kendal said later, Sangret's appeal against the death sentence 'was almost a farce'.

One small doubt remained. Sangret murdered the girl because she was expecting his child—but was she? Was she expecting anybody's child? The doctors didn't think so on the occasion that the police sent her to hospital, and when her body was found it was too late to tell. But this is certain: Sangret did murder her. He confessed before he died, and this is where I quarrel with the rules. It is never announced when a murderer confesses. But why not? There are always cranks and crackpots to argue that some wicked policeman has framed some poor fellow. So why make an official secret of the fact that the policeman did his job?

**August Sangret**

Very surprisingly L/27572 Private August Sangret, Royal Canadian Infantry Corps, is commemorated on the Brookwood Memorial. His entry can be found on Panel 23, Column 3.


**August Sangret on the Brookwood Memorial (Stephen Stratford 2010)[18]**

**The Wigwam Murder[19]**

**Joan Wolfe:** Joan Pearl Wolfe was born 11 March 1923. Wolfe's mother, Edith Mary Watts had married a Mr Wolfe, who suffered from an illness believed by his neighbours to be a form of sleeping sickness. He ended his life by gassing himself. Wolfe's mother married twice more; Joan had a sister and a half-sister. Joan Wolfe lived with her mother in the market town of Tonbridge. They lived modestly in a council house in Lodge Oak Lane. In 1938, aged sixteen, Joan had become engaged

[18] http://www.stephen-stratford.co.uk/wigwam_case.htm
[19] Wikipedia

to a young man from nearby Tunbridge Wells. Her mother had lectured her sternly about staying out late, but the two did not quarrel angrily. Wolfe's engagement evidently broke down and she began going out with soldiers; although little is known of Wolfe's relationship with her mother, it seems that she was a caring woman driven to her wit's end by her daughter's behaviour and their relationship deteriorated. Wolfe first left home before she was seventeen years old.

Wolfe was young, naïve, muddle headed and prone to flights of fancy. She was brought up as a Catholic and attended a convent school, she was outwardly pious and regularly wore a conspicuous crucifix about her neck, but she apparently lacked any real religious commitment. Having left home, she headed to Aldershot, the home of the British Army and her behaviour became increasingly promiscuous. Wolfe made her way to Godalming, looking for work.

The police intervened on several occasions; Wolfe was repeatedly questioned because she was still a minor. Despite her repeated claims that the police never did anything to help her, she was offered various forms of assistance with varying levels of compulsion. She returned home more than once; always, she drifted back.
Wolfe became engaged to a Canadian soldier: Francis Hearn. Hearn returned to Canada promising to marry her; she wore a ring that he had given her and she sometimes referred to herself as his wife.

On 17 July 1942, the day after Hearn left for Canada, Wolfe met Sangret for the first time in a pub in Godalming. They talked and walked through a local park. They had sex that night and parted company having arranged to meet again. As very often happened, Wolfe did not keep her next date, but Sangret met her again by chance a few days later when she seemed to be on a date with another soldier named Hartnell. The three conversed for some time and then Hartnell left. Sangret and Wolfe met regularly, if unreliably, after that.

On 23 July, Wolfe found herself in hospital. She wrote to Sangret:

“My Dear August,
Well, my dear, I hope I am forgiven for not turning up to see you last night, but I was in the police station five hours and they did not help me. I was walking along the road and suddenly came over queer. I fainted for the first time in my whole life. The brought me to the hospital here. They are going to examine me. I shall know whether I am all right or not then. I hope you will come and see me, as I really want to see you very much and being in bed all day is awful. You can come any night between 6-7 p.m. and Sunday afternoon. Please try and come. I have your picture on the locker beside me. The nurses know you are my boy friend, they told me to tell you to come and see me. You have to tell them my name and ask for Emergency Ward. Well, hoping to see you soon, I will say au revoir. God bless you. Love Joan”

Wolfe was not ill; she was, apparently, pregnant.

**August Sangret:** Sangret was born on 28 August 1913 in Battleford, Saskatchewan. He was of mixed race, called in French Bois-Brûlés ("burnt wood"), part French Canadian and part Cree. Little is known of Sangret's early life, but his family was poor and Sangret received little education – he was illiterate, but intelligent. As well

as English, he spoke the Cree language and learned some of the traditional skills of his ancestors, including the construction of sturdy shelters or wigwams made from long poles covered by sheets of birch bark; the tools for this task include a small crooked knife that is unique to the Cree.

He was unable to find work in the 1930s, but from 1935 to 1939 he served in the Battleford Light Infantry, a militia regiment which trained for two weeks each year. On 19 June 1940, Sangret enlisted as a full-time soldier in The Regina Rifle Regiment. He had a criminal record, including six months in gaol for a violent assault in 1932. He was not a model soldier; he was repeatedly punished for minor infractions of military discipline and had repeated spells on the sick list and he was at least twice treated for venereal disease requiring five admissions to hospital. He arrived in Britain on 24 March 1940 and was initially stationed in Fleet in Hampshire. He was then sent to Aldershot and in July he was posted to a newly formed Educational Company, which ran a course for men lacking elementary education. It was at this time that Sangret met Joan Wolfe.[20]

When Wolfe was released from hospital, the couple spent a great deal of time together. Sangret made a shack or wigwam in woodland behind the officers' lines. Here Wolfe would stay most of the time and Sangret would visit whenever he could, including many nights when he should have been in camp. The couple talked about their future plans, including marriage. When they could not meet, Wolfe sent letters to Sangret that would be read out by Sergeant Hicks. Wolfe got work, but she was unreliable and her various employments only lasted a few days. Wolfe drifted away for a few days to London and soon after she returned she was again picked up by the police and spent a few more days in hospital — not because she was ill, but simply so that she would be looked after.

When Wolfe returned, Private Donald Brett a soldier attached to the military police discovered the couple in a wigwam. Brett told them to disassemble the wigwam and move away. The police once again took Wolfe to a hospital. By the time she returned, Sangret had built a second wigwam made waterproof with his rain cape and gas cape. When Wolfe returned, the couple walked into town to try to find a room in town without success. That evening, Wolfe was detained by the military police who questioned her; she was sent to a hospital again and Sangret was arrested for "keeping a girl in camp".

The couple had to explain themselves to the authorities, they explained that their plans included getting married and they were treated sympathetically. On leaving hospital, Wolfe again returned to Sangret. They tried again to find a room in town, but ended up sleeping together in an unlocked cricket pavilion. Over the next two weeks, they spent a number of nights at the old pavilion and then, on 14 September, Wolfe disappeared. The affair between Sangret and Wolfe had lasted 81 days.

**Discovery, evidence and arrest**

Hankley Common was then an army training ground regularly used for military exercises. On 7 October 1942, Royal Marine William Moore was patrolling the area

[20] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/August_Sangret - cite_note-FOOTNOTETrow1994124-133-4

on a routine march when in one of the many tank tracks that criss-crossed the area he saw what looked like a human hand protruding from a mound of earth. As he looked closer, he saw that two of the fingers and the thumb had been gnawed away by rats and nearby a foot also protruded from the earth; Moore realised he had found a human body.

Moore did not interfere with the body, but immediately reported his find to his sergeant who passed the information to Lieutenant Norman McLeod who called the police. By evening, a full-scale police investigation was underway. Among the investigators was pathologist Eric Gardner, followed by Chief Inspector Edward Greeno of Scotland Yard with forensic pathologist Cedrick Keith Simpson and his secretary Molly Lefebure.

The body was that of a female placed face down in a shallow grave, which had then been disturbed by a passing vehicle, probably a half-track. The exhumation began the next day. There was a strong smell of putrefaction, and flies and maggots were everywhere. The body was badly decomposed and the head practically fell apart. Among the decomposing remains were clothes. The body was removed and taken to Guy's Hospital.

Simpson examined the body. Based on the hydrolysation of body fats saponification and taking into account the extra heat that would be generated by the maggots, Simpson estimated that the victim had died in mid-September. Simpson carefully reconstructed the skull by wiring together all the fragments that could be found, clearly revealing a large impact site. Simpson concluded that the victim died as a result of a single heavy blow to the head while the victim was already lying face down. The blow, which caved in the skull and simultaneously, broke the jaw and dislodged teeth; the murder weapon was a pole or bough. Simpson found knife wounds on the body, inflicted before the victim had died. The wounds on the arms, particularly the right arm, suggested a struggle in which the victim fended off stabs to the face; the cuts were unusual in that tissue had been pulled out of the lesions. There were knife wounds in the head too; one of the wounds in the reconstructed skull was particularly unusual, it was a round countersunk hole. Simpson concluded that the knife had a blade resembling a parrot's beak.

The police quickly realised that the body and clothes matched the description of the missing Joan Wolfe. Sixty police constables carried out a search of the area where she was found. Finds included a missing shoe, a tuft of hair, a fragment of skull, and a tooth. Later, Wolfe's bag was found with personal effects and identity papers; and a bloody bough was found that was certainly the murder weapon. A letter was found, written by the victim to August Sangret, informing him that she was pregnant. On Sangret's clothes were found bloodstains, and his army knife was found soon after in a drainpipe.

Sangret was taken to Godalming police station and interviewed at length by Inspector Greeno. The questioning went on for days and Sangret's statement, which was then the longest statement ever made, took a policeman five days to write out in longhand. After making the statement, Sangret was released as he had not incriminated himself: shortly afterwards the knife was found, and Sangret was arrested charged with Wolfe's murder.

**Trial and punishment**

Preliminary hearings were held at Guildford on 12, 13, 19 and 20 January 1943. With the committal proceedings complete, Captain Creasey noted in his diary that the case was "medium strong, circumstantial case only."[21]

The judge finished his summary with the words: **"**That the girl (Wolfe) was murdered is not in dispute; that she was murdered by some man is also quite plain; and the only question you have to determine is: Have the Crown satisfied you beyond all real doubt that the prisoner, August Sangret, is the man who murdered her? I can only conclude by saying what I said at the beginning; when dealing with a case of circumstantial evidence you must be satisfied beyond all doubt before you find the prisoner guilty. If you come to the conclusion that, on the facts as proved to you, no real doubt is left in your minds that his was the hand which slew this unhappy girl, then you will convict him.**"**

The jury, who took two hours to reach their verdict, made a strong recommendation to mercy. Before sentence of death was passed, Sangret declared, "I am not guilty. I never killed that girl."

Sangret's appeal was heard on 13 April. The appeal was dismissed and the jury's appeal for mercy was not a matter for the courts, but for the Home Secretary. Then Home Secretary Herbert Morrison found the jury's recommendation surprising, even inexplicable. Seeing no good reason to interfere, he let the law take its course. Sangret was held in the condemned cell at Wandsworth Prison where he was hanged on 29 April 1943.

One small doubt remained. Sangret murdered the girl because she was expecting his child—but was she? Was she expecting anybody's child? The doctors didn't think so on the occasion that the police sent her to hospital, and when her body was found it was too late to tell.

**Girl Found Buried.** Identified as 19-Year-old Tunbridge Wells Blonde. The girl found buried on Thursley Common, near Godalmlng, Surrey, just over a fortnight ago, has been identified as Joan Pearl Wolfe, the 19 years old daughter of Mrs Watts, of 72, Goods Station-road, Tunbridge Wells. The girl's body was discovered during some Army manoeuvres. A mechanised vehicle threw up some earth at the edge of the woods and exposed a human arm. The body was later taken to the mortuary at Guy's Hospital, London, where, during last weekend, eminent pathologists were endeavouring to establish the cause of death. [22]

The girl had a roaming disposition, and on more than one occasion had been reported to the police as being missing. The last time she was stated to have been missing was early in the year, but she returned to Tunbridge Wells, and later left the neighbourhood. It was in August that her mother heard that she was in Guildford hospital. The police knew that the girl had slept in ditches and hedges. In the woods

[21] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/August_Sangret - cite_note-FOOTNOTETrow1994138-139-11
[22] Kent & Sussex Courier - Friday 23 October 1942

around Godalming she had lived at different times in two Indian wigwams. It is stated that a Red Indian acquaintance of the girl has admitted that he made one of the wigwams, and that until the fact was discovered by the military police he had lived in it for a time with the girl.

**Knife was not his.** Soldier's Denials In Murder Charge. August Sangret, the 29-years-old Canadian soldier, continued his evidence at Surrey Assizes, where he has pleaded not guilty to the murder of Joan Pearl Wolfe, the 19-years-old "Wigwam" girl, at Hankley Common, Thursley, Surrey, last September. Sangret started his evidence on Friday, when he spoke of his association with Wolfe from the time he met her in Godalming in July, until September. During that time he had built two shacks for them to live in, and then they moved to Thursley Cricket Pavilion where they stayed from September 4 to September 13. Sangret said he took her food from a Naafi canteen each night. During that period they had talked of getting married.

Mr. Linton Thorp, K.C. defending: Did you want to get married to Joan?

Sangret: Yes I did. She had to get word from her mother first and I had to get permission from the Canadian Government.

Mr. Thorp: Did you at any time refuse to marry Joan? -

No. He and Wolfe stayed together on the night of September 13 and next morning he returned to camp. He arranged to meet her again that night.

Mr. Thorp: From that day to this have you ever seen Joan again?

No Sir, never.

Sangret said that that night, (September 14) he went out with another soldier and called at the pavilion to see Joan but she was not there. He stayed for one and a half hours. Shown a black-handled knife alleged to have been found in a guard room wash house drain and to have been of the kind which could have inflicted the injuries on the girl's skull, Sangret said that it did not belong to him and that the first time he saw it was at Guildford Police Court. (Proceeding).[23]

**Soldier To Die For Murder Of 'Wigwam Girl':** August Sangret, 29-year-old Canadian soldier was at Surrey Assizes to day found guilty of the murder, last September, of Joan Pearl Wolfe (19), the "wigwam girl." Mr Justice Macnaghten told Sangret, "The jury have found that it was you who murdered Joan Wolfe, and none who heard the evidence can doubt the justice of their verdict." The Judge then passed sentence of death. The jury were absent for two hours and accompanied their verdict with a strong recommendation to mercy.

Asked if he had anything to say why sentence of death should not be passed on him, Sangre said, "I am not guilty, sir. I never killed that girl."

[23] Gloucester Citizen - Tuesday 02 March 1943

The girl's body, partially buried, was found on October 7. This was the fifth day of the trial and the Judge, summing up, told the jury a verdict of manslaughter was not possible. According to Sangret's statement said the Judge, he (Sangret) stayed with the girl for some nights at Thursley cricket pavilion until Monday evening, September 14, when he went back there and was unable to find her. The jury might take it as fairly well established that the murder took place somewhere between noon on Sunday September 13, and the evening of Monday September 14. There was no direct evidence against Sangret; the evidence was circumstantial. The Judge described as "most unfortunate" the throwing away by a police sergeant of a rusty Service knife, which he found when making a search of the area where the body was found, but he did not think that the knife had the importance, which the defence attached to it. A critical fact was that the finding of a black-handled knife in the drain of a guardroom washhouse and alleged to have been given to Sangret. That knife had a curiously curved blade. Sangret had denied that that knife had been handed to him.

"If you are satisfied that the knife handed to Sangret was the same knife as the one found in the drain then you may think it was Sangret who put the knife in the drain." When the jury retired they took with them the girl's skull and the black-handled knife.[24]

Staement from a Canadian soldier who knew the victim and Sangret

[24] Evening Telegraph - Tuesday 02 March 1943

I am a Private in the 133 Infantry Regiment, 1st Batt., United States Army. I was formerly in the Canadian Army. I am a United States citizen and transferred to the United States Army after United States entering the War. I was stationed at Thursley Camp in Surrey in September 1942. I was only at this Camp about five days. I only remained there while being transferred from the Canadian Army to the United States Army. This Camp was a Canadian Army Camp for dealing with persons who were leaving the Canadian Army. There was another Canadian Camp in the vicinity which I understand was a proper Canadian Training Camp.

While at the Thursley Camp I met the girl which I now believe to be Joan Pearl Wolfe. I have been shown her photograph to-day by District Inspector Duffy and I identify it. She was living in a "shack" convenient to the Thursley Camp - about five minutes walk away. This "shack" was a partly burned out building with a green in front and some seats at the far end of the green next the road. I saw this girl on three occasions. The first time I saw her was early in the morning of the 4th September 1942. I was out for a walk and saw this burned building and looked in. I saw the girl inside. She was sitting knitting in the corner. I asked her what she was doing there and she told me she was living there and that she was married. She told me the name of the man to whom she was married but I forget the name. She said she was married to a Canadian soldier. She was alone. The house was little better than a hovel and void of furniture. She was lying on a Canadian Army ground sheet. I was about half an hour in the place and during that time she told me about her unhappy condition, that she was destitute of food and clothing and shelter.
I returned again same day later in the afternoon. She was still in this "shack". When I was there a few minutes she told me she was afraid her husband would come in, and a man did walk in.
He was a Canadian soldier and dressed in the uniform of a Canadian soldier. The girl introduced him to me as her husband. I spoke to him for a few minutes. I told him I was in Thursley Camp.
He told me he was in the Canadian Camp up the road. I explained to him I was just passing by and dropped in and was talking to his wife. I then left. He showed no signs of resentment at that time but I would not go so far as to say he was friendly.

