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**John Over QPM CPM
PC Metropolitan Police G Division
PC-Assistant Chief Constable Surrey Constabulary
Deputy Chief Constable Dorset
Chief Constable Gwent 1981-1994
Died August 2022 Bath**



Bob Bartlett: I believe I first met John Over when he was a Traffic sergeant at Burpham and later, he was my inspector at Dorking where I have memories of him both on the ground and at a public meeting about the problems with Traffic at Capel. One incident was on a Sunday afternoon when a gun was produced at a christening and along with Colin Heighten we stopped the suspect vehicle and all hell broke loose! He came to the scene along with lots of police (including Harry Sales on a motorcycle with a shotgun on his back – don't ask) and gripped the response. My wife and I (before we were married) acted as babysitters for Dawn, who became a doctor and put a tetanus jab in my backside after an injury on duty! Later when at Cranleigh as a rural sergeant, I was first on the scene at a plane crash off the A281 at Dunsfold.

By then he was assistant chief constable and he took charge at the scene. I remember him arriving and a luckless inspector having to answer some hard questions about deployment and aims etc. He was a tall, well-built man, looked the part and was good at, being a police officer. He became head of ACPO Traffic when chief constable at Gwent and in those years, I met him several times. He was always friendly and welcoming with a fondness for the Surrey Constabulary and its members. An evening in the bar at Gwent HQ with the male voice choir was memorable. He led a full life and I believe he and June moved to Bath in the later years of to be near their daughter Dawn.

Born Woking attended Woking Grammar School

Served as a Royal Marine Commando before service with the Metropolitan Police

Dr Peter Kennison Metropolitan Police Historian – son of the late Frank Kennison: On a personal level John and June came to my wedding (1974) and also that of my sister Linda (1975). The Overs lived in Burnett Avenue Burpham when we were there from 1960 -1965. We visited them often in Dorking.

Metropolitan Police records: John E. Over wt. no. 136897 joined the Metropolitan Police on 8th May 1951 as Constable 248 Training School (TS). On leaving the Training School 14th August he became PC 144 G division - G Division then comprised of City Road, Islington, Old Street and Commercial Street. On 22nd September 1957 he transferred to the Surrey Constabulary.

1957-59 Beat Constable, CID four years the Traffic Sergeant then attached New Scotland Yard on detective duties.

50/60s: John Over was at Camberley in the late 50s/early 60s. His collar number was 20 and he lived in a Police House in Caesars Camp Road on the edge of the Old Dean Estate. He had transferred from the Met. At Camberley he was firstly in uniform and then went on CID.

1965 uniform inspector including Dorking, then detective inspector, chief inspector Godstone Traffic, superintendent Christmas day 1969, deputy Dorking division. Chief superintendent Dorking aged 40.

New No 2 at Dorking police station

CHIEF Inspector John Edwin Over, from Addlestone, is to replace Superintendent Arthur Smith at Dorking police station, it was announced last week. Superintendent Over will be second in command of the town's division.

Transferred

Thirty-nine years of age and married with one daughter, Mr Over joined the Metropolitan Police in 1951, and transferred to the Surrey Constabulary in 1957. He served at Camberley and was appointed to the CID in 1959. He was promoted sergeant in 1963 in the Traffic Branch.

In July 1964 he returned to CID and was appointed to a department at Scotland Yard. Four years ago he was promoted uniform Inspector at Dorking, and then left for Oxted as Detective Inspector. After promotion to Chief Inspector in charge of the Traffic Department,



Superintendent J. E. Over

String fuse on bomb threatened Lady Beaverbrook's life

By T. A. SANDROCK, Crime Correspondent

A BOMB planted on Lady Beaverbrook's car might have exploded at any time during a 30-mile shopping trip she made to London, police said yesterday. The gun-powder packed device attached to the exhaust may have been there for up to 10 days.

The device was discovered on Monday by Mr M. Wieslaw Schneider, Lady Beaverbrook's chauffeur who heard a rattling under the car.

He was returning alone to Lady Beaverbrook's home, Cherkley Court, near Leatherhead, Surrey, after taking her to London.

