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# Detective Inspector Lewis Geoffrey Roberts

## Surrey Constabulary

Born 5 March 1909 – March 1964

Brother of Detective Superintendent Tom Roberts

“He lived for the police. He was a policeman for 24 hours of the day.”

Assisted by, Jennie Tuffs former Surrey Constabulary, Chris Roberts, nephew, mail to Robert Bartlett from nephew, Tom Roberts biography, “Friends and Villains’ Tom Roberts Hodder and Stoughton, Surrey History Centre ref. 9152/1/2/1/4 with thanks to Robert Simonson

Lewis Geoffrey Roberts was born 5<sup>th</sup> March 1907 at Dummer near Basingstoke, his parents were Kingsley and Ada (nee Woollard) Roberts

1911 Census the family were living at Dummer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Kingsley Roberts	Head	39	Married						Domestic Gardener		Woker	Surrey, Bletby	
Ada Roberts	Wife	39	Married 10	5	5	0			School			Suffolk, Barking	
Kingsley Roberts	Son	2										Hants. Dummer	
Frances Ada Roberts	Daughter	7										Hants. Dummer	
Thomas Allen Roberts	Son	5										Hants. Dummer	
Lewis Geoffrey Roberts	Son	4										Hants. Dummer	
Clara Alice Roberts	Daughter	2										Hants. Dummer	

1921 Census for Dummer nr Basingstoke lists Lewis G Roberts as aged 24 years working at Manor Farm Dummer for Sir R Rycroft Bart, doing dairy work

Kingsley Roberts	Head	49	10	Married	Sussex Beckley		Gardener, domestic	Private	4/60	Dummer House Basingstoke 2276-67
Ada Roberts	Wife	49	4	Married	Suffolk Blacking Hants		Home duties			
Thomas A Roberts	Son	15	11	No single	Dummer Hants		under gardener	Private	4/60	Dummer House Basingstoke
Lewis G Roberts	Son	14	2	Both Alice	Dummer		dairy work	Sir R Ryecroft - Bart	0/10	Manor Farm Dummer
Clara E. Roberts	Daughter	12	8	Both Alice	Hants Dummer	whole time				

1929 Electoral Register for Up Street Dummer lists Kingsley, Ada, Kingsley and Lewis Geoffrey Roberts

1929 4<sup>th</sup> August Lewis Geoffrey Roberts joined the Surrey Constabulary following in the footsteps of his elder brother Tom.

**Tom's brother Detective Inspector Lewis Roberts Surrey Constabulary<sup>7</sup>**



**Tom and Lewis about 1929**

**SURREY CONSTABULARY**

**Lewis Geoffrey ROBERTS.**

AGE 22 Years in 5<sup>th</sup> March 1929 HEIGHT 5 feet 9<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches. COMPLEXION Fair HAIR Dark

EYES Grey MARKS 5.3.07<sup>th</sup> head

BORN in the Parish of Dummer in the County of Hampshire

TRADE Cavalry LAST RESIDENCE Joy Cottage, Dummer

BY WHOM LAST EMPLOYED AND WHERE H. Ryecroft, Dummer House

WHAT RELATIVES RESIDING IN SURREY, AND WHERE Parents at Basingstoke, Brothers in the  
Relatives at Egham & Reigate Dover

PREVIOUS PUBLIC SERVICE None

LENGTH OF SERVICE /

DATE OF APPOINTMENT 4<sup>th</sup> August, 1929. No. ON COLLAR 4576

WHEN SWORN IN AND WHERE 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 1929. Guildford

BEFORE WHAT MAGISTRATES Sd R Richards Esq + J. S. Badler Esq

WHERE FIRST STATIONED Horsley (reservist)

**PC4 and Police Sergeant 16 Appointed 4 August 1929**

PROMOTIONS	Date	From	To
	Feb 1939 Jan 1950	Constable Sergeant	Sergeant Inspector (Constable)
	Apr 1-1931 6.3.1933 2.1.1950	Guildford (Horsley 22.0) Leatherhead Woking	Leatherhead (Horsley 22.0) Woking Woking

**1950 appointed inspector Woking**

CAUSE AND DATE OF REMOVAL FROM THE FORCE: Pensioned on completion of service 31.8.62  
 CONDUCT DURING SERVICE: Exemplary  
 DATE OF PARCHMENT CERTIFICATE: 19th September 1962