The next morning - Saturday morning 5th September - after breakfast I went back up to where this girl was living. I went up to see if her husband had given her any trouble as a result of his seeing me there the previous day. I took the girl for a walk on the Commons. The walk lasted the whole morning to about 12 noon. During the time we were on the walk I talked with the girl at length about married life and a husband's duties towards her. I told her her husband was not giving her a square deal and I advised her strongly to leave her husband and get work or go back to her mother. She said she was considering doing what I told her although she seemed very strongly attached to her husband.

When we had almost returned to the "shack" from which we started, her husband intercepted us saying he had seen us a long way off. He appeared very agitated. He cursed and said "why didn't you stay in the "shack" as I told you to". She said she was tired staying in the "shack" and went for a little walk. I broke the subject and said "This will be the last time I will see you as I am leaving for the American Army" and I used words to the effect that I was very glad to be going to the American Army. We parted company by my saying to the girl "Don't forget what I told you", meaning the advice I had given her. I left the girl and the man she called her husband together and I did not see either of them since

I left Thursley Camp on 6/9/1942 and reported to the Northern Ireland Base for duty on 7/9/1942. I was travelling all day

on 6/9/1942.

The following is the description of the man whom this girl said was her husband:-

About 5' 8"; square stout build; about 165 to 170 lbs; swarthy complexion; black hair; broad face, looked like an Indian but had no prominent cheek bones; clean shaven; normal appearance; aged about 25. Looked a physically good man. Dressed in Canadian uniform. The uniform he was wearing appeared to have been gas treated. He was a Private.

This statement has been read over to me and it is all true and correct.

(Signed) RAYMOND H. DEADMAN.

Taken by: District Inspector W.Duffy, R.U.C., Dungannon, at Tynan on 23/11/1942.

View of common. Hatless man standing at spot where right shoe was found; car indicates position of track; man on horizon (to the left of two fir trees) stands at about the spot where body was found. (15.10.42.)

**Writing on the pavilion**

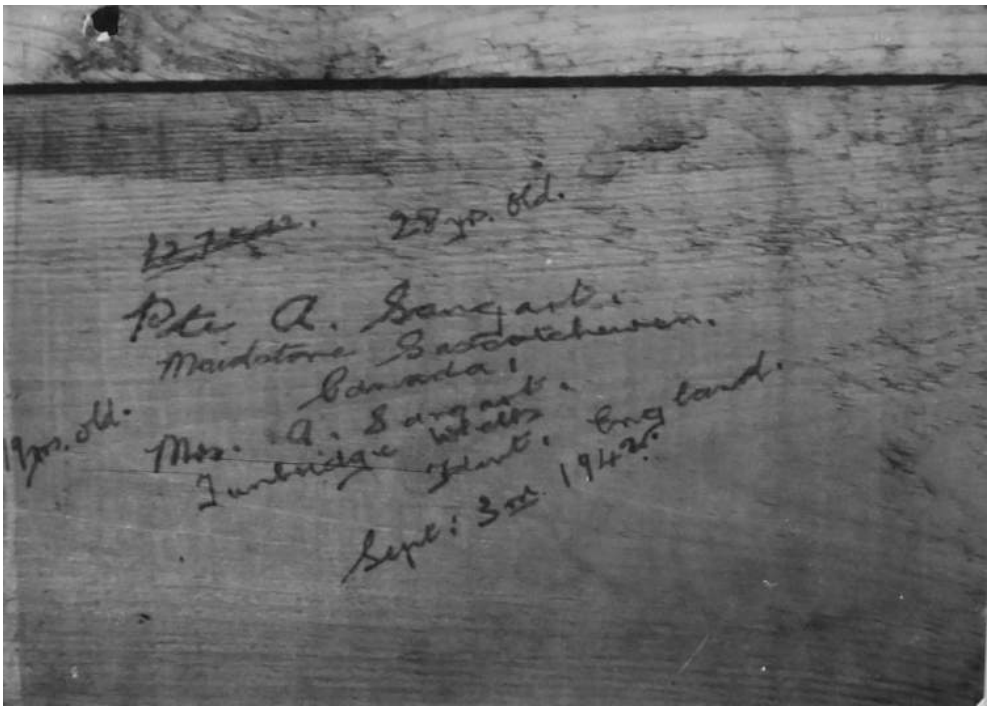
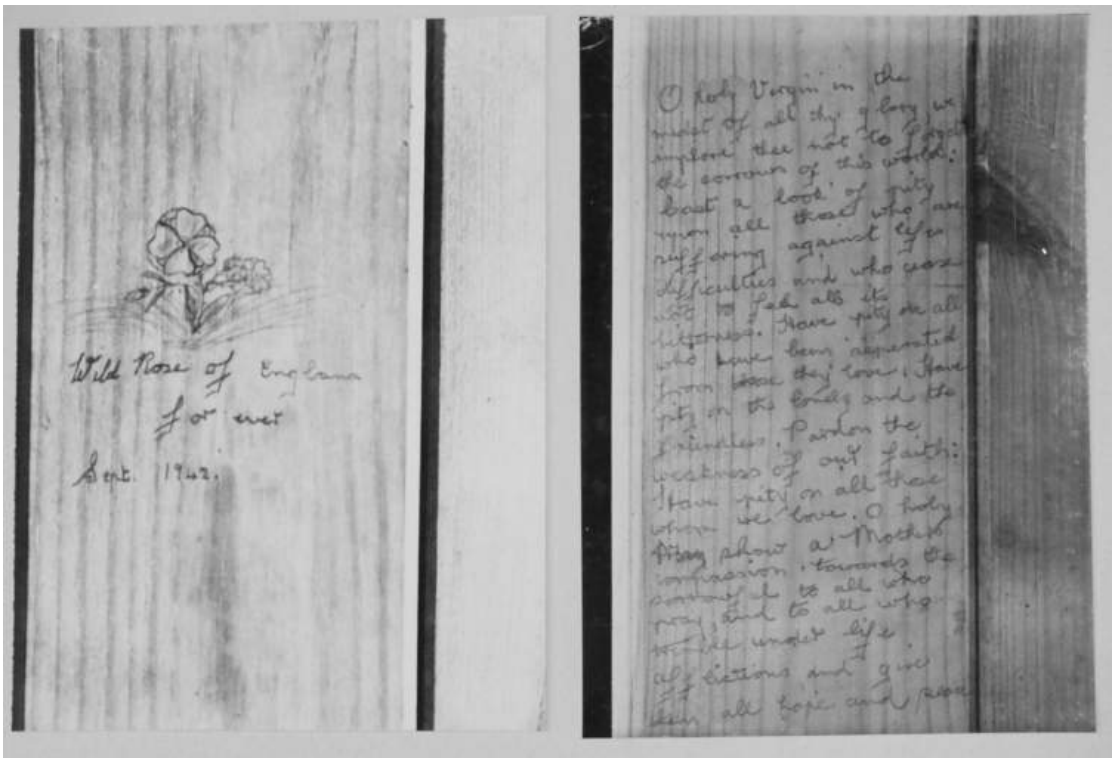


PLATE No.11. Stake (exhibit) placed in position suggested at moment of impact upon back of head - showing relation of stake to principal wound.


The Guard Room, Jasper Camp, Witley showing passage
leading to Shower Room & Cells.
Shower Room doorway shown on left at beginning of passage.


Wild Rose of England
for ever
Sept. 1942.
O holy Virgin in the
midst of all thy glory we
implore thee not to forget
the sorrow of this world:
cast a look of pity
upon all those who are
suffering against life
difficulties and who cease
not to seek all its
bitterness. Have pity on all
who have been separated
from those they love. Have
pity on the lonely and the
friendless. Pardon the
weakness of our faith:
Have pity on all those
whom we love. O holy
Virgin show a Mother's
compassion towards the
convicts, and to all who
may find under life
afflictions and give
them all hope and peace


Our little grey home in the West.

*ergeant Harwood's Section—Farnham Division. Left to right, back row: J. Daniels, G. Fletcher, ... J. Field, W. Morris, A. Guy, W. Rowbotham, S. Lord, G. Hurst, A. Stapley. Front row: J. Curtis, H. Gibbs, Sergeant Harwood, S. Abel, A. Merritt.*

**1941/1942 Farnham Sergeant, three regulars one Police Reserve and Police War Reserves**

**1942 August: A mass Observation Researcher** described a meeting in **Great Bookham** village hall: A local resident informed the well-attended meeting that, in the event of invasion a triumvirate would be set up with himself, Lieutenant N of the Home Guard and Sergeant G of the local police as members. The police would give instructions regarding street leaders. Lieutenant N said the main task of the public was to keep out of the way of the military. "Don't leave the area to go to work". Sergeant G addressed the meeting reading his speech word for word and very deliberately. "Everyone should obey the police. Police may be distinguished from Fifth Columnists by their warrant card with photo - but at such a time you would be unlikely to have an opportunity to check the constables' bona fides. Get to know your local police. (This raised the biggest laugh of the evening) --- Later comments included "Fancy having that man (Sergeant G) giving orders. Why choose the most unpopular man in the district."[25]

**1942 September 7:** Sergeant's BB Police Federation: A resolution to the Chief Constable for permission to given for a collection to be made each month throughout the regular members of the Force to be sent to the **Red Cross Fund** to provided parcels for members of the Surrey Constabulary who are **prisoners of war** the administration to be carried out at HQ. It was reported to the JBB that prisoners were being care of by Divisions to which the men were attached. The JBB decided to take no further action[26]

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

[26] Minute book of the Surrey Constabulary Sergeants Branch Board

**1942 October: Boy killed souvenir hunting:** A boy on a day trip from Brixton and two others were injured when they went looking for souvenirs in the Dorking chalk pits where the Home Guard had been training. [27] **1942 October 2: On Sunday four boys from Brixton** came by train to Dorking for the day in the nearby country. During the day they wandered into a chalk pit where in the past military exercises have taken place. They were looking for souvenirs. They found one – probably a grenade which exploded severely injuring three boys, one boy dying.[28]

**1942 October 30: Damage to a shelter in Westcott:** The door had been forced off and rain had entered the shelter, the ventilator case had been damaged and the landing at the bottom of the stairs had been fouled. Rubbish had been thrown into the shelter and a cupboard forced open.[29]

**1942 Cherkley Court** the home of cabinet minister Lord Beaverbrook at Leatherhead was narrowly missed by a V1 and part of the building caught fire. Later in the war a **V1** fell close to the house causing more damage.

**1942:** Crime Bureau Inspector Tom Roberts promoted Superintendent and **additional inspectors** appointed to Farnham, Godalming, Weybridge and Woking for **detection duties.**

**1942 December: Warnings on live shells peril:** Enemy aircraft, two of which were destroyed by our fighters flew over South East England on Wednesday and over a score of towns and villages reported incidents with some people killed and injured and churches shops and houses wrecked. In view of the use of canon shells in these raids the police authorities are very desirous that people in areas where incidents occur should keep a look out for unexploded shells and whenever such are found should report the discovery immediately to the nearest police station. Meanwhile the greatest care should be taken against unexploded ammunition being touched by children or any other unauthorised person.[30]

**1942 December 10: Amalgamation of police forces in Surrey: House of Commons:**

**POLICE FORCES (AMALGAMATION PROPOSALS)** [31]

Earl Winterton asked the Home Secretary whether he can now make a statement as to his intentions in the matter of the amalgamation of police forces?

Mr. H. Morrison With Mr. Speaker's permission, I will make a statement at the end of

Questions.
**Mr. Morrison** I am glad to have an opportunity of informing the House of the

[27] Dorking Museum display 2013
[28] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[29] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[30] Dorking Advertiser 20 December 2012 Yesteryear feature
[31] Hansard: HC Deb 10 December 1942 vol. 385 cc1700-3 1700

proposals which I have made for the amalgamation of police forces under the powers conferred upon me by the Defence Regulations. In accordance with the undertaking, which I gave during the Debate on 14th October, I have forwarded details of the proposals to the police authorities concerned, and until I have considered their views I am not in a position to take any final decisions. The proposals, which I have communicated to them are as follows:

That in Surrey the borough forces of Guildford and Reigate should be amalgamated with the county force:

In the course of the Debate I said that I did not propose to interfere with the larger, substantial police forces, and that if I did I would make a special announcement to the House. Except in Sussex, each of the forces to be amalgamated with the county force has an authorised regular strength of considerably less than 100. In the case of Sussex more substantial forces are involved. The two county forces have each an establishment of over 300, and Brighton of over 200. The military importance of Sussex needs no emphasis, and it is clearly desirable from the point of view of military operations that there should be one police force for the whole area, more particularly in view of the fact that at present responsibility for this important part of the south coast is divided between no less than six forces. Despite the fact that three substantial forces are involved, I am of opinion that, subject to any representations which the police authorities may put before me, I ought to proceed with the scheme. Before doing so, however, I think it right, in accordance with the spirit of the undertaking which I gave, that the House should be informed of this proposal.
**Earl Winterton** Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that more than one of us representing constituencies in the areas affected believe that his proposals are absolutely necessary in the national interest and very much hope that he will stand by them, after having listened, of course, to representations from interested parties?
**Mr. Morrison** I am very much obliged to the Noble Lord. He may be sure that I have given very full weight to all the considerations involved, but naturally, as he says, I must take into full account the representations of local authorities.
**Mr. Clynes** Does my right hon. Friend's statement mean that until final decisions are reached there will be further consultations with interested parties?
**Mr. Morrison** Yes. Arrangements have already been made for the Home Office to meet police authorities, and that is actually proceeding.
**Sir William Wayland** Are we to understand that this is only a war-time measure?
**Mr. Morrison** Yes, it is taken under the Defence Regulations.
**Sir I. Albery** When the right hon. Gentleman explains the position to the police authorities I hope it will be made clear to them that his proposals have not received final approval in the House and that negotiations with him will in no way be interfered with?
**Mr. Morrison** I shall conduct these negotiations as a responsible Minister. Indeed, the Defence Regulation under which I am acting is already in force, but naturally I am the servant of the House, and I must conduct myself as the Minister responsible for the Department and carrying all the responsibility.

**1942 December 16:** A Dornier 217 in low cloud followed the railway line and **machine gunned a commuter train** packed with Christmas shoppers outside B**ramley Station**, **killing seven and wounding forty seven.**

On December 16th 1942 Marguerite Kathleen Leaney nee Bacon travelled by train to Farnborough. Her husband was on standby there with the Tank Corps before embarkation to North Africa, and had not seen their ten-week-old son. On her return journey from Guildford that afternoon, a lone Dornier 217 Bomber descended from the clouds looking for an opportunist target as the train was approaching Bramley Station. It was bombed and strafed by machine guns, killing seven and injuring many more. The raider was shortly afterwards pursued by a Beaufighter over the coast and crashed into a gasometer at Bognor killing the four crewmembers. Kathleen Leaney was struck in the side of the face by a bullet, which shattered her jawbone and exited from the opposite temple taking out an eye. She also had deep penetration wounds from the glass from the shattered windows. Her son Paul also had glass wounds and she remembered passing him down from the wrecked carriage to a Canadian soldier who helped her on foot along to the station. She was taken to Park Prewitt Hospital at Basingstoke, where she found herself laying in a dingy cell with a small barred window that was made to house 19th century lunatics. Alexander Macindoe the celebrated plastic surgeon later transferred Mrs Leaney to East Grinstead for operations. [32]

The following story was submitted to the "People's War" site by Bramley History Society on behalf of Ruth Bailey[33]

**Wednesday December 16th** was a dull dismal day, low clouds and drizzle at times but not particularly cold. I was nineteen at the time and having recently qualified as an orthoptist in the summer I was in my first job. I worked part time at the R.S.C.H. in Farnham Rd, Guildford and part time at three other hospitals, including the Cottage Hospital at Horsham. On Wednesdays I worked in Guildford in the morning, caught the Horsham train during my lunch break, and worked at the Horsham Cottage Hospital in the afternoon. Fortunately there was a convenient train from Guildford but I had to rush to catch it.

On Dec. 16th on leaving the hospital I ran to the station as usual but on reaching the entrance in Guildford Park Road I realised I had not posted an important letter in the pillar-box, as I had intended to do. I ran back to the pillar-box on the corner of Guildford Park Road (I believe it has now been moved) posted it and then returned to the station. My usual custom was to get a cup of tea and a 3d bun to supplement the sandwich I had brought from home for my lunch. Although bread was rationed there was nothing much one could put in a sandwich, as practically everything was rationed, so I could only have a small one. I then usually got into the train, which was already waiting at the station. It consisted of two coaches pushed by a small, "Puffing Billy" engine at the back. From habit I normally got in the coach nearest the engine but on this occasion as I was in a great hurry and still bolting my bun, got in the front coach which was nearest the cafe. This coach had no corridor. The train set off and I got my sandwich out and ate it, and also my knitting. I was making my mother some warm underwear as a Christmas present. It was not a very busy train. I believe there were about 40 people on it. There was an old couple (at least they looked old to me) in my compartment.

[32] http://www.bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar/stories/17/a3574217.shtml
[33] http://www.bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar/stories/07/a4300507.shtml

I settled in my corner with my back to the front of the train on the side of the carriage furthest from the platform. I believe there was a luggage compartment in the very front of the coach. I was comfortably knitting, pleased that I had nearly finished the garment, when as we slowed down on our approach to Bramley Station, I suddenly heard machine gunfire hitting the train. On looking up I had a fleeting glimpse of the plane out of the window flying in the direction of Guildford. It was very low, just above the trees. Then there was a big explosion and the train rocked on the rails, but fortunately did not go over. The door on the far side was blown out and the glass from the windows flew across the compartment.

