



Surrey Constabulary History
An in depth history of policing in Surrey

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www.surrey-constabulary.com

Editor Robert Bartlett

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PC 131 William Muggeridge

**Surrey Constabulary Caterham, Chertsey and Woking
Dismissed for drinking on duty
Died 1930**





**SURREY CONSTABULARY
APPOINTMENT BOOK
Appointment Number 1595**

Name William Muggeridge

Age 25 years in October 1910 Height 5 ft 10 ins
Complexion Fresh

Hair Dk Brown Eyes Hazel Marks Three operation scars on each leg

Born in the parish of Warnham in the county of Sussex

Married _____ on _____ at _____

Trade Farm Labourer Last Residence Ridge Farm, Rowhook, Horsham

By Whom Last Employed, and Where. Mrs Muggeridge, address
as above

What Relatives Residing In Surrey and Where None

Previous Public Service None

Length of Service N/A

No. on Collar 131

Date of Appointment 28 th August 1911

When Sworn in, and where 1 st September 1911 at Guildford

Before what Magistrates _____

Where first stationed Egham

Promotions

<u>Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
1 Jan 1913	3rd Class Constable	2nd Class Constable
1 Jan 1917	2nd Class Constable	First Class Constable

Removals

<u>Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
5 March 1914	Egham	Caterham
	Caterham	Caterham Valley
23 March 1919	Caterham Valley	Chertsey
27 Sept 1920		

<u>Date</u>	
23 March 1919	Rejoined after serving in the Army for the period of the War
13 Oct 1921	Police Act 1890 applies

Disciplinary Offences

<u>Date</u>	<u>Nature Of Offence</u>	<u>Punishment</u>
16 July 1912	Missing two conference points	Fined 1 day's pay
12 May 1913	Drinking on duty and being worse for drink	Fined 1 weeks pay and severely cautioned
25 Aug 1913	Silly conduct when on leave	Cautioned
19 March 1915	Missing two conference points through over sleeping	Cautioned
April 1920	Going to sleep when on duty at Police Station and missing one conference point	Fined 3 days pay and severely cautioned. He promises to behave in future
16 Nov 1924	1) Entering licensed premises while on duty (the rest is not legible) 2) Acting in a manner likely to bring discredit on the reputation of the force	Called upon to Resign

Cause and Date of Removal from the Force

Called upon to Resign 16th November 1924

Conduct During Service

-

Date of Certificate

-

Completed 13 Years, Approved Service.

A
half penny
stamp
for inland
one penny
foreign.

P.C. Muggenidge 131 ^H
1922

Stationed Caterham
1920 - 25

Lodged at 107.

Commonwealth.

Married maid from "Nexo"
Tupwood Lane.

Transferred to Chertsey.

Wife died in childbirth.

William returned to
Caterham, and again lodged
at 107. Later married
Miss Webb of Farningham Rd.

Transferred to
Noking area.

Caught drinking
while in uniform
and dismissed the Force.

Died suddenly about 1930. Heart attack.

Served under Inspectors, Stringer and Butler.

POST CARD

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE
WRITTEN HERE

For Inland Postage ONLY, this space may now
be used for Communication

J. Malloway

107. Commonwealth Road.
CATERHAM.
Surrey. CR3 6LW.

Dear Mr Collman,

Having read of your interest in the old time "Bobbies", I wondered if the enclosed photograph and information might be of some use to you.

This was William Muggeridge - P.C. 131. who lodged with us at the above address for much of my childhood.

He was born in Sussex - as was my father - and they were school pals.

Having joined the Surrey force - he was posted to Caterham, and while looking for lodgings he met my father- who promptly brought him home.

Living in a two bedroomed house - with two young boys - my mother was very reluctant to accept him as a lodger - but agreed to allow him to stay until he found somewhere else - which of course he never did.

So he became Uncle Bill - not only to us - but to all the kids in the road.

The Force here then was very small, but he served under Inspectors Pullen - Stringer - and Butler , in that order. His sergeant was Handcock, who had a brother also a sergeant - serving at Godstone.

Of his colleagues - there were three that I can call to mind who were regular visitors to our house. P.Cs Tommy Osborne. Punter, and Golding. Golding later became the landlord of the Harrow Inn in Stanstead road.

Tommy Osborne can be remembered for assisting at the first Speed trap to catch wayward motorists when they first began to disturb the silence of our village - as it then was.

The trap was a simple one, usually held on a Sunday morning.

Tommy Osborne - dressed as a navvy - complete with wheelbarrow and a shovel took up position at the bottom of the hill leading down from White-Knobs.

An Inspector and a uniformed constable - sometimes a sergeant as well-, were concealed at the side of the Drill Hall - now the Leisure Centre.

