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www.surrey-constabulary.com

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PC Henry Freeland
Surrey Constabulary
1887-1920
Died aged 33, 25 July 1920
Served 5th Grenadier Guards
First World War

Additional research Jean and Henry Pelham and Robert Simonson

Henry was a member of the Surrey Constabulary before the First World War when he served in the Guards. He was called up in 1916 but his enlistment was deferred until 1918 when more and more men were sought for the army. He re-joined the police in May 1919 but died in July 1920 just over a year later. His death was caused by problems with his lungs but there are no indications that he served overseas and was therefore not subjected to gassing. He was attached to the RSDC part of the army but based in the UK for local defence. Was that possibly internal defence given the potential for civil unrest post war? Is that why police officers were finally called to the colours to serve at home? On leaving the army Henry signed that he had no disabilities due to his military service.

Freeland Henry PC137 born 1887 and was 26 in June 1912. Joined Surrey Constabulary 16 December 1912 Defaulter's Book entry 1647. Grenadier Guards No 32257. Enlisted October 1916 called up 22 April 1918 aged 31 years 9 months for the duration of the war. Opted for the Royal Garrison Artillery with no previous armed forces service. Posted to the 5 Grenadier Guards! They liked 5-foot 10-inch former police officers in the Guards. His mother Mary was shown as next of kin living at 37, North Road, Hersham. Henry was deemed by the Army to have been called for service 2 October 1916 but not called up until 22 April 1918 with the military demobilising him 22 May 1919 – 313 days service. This was not unusual for police

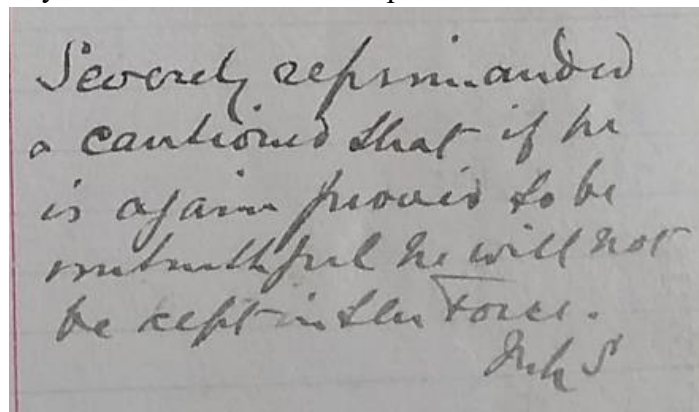
officers who had their call to the colours registered but they were not summoned until the manning crisis of 1918. On Reserve 22 May 1919.

On researching any links between Henry's early death and military service his records show he was an in-patient at Holborn Military Hospital, Mitcham - admitted 21 November 1918 and diagnosed with Scabies and discharged 30 November 1918 - no of days in hospital 10. ¹

When at Caterham 10 February 1919 to 15 February 1919 treated probably again for Scabies treatment recorded as baths, sulphur and an unintelligible word. He was cured and discharged to duty.

On the 8 May 1919, Henry ceased to be attached to RSDC and was based at based Caterham, Guards Depot² 18 February 1919 he re-joined Surrey Constabulary May 4, 1919, York Town. 1918 living in Camberley. Class Z Reserve May 1919. Died 25 July 1920. The army in an attempt to reduce false claims had soldiers sign as they were discharged signed that he had no disabilities due to his military service. (Record of Service papers)

Disciplined 1 April 1920 he was soon to die. He had been threatened with dismissal if he was again untruthful. Henry had missed a conference point and wrote an untruth in his journal.



Severely reprimanded
and cautioned that if he
is again proved to be
untruthful he will not
be kept in the force.
Jul 5

Seven years' service in the Surrey Constabulary was approved.

1920 31 July Surrey Advertiser: Death of PC Freeland- Funeral at Hersham: We regret to record the death of PC Henry Freeland, second son of the late JW Freeland and of Mrs Freeland, of North Road, Hersham, which took place at Trimmer's Cottage Hospital, Farnham on Sunday from pneumonia. Although the deceased had been ailing for some time, he had continued duty up to the weekend before last when he went on special duty at Sandown Park races and was taken ill on Monday week. He was 33 years of age and joined the Surrey County Constabulary in 1912. H was stationed in turn at Woking, Godalming, Yorktown and Heath End near Farnham and was very popular with his comrades. The greater part of the deceased's service

¹ <https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/army/regiments-and-corps/the-royal-defence-corps-of-1916-1918/>

² The RDC (Not RSDC) had been created "To carry out duties connected with the local defence of the United Kingdom, including those hitherto performed by the Supernumerary Territorial Force Companies, as well as those allotted to the Observer Companies now in process of formation."

was at Camberley. He joined the Army during the war and proceeded to France with the Grenadier Guards. On demobilisation he continued police duty at Camberley, being transferred May last to Heath End.

The funeral took place at Hersham on Thursday afternoon in the presence of a large gathering. The chief mourners were his mother, brother and sisters and his fiancée. The Surrey Constabulary was represented by Superintendent Galloway and Inspector Tamplin (Hersham), Sergeant Harris Hersham, Sergeant Pink Camberley, and 22 constables from Hersham, Farnham and Camberley districts. Sergeant Hewitt represented the Special Constabulary. Police walked in front of the coffin from North Road and the remains were carried by Constables, Hamblin, Abdey, Page, Bicknell, Smith, Currie, Long and Norris.