I realised at once what had happened, but then everything went completely quiet and still. I suppose, because I was young my reactions were quick. I got my hands over my face before the glass blew in and had no bad damage done to my face, only nicks, although my hands were cut. Many people were not so lucky and had bad facial injuries, several losing eyes. I can remember getting up off the seat and feeling blood running down my face from cuts on my head and ear and thinking "Well. I am still alive" The old couple seemed all right too. We were certainly in the best part of the train to survive the attack. If I hadn't returned to post the letter I should most probably have been in the other coach next to the engine, which was more badly damaged than ours. As the door of the compartment had blown out of the train I was able to jump down out of the train onto the grass verge, other passengers were emerging too.

Someone called to me from the 1st coach (the one nearest the engine) asking me to go round to the other side of the train to help them with an injured passenger. To get to them I had to go round behind the engine and along the embankment on the far side of the train. It was much steeper on that side but I was able to scramble along it. There was a man lying on the ground, quite still, and I imagine he had been blown out of the train. I couldn't stop to look at him as the man who had originally spotted me was calling me from the train. They handed me a very young baby asking me to take it to safety somewhere, as the mother was badly injured. I took the baby, which seemed unhurt except for a small cut on the end of its nose. I suppose its mother was hurt protecting it from the flying glass and was unable to protect her in any way. I thought the best thing to do was to take the baby to the station where there was sure to be someone to help.

A little way down the line I saw people leaning over a fence looking along the railway line to see what happened. One of them promised to look after the baby so I handed it over to them to care for. On returning to the train I found some Canadian soldiers doing great work in getting the injured out of the train and administering First Aid. One passenger I noticed was a soldier who had been propped up against the fence, pouring blood from a wound in his neck and shaking like a leaf. He also looked as if he had bad injuries to his eyes. A Canadian soldier said he could take him to hospital in his jeep if he could get him to the road. We tried to stop the bleeding making a pressure pad with a handkerchief, but it did not do much good. We then pulled a seat out of the train to make a kind of stretcher and covered him up with a coat to keep him warm. By this time the ambulances were beginning to arrive, and I don't know what happened to him after that.

Two other incidents I remember clearly. One was of a distraught young man rushing to the scene and asking everyone he could see if they had noticed a boy of about nine

years old. I had not, and I do not know if anyone could help him. Later I read in the newspaper that one of dead was a boy aged nine!

The other incident that comes to mind was a young woman lying in the grass clutching hold of a terrified little girl's hand. On seeing me she asked me to see her little girl was all right. I could hardly understand what she said because her face and particularly her mouth were so badly cut. Her lips and cheeks must have been cut right through so when she tried to talk they moved in different directions, bleeding profusely at the same time. I heard later she was sent to another hospital for plastic surgery. The little girl was taken to the R.S.C.H. The sister on the children's ward was a friend of mine , told me how distressed the poor child was, and, when she heard heavy lorries changing gear to go up Farnham Hill Road, she would scream thinking she heard another plane coming.

Another version of events:

"In the early afternoon of 16th December 1942, the train from Guildford to Horsham was attacked by a single Dornier near Bramley home signal. Four high explosive bombs were certainly dropped, but there seems to be some differences in the evidence as to machine gun fire. Fairey (the locomotive fireman), who saw the plane coming and crouched down under the coal bunker, was positive he had heard machine gun bullets hit the engine. He was, in fact, the solitary being in the whole train who was not injured. As the plane passed he jumped back again on to the footplate and at the (sic) moment received part of the blast from a bomb that fell on the bank. He was smothered in dirt but not knocked down. He first made the engine safe and then, single-handed, attended the injured, of whom the guard and the driver were both dying.

Fairey was a member of the Horsham first aid team, which had gained great fame through the various competitions it had won. Never was knowledge more valuable, for he was quite unaided in his rescue work until six Canadian soldiers fortunately arrived to help. Mercifully, there had been no more than twenty passengers in the train, but of these eight were either dead or dying and every single one was more or less hurt, some were badly cut, and for a while, until the doctor came, Fairey ranged this field of death and pain all alone. One small incident shows his coolness. He had put a mailbag under the dying drivers head and amid all the hurly burly he remembered to ask the stationmaster to make sure of the bag's safety. As Jasper Petulengro would say "I am of the opinion, brother, that that fireman was a regular fine fellow". And he reported for duty the next day"[34]

**1942 December 16:** Reigate Focke-Wolfe machine-gunned a train as it entered **Reigate** Station. Bullets bounced off the roofs in High Street, West Street, Broadhurst Gardens and South Park. A bus was fired on as it along the Hookwood Road from Horley. [35]

[34] "War on the Line" Bernard Darwin published by the Southern Railway Company 1946 from Terry Kerslake
[35] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated

**1942 16 December Air Raid No 62** [36]

Air Raid Message Red received 1359
Enemy action over Borough 1405
Air Raid Message White received 1432

**At 1405 on Wednesday 16 December 1942 aerial cannon fire** was heard over the Southern railway line Guildford to Redhill, approximately 200 yards west of Reigate railway station. A train was passing at the time. This plane was of the fighter type and believed to be a Focker Wulf then turned south and passed over Reigate town centre damaging a large number of houses on route with canon fire. An LPTB omnibus travelling towards Reigate from Horley was fired upon when about half a mile south of the town. No damage was caused to the bus or injury to passengers.
There were no casualties but 18 premises including St Luke's Church, Red Cross Hotel and South Park School were damaged.
**W. H. Beacher**
**Chief Constable and ARP Officer, Reigate Borough**

**1942 December 23:** Just before Christmas, the 23 December 1942 Horace Burton Baker was attacked with extreme violence in the British Legion Club in Peaslake where he was the steward.[37] Douglas George Taylor aged nineteen of Smokey Hole; Peaslake was to be charged with causing grievous bodily harm with intent to murder. Baker had the top of a finger cut off and a great gaping wound at the back of his head with a total of six deep sharp wounds cutting out a piece of bone from the skull, a wound in an arm down to the bone. On Christmas Day police interviewed Taylor and he said" Oh God! Why did I do it! What will my mother say?" At Godalming police station he was again interviewed and after caution. "I went home about half past five, had my tea, got the chopper, went over to the club and Barker was alone there. I bought some cigarettes. Then he went out the back and I went out behind him and hit him over the head with the chopper. He struggled then I must have gone mad. He went down on the floor and I took his wallet----" Police recovered the axe and wallet from where Taylor said he had left them. Baker survived and Baker received two years in prison [38]

**1942 December** 27: Police War Reserve Constable George Henry Dalton aged forty **died in a collision** with a Canadian army vehicle in Church Road Ash on the 17 December 1942 when cycling home from Ash Police Station

**1942 December 28**: A **raid by two masked men** who were **Canadian soldiers** from Quebec led to a guilty plea to robbery with violence and a sentence of four years penal servitude. The violence was not serious nor the amount of money taken high when the robbery occurred in an inn, the Withies at Compton. The licensee was kicked and punched on the head and a gun was shown. PS Forehead gave evidence that both men had previously been convicted. [39]

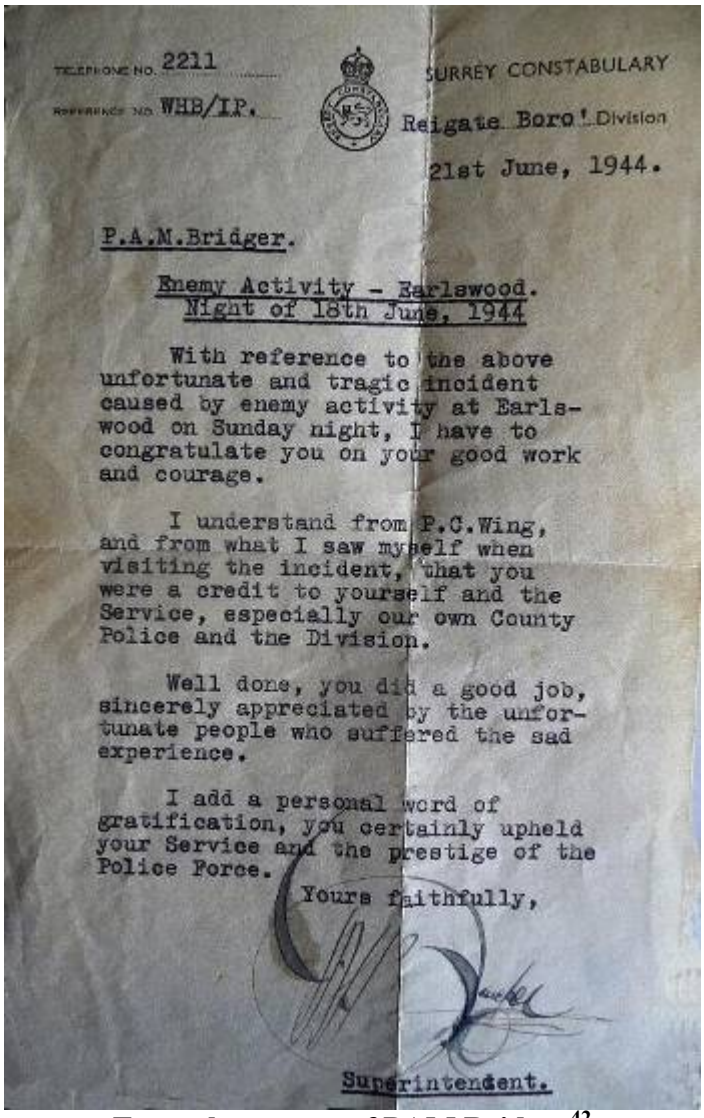
[36] Reports of Air Raid Incidents - Reigate Borough 1941-1942 Reigate Borough Police
[37] Surrey Advertiser February 6 1943
[38] Surrey Advertiser February 6 1943
[39] Surrey Advertiser Feb 27 1943

**1942 December: Establishment:** Regulars 383, Police War Reserve 500, First Police Reserve 43, Special Constabulary 1353, and Woman's Auxiliary Police Corps 57.[40]

**1943 January:** German bomber down in Capel: The pilot of the Focke-Wolfe, realising that it is about to explode, warns approaching villagers to crouch. He gives himself up to two local brothers who had served in France in the First World War and are able to converse with him in French.

**Reigate Borough 1942-43[41]**
**Back Row: H Simmonds, D Brazier, PR Robinson, and G Coe**
**Front: Sgt Selby, Insp. Atkins, Sgt Patrick, and G Capelin**

[40] CC notes 1945 on the administration of the county police during the war.
[41] *Picture owned by Tony Collman*



TELEPHONE NO. 2211

REFERENCE NO. WHB/IP.

SURREY CONSTABULARY

Reigate Boro' Division

21st June, 1944.

P.A.M.Bridger.

Enemy Activity - Earlswood.
Night of 18th June, 1944

With reference to the above unfortunate and tragic incident caused by enemy activity at Earlswood on Sunday night, I have to congratulate you on your good work and courage.

I understand from P.C.Wing, and from what I saw myself when visiting the incident, that you were a credit to yourself and the Service, especially our own County Police and the Division.

Well done, you did a good job, sincerely appreciated by the unfortunate people who suffered the sad experience.

I add a personal word of gratification, you certainly upheld your Service and the prestige of the Police Force.

Yours faithfully,

Superintendent.

**From the papers of PAM Bridger**[42]

**Reigate Police PAMS**[43]

[42] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/bridger.htm

**1942 – Ready for anything**

**1943 Gas mask training**

**1943 January 30: Surrey Joint Police formed** following an order from the Home Secretary under the Defence (Amalgamation of Police Forces Regulations 1942 incorporating the Surrey Constabulary, Reigate and Guildford Boroughs. Their strength on amalgamation: Guildford Borough: chief constable 1, chief inspector 1, inspector 4, sergeant 9, constables 25; total 40. Reigate Borough: 1 chief constable, chief inspector 1, inspectors 5, sergeants 9, constables 23 totalling 39.[44] The Home Secretary has appointed Major G Nicholson as the first chief constable of the joint force.[45]

**1943 17/18 January Reigate Borough December Air Raid No 63[46]**

Air Raid Message Red received 2017 17 January 1943
Air Raid Message White received 2206
Air Raid Message Red received 0440 18 January 1943
Air Raid Message White received 0555

Within a few minutes o the siren sounding enemy planes were heard passing over the Borough and AA fire could be herd to the north and to the east.

**Incident 1:**

[43] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/
[44] CC notes 1945 on the administration of the county police during the war.
[45] The Times (London, England), Saturday, Jan 30, 1943
[46] Reports of Air Raid Incidents - Reigate Borough 1941-1942 Reigate Borough Police

**At 2045 an AA shell fell and exploded in Church Street,** Reigate outside Mr Heck's premises and caused a small crater in the roadway about 50 yards from the Market Square. Inspector Atkins took over Incident Control, Incident Post, and Old Town Hall.

**Casualties: Deceased:**

1. Jordan Douglas Harold 25 Crescent Road, A Park, Reigate

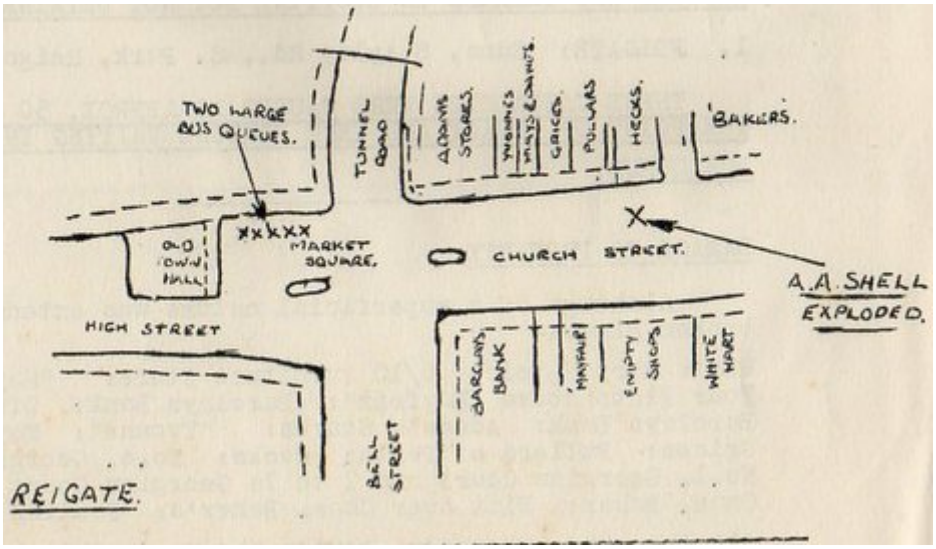
**Injured and detained in hospital:**

2. Beech Edmund, 43 Rookery way, Lower Kingswood
3. Jenkins Douglas Harry, 30 Sandcross Lane, Reigate
4. Skinner Patrick, Appledor Mogador Road, Lower Kingswood
5. Taylor Mrs Liliam Maud, 90 Earlsbrook Road, Redhill

**Treated in hospital but not detained:**

1. Felgate Edna, 8 Apley Road, S Park, Reigate

These casualties were caused at approximately 50 yards from the point of impact and were waiting in and near a bus queue




Damage although of a superficial nature was extensive and mostly glass confined mostly to shops in Church Street and High Street, Reigate

**Incident No 2: AA shell exploded**

**At 2103** a report was received that east Fort Cottage, **Colley Hill** was on fire, Sergeant Brownlow was the incident officer and ascertained that the shell had penetrated the roof and exploded inside the cottage. No casualties. The occupant Mrs Florence Townshend evacuated herself to Rock farm, Reigate Hill.

**Incident No 3: AA Shell exploded**

**At 2215** it was reported that **an AA shell had damaged Laglands Farm Cottages**. Extensive damage was done to the chimneystack and several roofs. No casualties. No necessity to evacuate occupants.

**Incident No 4 AA shells exploded and unexploded**

At **0847 on the 18th** an AA shell was found to have exploded in the lawn of **Wray Park,** Alma Road, Reigate. A further 2 AA shells (UX) were found in other parts of the grounds at this address. The presence of UX shells has been reported to the Report Centre. No casualties and no evacuation necessary.
**W. H. Beacher**
**Chief Constable and ARP Officer, Reigate Borough**

**1943 January 16**: Police Sergeant George Capelin **promoted temporary sergeant** having obtained a 1st Class certificate in ARP duties at Falfield.[47]

**1943 January 17-18**: **Limpsfield:** Three aircraft shot down over the east of the county two Junkers 88s and a Dornier 217. The British pilot Wing Commander Wright-Boycott was awarded and immediate DSO. Two German crews were all killed and one survived from the third parachuting into **Limpsfield.** One of the aircraft crashed on Town End at Caterham at 0530 with bodies found in adjacent gardens. Parachutes were ablaze when they jumped. That night Reigate AA opened up their guns with a shell dropping in Church Street killing one man, and seriously injuring 6 waiting for a bus in the Market Square. Other shells dropped at Chaldon and Chipstead.[48]

**1943 January 22: German plane downed in Capel:** A Focke –Wolfe 190 fighter bomber crashed landed in a ploughed field in Capel a few minutes after one o'clock on Wednesday. The pilot was thrown clear sustaining only minor scratches. The plane caught fire and burned fiercely and as villagers approached the German indicated to them to get down and soon the plane exploded. Two shopkeepers, Teasdale brothers, spoke to the German in French he had learnt during the First World War in France detaining him before handing the prisoner to PC Cooper the village constable.[49] **1943 January: German bomber down in Capel.** The pilot of a Focke-Wolf realising he is about to explode warns approaching villagers to crouch. He gives himself up to two local brothers who had served in France in the First World War and were able to converse with him in French[50]

**1943 January 28: Reigate Borough Chief Constable Beacher** remained in the post until the Borough force was merged into a new Surrey force during WW2 when he became Superintendent of the Reigate Division. On this date Guildford Borough Police were also incorporated.[51]

**Jimmy Bridger** Ted Ayres, local policeman, had two bombs in his place at Warren Road, Reigate, one that exploded and one that didn't. Ted was a police Inspector and when he retired became a runner for a solicitor, Pringle I think. Ted Ayres was connected with the first smash and grab raid from a car in the country; I think it was from Tanners jewellers in Station Road, Redhill. Whether he gave chase or was just involved in the investigation I can't remember.