**Retired September 1962 - Died 18 March 1964**

Maries Margaret Joan DERRIMAN at Woking 30.7.47  
 F. Margaret Clare Lt. 24.4.54  
 No. of Appointment, 1976

REMARKS.  
 Married on 18th June 1947.  
 Motor cycle patrol duty.  
 Passed third exam. in First Aid - St John's Ambulance.  
 Commended in 2nd Class for performance in enquiries which led to apprehension of two food thieves. On  
 Completed six months' course as learner detective on 6th Sept 1933  
 Cf. minutes report as "V. Latic factory. likely to prove an efficient detective officer"  
 Examination for promotion to Sergeant failed  
 but at examination for promotion to Sergeant - Passed  
 Passed Official Anti-Gas Course



Passed Official Anti-Gas Course  
 1937 Commended in 2nd Class (with Lt. Hoake) for ingenuity and patience displayed in case against R.F. Crofts - however, Lt. Hoake, 216-2, 8th.  
 1938 Commended in 2nd Class (with Lt. Tenn) by C.C. for skill and attention to duty displayed in arrest of W. J. Bradley for Gainsford Road Police  
 1939 Passed C.I.D. course of instruction and Police College London  
 1942 Sat for Examination for Inspector and Passed Police Rules only  
 11-12 June 1943 Sat for Examination for Inspector and Failed  
 16/10/43 Commended (with Lt. Wainman) by C.C. in 2nd class for "a first class display of determination and persistence & a credit to the force" in the crimes during Dns 156, 385 & 443 of 1943 W.  
 21-24 June 1944 Sat for Examination for Inspector and Failed  
 22-23 June 1945 Sat for Examination for Inspector and Failed  
 2-2-46 Defence Medal.  
 5th July 1946 Sat for Examination for Inspector and Passed  
 GAVE NOTICE OF WISH TO PAY PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS AT THE Higher RATE.  
 31-3-49 Commended by Chairman of Special Mag. for alertness & efficiency in case of Dunscombe Green, Tuckers Lane - (found on unpaired premises for unlawful purpose)  
 6-7-49 ACCEPTED AVERAGING FOR PENSION. Police Pension's Regs 1949.  
 Police Long Service & Good Conduct Award

Date	Nature of Offence.	Punishment.
1-5-56	Pres. cons. 6490 less 20 ppts. Pension reduced by 340.	P.P. Regs. 1956.

DIED 18/3/64

COMPLETED 33 YEARS, APPROVED SERVICE.  
 AMOUNT OF PAY ON RETIREMENT £ 1170-0-0  
 AVERAGE FOR LAST THREE YEARS £ 1170-0-0  
 LESS 37% £ 23-8-0 & commutation of PENSION @ 40/100th £ 780-0-0 OR GRATUITY £ 1547.8.7. net pen sum £ 2612.0.0p. See 2/10/62  
 £130 is produce a lump sum of



**Tom and PC 4 Lewis Roberts - brothers both in the Surrey Constabulary** <sup>8</sup>

**1930 Electoral Register** for Three Beeches Green Dene East Horsley lists Lewis Geoffrey Roberts

**In February 1932** Police Constable Albert William Harrison of the Surrey Constabulary was killed whilst cycling at Lowfield Heath in the company of Police Sergeant Ewington. A London General Country Services omnibus approached them from the rear and came into collision with the constable's bicycle, he was caught under the bus and when removed found to be dead. At the full inquest PC Lewis Roberts, Leatherhead deposed to drawing a plan of the road. He said, "At the scene of the impact, the road was 30ft 6in, there was no obstruction in the road and nothing to cause a vehicle to pull out"

**1935 Electoral Register** for 19 Myrtle Road Dorking lists Lewis Geoffrey Roberts living with Annie Elizabeth Still and Reginald James Warren.