Major Donald Henderson, a Home Office explosives expert attached to Scotland Yard said that the bomb had been rigged so that heat from the exhaust would burn through string to trigger it off. It was a metal cylinder 6½ in. long placed behind the silencer near the petrol tank.

Unusual explosive

The gunpowder packing is unusual and may assist police to trace the origin of the explosive.

Major Henderson said the bomb could have exploded only when the car was moving. "Any explosion could have involved

following traffic and added to the danger.

"There is no doubt that had it gone off, the petrol tank would have been affected and there would have been a serious fire."

Det. Chief Insp Philip Doyle, head of Dorking CID said: "The bomb could have been on the car for anything up to ten days. Lady Beaverbrook was undoubtedly endangered during yesterday's shopping trip."

Police said there was no apparent motive. The bomb was "nothing sophisticated" and its detonator was worked by a battery.

Extremist group

One theory being considered is that an extremist group chose the car because it belonged to the widow of Lord Beaverbrook, proprietor of the Daily Express, believing this would result in extensive publicity.

Detectives believe that if the bomb had gone off, someone would have claimed responsibility. Another theory is that the bomb was the work of a per-

son with a grudge against the Daily Express.

Inquiries are being led by Det. Chief Supt John Placc, head of Surrey CID, from Dorking Police Station.

He said: "The bomb was well constructed. It would have taken only two or three minutes to fix on to the car."

"One can't see a reason why Lady Beaverbrook's car was singled out. It may have been intended for someone else."

Detectives are to make inquiries in areas where the Vauxhall Victor Estate car was parked during the last 10 days. A guard has been placed on Lady Beaverbrook's estate.

Daily Telegraph
5th May 1971

Daily Telegraph 5 May 1971; DS Hopkins SOCO, Detective Chief Superintendent Placc, Superintendent Over, Detective Chief Inspector Doyle, Police Sergeant Blason



Dorking detectives examining Lady Beaverbrook's car yesterday after her chauffeur had found a gunpowder bomb fixed behind the silencer.

1973



OFFICERS WHO RECEIVED THE LONG SERVICE MEDAL RECENTLY AT HEADQUARTERS: Reginald Alway, Sergeant Gordon Smith, Chief Superintendent John Over, Inspector Frederick Drake, Sergeant Ken Durrant and Inspector Russell Kingsford-Curram.

—Photo by Charlie Dobinson.

1973

JOHN GLADWELL WINS BOWLS TROPHY!

The Force Bowls Championship was won this year by Detective Chief Inspector John Gladwell of Reigate.

The finals of the championship were held recently at Headquarters.

The semi-finals were between PC Doward and PS Dobson - 21-19 C/Insp Gladwell and PS Findlay - 22-9.

So the final was between John Gladwell, and John Doward the

score at the close of the game being 21 shots to 11.

John Gladwell has been playing bowls since 1960, and last year both he and John Doward were members of the rinks team who won the Regional police championship.

In the photo John Gladwell (left) receives the winners trophy from Mr. John Over



1973

MR. OVER APPOINTED ASSISTANT CHIEF CONSTABLE



25 July 1974

Mr John Over has been appointed Assistant Chief Constable. His appointment took effect from the 25th July 1974.

Mr. Over, at 43 years of age, is a married man and at present resides at Dorking with his wife June and their 17½ year old daughter Dawn.

He was born in Woking and was educated at Woking Grammar School. He served with the Royal Marines before joining the Metropolitan Police in 1951, where he served as a Constable in the East End of London.

In 1957 he transferred as a Constable to the Surrey Constabulary and served for two years as a Beat Constable. After serving for 4 years with the C.I.D. he was promoted to Sergeant with Traffic Department. He then returned to detective duties being

attached to New Scotland Yard for a short period, before being promoted uniform Inspector in 1965, then to Detective Inspector before his promotion to Chief Inspector an Officer in charge of Godstone Traffic Centre. He then gained administrative experience as Chief Inspector before being promoted Superintendent on Christmas Day 1969. As Superintendent he was first Deputy to the officer in charge of Dorking Division – taking charge of that Division on his promotion to Chief Superintendent at the age of 40.

Since the first of April this year he has been Acting Assistant Chief Constable (Administration) for the force.