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[47] Surrey Constabulary Appointment book George Ellis James Capelin
[48] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[49] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[50] Dorking Museum display 2013
[51] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police

I was a police messenger at the town hall, Reigate, during the war - you had to join something then - with Ted Ayres. Mr Solomons from Reigate Tailors was also a police messenger. They had a canteen there and Ted would often get me and the other boys a jacket potato. I wasn't in the home guard; I was a messenger boy for the police. The uniforms badges say 'PAMS' - Police Auxiliary Messenger Service. Captain Sutton who lived in a house called 'Elmsfield' in Clarendon Road, Redhill, ran it. I used to be on the switchboard.

Our action post for the police messengers was at the top of Redstone Hill in a lodge about where Chanctonbury Chase is. I was on duty with Walter Pendered when an air raid was on. Walter and I walked out the back and were standing by Redstone Hollow - there are houses in it now - and we saw a doodlebug coming. It was night and we could hear it and see the red glow from its exhaust. We wondered where it was going when suddenly it spun round - someone said it hit a Barrage balloon cable but I don't know whether it did or not. Down it went; it nearly knocked us off our feet up there, it was a hell of a bang. The phone was going and I was told to report to the action post in Earlswood Road. I jumped on my bike and sped down Redstone Hollow. I saw an air raid warden coming along and asked where the action post was. He said it was by the waxworks. I told him he was joking. I didn't mind biking a little way but I wasn't going to London. I didn't know there was a waxworks in Earlswood where they made wax for various uses. Anyway, once I realised where the action post was I was one of the first messengers there.

As a messenger I went all over the place, to Redhill police station, Reigate police station - there were very few phones in those days people just didn't have them in their homes. Look at the Redhill 'phone numbers, mine at Latty's was 955, Linters was 950, John Roberts shop was 90, they were all under two thousand, and the telephone area was quite large. So I would get given messages and I would take them wherever was necessary. Several times I went to St. John's School; I never knew why I had to go there. [52]

Walter Pendered was in the police. Lots of local trades' people joined the police. There were WRs (war reserves), TCs (temporary constables) and PCs, (police constables). I think Walter was a WR. All were like extra policeman. Each had his own job to do and all had to do nights as well. Many of the local trade's people joined. It was easier than the Home Guard. I could have gone into the air cadets, army cadets or sea cadets, but as Captain Sutton was a customer in our shop I thought I'd join the police service as a messenger. A bonus was that it had a smarter uniform. [53]

Reigate 2211 was the 'phone number for Reigate Joint Police Force on the switchboard at Reigate. Of course it was all disbanded at the end of the war. I've got a letter thanking me for my service and saying that I would be welcome back to continue with my duties, unpaid of course, any time you feel like it. I've a good mind to take the letter down to the police station now and say that I've come back to have a go at the switchboard**.** [54]

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[52] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/bridger.htm
[53] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/bridger.htm
[54] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/bridger.htm

**1943 February 9: John Walter:** At about 8 am, I looked out of my bedroom window from the bungalow we lived in **Lingfield,** Surrey. I was getting ready to go to school, which was in the village about a mile away. The air raid warning had sounded which was not unusual. Away to my right a German Dornier bomber appeared, flying quite low. It passed over the village, probably no more than 1,000 feet and to my horror the bomb doors opened and a "stick" of about six bombs fell. At first there was no explosion but as the bomber passed away all the bombs seem to explode together. The smoke and dust rose to an enormous height, at least twice the height that the bomber was. At this moment I was very scared and prayed that the bomber would not come back and drop a bomb on us.

About half an hour later I went into the village to meet up with my friends. My father had gone earlier because he was an Air raid warden. When I arrived at the bombsite I found that it was my school that had been hit. A half an hour later and I would have been there. Most of the school had been demolished and the emergency authorities were there. My father was among those that dug for victims, there were no survivors. Fortunately because it was so early there were not a lot of people there. Two little girls were killed and two lady teachers. My father was in the group that found the little girls. It greatly affected him.

One bomb had fallen on a small hotel and as we walked by, the ambulance crew were carrying out a very severely injured victim. As a result of the bombing our school was transferred to two buildings. One was once a pub and the other was an old manor house. Lingfield was in Surrey and because of this I was able to watch the Battle of Britain, but that is another story.

About sixty years later my daughter, who now lives roughly in this area, sent me a local newspaper with the story of some builders who had found one of the un-exploded bombs. There was a photograph of this bomb. I had seen this bomb 60 years previous--falling from the bomber![55]

**This is Doris Jenner's story:** It was about 8.30 a.m. on 9th February 1943 as my sister and I were walking through Lingfield village on our way to the station for a train to Oxted where we were pupils at Oxted County School. As we approached Lingfield village school, the siren sounded and, immediately, a German plane flew over dropping bombs as is did so. The village school received a direct hit killing five people who were already in the building. Other bombs fell in the direction of our home so, as soon as it was safe to do so, we returned home to see what had happened especially to know that mother was safe. I am pleased to say she was and because Dad had made wooden shutters to protect the windows, the damage to our house was minimal. However, a warden visited us who informed us that it was thought one of the bombs had not exploded so we must evacuate to an emergency centre in the village. During the afternoon we were allowed back home assuming all was safe.[56]

**1943 February: Superintendent Ashley Steeds** formerly of the Guildford Borough Police assumed command of the newly formed Guildford Division of the Surrey Joint

[55] http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/48/a3941048.shtml
[56] http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/58/a2045558.shtml

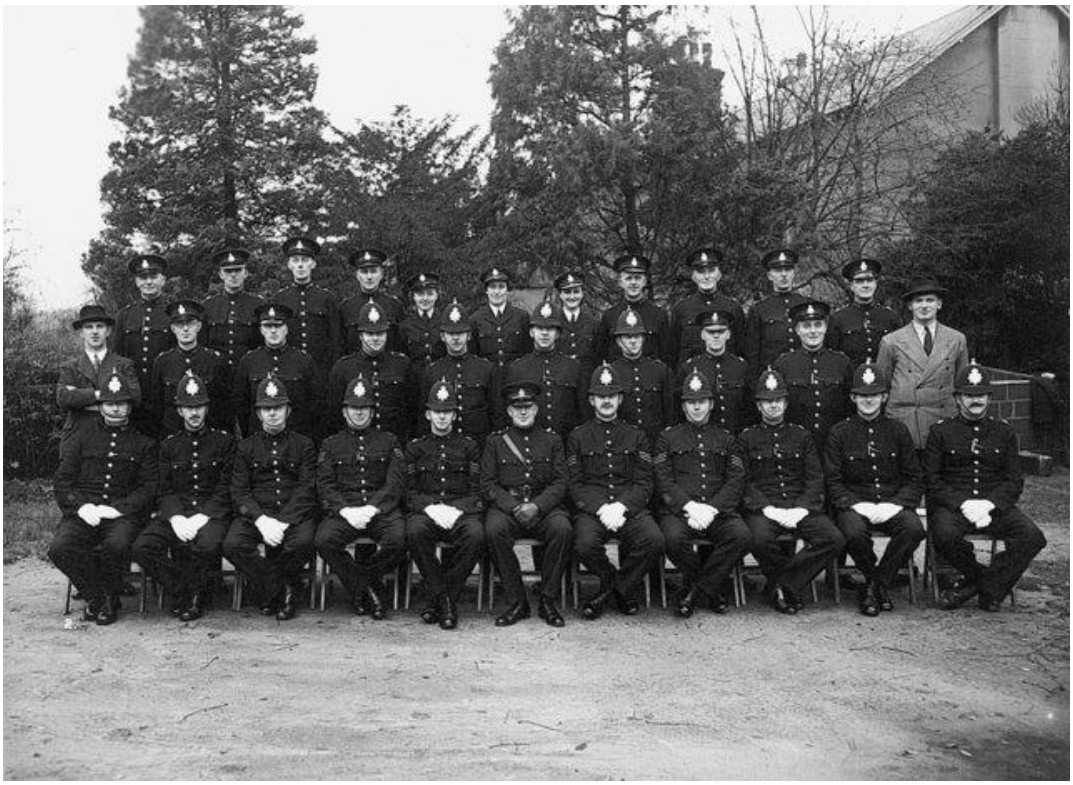
Police. Still hoping for a temporary measure, and the restrictions of wartime, the Borough maintained their own uniform.

**1943 February 19: Dorking:** Following a change in enemy tactics it was decide to leave the air raid shelters unlocked during the daytime. The decision to keep them locked followed a series of acts of damage and theft. Seats had been broken electric light bulbs smashed or stolen. Sometime the marauders will be caught and will be heavily punished.[57]

**1943 March 23**: Reigate Borough Police: The new police, fire and ambulance **telephone pillar system** came into operation on the 23 March 1943. Twenty pillar systems controlled by a central switchboard at Reigate Police station; 24,487 calls received. Total emergencies for 1943 21, police 12, fire 4, ambulance 5.[58]

**1943 July 9: East Grinstead** bombed and strafed killing 108 people during the afternoon striking the cinema amongst other buildings. Other German aircraft in the raid flew on to Croydon where 9 people died and severe damage caused. On returning the aircraft flew over Kenley where AA fire opened up and one of the Dornier's was hit crashing into White Hill between **Caterham and Bletchingly.** The remains of the airmen were almost unidentifiable. Some years late the Bletchingly aircraft was excavated and several unexploded bombs found.[59] On Friday 9th July 1943 a raid of Dornier 217 bombers crossed the coast at Hastings aiming for London and at 5.05 pm, late in the afternoon, the air raid sirens sounded in East Grinstead. By this stage of the war the country was used to the sirens sounding, they did not mean that a raid was specifically heading your way, just that it might. After nearly four years of war without a raid, the town saw no reason this one would be any different. About five minutes later one of the aircraft lost the others in cloud and instead of continuing alone to London, decided to find a 'target of opportunity'. This target was East Grinstead. After machine-gunning a train at Lingfield the pilot followed the railway south until he found the town.[60]

[57] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[58] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police
[59] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[60] http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Sussex/EastGrinsteadWW2Civilian.html



**The last officers of the Reigate Borough Force before it was merged with the Surrey Force during WW2**[61]

**Second World War – Billingsgate market relocated to Reigate**

**1943 October:** Home Office decided police **numbers could be reduced** – whole time establishment of 930. On the 31 December 1943 the actual establishment was Regular 396, Police War Reserve 468, First Police Reserve 35, SC 1631 and Woman's Auxiliary Police Corps 90.[62]

**1943 November 18:** A man was found at 12.50 a.m. between Dorking and Reigate staggering about in the road. Police were called and the by then **unconscious man**

[61] *Photograph Surrey Police Museum*
[62] CC notes 1945 on the administration of the county police during the war.

was taken to Dorking hospital where he soon died. The PM revealed the cause of **death as hanging** with the rope apparently breaking before the job was complete. No evidence could be found of anyone else being involved and a verdict of suicide on a man whose identity was revealed some weeks later – he came from Wandsworth.

**1943 December 31:** Of an authorised regular establishment of six hundred and sixty three there were three hundred and ninety six officers; two hundred and eight **in the armed services;** twenty eight in the Royal Navy or Royal Marines; one hundred and nineteen in the Army and sixty one in the RAF. Commissions had been awarded to thirty-two. Some were reported killed and others missing. All those serving in the military have **allowances to make their pay up to police rates** if they currently fell below.

**Police War Reserve 1943 Woking with PS Bishop**

**1943 Open meetings are restored**[63] The ban on Open Meetings of the Police Federation, imposed in 1932, was lifted.

**Crimes in the Surrey Joint Police Area 1 January to 31 December 1943**[64]

| Division | Crimes alleged | Crimes deleted | Crimes detected | Not cleared up | Non Indictable prosecutions |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dorking | 620 | 122 | 245 | 40.81 | 577 |

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

[64] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Farnham | 1258 | 318 | 344 | 47.38 | 531 |
| Godalming | 984 | 210 | 338 | 44.31 | 656 |
| Guildford Borough | 839 | 164 | 256 | 49.9 | 748 |
| Leatherhead | 613 | 118 | 224 | 44.21 | 272 |
| Oxted | 517 | 107 | 194 | 41.78 | 388 |
| Reigate Borough | 517 | 78 | 239 | 38.68 | 296 |
| Weybridge | 1352 | 321 | 409 | 46.01 | 1034 |
| Woking | 1182 | 325 | 291 | 47.88 | 397 |
| **Total** | **7882** | **1763** | **2540** | **45.41** | **4899** |

**Comparative strength and recorded crime 1943** [65]

| Division | Arrests | Strength | Crimes per man |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dorking | 108 | 98 | 6.33 |
| Farnham | 160 | 119 | 10.57 |
| Godalming | 185 | 118 | 8.34 |
| Guildford Borough | 257 | 91 | 9.22 |
| Leatherhead | 150 | 109 | 5.62 |
| Oxted | 92 | 104 | 4.97 |
| Reigate Borough | 161 | 67 | 7.72 |
| Weybridge | 238 | 145 | 9.32 |
| Woking | 158 | 118 | 10.02 |

**Total crimes for the Surrey Joint Police**
**Not included are deleted crimes (probably refers to modern term "No crime"**[66]

| | 1938 | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Committed** | 2918 | 2831 | 3257 | 4046 | 3878 | 6119 |
| **% Detected** | 50.06 | 48 | 47.95 | 49.13 | 45.69 | 45.23 |

**1943: Establishment** Special Constabulary Reigate Borough Police 147 who performed 120,431.5 hours duty[67]

**1943:** Reigate Borough Police: An average of 44.2 Special Constables turned out on 87 air raid warnings. The Special Constabulary Mobile Section was reduced by the War from 24 to 9 cars but there was a car on duty every evening from 7pm at both Reigate and Redhill. The motorcyclists were reduced to four but every evening there was always one on duty. [68]

The ten **Action Stations** are run by the Special Constabulary. In the centre there is a **Control Room** with a Reigate police controller and Special Constables are entirely responsible for manning. There are no words that adequately describe the quiet and

[65] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police
[66] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police
[67] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police
[68] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police

efficient manner in which the Special Constabulary have fitted into the police machine.[69]

**1943 Road Traffic Accidents Reigate Borough**: Fatal 5, serious injusry 105,. Total road accidents 2666 as against 274 in 1942[70]

**1943**: **Reigate Borough** Twenty officers are serving in the **armed forces**[71]

**1943** there are two **War Reserve Constables in Reigate Borough,** one retired Reigate Borough and the other retired from the East Sussex Constabulary.[72]

**1943 Vehicle Fleet Reigate Borough:** Imperial motor-cycle JPG910; Triumph motor-cycle HPG474; Utility car JPF729; MG saloon CTH437; MG car JPB578; police ambulence[73]

**1943 population Reigate Borough** 34,547 in the last census but estimated civilians only now 41,928[74]

**1943 18 November:** A man was found at 12.50 a.m. between Dorking and Reigate staggering about in the road. Police were called and the by then **unconscious man** was taken to Dorking hospital where he soon died. The PM revealed the cause of **death as hanging** with the rope apparently breaking before the job was complete. No evidence could be found of anyone else being involved and a verdict of suicide on a man whose identity was revealed some weeks later – he came from Wandsworth.