**1939 Register** for 2 Myrtle Road Dorking lists Lewis Geoffrey Roberts born 5<sup>th</sup> March 1907, single, Detective Sergeant, Surrey Constabulary living with a Charles and Sarah Realf

**1940 Surrey Mirror 23<sup>rd</sup> February: Injured police sergeant** - Charged with maliciously wounding and causing grievous bodily harm to Police Sergeant Frederick Skinner of the Surrey Constabulary, with intent to resist arrest, Frederick Manzi (36), a cook., of 20 Barbell Street SW 1 was remanded at Dorking Police Court on Monday. The offence was alleged to have been committed at Chipstead on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Det-Sgt Roberts said that at 12.30pm accompanied by Inspector Collis he saw Manzi in Westminster Bridge Road, London and told him he was a police officer from Dorking making enquiries respecting a case of alleged housebreaking and assault on a police sergeant. He also told Manzi he answered the description of a man alleged to have assaulted the police sergeant and that he was going to take him to Dorking Police Station where he would be up for identification. Manzi replied "I was not there; I was down at Wimbledon at the dogs. I am innocent". At 3.30pm on Sunday manzi was cautioned by Inspector Collis and replied, "I know nothing at all about it". He was remanded in custody until Monday February 26<sup>th</sup> In April 1940 Manzi was later sentenced to three years penal servitude

**1947 30<sup>th</sup> July** Lewis Geoffrey Roberts married Margaret Joan Derriman at Dorking

**1959 Aldershot News 4<sup>th</sup> September** - Ewshot man faces 61 charges- Edward Hillyer Easter (51), car salesman of Appletree Cottage, Ewshot made a formal appearance before Woking Magistrates on Tuesday- Det Insp L Roberts said Easter had been arrested the previous evening and charged with 24 cases of larceny of cars and 37 cases of falsification of accounts. The offences alleged to have occurred between the latter part of 1957 and the early months of 1958 when Esther was employed as a car salesman by Clarkes of Pirbright. Det Insp Roberts, asking for a remand until October 12<sup>th</sup> said there was no objection to bail. "I shall ask for a substantial surety of nearly £12,000" he stated. There were two sureties in court prepared to stand bail and they were suitable to the police. Easter said he would like to apply for bail and also legal aid. "Are you in a position to find a £500 surety asked Lord Swaythling, the chairman. "Yes" replied Esather. Ordering a remand until October 12<sup>th</sup> the Bench granted bail in Esther's own recognisance of £500 with two other sureties of £500 each. His application for legal aid would not be granted that day said the chairman but forms could be obtained from the Clerk of the Court.

**1960 January 16 Surrey Advertiser:** Intruder disturbed- Returning to her home, Highlands Lower Guildford Road Knaphill on Monday, Mrs M H Shapland disturbed a man who was in the house stated Det Insp L Roberts at Woking court on Tuesday. The police were notified and subsequently James William Murray, aged 43 of 212 Walton Road Woking was arrested. He appeared on a charge of entering Highlands and stealing a bottle of brandy, a cheque book, ring and other items valued at £5, he was remanded in custody until January 21<sup>st</sup>.

**1960 February 13: Surrey Advertiser:** Prisoner escapes- James William Murray ,43, a labourer of Walton Road Woking who had been committed for trial on a charge of breaking into a house at Brookwood escaped from custody at Surrey Quarter Sessions, County Hall, Kingston on Tuesday. He had applied for a dock brief and then went below to the cells where he was interviewed by his counsel, Mr Ambrose Crawley. Shortly afterwards he was missing and yesterday he had still not been recaptured.

**1960 January 16 Surrey Advertiser:** Two remanded in custody- Bail was refused by Woking Magistrates to Peter Matthews (20), labourer of 171 Rydens Way Old Woking and Brian Marcel John King (19, labourer of 28 Engliffe Lane Pyrford who appeared on remand charged with breaking and entering Drew's Furniture Mart, Chertsey Road Woking with intent to commit a felony on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Det Insp L Roberts said that other charges would be preferred and some scientific evidence had to be prepared. The men were remanded in custody for a week.

**1960 February 22 Daily News (London):** James William Murray who escaped from the cells at Kingston on February 9<sup>th</sup> was arrested yesterday in Balham London. He appeared at Quarter Sessions on 26<sup>TH</sup> February and was sentenced to 12months imprisonment.

**1960 March 5 Surrey Advertiser:** Coalmen stole some extra bags- A coal lorry driver and his mate admitted at Woking Court that they loaded two extra bags of coal at the yard and sold them for 10s each on their round. They were David Robert Dalrymple (31), driver of 8 Robins Way Hersham and Keith Reginald Thomas Fish (22), driver's mate of 44 Gloster Road Old Woking. Det Insp L Roberts said the men worked for Charrington, Gardner and Locket (London) Ltd and on the morning of February 13<sup>th</sup> they loaded the lorry at the Woking depot and when they were in Old Woking sold the extra two bags. The men had made statements admitting the offence and asked for three similar cases to be taken into consideration These involved a value of £4 10s. The men were fined £10 each and ordered to pay 11s 3d each restitution.