DEATH OF P.C. FREELAND.
FUNERAL AT HERSHAM.
 We regret to record the death of P.C. Henry Freeland, second son of the late Mr. J. W. Freeland and of Mrs. Freeland, of North-road, Hersham, which took place at Trimmer's Cottage Hospital, Farnham, on Sunday from pneumonia. Although deceased had been ailing for some time, he had continued duty up to the week-end before last, when he went on special duty at Sandown Park races, and was taken ill on Monday week. He was 33 years of age, and joined the Surrey County Constabulary in 1912. He was stationed in turn at Woking, Godalming, Yorktown, and Heath End, near Farnham, and was very popular with his comrades. The greater part of deceased's service was at Camberley. He joined the Army during the war, and proceeded to France with the Grenadier Guards. On demobilisation he resumed police duty at Camberley, being transferred in May last to Heath End.

The funeral took place at Hersham on Thursday afternoon in the presence of a large gathering. The chief mourners were the deceased's mother, Mr. J. W. Freeland (brother), the Misses R. C. and A. Freeland (sisters), and Miss A. M. Pearce, of Yorktown (deceased's fiancée). The Surrey Constabulary was represented by Supt. Galloway and Inspector Tamplin (Hersham), Sergt. Harris (Esher), Sergt. Pink (Camberley), and 22 constables from Hersham, Farnham, and Camberley districts. Sergt. Hewitt, of the Special Constabulary, attended on behalf of that arm of the force at Camberley. The police walked in front of the coffin from North-road, and the remains were carried by Constables Hamblin, Abdey, Page, Bicknell, Smith, Currie, Long, and Norris. The Vicar (Rev. E. P. Pellet) officiated, and at the graveside delivered a touching address, remarking that deceased was well known and respected in Hersham, and it was evident from that large assemblage that deceased had won the respect of those among whom he lived and worked. A large number of beautiful floral tributes were placed on the grave, including wreaths from the officers and men of the Hersham and Farnham Divisions, Camberley sub-division of Police, Camberley Working Men's Club, Camberley Special Constables, and the Hersham Comrades.

DEATH OF P.C. FREELAND.
 Many residents will learn with regret of the death of Police-Constable Freeland, which took place at the Farnham Hospital on Sunday evening. He served with the Surrey Constabulary for eight years, the majority of which he did at Camberley. He served with the Foot Guards in France, and after demobilization resumed duties at Camberley, where he was stationed until a few weeks ago, when he was transferred to Heath End. He had been ailing for some time, though not seriously, until last week, when he contracted double pneumonia and pleurisy. The funeral took place at Hersham yesterday (Thursday) every mark of respect being shown.

Aldershot News 30 July 1920

SURREY CONSTABULARY

Henry Grekland

AGE *26* Years in *June* 1912 HEIGHT *5 feet 10* inches. COMPLEXION *Fresh* HAIR *Dark Brown*

EYES *Dark Brown* MARKS *None*

BORN in the Parish of *Herstmonchux* in the County of *Surrey*

TRADE *File* LAST RESIDENCE *57 North Rd. Herstmonchux*

BY WHOM LAST EMPLOYED AND WHERE *Messrs Faulkner & Sons Herstmonchux*

WHAT RELATIVES RESIDING IN SURREY, AND WHERE *Parents at Herstmonchux Cousins at Caterham*

PREVIOUS PUBLIC SERVICE *None*

LENGTH OF SERVICE _____

DATE OF APPOINTMENT *16th Dec 1912*

WHEN SWORN IN AND WHERE *20th Dec 1912, at Guildford* No. ON COLLAR *137*

BEFORE WHAT MAGISTRATES *Col Ricardo & Sir G. F. Bonham*

WHERE FIRST STATIONED *Woking*

	Date.	From	To
PROMOTIONS.	<i>Jan 1/14</i>	<i>3rd Class Constable</i>	<i>2nd Class Constable</i>
	<i>Jan 1/18</i>	<i>2nd do</i>	<i>1st do</i>
	<i>14 June '13</i>	<i>Woking</i>	<i>Barnherley (Yorkshire)</i>
	<i>3rd May 1920</i>	<i>York Town</i>	<i>Heath End</i>

CAUSE AND DATE OF REMOVAL FROM THE FORCE *Died, 25th July, 1920*

CONDUCT DURING SERVICE _____

DATE OF PARCHMENT CERTIFICATE _____

No. of Appointment, 1647

REMARKS.

Date.	REMARKS.
1918 Apr	Joined the army for the duration of the war
1919 May 11 th	Rejoined this force

Date.	Nature of Offence.	Punishment.
1914 Sept	Missing his duty through oversleeping	Admonished & cautioned
Oct	Missing his duty through oversleeping	Admonished & cautioned
1920 April 1 st	Missing his last conference point & telling a lie in his journal	Secretly reprimanded & cautioned that if he is again proved to be untruthful he will not be kept in the force. J.H.S.

Secretly reprimanded & cautioned that if he is again proved to be untruthful he will not be kept in the force.
J.H.S.

COMPLETED 7 YEARS, APPROVED SERVICE.
AMOUNT OF PAY ON RETIREMENT £ AVERAGE FOR LAST THREE YEARS £
PENSION @ £ OR GRATUITY £ GRANTED.