**1943 Surrey Joint Police formed** from Surrey Constabulary, Reigate and Guildford Boroughs. Their strength on amalgamation: **Guildford Borough:** chief constable 1, chief inspector 1, inspector 4, sergeant 9, constables 25; total 40. **Reigate Borough:** 1 chief constable, chief inspector 1, inspectors 5, sergeants 9, and constables 23 totalling 39.[75]

**1943 December:** The **Chief Constable Major Nicholson CBE MC** has received the old borough forces into his administration in a most admirable and sympathetic manner ---- the change did not bring about a cleavage between the Borough and its police force and the old association has continued to remain.[76]

**1944 January 7: Single Bomb Hits Watson Road, Westcott:** 9 killed and several injured: Four houses were destroyed, killing a woman of 92, two babies and two evacuee boys who were thrown from their bed which landed on top of them.[77] Mr Wakeford was fire watching in Dorking to be called home and told of the death of his wife and two of his four daughters.[78] Canadian soldiers helped Civil Defence workers

[69] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police
[70] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police
[71] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police
[72] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police
[73] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police
[74] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police
[75] CC notes 1945 on the administration of the county police during the war.
[76] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/6 Reigate Borough Police as a part of the Joint Police
[77] Dorking Museum display 2013
[78] Dorking in Wartime David Knight

releas all the victims in less than four hours.[79] Also given as **1944 January 9:** In the early hours of a Wednesday morning four houses in Watson Road, **Westcott** were struck by a single bomb the homes destroyed and nine people killed.[80]

**1944: Recorded crime** from 31 January 1939 to 1944 had increased by sixty eight per cent

**1944 January 21:** Operation Steinbok or the baby Blitz which lasted nine weeks the Germans losing 300 aircraft. A badly damaged Heinkel attempted a forced landing at Whitmore Vale, **Hindhead** – two were killed and four taken prisoner.[81]

**1944: Arthur Boulter**: I left the Royal Grammar School in Guildford in 1944 having spent many hours in the air-raid shelters, with a passable school certificate in six subjects, but did not have the opportunity to go to university. I joined the (then) Surrey Constabulary as a **non-uniformed 'un-established clerk'**. This was my first experience of public service until in 1946 His Majesty called and National Service interrupted it – or extended it – depending on your point of view. [82]

**1944 January 25-26**: At 2156 Dornier shot down over Dorking landed in the garden of a house at Parsonage Lane, **Westcott** with one of its wings touching the wall of the house.[83] Two of the crew were arrested by a Special Constable who was attracted by the firing of very lights by the crew trying to draw attention, and taken to the Wotton Hatch. Two other crewmembers were found dead. [84] **1944 24 February: German bomber down in Westcott:** A Dornier is shot down and crashes in Parsonage Lane. Two of the crew landed by parachute at Wotton and are arrested by a special constable and taken to the Wotton Hatch Hotel[85] **1944 March 3 bomber crashes in Westcott:** The German plane with a crew of four, two baled out and landed about two miles away after which they fired pistol lights to attract attention to themselves leading to their detention by a Special Constable and taken to the Wotton Hatch Hotel. The other two-crew members were found dead in the plane. Shot down by a Mosquito from 29 Squadron based at Ford in Sussex.[86]

**1944 January 25-26**: Junkers shot down and crashed at Blackbrook on **Holmwood Common.** [87]

**1944 February 22-23:** One of the worst of the Steinbock raids when a great cluster of bombers dropped flares over the Thames which drifted towards **Weybridge.** The flares were followed by 15 high explosive bombs, which killed 15 people and injured many more in Vale Road, Baker Street, and Old Palace Road and also at **Cobham and Hersham.** A number of homes in Queens Road, Weybridge were also destroyed.[88]

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[79] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[80] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[81] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[82] Internet
[83] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[84] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[85] Dorking Museum display 2013
[86] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[87] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[88] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated

**1944 March 14: German bomber down in Holmwood**: Three crew members were killed when the Junkers crashed on Holmwood Common close to Blackbrook[89] Shot down by a night fighter at 2305 diving almost vertically into the ground.[90]

**1944 April 11:** A **train of loaded petrol tanker wagons collided** with a light engine at Shalford Station. There was a terrific blaze and some of the tank wagons were under the A281 road bridge, the heat causing the bridge to buckle. Driver Arthur Griffen received the British Empire Medal for dividing the burning train and moving the front part to safety.[91]

It must be borne in mind that every air attack and dropped bomb or other related war time incident required police attendance, often investigation and reports to central government to allow for the publication of regular Home Security Operations Bulletins which were sent in confidence to all key people in Home Defence.

**1944 April 12**: On duty at Godalming Police Station on 12th April 1944, PC Gunning and TPS Storr were attempting to control a male prisoner who was in possession of a "Mills" hand grenade. The prisoner had attempted to pull the pin and the two police officers had reason to believe he had, but they closed on him, secured the grenade and Gunning replaced the pin. Both were commended by the chief constable in the first class for their bravery and devotion to duty, qualities the pair would continue to demonstrate. A native of Westbury, Gloucester Brian Gunning had been a sales representative for Baker & Co in Bristol. He was first stationed in Dorking, later moving to Mayford, Cranleigh, and Esher on to Godalming in January 1941. Edward Storr was born in the parish of Worplesdon, Surrey and lived and worked with his father on Lawford's Farm near Guildford. Storr joined Surrey Constabulary on 9th September 1928, beginning his long service in Woking. Whilst in Leatherhead, PC Storr became temporary sergeant, prompted no doubt by his commendation from the chief constable for his endeavour in preventing a prisoner's escape from custody. He had a long and violent struggle with the prisoner, an armed soldier, who threatened to shoot him[92]. By 1942, Sgt Storr arrived in Godalming and became paired with PC Gunning.[93]

**1944 April 22: Dorking:** Part of Vincent Lane was **machine gunned** by a lone German.[94]

**1944 April 14:** The **murder of Constance Curtis**[95] a pretty 17 year old factory worker was investigated by Inspector Springate in April 1944. On May 7th News of the World reported that police in an enquiry led by Detective Superintendent Roberts were trying to trace two **Canadian** soldiers. Constance had been to the fair where she was seen talking to Canadian soldiers one of whom Donovan was picked out on an ID

[89] Dorking Museum display 2013
[90] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[91] http://website.lineone.net/~alan.c.edwards/chilworthtalk040228.html
[92] Edward Storr Police Service Record*, Defaulters Book 1911-1931*, pg1964, Surrey Police Museum (later known as Storr Service Record).
[93] Luke Franklin Journal Police History Society January 2011
[94] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[95] News of the World 30 April 1944

parade at Cove. PS D. G. Hobbs found the girl on The Moors at 8 am on the 15th April. He saw a girl's dead body lying on the grass, which had been disturbed and two parallel lines ran from the area of trampled grass to where the body was lying, a distance of nearly sixty feet. He found a pair of girl's shoes, which appeared to have been pulled off by a hillock over which the body had been dragged. The body was naked except for her stockings and her clothing, which appeared to have been forcibly removed, had been thrown over her. A piece of her dress had been torn off and was wrapped around the body. [96] Dr Gardner undertook the PM and it appeared that the girl had been strangled, and left naked except for her stockings[97]. The girl had been partly stripped and beaten to death.

The men were traced and Sergeant Bicknall and PC Noakes initially interviewed one, John Francis Donovan. A further interview was undertaken by Detective Inspector HA Springate before being committed for trial where he was found not guilty his plea of mistaken identity was accepted. The prosecution case had rested on the confident identification of Donovan as the man who was with the deceased only an hour or two before her death; he made an alibi, which broke down; he gave contradictory evidence. A witness who had seen Connie leave the fair with Donovan went again when the fair returned the following week. She recognised Donovan as being the man with Connie and told PC Noakes who was on duty at the fair in plain clothes, probably tasked to find the suspect.

PC F. Deacon who when giving evidence was serving in the RAF, attended a parade of a Canadian Signals Reinforcement Unit at Cove and found the defendant who answered the description of the suspect. Police Sergeant Bignall went to the fair to support PC Noakes. Bignall stopped Donovan and asked him if he had been to the fair before and he agreed he had been to the last one – when the Constance had been murdered. Donavan was allowed to go but he gave up his pay book calling later that night at Camberley police station where he was interviewed by Inspector Springate and PC Yalden, and denied going to the fair on the night of the murder. Some days later he was to change his story again and say he was there. An ID parade had been held and witnesses did not pick out Donovan.[98] The Laboratory report stated that hairs submitted to them were like those of Donovan but could not be said to be his with certainty. They were not hairs from Sergeant Horton or the dead girl.[99]

There was great concern within the legal system, and in particular by the Judge of this case Mr Justice Birkett, over identification of suspects following the case of Adolph Beck in 1896 who had been wrongly identified on a fraud charge and spent a long time in prison. In 1901 he was released on license but three years later was again arrested on a similar charge and convicted. In the meantime another ex-convict was arrested who was guilty of these offences and Beck's innocence was proved. He was given a free pardon and £5000 in compensation. He died in 1915.[100]

[96] Camberley News and Bagshot Observer October 13 1944
[97] Camberley News and Bagshot Observer October 13 1944
[98] Camberley News and Bagshot Observer October 13 1944
[99] Camberley News and Bagshot Observer October 13 1944
[100] News of the World Dec 10 1944

**1944 June 16:** The **first flying bomb** to fall in the county was on June 16th at Sanders Estate at Buckland at approximately 10 am, this was the first real day of the battle. [101]

**1944 June 16: September** 7 295 **flying bombs fell in Surrey,** Kent 1444, East Sussex 880 and Essex 412 (Not certain how Surrey is defined)

**1944 June 18:** Sunday: Norbury Park **Dorking: Flying bomb** landed[102]

**1944 June 19:** A pilotless **bomb dropped** Earlsbrook/St John's Road, Redhill and ten people killed (one more later making 11) and 17 wounded. **Extract Surrey Mirror[103]:** Many people were buried in their shattered homes and rescue parties from the Civil Defence worked heroically. The police did particular good work and were on long hours at a stretch. On the following Saturday buildings damaged by a second flying bomb – three people slightly wounded and other had miraculous escapes. [104]

**1944 June 19: Redhill:** A rocket landed in Earlsbrook Road and St Johns Road **killing eleven** people and wounding seventeen, blasting forty houses. Many of the victims were buried under their shattered homes and rescue parties and the Civil Defence workers generally worked heroically to get the victims out and to render first aid to the injured. The police did particularly good work and were on long hours at a stretch. Mobile canteens catered to their needs as they toiled through the day. **Several hundred of these bombs fell on East Surrey with the greatest concentration in Caterham area**. The Royal Philanthropic School at Redhill was severely damaged by a flying bomb in 1944. [105]

**1944:** The **Royal Philanthropic** School at Redhill was severely damaged by a flying bomb

**1944 June 26: Monday: House hit in Elm Cottage, Sandy Lane near Dorking**: (Now Milton Court Lane).[106] Three killed at Elm Cottage near Dorking when destroyed by a flying bomb. Two women and a boy were killed.[107]

**1944 June 28: Flying bombs, rockets and bombs hit the county.** The first one fell on Guildford on Saturday, June 28th at 2.05.pm. It fell in a field near Foxburrow Avenue. A second one fell later that day in Stoke Recreation ground.

**1944 June 29:** The summer of 1944 brought a new terror to the skies over Southeast England in the shape of the now infamous **'Doodle-Bugs' or V1 flying bombs**. John Neil in his book 'The History of Merstham School' records an incident when one of these 'doodle-bugs' fell close to the school: 'On 29th June 1944 just as morning assembly was coming to an end, a flying bomb hit the Corporation Yard in Albury Road, Reigate just a hundred yards from the school. Damage from the blast was

[101] Flying Bombs (Doodlebugs) 1944 'The History of Merstham School'
[102] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[103] Rev WAR Ball vicar of St Johns http://www.stjohnsredhill.org.uk/pdfs/wardiary1940.pdf
[104] Rev WAR Ball vicar of St Johns http://www.stjohnsredhill.org.uk/pdfs/wardiary1940.pdf
[105] http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/history-from-police-archives/RB1/Pt2/pt2TL193945.html
[106] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[107] Dorking Museum display 2013

extensive, but miraculously there were no serious casualties among the 200 children and the staff.'

Guildford Flying bombs landed Foxburrow Avenue, Stoke recreation ground, East Shalford lane, South Warren Farm, Aldersley Road.

**Number of flying bombs exploding September 1944 in the Dorking rural area**[108]

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abinger 5 | Betchworth including Brockham 5 | Buckland 2 | Charlwood 5 | Capel 1 |
| Headley 7 | Holmwood 5 | Horley 5 | Leigh 1 | Newdigate 6 |
| Ockley 2 | Wooton 5 | Dorking Rural District total of 49 killing one and injuring 50 | | |

Guildford Flying bombs landed Foxburrow Avenue, Stoke recreation ground, East Shalford Lane, South Warren Farm, Aldersley Road.

**1944 June 30: 74 year old Elizabeth Cheesman** died of shock when a flying bomb lands in Ockley 100 yards from her cottage.[109] [110]

**1944 July 2:** A **flying bomb fell about 200 yards from Headley** rectory. The garden was devastated but the walls remained standing with the exception of the lean-to kitchen. The interior was wrecked along with the outbuildings and the gardener's cottage. A couple of weeks earlier windows at the rectory had been shattered by a bomb that fell in nearby woodland.[111] [112]

**1944 July 7:** At least two further **flying bombs** fell on Merstham that year. One fell in the woods on Church Hill causing extensive damage

**1944 July:** Merstham was declared an **'evacuation area'** due to the increasing risk of attacks and many families made preparations to leave.

**1944 July 21**[113] a number of pilotless bombs dropped in the area on dropping in Reigate and killing three people. Another having hit a balloon cable dropped in the grounds of Earlswood Asylum causing a great deal of damage but no casualties.

**1944 July 21: Dorking:** Flying bombs fell at Mickleham, Old School Lane, Brockham, Pixham, Flint Hill, North Holmwood and in the chalk pit at Dorking North Station.[114]

[108] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[109] Dorking Museum display 2013
[110] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[111] Dorking Advertiser 20 December 2012 Yesteryear page
[112] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[113] Rev WAR Ball vicar of St Johns http://www.stjohnsredhill.org.uk/pdfs/wardiary1940.pdf
[114] Dorking in Wartime David Knight

**1944 July 26: Redhill**: Flying bomb landed near a school with 100 children in assembly with one injured staff member. However three men in the highway's depot close by were killed.[115]

**1944: Flying bombs, rockets and bombs hit the county.** The first flying bomb fell on Guildford on Saturday, June 28th at 2.05.pm. It fell in a field near Foxburrow Avenue. A second one fell later that day in Stoke Recreation ground.

**Internet:** My mother, father and myself lived in a house in Recreation Road, right next door to the recreation ground and the doodlebug dropped just the other side of the recreation ground fence. My parents heard the engine cut out, and my father went down the garden to look for it, and was consequently blasted to the ground, all his breath taken from him. My brother and I were covered in plaster, debris and glass as we lay in our beds. When he was woken, my brother thought that he had been called to get ready for school. He had slept right through the blast! We were rescued by members of the AFS, to which my father belonged, and one of his colleagues took my brother and I back to his lodgings in Martyr Road. My father walked about all night in a dazed state, while my mother was taken to hospital to have forty-eight stitches in one side of her face, which had been badly cut by flying glass. My father joined her in hospital the following morning due to shrapnel damage to his leg. We lodged with grandparents and relatives for nine months while the house was repaired, and, in parts, rebuilt. My father was utterly devastated by the sight of his beloved garden, from being mature and fully stocked, making us self-sufficient in vegetables, to a flattened wasteland. My main distress as a child at the time was that I had that very afternoon cleared out a large glass tank of very mature tadpoles, and which of course, were blasted sky high.[116]

**1944 August 3: The early Norman church at Abinger Common** destroyed by a flying bomb – There were no casualties. (Re-building began in August 1944)[117] The nearby Abinger Hatch Inn and Max Beerbohm's Manor House Cottage are damaged.

**1944 August 4: Westcott: Isolation Hospital** at Westcott seriously damaged by a bomb which fell in a field about 100 yards from the hospital buildings. No one was seriously hurt.

**1944 August: Dorking area:** Since the beginning of the war total casualties in the rural district: killed 6, injured and taken to hospital 36, slightly injured 101. The only fatal flying bomb casualty was a 74-year-old woman living in Ockley. The flying bomb attacks totally destroyed 5 houses, 8 were so seriously damaged they had to be demolished, and 32 were seriously damaged. Before D-day and the flying bomb attacks – houses totally destroyed 7, needing to be demolished 12, seriously damaged 42, slightly damaged 1295[118]

**1944 August 25** Guildford: A **flying bomb** caused the death of three women when it struck a house in Aldersley Road. Two died at the time, and the third died later of

[115] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[116] http://tpyftest.da.ulcc.ac.uk/20/59/Guildford_At_War_2_The_Blitz_2b_V1_Bombs__Doodlebugs_.pdf
[117] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[118] Dorking in Wartime David Knight

injuries. “I recall the noise of the doodlebug, which droned to an alarming halt and then just waiting for the crash and explosion and yes, it came! The windows of Tormead and Lanesborough Schools were blown out, and I think some of the replacement windows are still in place today. At home we retreated into our Anderson shelter, made of heavy steel, with a large mattress placed inside.”