**1960 March 19: Surrey Advertiser:** Post office thefts are alleged- At 5.30am on Sunday PS Bryant stopped and questioned a man on the canal bank at Woking stated Det Insp L Roberts at Woking court on Monday. The man William Robert Gummer (29), no fixed address was charged with breaking into St John's Post Office on Sunday and stealing 160 cigarettes, a torch, purse, knife, truncheon, three money bags and £24 9s 4and half pence in cash. Charges were to be preferred said Insp Roberts, and Gummer was remanded in custody until Thursday when he again remanded for a week.

**1960 June 4: Surrey Advertiser:** Received 24 stolen cars- Cyril Bristow (52) motor trader of 134 Green Dragon Lane, Winchmore Hill London appeared at Woking magistrates court on 24 charges which alleged he received stolen cars from Edward Hillyer Easter. Det Insp L Roberts applied for a remand and no objection was raised to bail , Bristow was released in his own recognisances of £100 and two other sureties of £500 until 13<sup>th</sup> June.

**1960 October 7 Aldershot News:** NAAFI cash spent on trips abroad- After robbing the NAFFI by whom he was employed as a manager of £360, Samuel David Charman (24) of Pilgrim's Way, Birchwood Caravan site, Ash Vale spent most of it on air trips to France, Italy sand the United States, he admitted at Woking Magistrates Court. Charman pleaded guilty to stealing

£100 on September 15<sup>th</sup> and £260 on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Det Insp L Roberts said Charman was manager of the NAFFI store at the Guards, Camp Pirbright. After taking the money he went to London Airport and then by air to France, Italy and the United States. After being refused permission to enter the United States he returned to this country and on the morning of September 23<sup>rd</sup> walked into Woking Police Station and gave himself up. After hearing the case, Charman was sentenced to three months imprisonment on the charge of stealing £100 and six months for stealing £260 to run consecutively.

**1961 January 17: Birmingham Daily Post:** Boy accused of attack on woman- A woman cycling across Horsell Common, Woking on Friday evening was knocked off her bicycle by 15yr old boy, struck in several places, had her clothing stripped of and was robbed, Det Insp L Roberts told magistrates at Woking yesterday. The boy was charged with robbing Mrs Eileen Steadman aged 39 of Shores farm Woking with violence and stealing her wristwatch, handbag, wallet and money to the value of £24. He was remanded to the boy's prison at Wormwood Scrubs until next Monday. Insp Roberts said the boy was brought to the police station on Saturday morning by a policeman and later made a statement. Other serious charges would be brought against him. The inspector said the boy's mother had no control over him and he thought it would be advisable if he were not sent to a remand home.

**1964 Surrey Advertiser 21<sup>st</sup> March** - Ex-Woking CID Chief dies at 57. A former detective inspector in charge of Woking CID, Mr Lewis Geoffrey Roberts **died suddenly at his home**, 55 Mabel Street Woking in the early hours of Wednesday, he was 57. Mr. Roberts had been a detective sergeant at Dorking and moved to Woking on promotion to the rank of detective inspector in January 1950. In the words of a colleague "He lived for the police. He was a policeman for 24 hours of the day."

He was, however, a keen gardener in the little spare time he allowed himself. Mr Roberts was born at Dummer near Basingstoke and joined the Surrey Constabulary at headquarters in 1929. For a time he was the village constable at East Horsley. When he moved to Leatherhead in 1931, he rode one of the first eight motorcycles issued to the county force. Two years later he went to Dorking on CID duties and was promoted detective sergeant there. After 16 years he moved to Woking. During a distinguished career Mr. Roberts gained five commendations, four from the Chief Constable and one from Epsom magistrates following the arrest of four thieves.

On his retirement in 1962 he was a guest at a dinner given at the Cotteridge Hotel, Woking where a presentation was made to him. Since his retirement he had been engaged on security duties at Charrington's Wharf in Guildford Road, Woking. He leaves a widow whom he married in 1947 and a nine-year-old daughter (Margaret Clare bn 24.4.1954). The funeral will be at Brookwood Cemetery on Monday afternoon.

Margaret Joan Roberts died Jul/Sept quarter 1981 Surrey South Western district