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www.surrey-constabulary.com

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Surrey Constabulary Biographies

Volume Seven

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William Beacher, chief constable Reigate Borough Police
1931 - 1947

1890-1974

Additional research from Jean and Henry Pelham and Jenny Tuffs.
William Henry Beacher was born into the police in November 1890 and was a passionate supporter and advocate of the Force from early days until his death. His father Henry William Beacher was a serving police constable of the West Sussex Constabulary based in Steyning. His mother was Charlotte and she and Henry had a second son Charles. Henry was to be a sergeant at Petworth.

On leaving school Beacher joined the postal service as a messenger boy. This experience may well have led to the establishment of the Police Auxiliary Messenger Service manned by lads aged 15-18, at Reigate during the Second World War. Seeing little prospect of advancement in the post office he enlisted in July 1907 in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. Beacher achieved the rank of Regimental Drill Sergeant before leaving in 1913 to join the West Sussex Constabulary where his father was still serving. As an army reservist he was recalled to the

colours on August 4th, 1914, re-joining the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, with which he served on the Western Front, going into action with the first of the "Old Contemptables" on the canal banks at Mons on August 23rd. The Mons Star was one of the most treasured of his medals

After his war service and overcoming severe ill health, he re-joined the police and soon married in October 1917 Ellen Amelia Comper, at Horsham having one child Hilda (Later Hilda Kemp).

Details of his military and distinguished police service is established below. He died in June 1974 at Horsham, Sussex and is buried alongside his wife in Hills Cemetery, Horsham. William Beacher and his father had joint police service of almost 80 years.

Army Service

Beacher volunteered for the army on 19 July 1907 aged 18 years two months and served seven years with the colours and a requirement to commit to five years in the Reserve. He held the Rank Lance Sergeant drill instructor upon his resignation. He attended a mounted infantry course at Longmoor from 1 October 1908 and the riding skills he acquired were put to good use when chief of the Borough. There are numerous photographs of those times when he is seen on horseback.

A member of the Church of England in 1911 he was living in Gravesend Barracks, a member of the 1 Battalion DCLI, then a corporal who was unmarried.

When his service was complete his conduct was described as "Very Good", with no offences recorded during the whole of 5 years and 191 days service. Transferred to the Reserve on 31 January 1913 from the position of drill instructor. He was aged 23 years 8 months, 5 Feet 9 ¼ inches chest 39 ½ waist 33, fresh complexion brown eyes brown hair, tattoo dots back of left forearm, intending to live on discharge at the Police Station, Horsham so most likely had been accepted by West Sussex Constabulary. On his discharge papers Beacher had already developed his elaborate signature that became so prominent when in charge of Reigate Borough Police.

Beacher in The Devon and Cornwall Light Infantry

West Sussex Police – first 1913-1914

Beacher's army engagement terminated in 1913 and he joined the West Sussex Constabulary.

An early event in Beacher's police career which he would talk of was being on duty at Goodwood racecourse. He was in plain clothes and came across a gang of card sharpers who attacked PC Beacher in no uncertain manner ("I was black and blue for weeks after" he recalled) and guarded against any public interference on their victim's behalf by shouting "Welsher!" The nearby race goers took up the cry and the victim faced with a truly ugly situation – for a race crowd in pursuit of a "welsher" is a very good example of nature in the raw – deemed discretion the better part of valour and escaped the crowd by vaulting into the Royal enclosure. As he was in plain clothes, he was immediately seized by the detectives on duty there and, before he could explain himself, he was frog marched across to the lock-up! However, all ended well, and PC Beacher got his cardsharpers who were subsequently dealt with in the court.

Mr Beacher faced another ugly situation when a drunken sailor came at him in Horsham with a knife, but by this time the young constable was well versed in the science of ju-jitsu, mastered his man, dispossessed him of the knife and made an arrest for which he was subsequently

commended, and which resulted in him being called upon to give ju-jitsu training to other members of the force.

1914-1915 Service on the Western Front

When war broke out Beacher was immediately recalled from the Reserve to the Colours. His battalion, the 5th Devon and Cornwall Light Infantry, on the 4th August 1914 mobilized from the Curragh, in Ireland and, on the 13th, entrained to Dublin before sailing on the SS Lanfranc to Le Havre. Having arrived in France the battalion entrained to Rouen then Le Cateau.

On the 17th the battalion marched to Landrecies, on the 22nd to Mons Canal at le Petit Crepin from where they retreated on the 25th back to Le Cateau. The DCLI fought alongside fought alongside the East Surreys as they retreated to St Quinton on 26th August, the 27th at St Quentin and by the 30th they were to the west of Soissons. The retreat halted and the DCLI on the 14th September were at Missy, Aisne and in early December moved from Wulverghem to Messines

The battalion's War Diary reports that the battalion was engaged in much marching in the early days of the war in the retreat from Mons, and one possibility that the bad winter weather was the cause of Beacher's muscular and joint pain which was recorded as rheumatism. In early January the battalion was back in the Wulverghem area and around this time Beacher was sent to his local hospital in Horsham with severe rheumatism.