**1944 August** Flying bomb fell on 'Innisfree' in Rockshaw Road killing all the occupants.

**1944 August 27: Cranleigh** infant school was hit by a V1 flying bomb and demolished. Fortunately this occurred early on a Sunday morning, and the school was empty. The only casualty was the Rector, who was in his garden not far away and was injured

**1944 September:** On a night in September 1944 a Mitchell bomber of Number 180 Squadron, lost power during take off crashing near Dunsfold village[119]. Gunning and Storr were quickly on the scene and extricated members of the RAF from the crashed Mitchell bomber. Gunning and Storr showed no regard for their own lives as the ground was littered with burning debris and the bomber’s fuel tanks still full. Gunning was commended by the chief constable for his bravery, determination, devotion to duty and initiative that he displayed at Dunsfold that night. By 1945, this feat of bravery had come to the notice of King George V who ordered the names of the two officers to be publicized in the London Gazette of 26th June 1945 as having been commended for brave conduct[120]. PC Gunning also received praise from the Air Ministry, the Home Secretary, and the then Prime Minister Winston Churchill himself[121]. After the war, PC Gunning passed his sergeants course as well as further courses to end his career in the mid 1960s as Superintendent in Dorking. [122]

**1944 September 7:** Another **Canadian** was charged following an attack on September 7 1944 of a lone heavily pregnant young married woman.[123] Private Horace R Gordon aged 28 a Canadian Soldier was committed for trial on a **charge of murdering by stabbing,** Dorothy May **Hillman** an eighteen year old married woman of less than a year, at Bramley. The victim who lived with her family in Palmer’s Cross, Bramley left home with her dog and walked towards the Leathern Bottle. The accused was seen to cycle near her. Later two airmen found the victim crawling along covered in blood. She had eleven stab wounds to her body and had crawled one hundred yards before being found. A field service cap was found by the scene owned by Gordon. He said he had come across the woman after she had been attacked and tried to help her and said he left her to go to Cranleigh police to report what he had seen but took the wrong road and went to Hascombe. Detective Sergeant Storr and Detective Constable Gunning on patrol in a car at Hascombe stopped Gordon (he was described as coloured which would have eased identification in public places at that time) and found stains on his clothing. He said he had cut his hand and wiped it on his

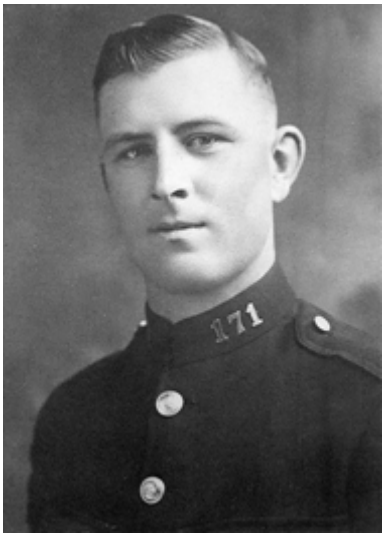
[119] Paul. M. McCue, Dunsfold: Surrey’s Most Secret Airfield, page 166, (Walton, 1991).
[120] Gunning Service Record, pg 2092. 5th Supplement to The London Gazette 22nd June 1945, page 3335, (HMSO, 1945).
[121] Air Ministry Letter 25th June 1945, Surrey Police Museum, Home Office Letter 25th June 1945, Surrey Police Museum, Kings Order signed by Winston Churchill, Surrey Police Museum.
[122] Luke Franklin Journal Police History Society January 2011
[123] The Surrey Advertiser and County Times 28 October 1944

clothes. He had a khaki handkerchief with what appeared to be bloodstains on it. He had an open knife and packets of chewing gum, chocolate wrapping paper and cigarettes. At the scene of the attack was found chewing gum wrappings and papers from chocolate that could be linked to the suspect. When interviewed and charged Gordon did not deny being at the scene and that he had spoken to the woman who told him she had been attacked. He gave her a piece of chewing gum. He tried to wipe some of the blood off with grass and then his 'kerchief. [124]

Mrs Hillman lived to give birth to a still born child two days after the attack, make a clear statement of what happened to her and identified Gordon, before dying on the 22 September. At Surrey Assizes Gordon was found guilty at Surrey Assizes Kingston before Mr Justice Humphries, and sentenced to death. Gordon was Jamaican and had a wife and family there

**1944 September 14:** PC Albert Edwin Enticknap awarded **King's Police Medal for Gallantry** tackled and overpowered an armed housebreaker who had pointed a revolver at him.

Albert Edwin Enticknap was born in 1912, in Hascombe in Surrey. He joined the Surrey Constabulary on the 19th of May 1936. He was sworn in on the 29th of May 1936 at Guildford Magistrates Court and allocated collar number 171. His previous trade was a farm worker employed by his father at Crab Tree Farm in Dunsfold, Surrey.




**Pc 171 Albert Edwin Enticknap (KPM)[125]**

Pc Enticknap's record shows the following information under the heading Removals:

14th November 1936 moved from Woking to Horley.

28th March 1938 moved from Horley to Weybridge.

[124] The Surrey Advertiser and County Times 28 October 1944
[125] Researched by Terry Collman for Old and Bold

| | |
|---|---|
| 22nd February 1940 | moved from Weybridge to Henshaw. |
| 15th April 1940 | moved from Henshaw to Weybridge beat, |
| | (But still lives at Rodney Road, Walton-on-Thames) |
| 26th April 1941 | moved from Weybridge to Walton-on-Thames. |
| 9th January 1950 | moved from Walton-on-Thames to Englefield Green. |
| 17th February 1957 | moved to own house. |

The circumstances behind PC Enticknap being awarded **the Kings Police Medal for Gallantry:** About 1.20 pm on the 14th of September 1944, a message was received at Walton Police Station that a man had broken into a house in Rydens Avenue. An inspector, a sergeant and two constables, one of whom was PC Enticknap, immediately went to the scene of the occurrence. The inspector posted one constable at the back of the house and one at the front, the latter being joined by the sergeant. The inspector made two attempts to enter the house, but though he was able to get into rooms on the ground floor he found that the hall doors were locked. The man had already shown that he had a revolver and it seemed from the noise inside the house that he was barricading one of the upstairs rooms. The inspector decided to go and get assistance from some soldiers who were nearby. Meanwhile the sergeant went to the front door where there was a broken pane of glass and called to the man to come downstairs. He did so, pointing his revolver at the sergeant. The officer dodged to the side and the man disappeared into one of the rooms at the back. It was then that PC Enticknap, who was posted at the back of the house, saw him through a window. The man pointed his revolver at the constable and he moved aside. The next thing that happened was that the constable heard a window being opened at the other end of the house and saw the man running across the lawn.

PC Enticknap immediately gave chase, shouting to the other officers, who followed him. The man jumped into the garden of the adjoining house, continuing to run for about one hundred and fifty yards until he came to a hedge, where he stopped and turned round to face the constable, pointing his revolver at him. Without hesitation the constable closed with the man, who fell to the ground, dropping the revolver. By the time the other officers and the military had caught up, the thief was arrested.

PC Enticknap's service record shows that he was awarded the Kings Police Medal, on the 18th of June 1945. He was awarded the Defence Medal, on the 4th of February 1946. He was awarded his Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, on the 1st of July 1959.

**SURREY CONSTABULARY APPOINTMENT BOOK**

NAME Albert Edwin Enticknap

**AGE 24 years Born in 1912 HEIGHT 5 ft 11 ins. COMPLEXION Fresh**

**HAIR ~~Brown~~ EYES ~~Grey~~ MARKS ~~small scar~~ on right knee cap**

**BORN in the parish of** Hascombe **in the county of Surrey**

**Married on** 22.4.40 **with** 3 **children.**

***TRADE Farm Worker*** ***LAST RESIDENCE Crab Tree Farm, Dunsfold***

**BY WHOM LAST EMPLOYED, AND WHERE By Father at Dunsfold**

**WHAT RELATIVES RESIDING IN SURREY AND WHERE Parents at Dunsfold**

***NO. ON COLLAR 171***

**DATE OF APPOINTMENT 19th May 1936**

**WHEN SWORN IN AND WHERE ~~29th May 1936 at Guildford~~**

**BEFORE WHAT MAGISTRATES ~~Capt Petsy~~**

**WHERE FIRST STATIONED Woking 1.8.36**

**Removals**

| **Date** | **From** | **To** |
|---|---|---|
| 14 Nov 1936 | Woking | Horley |
| 28 Mar 1938 | Horley | Weybridge |
| 22 Feb 1940 | Weybridge | Hershaw |
| 15th April 1940 | Hershaw | Weybridge Beat (but still lives at Rodney Rd Walton on Thames) |
| 26th April 1941 | Weybridge | Walton-on-Thames |
| | Walton-on-Thames | Englefield Green |
| 9th Jan 1950 | To own house | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 17th Feb 1957 | | |

**Examinations**

| Date | | Date | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6th Mar 1937 | Passed Official Anti-Gas Course | 7th April – 3rd May 1947 | Advanced Driving Course At Lancs Constabulary Motor Training Centre. Passed Grade 3 |
| 31st Jan 1942 | Sat Examination for Sergeant and failed | | |
| 5,6th June 1943 | Sat Examination for Sergeant and Failed | | |
| 22nd, 23rd & 24th June 1945 | Sat Examination for Sergeant and Failed | | |

| Date | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3/41 - 8/42 | Reserve Motorcycle Duties | |
| 8/42 | Appointed Crime Patrol Motorcyclist in Weybridge Division | |
| 18/6/45 | Commended by CC in first class (G O. 1062-95) and awarded the King's Police and Service's Medal for Gallantry at Walton-on-Thames on 14th Sept 1944, when, during his chase of an armed male housebreaker turned and pointed a revolver at him. PC Enticknap did not hesitate but at once closed with the man, overpowered him, and with assistance arrested him. | |
| 4/2/46 | Defence Medal | |
| 7/7/49 | Gave notice to pay pension contributions at the higher rate. | |
| 20/10/54 | Accepted averaging for pension | |
| 18/4/56 | Commended by the Chairman of Surrey ? on smart work in the case of Young (CR/1186/54) | |
| 1/7/59 | Pension Contributions – 6 ¼ %. Pension reduced by 2.4% P P Regs | |
| 13/8/59 | Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. | |
| 20/10/60 | Commended by CC for zeal and perseverance leading to the arrest of three Shop breakers at Egham on 24/6/59. | |
| | Commended by CC for exceptional persistence and initiative leading to the arrest of | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | a Housebreaker. | |

**DISCIPLINARY OFFENCES**

| **Date** | ***Nature Of Offences*** | ***Punishment*** |
|---|---|---|
| 26/1/57 | Discreditable Conduct (Disc. code 1) | Fined 3 days pay |

***CAUSE AND DATE OF REMOVAL FROM THE FORCE Pensioned on completion of service***

**25th February 1967**

**CONDUCT DURING SERVICE Exemplary**

**DATE OF CERTIFICATE 9th March 1967**

**COMPLETED 30 Years, Approved Service.**

**Amount of pay on retirement £ - Average for the last three years £1092.13.0**

***Pension @ 40/60 £ 728.8.8 less 17.9.8 widows pension scheme and 177.14.9 commuted to produce a lump sum of £2131.4.5 Net Pension £533.4.3 S.P.C 28/2/67***

**PC Enticknap's medals**

**1944 September 15: Abinger Common** at 0800 the church was struck by a flying bomb severely damaging the church, the Abinger Hatch Inn and the Manor House.[126]

**1944 September 29: Dorking:** Twenty flying bombs fell in the Dorking Urban District without a significant "hit" in the urban area. One fell at Pixham and another near Dorking Town Station in the chalk-pit and another at Flint Hill. Of the twenty bombs three fell outside the boundary of the Urban District and caused damage within the district. Overall the 20 bombs resulted in three people being killed, one seriously injured and 28 slightly injured.[127]

**1944 October 28: Jacobs Well:** briefly reported: "A Dakota crashed in a field in Clay Lane, Jacobs Well, on Wednesday morning and burst into flames. The National Fire Service from Guildford put out the flames with foam and recovered four mangled and charred bodies."

The aircraft was a US Army Air Force, Douglas C47a Skytrain (known as a Dakota when in RAF service), and Serial No.42-100766 named "Lilly Bell II". It belonged to the USAAF's 89th Troop Carrier Squadron (TCS) part of the 438th Troop Carrier Group (TCG) based at Greenham Common, Berkshire. "Lilly Bell II" was individually coded as aircraft "D" of the 89th TCS and carried the Squadron code of "4U" on the fuselage behind the cockpit.

It was loaded with 5,120lbs of signal equipment including a large amount of "field wire" which had all been lashed down and balanced within the aircraft.

[126] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[127] Dorking in Wartime David Knight

On the morning of Wednesday, October 25, four C47's took off from Greenham Common and formed a diamond formation with "Lilly Bell II" in the right-hand position behind the lead aircraft.[128]

The four men on board were: pilot, 28-year-old 1st Lieutenant Mercer Wilson Avent; acting co-pilot, 32-year-old Flight Officer John Edmund Wright; crew chief/flight engineer, 21-year-old Technical Sergeant John R. Hillmer; radio operator, 21-year-old Staff Sergeant Dale E. Dellinger.

The formation's destination was the northern French airfield at Denain / Pouvry (code number A83) south east of Lille near the Belgian border. The weather that day in southern England was total cloud cover at about 1,000ft height and visibility of 2,000yds. Flying below the cloud level, the formation's route would entail clearing the 600 foot high North Downs. As they flew from west to east they approached the high ground just after 11am.

The formation commander decided to lead the four aircraft up through the cloud.

What happened next is best described by the pilot of the rear aircraft of the formation, 2nd Lt. Harry E. Watson: "The last time I saw him (*Avent*) he was at approximately 1,300ft and was climbing in an effort to go up through the overcast. His aircraft seemed to be in trouble. It appeared that Lt. Avent's ship would collide with my ship, so I dropped the nose, opened the throttle and got out of the way. I then lost sight of him in the clouds, and our formation continued on its flight."

It appears that Lt. Avent may have seen a gap in the cloud and climbed too steeply to get through it. The aircraft then either stalled and/or the load in the fuselage shifted rearwards leaving it momentarily vertical.

It then did a tail slide dropping straight down until the tail surfaces developed enough lift to bring the nose down. The aircraft, now upside down, then dived towards the ground. At such a low height the pilot had no chance of regaining control or the crew any chance of baling out.

The aircraft crashed into a field about 85 yards north of Clay Lane's present-day junction with Queenhythe Road at Jacobs Well, two miles north of Guildford, Surrey.

The engines, propellers and nose section became buried in the ground while the centre and rear fuselage together with the wings remained on the surface.

Fire broke out upon impact and much of the forward and centre section were burnt out despite the efforts of the National Fire Service. They could do nothing for the crew who would have all been killed in the impact.[129]

[128] The Surrey Times of Saturday October 28, 1944
[129] http://www.guildford-dragon.com/2012/04/20/the-wwii-crash-of-c47-lilly-bell-ii/

**1944 October: Murderer Karl Hulten US Airborne soldier**: Elizabeth Maud Jones a stripper born in 1926 in Glamorgan was to team up with an American airborne soldier who was a deserter and living in London Karl Hulten. She had pretensions to be a gangster's moll and he spun the yarn of being a gangster in the States. They teamed up and committed a number of crimes that escalated to the murder of a taxi driver for which he was hung and she sentenced to a lengthy term of imprisonment. One of the crimes was committed in Runnymede and was dealt with by the Surrey Joint Police. Picking up 18-year-old Violet May Hodge in a stolen US Army lorry in October 1944 they drove to Runnymede where they violently attacked her throwing what they thought was a lifeless body in The Thames. Violet was to come around in the cold water and managed to get from the river go to a house and raise the alarm. It was six days before Violet was able to make a statement and a week before she was released from hospital. [130]

**1944** PC William Charles Tucker and Special Constable William Douglas Reffell were **commended** for showing great bravery in attempting to rescue an aged woman from a burning building at Gomshall.

**1944:** Three V bombs are listed as having landed in **Bookham**[131]

**Internet:** My mother, father and myself lived in a house in Recreation Road, right next door to the recreation ground and the doodlebug dropped just the other side of the recreation ground fence. My parents heard the engine cut out, and my father went down the garden to look for it, and was consequently blasted to the ground, all his

[130] Dark City -Crime in Wartime London 2010 Simon Read Ian Allen page 78 et seq
[131] Dorking Advertiser article 13 September 2012

breath taken from him. My brother and I were covered in plaster, debris and glass as we lay in our beds. When he was woken, my brother thought that he had been called to get ready for school. He had slept right through the blast! We were rescued by members of the AFS, to which my father belonged, and one of his colleagues took my brother and I back to his lodgings in Martyr Road. My father walked about all night in a dazed state, while my mother was taken to hospital to have forty-eight stitches in one side of her face, which had been badly cut by flying glass. My father joined her in hospital the following morning due to shrapnel damage to his leg. We lodged with grandparents and relatives for nine months while the house was repaired, and, in parts, rebuilt. My father was utterly devastated by the sight of his beloved garden, from being mature and fully stocked, making us self-sufficient in vegetables, to a flattened wasteland. My main distress as a child at the time was that I had that very afternoon cleared out a large glass tank of very mature tadpoles, and which of course, were blasted sky high.[132]

**Up to 6,184 people were killed** and 42,146 injured by V1's, mainly in London, Kent and Surrey.

**Normandy:** It was estimated that about thirty large bombs dropped within the borders of Normandy parish. However, only minor damage occurred in Normandy. A string of four bombs was dropped south to north, the first one landing near the British Legion hut. The next one cleared the houses and fell behind some kennels. The third ended up in a field and the last in a wood without exploding. A report stated that an aerial torpedo was dropped on the western side of the stream going under Glaziers Lane. This failed to detonate but was found twenty-five feet down in the earth. What a torpedo was doing so far from the sea was not explained. A land mine was dropped near Tunnel Hill on the ranges. John Mullard recalled that the explosion lifted his bed off the floor but when he asked his father what he should do the reply was "It's a bit late now, go to sleep". The village policeman told him later that the land mine had felled a swathe of pine trees of about half a mile in diameter fanning out from the centre of the explosion. Finally, what was reputed to be the second Doodlebug (flying bomb) to land on British soil ended up in the sewage farm near Elm Hill. Several aircraft crashed in the area including a Dornier bomber that came down near the Anchor but the most tragic incident occurred in 1941. On the night of 10 March, a Halifax bomber returning from its first raid on enemy territory was hit by "friendly fire" and the wreckage crashed at Merrist Wood just inside the parish boundary. Four of the crew were killed but two survived by bailing out.

**Headley, Leatherhead:** During the Second World War Headley received in the region of one hundred bomb hits including a near miss on the rectory with a flying bomb but no one was seriously injured. Headley Court became the headquarters of Canadian forces in Europe and Headley Heath was used as a training ground for engineers building airstrips and trench systems then demolishing them again.