If Tommy thought that a vehicle was speeding down the hill - up would go his hand - the concealed party would start their stop-watches - and after a quick check - they would emerge from their hiding place - and that was another one in the bag.

This method was eventually stopped - but not because it was ineffective, but because of the small crowds of locals who assembled to watch the trap being sprung.

P.C. Punter I can remember - as telling us that he had once knocked a boy from one side of Croydon road to the other with a clout round the ear for misbehaving.

These were the days when a hefty wallop with a policemen's rolled up cape- did much towards keeping law and order - especially where the jobs were concerned.

Crime I think consisted mainly of poaching- drunkenness- and sometimes a domestic brawl.

A memory I have - is of a Saturday night - when our only ambulance- a wheel litter , was used - with a "Drunk and incapable" firmly strapped to it - being wheeled to the "Nick" by a weary looking constable with a sergeant as escort.

Another Saturday night memory is of our horse-drawn fire engine, belting through the Valley at full gallop - with a policeman on a push-bike chasing after it and struggling to button up his uniform at the same time.

All our Bobbies walked the beat - or rode push bikes in those days, and their meeting points where they contacted officers from other areas, were- at the top of Godstone hill to meet an officer from Godstone.

Cripples corner- at the top of Weald way- to meet the officer from Bletchingley. Chaldon cross roads to meet the Merstham Bobby, and Wapses Lodge to meet up with the Met:

~~How often they made these rendezvous I do not know , but 8.pm was as regular as clockwork.~~

One always knew where to find a Bobby in those days. Their beats were so regular.

As youngsters- one of our favourite pieces of mischief - was to shin up a lamp post and put out the gas lamp as soon as the lamp lighter had passed on his way. This was never carried out until we were certain that the Bobby had passed. They never looked back- or came back - and once they had gone we felt we could enjoy ourselves.

We could recognise the approach of the Bobby - by his heavy tread- the gleam from his bulls-eye lantern attached to his belt - and the smell of hot paraffin or carbide coming from it.

As a small boy - sitting on Uncle Bills lap - I loved the mixture of smells - tobacco- stale beer- and paraffin- that came off his uniform.

They all appeared to be heavy drinkers - as most men were in those days - and it was not unusual to see a pint of wallop placed on the window sill of the Commonwealth or Old Surry - thoughtfully provided by the landlord after the pub was shut - to quench the thirst of the late night Bobby.

Bill Muggeridge had served in the first world war in the same unit as one of my school teachers - Mr Pursuord, and at times both of them threatened to tell the other if I misbehaved.

I can claim to have had the handcuffs on- twice- before I was ten years of age. ~~For refusing to apologise to my Mother - one cuff secured both my arms - while the other was locked firmly to the fence outside, while Uncle Bill finished his dinner. This caused a crowd of my school mates to gather who were quite convinced that I had committed some serious crime.~~

Another time my arms were secured in the same manner , and the other cuff was locked round Uncle Bills wrist while he marched me along to be "locked up". Protesting loudly I sat down and howled- but this did not stop the Law, and I was dragged along on the seat of my pants.

When I was eventually set free, another punishment awaited me when Mother saw the state of my trousers.

There was also the day when a boy on our road set the field alight near us - and our Policeman was sent for in the middle of his dinner to deal with it.

In shirt sleeve order - but remembering to put on his helmet, he set off in pursuit, and later we saw him marching the boy towards his home by the scruff of his neck.

When he returned- Mother asked what was going to happen to the boy, and he replied, "Nothing . It's already happened" Having told the boys

Father what had happened - he then asked , "Will you give him a hiding - or shall I?". The Father replied that he would- so Uncle Bill stayed to watch. "That boy won't set any more fields alight" he said.

A good strapping with the buckle end of a leather belt solved quite a few problems in those days.

Bill Mugeridge eventually married Lottie, a maid from Venlo - in Tupwood lane, and shortly afterwards he was posted to Chertsey.

Lottie died in childbirth - and he returned to Caterham and once more took up residence with us.

Some time later he again married- this time to a Miss Webb who lived in Farningham road - and he was posted to Woking. They had one son.

While serving at Woking he was caught drinking in uniform in a night-club during a police raid, and was dismissed from the force. He claimed that he was set-up by his superiors because he was unpopular.

He always kept in touch with us - and his last employment was as a night watchman at Brooklands motor racing circuit at Weybridge.

He eventually died in about 1930 of a heart attack. They don't come like that anymore.

Now - nearly seventy-five years of age - and still living in the house in which I was born - I can look back on the days of the old time Bobby, when the Law was respected - unless you were on the wrong side of it.

Yours sincerely,

F A Holloway

F.A. Holloway. (Mr).

P.S. You may keep the photograph if it is of any interest to you.