Among his many interests he enjoys gardening, and plays golf very badly, he says!



Chief Constable
Mr. Peter J. Matthews,
O.B.E., Q.P.M.



Criminal Investigation Department
Det. Chief Supt.
Walter Simmons



Deputy:
Supt.
Ronald Underwood



Traffic Department
Chief Supt.
Gerald Atfield



Deputy:
Supt.
Victor Drummond



Assistant Chief Constable
—Administration
Mr. John Over



Research and Planning
Supt.
Alan Hill



Assistant Chief Constable
—Operations
Mr. Christopher Rowe



Personnel and Training
Supt.
Anthony Kirton



Complaints Department
Supt.
Christopher Atkins



Operations Department
Supt.
David Eades



Deputy:
Supt.
Albert Tobin



Administration (Headquarters)
Chief Supt.
Spencer Neville



Public Relations Officer
Insp.
Vincent McFadden



Welfare Officer
Mr. Ronald Hagley, M.B.E.

SURREY CONSTABULARY

Mount Browne
Sandy Lane
Guildford
Surrey
Guildford (0483) 71212

The Surrey Constabulary was founded on 1 January 1851. Captain H. C. Hastings was appointed Chief Constable. His original Force consisted of 70 men—including five Superintendents.

In 1946 by virtue of the Police Act of that year temporary war-time amalgamations of the Surrey Constabulary with the Guildford and Reigate Borough Forces were made permanent on 1 April 1947.

As part of a policy of modernisation and expansion of the Force, Police Headquarters on 23 September 1949 moved to Mount Browne, Guildford, the position it now occupies. The red-bricked many-chimneyed building which forms the centre of the Headquarters complex was built in about 1890 by the 3rd Marquis of Sligo. The building together with 37 acres of woodland and garden was purchased for £17,000. Since those early years the complex has been extended and renovated on a large scale.

The Force which polices an area of 366,915 acres with a population of 736,180 and a rateable value of £42,442,783 is divided into six divisions. The authorised strength at the present time stands at 1,438 (1,364 male and 74 female officers).



Women Police
Supt. Peggy Sandford, LL.B.



Deputy:
W. Insp.
Jenny Fuller

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT VISIT MOUNT BROWNE



Quite recently the Surrey Constabulary were hosts to a party of members of parliament from Baden-Wuerttemberg, Stuttgart, West Germany, who spent a day at Mount Browne, studying the work of the British Police.

As a memento of their visit and as a token of their appreciation they presented the Chief Constable with a book illustrating the Parliament Buildings at Stuttgart.

Our picture shows the group with some members of the Force.

1975



(Left to right) – Police Constables, Whicher, Coles, Dickson and Laker showing their awards to the Chief Constable Mr. Peter J. Matthews. (centre). Far right – Mr. John Over.



1976 Assistant Chief Constable Over with Superintendent Dave Stewart

It is believed Mr. Over worked overseas, probably Hong Kong before being appointed Deputy Chief Constable Dorset. Awarded Colonial Police Medal

1976 Deputy Chief Constable Dorset

1981-1994 Chief Constable, Gwent

1988 John Over, Chief Constable of Gwent and chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers' traffic committee, said such evidence would not be acceptable in British courts — but predicted that it would become so.



Mr. John Over, C.P.M., Chief Constable of Gwent. Formerly Assistant Chief Constable.

1982

SURREY CONSTABULARY OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Mount Browne on Tuesday, 9th June, 1976.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.
2. The names of new members were announced.
3. Apologies for absence were read out.
4. The minutes of the last meeting were signed as a true record. Nothing arose therefrom.
5. The Hon. Secretary and Treasurer presented the Balance Sheet, which was then adopted.
6. Reports were made from Divisional Representatives as follows:
 "A" Divn. - Mr. Browning has been in ill health and cannot continue to act as Divn. Rep. Mr. Baywell kindly volunteered to act in this capacity.
 "E" Divn. - Mr. Crowhurst had nothing to report.
 "C" Divn. - Mr. Reale reported having seen Mr. Motherdale in Norfolk. He had also visited H. Becher and Mr. Ryder, both now much better. He had seen Messrs. Shippard, Stodwick and G. Cox. He

had also heard from Es. PC. Cotter, now resident in California.
 "D" Divn. - Mr. Redpath had nothing to report.
 "F" Divn. - Mr. Maswell had done his rounds and seen most of his members. Two were recovering from heart attacks, G. Bidwell and D. Bains. He had seen Mr. Bernald who was keeping cheerful but not very mobile.
 "G" Divn. - Mr. Gosling reported he had heard from Johnnie Lucas and had also heard from the daughter of Es. P.S. Bright.
 "H" Divn. - Mr. Hagley reported the death of Es. P.S. Farnhead.

7. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**
 All officers were re-elected "En Bloq". The Hon. Sec. and Treasurer G. F. Ball announced his future migration as he would be leaving Mount Browne in September, having reached 65 years of age. He did not think he could do the job properly from his home address. The President asked members to find a successor. Mr. Hobart, the new AC/Opd, was appointed a Vice-President. A vote of thanks was then passed to Mr. Ball for his work as Hon. Sec. and Treasurer since 1963.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
 The President gave details of Force Family Day on 31st July 1976, and Open Days at Mount Browne on 7th and 8th August, 1976. A discussion on the financial state of the Association followed and it was proposed and carried unanimously, that members pay 50 pence towards the cost of Luncheons and Teas.

The President gave details of grants from the Welfare Fund, over £2,000 to widows and others. He also announced the excellent result of Fashion Division's efforts for the Welfare and Choir Funds, raising over £500.

9. There being no other business, the President declared the meeting closed. The next meeting would be on a Tuesday in June, 1977.

LUNCHEON, BOWLS MATCH AND SALAD TEA

Eighty-five members and guests sat down to an excellent luncheon. Mr. G. Hector replied to the Toast, The Association. The Bowls Match of 6 rinks started shortly after 3 p.m., Ranks and results as follows:

- RINK 1.
 Regulars 19 - Wright, Hanks, Woodman, Gladwell.
 v
 Old Comrades 19 - Methon, Stood, Meredith, Mitchell.
- RINK 2.
 Regulars 17 - Coppard, Resper, Waite, Curtis.
 v
 Old Comrades 26 - White, Munter, Crowhurst, A., Walker.
- RINK 3.
 Regulars 33 - Dobson, Harding, Knight, Howard.
 v
 Old Comrades 11 - Ballard, B. Hill, Jesty, Bonnell.
- RINK 4.
 Regulars 14 - Langridge, Robbans, Wright, Cooper.
 v
 Old Comrades 21 - Boshier, Crowhurst, S., Dalves, Barwell.
- RINK 5.
 Regulars 21 - Collett, Matthews, Carty, Kirton.
 v
 Old Comrades 25 - Berry, Ballard, H., Redpath, Sizer.
- RINK 6.
 Regulars 25 - Fletcher, Shanks, Bray, Lewis.
 v
 Old Comrades 15 - Warner, Oliver, Shoochridge, Langridge.
- RESULT: Total Regulars 129 - Old Comrades 119.

Mr. Kenward-Dobson kindly arranged for the Hon. Sec. to supply a round of ale for the bowlers and spectators, this was very much appreciated in view of the very warm weather. After the match 77 players and spectators sat down to an excellent salad tea. Prizes were awarded to the winning rink of the Regulars, Dobson, Harding, Knight, Howard. The runners-up were Old Comrades Rink 2. White, Munter, Crowhurst, A., and Walker. The cup was presented to the captain of the Regulars, Chief Inspector Gladwell, by Mrs. Gladys Kenward-Dobson, who also gave a bottle of champagne for the winners and a bottle of whiskey to the runners-up. A surprise was in store for the Hon. Sec. Mr. Ball who was presented with a half bottle of whiskey by Mrs. Kenward-Dobson. The President asked that a vote of thanks be passed to the Hon. Sec. for all his efforts to make it a successful day, even to laying on the lovely weather. He also asked for thanks to be passed to the Caterer and his staff for helping to make the Reunion a great success.

GEORGE BALL



Old Comrades at Headquarters - 1976 Annual General Meeting.

Sport (Cont'd) ★★★★★

MOTOR CYCLE CLUB