**Abinger Common:** The parish church of St James August 1944 was hit by a German flying bomb.

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http://tpyftest.da.ulcc.ac.uk/20/59/Guildford_At_War_2_The_Blitz_2b_V1_Bombs__Doodlebugs_.pdf

**Albury Church:** Most of the original stained glass windows of the church were destroyed or damaged by a flying bomb that fell on Weston Wood in 1944.

**Cranleigh School pupil:** That Autumn I went to Cranleigh School. I was a border and to begin with, not very happy, but after I had made some good friends, it was fine. The school was in Surrey near Guilford. The Germans were bombing London, and sometimes they dropped bombs quite near the school. We could hear them whistling as they came down. There would be a huge bang and once or twice some windows were broken. During the day, if there was an air raid warning, all the school had to go and sit in air raid shelters built on the school grounds. I used to hope for an air raid warning if I hadn't done my prep. We were expected to spend one afternoon a week digging and working growing vegetables on a part of the school grounds. Later, when I was older, I became part of the school section of the Home Guard. This was rather exciting as we had to practice firing guns, including a very primitive anti-tank gun which fired a bomb and was supposed to bounce along the ground and hit the underneath of the tank – some hope! Just before I left to join the Navy in 1944, the Germans started sending VI bombers to attack London. These were flying bombs and they would often pass right over the school. As they were coming over at all kinds of time, it was impossible to spend all the time in shelters and do no work. So the oldest boys took it in turns to stand on the roof of the school and press a hooter if a 'Buzz Bomb' looked as though it might hit us. We felt very important.

**Guildford** was very lucky compared with many other towns. There was never a planned German air attack. Nevertheless, there were five hundred and forty two air-raid alerts throughout the war and bombs were dropped on thirty-one occasions. These were mostly from stray aircraft that were probably lost. Four people were killed in total, the worst incident being in Cline Road. In addition, four more were killed just beyond the Borough boundary in Rydes Avenue. In the summer of 1944, V1 flying bombs were launched against south-east England. Five landed in Guildford. Most were on the outskirts, but one killed two people in Aldersey Road. On 28 June another fell. By great good luck, it exploded in the middle of Stoke Recreation Ground. If it had fallen even a short distance on either side it would have killed many people living in the busy streets around. **Graham Hardy:** Two Mustangs crashed over Stoke Park, together with a number of other air crashes, including a Dakota off Clay Lane[133]

**Westcott:** Mr. Lawrence recalled when a flying bomb hit a tree at Rookfield, further down the street. He said: "I remember there being a hell of a bang and then the curtain rail came through the window, as I hid under my bed." Another time three or four stick of bombs landed on the common and the shrapnel got stuck in our roof." A bomb fell on my mother-in-law's road in **Westcott** destroying four houses and killing nine people. On the whole this was one of the most devastating attacks on the area with the majority of bombs and V2s falling in fields or not even exploding.

**Reigate:** Shaw's Corner, 1940, 1st or 2nd Sunday in August, approx. 1pm A bomb fell outside The Foresters Pub (now called The Hatch) possibly killing four men. A second bomb fell in St. Mary's Cemetery. Holmesdale Road Cottages that backed

[133] "Guildford, the War Years" by Graham Collyer and David Rose ISBN 1 85983 177 X (1999) has a short section on the police

onto the Railway Line near Reigate Station were demolished during a night raid, as was Mr Holmes, the vet's house in Warren Road. St. Albans Road cul-de-sac, the Royal Engineers dug up a time bomb. West Street near the junction with London Road the Royal Engineers removed a time bomb. A loan raider bombed Charlwood the Bakers at approximately 11.30am in October 1940 or 41. Clifton's Lane, a bomb fell in the grounds of Fairhall a (large house). Merstham, Easter 1941, Wells Nursery and South Merstham Church were destroyed during a night raid. Reigate Hill a bomb fell in allotments on the west side of Reigate Hill above Brokes Road during a night raid. Evesham Road, a small bomb fell on the junction between Evesham Road and West Street during a night raid. A large number of incendiary bombs fell in the Colley Lane area between the A25 and North Downs during the Blitz. An unexploded AA shell fell in the Market Square (outside Old Town Hall) killing Doug Jordan who was waiting for a bus by La Trobes shop during the evening.

**Flying Bombs (Doodlebugs) 1944***:* The first flying bomb to fall in Reigate Borough was on June 16th at Sanders Estate at Buckland at approximately 10am, this was the first real day of the battle. Earlswood Road, Redhill, exact location unknown but there was a lot of damage and many casualties. Reigate Hill, on the east side opposite The Rock a house was demolished during mid afternoon. The Clears, Sheep Walk - the sheds of the Hearthstone Quarry were destroyed, there were no casualties this happened during the early hours of the morning. Corner of St Albans Road and Brokes Road a house took a direct hit during the early hours of the morning.

**Redhill** "On one occasion during a school holiday, the Co-op milkman was making deliveries from his horse-drawn float when the spiteful pilot of a "Stuka" dive bomber decided to shoot-up "The Square". The noise these planes made as they dived down was expressly designed to terrify, but when they eventually flattened out and roared along the road at rooftop height, spitting out bullets, which ricocheted off the road like red-hot missiles, it was petrifying. Mum shouted to the milkman and held the front door open for him to take cover. He ran up to the doorway, paused, then immediately ran back again in spite of the bullets, to release his horse from the shafts and allow it to gallop off with eyes rolling in fear. The milkman told us, he just had to give his pal of many years a sporting chance.

**Reigate:** "My mother was about half way down a very low flying plane flew south to north up the line of Reigate Hill. It must have circled because a few minutes later it returned the same way again and my mother identified it as a German fighter. It was low enough for her to see the pilot and the Germany markings. It repeated the manoeuvre a third time, but machine gunning as it flew up the hill. One bullet passed through the rim of my Mother's hat, another through the hem of her long coat. She threw herself over the side of the hill, brushed herself off and continued down the hill when she was sure the fighter had gone. She carried on, went through the tunnel into Reigate High Street, with the intention of catching a bus to Redhill from outside the Old Town Hall. When she turned right from the tunnel into the High Street there was chaos and pandemonium. It seems a fighter had strafed the High Street, whether it was the same one or not she doesn't know. She thinks some twenty or so people were killed or injured. Her father eventually found her in Reigate High Street amongst all the mayhem. He was apparently ashen faced as he thought she might have been killed. He wasn't too good either after she showed him the bullet holes in her hat and coat. She didn't realise at the time just what a close call she'd had. **A Flying Fortress**

crashed on the top of Reigate Hill; it was already shot up and needed an emergency landing; it was dusk or dark, because the pilot asked for permission to land at Redhill aerodrome but they would not turn the landing lights on because enemy fighters were about and they would have shot up the airfield.

German plane crashing close to **Kingswood Church;** the pilot was captured by Canadian troops who were billeted around the area.

**Reigate:** "I went to Sunday school at the Methodist church in the High Street. One day we were playing outside before class began when we heard the unmistakable drone of a German plane...we kids knew the sound of those engines from experience and used to say the rhythm was saying " Its for you....it's for you....it's for you....." When we rushed in to tell the teacher she told us not to be silly because no air-raid siren had sounded but if we wanted we could be seated in the classroom and resume lessons, which we did. A few moments later came the high pitched whistling of bombs falling as the German bomber, being pursued by a Spitfire fighter, jettisoned a string of bombs which fell at intervals along the high street but fortunately didn't explode. And the teacher was on her belly along with the rest of us beneath our desks for protection. On another occasion (also when no alert had sounded) I happened to glance down grandmother's garden from the living room of Number 1 Nutley Lane where she had re-located, just as a Messerschmitt 110 fighter-bomber flew by extremely low, hedge hopping we called it. I saw the swastika insignia and the pilot quite distinctly. He then circled and flew over the railway lines with machine-guns and cannons firing at a train. A close friend had a near-miss when one of the cannon shells penetrated the window and lodged in the arm of an easy chair he was sitting in at the time."

**Cranleigh:** Early one Sunday morning I awoke to the most unusual noise not at all like any aircraft I had heard before. Suddenly it stopped and was soon followed by an explosion. The first flying bomb to hit Cranleigh had landed in the Rookery, a small wood between the railway line and Knowle Park. A couple of weeks later another one landed on Jubilee Field at Cranleigh School. My home was in the middle of Parkgate Cottages near the crossroads. The first doodlebug damaged our back bedroom windows. A week or so later we were getting ready to have our tea when the siren went. Very soon we heard a doodlebug approaching. Its engine cut out and we could hear it whooshing through the air. We scrambled into the cupboard under the stairs just as it hit the gasholder near the bottom of our garden. There was one fatality in this incident: Mrs Ede, the wife of Jack Ede, the gasworks foreman. They lived in a cottage next to the gasholder. She went outside and was hit by a part of the gasholder.

**Frensham:** When the flying bomb attacks began I used to watch them from my bedroom window as they passed across the sky. One morning a flying bomb landed in the woods not far away and our garden was showered with pine needles. On another occasion I was woken with a very large bang and, on opening the window, I heard what sound like a train rushing towards us. It was the only V2 that landed in our locality although I do not know where it hit the ground; the sound like the train was in fact the rocket motors that were heard after the actual explosion.

**Holmwood:** When we heard or saw a plane coming down we would try and beat the local policeman, Sergeant Bishop and the RAF to the scene for souvenirs. One day

there was a plane that crashed on Holmwood common and we got there first, the wreckage was strewn over a wide area as it had exploded and it was still on fire. Whilst searching the wreckage one of us found a gauntlet after picking it up they found the Gauntlet still had a hand in it, needless to say it was soon dropped. Shortly after we heard several loud bangs, the bullets had started to explode and we ran for our lives. At these crash sites there was always a terrible smell that you will never forget. We had a Junkers 88 that came over our house just missing our chimney, this crashed in the Paddock about fifty yards behind Folley Farm House. As time went on we started having flying bombs. We used to stand and watch the doodlebugs flying over and as soon as the noise changes from a drone to a hiss we would either dive for cover or try and run in the opposite direction. There was a local chap named Freddy Fairbrother who used to deliver newspapers to Mill Bottom, Freddy was walking down the lane with the papers under his arm and this doodlebug came down in the woods about fifty yards from him. The papers were blow out of his hands and he was left standing there, he simply picked up the papers and continued with his deliveries.

**Caterham:** Both Caterham and Kenley held legitimate war targets for bombers, but as always civilian property in the area were bound to collect over and under or misdirected bombs. While we saw the over flyers during the daylight battle of Britain nothing but a couple of forced landings by Hurricanes damaged our soil. At Caterham it was a different matter since the barracks and the airfields of Kenley and Croydon had suffered by mid August, and with civilians collecting their predictable over and under. With the main night bombing starting in mid September, then the over flyers already operating through the August weeks, now increased in great numbers. One bomber in late August gave us an awful midnight fright. The bomber was ablaze with petrol and bursting engines and perhaps on-board exploding ammunition, for the popping and banging and spluttering was seemingly closing by the second; the blazing wreck passed overhead and lit up the garden and bungalows. Luckily the Heinkel managed to fly another half mile before smothering a house in Queens Park were two people were killed. Caterham one blitz night what was described as an aerial torpedo had exploded underneath a family shelter, killing all eight members instantly. Quite a lot of bombs fell at Caterham and at Coulsdon a spinning German fighter came down towards to crash into the Green. Several bombs fell at and around the Chaldon crossroads one night, damaging a bungalow. More bombs fell around our very local fields one evening of lesser activity. We heard the bomber coming from an easterly direction, which, in our wisdom of experience, meant it, was a wanderer and needed watching. Mum was visiting a sick friend nearby, so grabbing our young sleeping brother, my sister and I stuffed him and us under the table just as the whistling of a dozen or more bombs began a drawn-out descent. Dull 'thuds' ended their fall period for they were incendiary bombs, and a couple of time-bombs or duds. In early 1941 the blitz nights were much reduced and often intermittent and we no longer used the shelter. Two minutes after a bomber flew overhead there came a shattering 'bang'! It must have stirred the dust of every loft for miles around. It was in fact a land mine exploding near Merstham.

**Leatherhead:** Sixteen V1 bombs landed the most serious in Chaffers Mead and Thorncroft where two hundred houses and thirty-two shops were badly damaged. Three V1 landed close to the Ronson factory in Oaklawn Road, and on Bookham Common. A further two exploded in Newton Wood, Ashtead. In all five hundred and ninety one high explosive bombs fell on Leatherhead, nearly three thousand houses

damaged, eight hundred air raid warning were sounded all resulting in one hundred and twelve casualties of which eleven were fatal, including three ARP wardens.

**Brockham:** V1 fell on the 3 August in a field opposite Jubilee Terrace; 19 and 20 July Coach Road and Pondtail Farm; 18 July Nutwood Avenue in River Mole; 21 July and 24 August Box Hill Farm north of the railway; 4 July on Box Hill near the monument. **Brockham**: 52 High explosive, 7 oil incendiary 600 other incendiaries[134]

**Dorking Town**: high explosive seventy seven; ten oil incendiary and fifty other incendiaries. [135]
**Westcott:** fifty high explosive; one parachute bomb; two oil incendiary; seven hundred and eighty five other incendiary. [136]

**Mickleham and West Humble**: 42 high explosive bombs, 2 oil incendiaries and about 300 other incendiaries[137]

**North Holmwood**: 11 high explosive bombs, 3 oil incendiaries about 500 other incendiaries[138]

**Box Hill:** Forty-four high explosive; two oil incendiaries; about one hundred incendiaries. [139]

**Ranmore:** Nineteen high explosive and about four hundred incendiaries. [140]

**Leatherhead:** After the war broke out she worked in a factory (which was previously a Ronson Lighter factory) where she made instrumentation for wartime boats and aircraft, as well as camouflage nets. Iris, her brother Ted and her sister Olive worked together in the Ronson factory. One day, amidst heavy bombing, the employees were told that if they did not have transportation home, they should stay in the factory. Iris had her bicycle so she raced home dodging the bombshell craters. Her mother was anxiously awaiting her and news of Ted and Olive. Later that night, when the bombing had ceased, Ted and Olive were able to walk home safely. In the morning twenty six craters were discovered around the factory. The factory was not hit, but the guard shack was and the guard killed. [141]

**Cranleigh** St Nicolas Parish Church: The parish church of St Nicolas stands in the village of Cranleigh and was built in the early 12th Century and its font also dates from this time. In 1944, during the Second World War, a bomb hit the church destroying the church room and infant school, leaving only three of its fourteen stained glass windows intact. The church also has a 12th century carving known as the Cheshire Cat which some believe to have been Lewis Carroll's inspiration for his famous Alice in Wonderland character.

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[134] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[135] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[136] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[137] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[138] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[139] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[140] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[141] http://www.canadianwarbrides.com/ricketts-iris.asp

**1944** Inspector Lionel Norman Head and PC Brian Gunning were **commended** after facing the greatest danger, rescued some of the crew from a blazing **RAF bomber**, which had crashed at **Dunsfold**.

**1945 January:** At 4 am on a January morning in 1945, two people were woken at the Moat House, Walton on Thames by **two men wearing masks and carrying revolvers.** The couple were made to lie face down on their beds whilst they were trussed with electric flex. The robbers tried without success to get the rings of the woman's fingers, and then allowed them to take them off themselves. In a curiously chivalrous gesture, they handed back a wedding ring. They then demanded the combination number of the safe and when the householder refused to give it, they began to beat him with a truncheon. He escaped the worst of this when the doorbell rang and two policemen were seen outside. The intruders fled and one got clear. Arthur Cox, the man arrested was sent to penal servitude for eight years. [142]

**1945 January 4:** Flying bombs landed at Titsey Hill, **Oxted.**[143]

**1945 January 6:** Flying bombs landed Manor Farm at **East Shalford**, and one near the Hogs Back at **Guildford**. [144]

**1945 January 16**: A flying bomb hit **Banstead** [145]

**1945 February:** A **V2** rocket landed close to Freemans School, **Ashtead** resulting in the windows of fifty houses being broken and one casualty.

**1945 February 9 Capel:** An aircraft crashes between two Capel houses in Vicarage Lane on Wednesday. None of he occupants of the houses were hurt. The pilot of the American Mustang plane landed at Roll's Farm, Newdigate and was taken to Dorking hospital. [146]

**1945 March 2:** Flying bomb landed at **Woking**[147]

**1945 March 19:** Flying bomb landed at **Nutfield**[148]

**1945** In the year 95 V bombs fell on **Godstone Rural District**[149]

[142] An Underworld at War
[143] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[144] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[145] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[146] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[147] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[148] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[149] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated

## Wartime Air Disaster on Reigate Hill[150]

**1945 March 19: A Tragic Accident: O**n 19th March 1945 a number of aircraft of the US 384th Bomber Group stationed at station 1O6 Grafton-Underwood in Northamptonshire were returning from a bombing raid on Plauen, near the Czech border. For protection against enemy fighters the aircraft normally flew in formation but because of dense cloud the formation split up and Flying Fortress 43-39035 SO-F was making its own way home. Over the Weald cloud was solid at 800 feet and broken at 300 feet. Flying too low, the aircraft crashed into Reigate Hill at 1740 hours.

**The Crash:** Why the crash occurred is not fully known, but an enquiry put the cause down to pilot error. This is possibly borne out by the presence in the 'plane of maps showing ground heights above sea level and no evidence of a serious malfunction, as well as other factors. One account of the incident said that the pilot tried unsuccessfully to get in at Gatwick, and failing that at Redhill (in spite of it being grass), but no evidence of attempted local landings has come to light.

**The Scene in 1945:** First on the scene was Dorothy Edwards. She was in uniform for she worked at Southern Command and was on her way back to her accommodation on Reigate Hill. Seeing the aircraft plunge into the side of the hill above her she scrambled up the slope and found the pilot. All she could do was hold the hand of a dying man. A local poacher checking his traps also arrived. The Reigate fire brigade attended to douse the fires and soon after a detachment of the RAF Regiment arrived to seal off the area. A number of other people saw or heard the 'plane go over. One of those was just arriving for duty at the ARP post under the Town Hall when it passed overhead. Others said that they saw the aircraft pass over Merstham High Street, but questions about how it then crashed on the southern slope of Reigate Hill may be answered by their sighting being of another aircraft from the dispersed formation. All of those who witnessed the scene after the crash speak of the utter devastation at the site with broken and burnt trees, broken ground, and the tangled and spread-out ruin of the once proud Flying Fortress.

**1945 March 23 Westcott:** A corporal of the Royal Highlanders of Canada was shot and **killed during a firing exercise** at Westcott Rifle Buts last week. Accidental death was recorded –a stray bullet from Bren gun firing on the next range may have been the cause.[151]

**1945 April 20:** An RAF Hudson returning from Germany dived onto the **Dorking** by-pass in the early hours of the morning and immediately caught fire setting off ammunition. The four occupants had bales out safely the pilot waiting until he was certain the plane would miss the houses. He landed at Deepdene.[152] [153]

[150] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/US.htm
[151] Dorking in Wartime David Knight
[152] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[153] Dorking in Wartime David Knight

**1945 May 6: 33 die as transport plane hits a pylon at Hindhead:** An American plane carrying wounded from France hit a pylon at Gibbet Hill. A British airman on the ground was also killed.[154]

**1945 May 7:** Germany surrendered unconditionally. Twenty-two members of the Force including the Boroughs **lost their lives** and four were decorated for gallantry. Total killed in Surrey (including London Surrey) 5216 seriously injured and 8905 slightly hurt– civilians – 2,300[155]

**1939-1945 dates unknown – serious incidents taken from Day Books** [156]

- Hurricane fighter made a forced landing at Gatton Park, Merstham. Flight Sergeant Hallam 73 Squadron RAF Debden, Essex. Redhill dealing

- Junkers 88 crashed in a field NE of searchlight post at Danemore Lane, South Godstone. No trace of crew who are thought to be at large. Search being organised from Brickmaker's Arms. Message received from Mrs Bowles, Irwen House who has seen a man in overalls carrying a gun. She spoke to him but he did not understand and ran away across the fields.
- Spitfire crash: shot down Chelsham. Prop and undercarriage bent; Flight Lieutenant Courtley slight bruising. Taken back to Biggin Hill in a private car to rejoin operation.
- High explosive bombs hit Stockhurst farm, Dormansland one pig severely injured and one rabbit killed
- Flying bomb hit Burstow sewerage works, Smallfields. Blast damage to a shop window
- Hurricane fighter made forced landing at Fetcham Downs. Aircraft damaged but the pilot Flight Sergeant Horsborough of the Royal Australian Air Force was uninjured
- Hudson twin bomber crash-landed on Dorking By-pass on return from operations. The crew of four baled out safely and Flight Lieutenant Webb was slightly injured and taken to Dorking hospital. The by-pass was closed to traffic.
- British Typhoon fighter crashed and badly damaged at Byworth Estate, Farnham. Flight Lieutenant Bolton was injured and taken to Farnham hospital. Aircraft was returning from operations.
- American Liberator bomber crashed Trundley Heat Road, Shalford. The crew of 11 baled out at Selsey and all accounted for.
- Spitfire crashlanded Whitmore Common Worplesdon. Caught fire: Squadron leader Martindale uninjured
- Three (sic) American Dakotas crashed into Leith Hill 600 yards east of the tower. All of the Pathfinder Group returning from an operation. Two of the crew managed to bail out and were taken to Dorking General Hospital
- Troop glider force landing at Ramster Park, Chiddingfold without damage or injury. On route to France but a premature cast off of towline.

[154] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[155] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[156] Off Beat February 1978 page 2

- British propaganda leaflets printed in German were dropped in mass over Windlesham

**1945:** Norman Ratcliffe: On Thursday 23rd August, 1945 at about midday, an RAF Mosquito fitted with experimental equipment from the RAE was flying over the Hogs Back at about 17,000. Something went wrong and it dropped to 12000 feet and broke up. The plane hit the ground around Wanborough Manor Farm. The pilot was Fl. Lt Brooks and he was able to deploy his parachute and landed safely near Flexford Farm, Wanborough. His passenger was a scientific officer from the RAE, Mr Becker. He was killed and his body recovered in Greencut Copse, Wanborough. At the Inquest into the death of Mr Becker evidence was given that the flight was authorised and experimental elevator equipment was on board. No explanation was given as to why the aircraft broke up, not even by the pilot. PC Deacon of Puttenham gave evidence of finding the body. The cause of death was multiple injuries. The Inquest verdict was Accidental Death. [157]

At the same time as the crash an army lorry carrying Guardsmen from Pirbright was coming down from the Hogs Back. It was suggested the driver swerved to avoid the falling wreckage and lost control. The lorry hit the verge and turned over, killing 4 Guardsmen and serious injuring 4 more. At the Inquest it was said the lorry zigzagged for some distance before hitting the verge and turning over. The front passenger in the lorry said it was doing about 20 – 25 mph on a straight road, and when the driver braked it shot across the road and turned over. PC Nokes of Camberley said there were some broken areas near the verge otherwise it was a good road. No evidence seems to be given to connect the lorry as avoiding the plane.

**Comparative bombing casualties across the Surrey police forces areas – each incident required a police attendance, sometimes in numbers, followed by an investigation and detailed report[158]**

| Local Authority | Killed | Seriously injured | Slightly injured | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bagshot | 4 | 19 | 24 | 47 |
| Caterham and Warlingham | 34 | 15 | 232 | 281 |
| Chertsey | 19 | 36 | 48 | 103 |
| Dorking UD | 25 | 20 | 56 | 101 |
| Dorking and Horley Rural | 6 | 36 | 101 | 143 |
| Egham | 18 | 27 | 50 | 95 |
| Farnham | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Frimley and Camberley | 1 | 1 | 14 | 16 |
| Godalming | 0 | 2 | 17 | 19 |
| Godstone | 25 | 44 | 169 | 238 |

[157] Acknowledgements:- Guildford the War Years Graham Collyer and David Rose The History of the RAE
[158] www.tpyfdigitalarchive.org.uk/20/59/Guildford_At_War_2_The_Blitz_2b_V1_Bombs__Doodlebugs_.pdf

| Local Authority | Killed | Seriously injured | Slightly injured | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Guildford Rural | 13 | 25 | 65 | 103 |
| Guildford Borough | 5 | 10 | 63 | 78 |
| Hambledon | 13 | 51 | 64 | 128 |
| Haslemere | 1 | 10 | 12 | 23 |
| Leatherhead | 11 | 61 | 77 | 149 |
| Reigate | 50 | 80 | 81 | 211 |
| Walton and Weybridge | 120 | 233 | 372 | 725 |
| Woking | 2 | 0 | 52 | 54 |
| Total | 347 | 670 | 1499 | 2516 |
| East and west emergency area | 2300 | 5216 | 8905 | 16421 |

| Local Authority | Incidents | High explosive | Flying bombs | Rockets | Buildings destroyed | Buildings damaged |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bagshot | 42 | 190 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 16 |
| Caterham and Warlingham | 293 | 879 | 21 | 0 | 125 | 268 |
| Chertsey | 100 | 202 | 4 | 1 | 21 | 179 |
| Dorking UD | 123 | 267 | 19 | 0 | 15 | 65 |
| Dorking and Horley Rural | 266 | 578 | 49 | 0 | 29 | 83 |
| Egham | 49 | 45 | 2 | 1 | 28 | 87 |
| Farnham | 13 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 61 |
| Frimley and Camberley | 17 | 87 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| Godalming | 23 | 29 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 32 |
| Godstone | 684 | 1726 | 95 | 4 | 54 | 160 |
| Guildford Rural | 240 | 629 | 33 | 0 | 35 | 86 |
| Guildford Borough | 31 | 109 | 3 | 0 | 25 | 125 |
| Hambledon | 195 | 529 | 14 | 0 | 8 | 71 |
| Haslemere | 17 | 32 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 10 |
| Leatherhead | 91 | 594 | 16 | 1 | 71 | 282 |
| Reigate | 184 | 498 | 17 | 0 | 98 | 317 |
| Walton and Weybridge | 217 | 392 | 19 | 0 | 108 | 364 |
| Woking | 90 | 311 | 7 | 1 | 39 | 79 |

| Local Authority | Incidents | High explosive | Flying bombs | Rockets | Buildings destroyed | Buildings damaged |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 2675 | 7142 | 308 | 9 | 680 | 2286 |

**1945 Pay Scale B is abolished:** 'Scale B', the lower pay scale for post-1932 recruits, was abolished. Police pay was formally increased for the first time since 1919. [159]

**1945 August 27:** Upper Hale, **Farnham** Division **Murder** of Agnes Muriel Ellacott. George Ellacott, Muriel's husband and Dennis Nash were close friends. Over time the relationship between Muriel and Nash developed and they began an affair. The husband became suspicious and he asked his friend not to go to the house when he was not there. Nash visited Agnes at her home and was told to leave which did returning a few hours later. He tied a rope around her neck and tried to strangle her; then he slit her throat with a razor and before leaving the cottage, turned the gas taps on. As soon as the body was discovered and the police informed Nash was soon arrested tried and found to be insane.[160]

**1945 A report from the Special War Executive** for the administrative county of Surrey listed the following incidents – and as you read the numbers think every one was an incident that required a police response and the figures do not include the tens of thousands of incendiary bombs and resulting fires or damage.

| Event | County | Dorking Urban DC | Dorking and Horley RDC |
|---|---|---|---|
| Incidents | 6800 | 123 | 266 |
| HE Bombs | 13,335 | 267 | 578 |
| Flying Bombs V1 | 759 | 19 | 49 |
| Rocket Bombs V2 | 17 | | 1 |
| Persons killed | 1584 | 25 | 6 |
| Seriously wounded | 3616 | 20 | 36 |
| Slightly wounded | 6243 | 56 | 101 |
| Buildings demolished | 5603 | 15 | 29 |
| Badly damaged | | 65 | 83 |
| Slightly damaged | | 1512 | 2484 |

[159] http://www.polfed.org/aboutus/69DD9AB47F534348AD5D1415843163AA.asp Internet 19 Jan 2010
[160] "Foul Deeds and Suspicious Deaths in Guildford" Caroline Maxton Wharncliffe Books 2005 page 155

The Surrey County Council Special War Executive published an official report on bomb damage, covering the Surrey Constabulary area (this report cannot at present be located but extracts have been published elsewhere). The report split Surrey into two areas: Eastern which included pre1974 boroughs now in Greater London plus Epsom and Esher, and Western covering the remainder of Surrey but excluding Spelthorne which was then in Middlesex. [161]
The casualty figures for Surrey at 1945 were:

2,300 killed
5,216 seriously injured
8,905 slightly hurt

Total 16,421[162]

There does not appear to have been any deliberate bombing of towns in Surrey with very little damage to town centres. There was however a large number of bombs dropped in rural areas, 240 incidents in Guildford Rural District often without damage or casualties. This was probably due to aircraft dumping bombs in order to increase the chances of getting home. Farnham and Camberley escaped much bomb damage despite a number of military targets over the Hampshire border at Aldershot, Farnborough, Sandhurst and the airfields at Odiham and Hartford Bridge. The opening of Dunsfold airfield later in the war meant it was too late to receive much attention from the Luftwaffe.

**1939-1945:** The recorded incidents during World War II in the Borough of Reigate were[163]

| | |
|---|---|
| Civilians Killed | 50 |
| Civilians Injured | 161 |
| Houses totally destroyed | 115 |
| Houses damaged | 4189 |
| Air Raid Alerts | 893 |
| High explosive bombs | 496 |
| Oil bombs | 18 |
| Incendiary bombs | 5847 |
| Flying bombs (Doodlebugs) | 17 |
| Parachute mines (Both Fell on Merstham) | 2 |

For every incident a police response, for every response a report; for every fatal casualty a post mortem and report to the Coroner so it is clear that if all the other work associated with the war is included, these Borough men were extremely busy and probably frequently worked long difficult hours.

[161] http://www.exploringsurreyspast.org.uk/themes/subjects/military/bomb_damage/bombing_casualties
[162] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated
[163] Kevin Austen: http://www.merstham.co.uk/merstham/MersthamHistory.htm#Merstham at War ï¿½ World War II

**1945 Surry's first policewomen**

**Mr RC Nichols: retired inspector:** Inspector John Lucas is standing with WPCs Bell, Ball and Adams. Seated are WPC Mrs Gould the widow of a Surrey police officer, Woman Inspector Urquhart and Miss Avenall an auxiliary during the war then a special. Miss Urquart left the police service for the probation service and was succeeded by the late Woman Inspector Kathy Mackenzie formerly of the Lanarkshire and Kent Constabularies.[164]

**1945: Police vehicles:** The Force had 55 cars, 4 vans and 51 motorcycles.[165]

| Local Authority | Incidents | High explosive | Flying bombs | Rockets | Buildings destroyed | Buildings damaged |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bagshot** | 42 | 190 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 16 |
| **Caterham and** | 293 | 879 | 21 | 0 | 125 | 268 |

[164] Off Beat May 1976

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

| Local Authority | Incidents | High explosive | Flying bombs | Rockets | Buildings destroyed | Buildings damaged |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Warlingham** | | | | | | |
| **Chertsey** | 100 | 202 | 4 | 1 | 21 | 179 |
| **Dorking UD** | 123 | 267 | 19 | 0 | 15 | 65 |
| **Dorking and Horley Rural** | 266 | 578 | 49 | 0 | 29 | 83 |
| **Egham** | 49 | 45 | 2 | 1 | 28 | 87 |
| **Farnham** | 13 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 61 |
| **Frimley and Camberley** | 17 | 87 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| **Godalming** | 23 | 29 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 32 |
| **Godstone** | 684 | 1726 | 95 | 4 | 54 | 160 |
| **Guildford Rural** | 240 | 629 | 33 | 0 | 35 | 86 |
| **Guildford Borough** | 31 | 109 | 3 | 0 | 25 | 125 |
| **Hambledon** | 195 | 529 | 14 | 0 | 8 | 71 |
| **Haslemere** | 17 | 32 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 10 |
| **Leatherhead** | 91 | 594 | 16 | 1 | 71 | 282 |
| **Reigate** | 184 | 498 | 17 | 0 | 98 | 317 |
| **Walton and Weybridge** | 217 | 392 | 19 | 0 | 108 | 364 |
| **Woking** | 90 | 311 | 7 | 1 | 39 | 79 |
| **Total** | **2675** | **7142** | **308** | **9** | **680** | **2286** |

| Event | County |
|---|---|
| Incidents | 6800 |
| HE Bombs | 13,335 |
| Flying Bombs V1 | 759 |
| Rocket Bombs V2 | 17 |
| Persons killed | 1584 |
| Seriously wounded | 3616 |
| Slightly wounded | 6243 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Buildings demolished | 5603 |

**1945: Police forces, Surrey (amalgamation)** [166]

**Mr. Touche** asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will now revoke the wartime amalgamation of the Reigate Borough Police with the Surrey County Police.

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Ede)** The future of the Reigate Borough police force cannot be considered in isolation from that of other forces amalgamated under the emergency powers. This general question has been receiving the consideration of the Government; and I hope shortly to be a position to put my proposals before Parliament.
***Mr. Tauche*** Would the right hon. Gentleman agree that the amalgamations made under Defence Orders are based on wartime considerations, which have ceased to operate?
**Mr. Ede***:* The amalgamations made were under special powers granted during the war. The question of what is the suitable size for a police force is one that we shall submit to this House for their consideration in the new Bill.

**1945**[167]**: Total crime** Reigate Borough 498, detection 51.6%

| Year | Total crime | Year | Total crime | Year | Total crime | Year | Total crime | Year | Total crime | Year | Total crime |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1921 | 56 | 1922 | 56 | 1923 | 80 | 1924 | 85 | 1925 | 80 | 1926 | 114 |
| 1927 | 121 | 1928 | 165 | 1929 | 132 | 1930 | 131 | 1931 | 98 | 1932 | 103 |
| 1933 | 151 | 1934 | 235 | 1935 | 254 | 1936 | 231 | 1937 | 337 | 1938 | 330 |
| 1939 | 414 | 1940 | 426 | 1941 | 493 | 1942 | 434 | 1943 | 489 | 1944 | 579 |
| 1945 | 498 | | | | | | | | | | |

**1945: The Women's Auxiliary Police Corps (Reigate Borough)** of eleven was reduced to four by resignations at the end of the War.[168]

[166] http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/commons/1945/oct/11/police-forces-surrey-amalgamation House of Commons *HC Deb 11 October 1945 vol. 414 cc377-8*377
[167] SCC History Centre CC/98/22/8
[168] SCC History Centre CC/98/22/8