Army Medical Report 29th May 1915 reads, "This man states he was in France for 5 months in the trenches and in January was sent home with rheumatism to Horsham Hospital and was there for 4 months and then transferred to Brighton Military Hospital. He re-joined his Depot after 3 months leave but could not walk and has been in hospital ever since. His present condition is this man is suffering from progressive ? rheumatism, (Note: is this rheumatoid arthritis?) attacking all his joints specially the legs, he can't walk and at times his pain is very acute, the joints becoming swollen and tender.

On 6th July 1915 he was discharged from the army as no longer physically fit for war service.

Army records show service as at home i.e., UK 6 August 1914-12 August 1914. Served with the BEF in France 20 August 1914 to 14 January 1915. Home 15 January 1915 -6 July 1915 – served DCLI 25 July 1907-6 July 1915 discharged through sickness. Awarded 1914 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal and, following discharge in July 1915 was awarded a Silver War Badge number 68,908 under King's Regulation 392 (XVI): "No Longer physically fit for war service."

Return to West Sussex Police

He returned to West Sussex Police in 1915 as an instructor at Horsham and promoted sergeant the following year. He first came to Worthing with the rank of patrol sergeant and being made inspector there in November 1921 serving as officer in charge until August 1922 when

promoted Superintendent Horsham. Beacher served at Horsham until his appointment as chief constable of Reigate Borough Police in January 1931 an office he held with distinction

Reigate Borough Police

With the retirement of Mr James Metcalfe who led the Reigate Borough Police from 1894-1930, William Beacher was appointed to head the borough force on 1 January 1931 and adopted the title of chief constable. He remained in post until the war time amalgamation with the county force in 1943 and was looked upon as both a caring and innovative chief. (He was appointed superintendent until his retirement in 1951). The best use of manpower seems to have been high on the agenda during his first years, with the Home Office pressing, as one example, for the installation of more traffic lights to relieve policemen from point duty. Additional fine-tuning resulted in co-operation with the fire brigade and a fireman taking over the duty of ambulance driving. The fire brigade also agreed to "…take charge of and exercise and feed any stray dogs impounded by the police." [1]

William Beacher became the new head constable of the Borough with a salary of £460pa to rise in five years to £560 with a free residence. Some controversy in Council arose over his request for his dress uniform to include a sword, as the previous Head Constable had not had one. The cost of four guineas was approved, however. He also had £100 per year for upkeep of his motor vehicle. The new man was an accomplished horseman having been trained in the army and was often to be seen on duty in the area on horseback, although he also had an official car. Athletics was an interest not just as a spectator, as he was winner of a 100 yards handicap race at one of the police sports events. [2]

On January 8, 1931, the new chief constable, was formerly welcomed at a parade of Reigate Borough Police by the retiring Chief Constable J Metcalf who bade farewell to the force.

The good he did in his long leadership of the Borough was not confined to his job as a police officer. Of both local and national interest was his formation in 1932 of a Special Constabulary Mobile Section of which the late Sir Malcolm Campbell became the Special Chief Inspector, with another famous racing motorist, Lieutenant Colonel "Goldie" Gardner as his deputy. The mobile specials were divided into two classes:

1st Reserve – Super fast cars
2nd Reserve – Moderately fast cars [3]

In 1935 the Reigate Borough Police inaugurated the country's first Special Aircraft Section which he enrolled many of the pilots at Redhill Aerodrome into the Special Constabulary and placed their planes at police disposal for emergency "spotting" with regular police officers trained as observers. Most of these Pilot "Specials" became "Battle of Britain" boys in 1940.

[1] A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary Gerry Middleton Stewart
[2] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm
[3] A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary Gerry Middleton Stewart

Beacher reported to the Watch Committee in 1931 "Since my command I have personally instructed the force weekly in drill movements, physical exercise and Ju-Jitsu." [4]

In post for two years the 1932 annual report gives a good indication of the "State of the Borough Police" under Beacher's leadership.

A force of about 40 officers

A bloodhound is available to the force by being borrowed from Sussex.

Each CID officer now has a camera

Indictable offences:

1931	98
1932	101

Non-indictable offences:

1931	191
1932	187

Fatal road traffic accidents:

1931	6
1932	5

Injury road traffic accidents

1931	127
1932	111

Damage only road traffic accidents

1931	221
1932	153

Mounted force if required would consist of a chief constable, 2 PS and 3 PCs

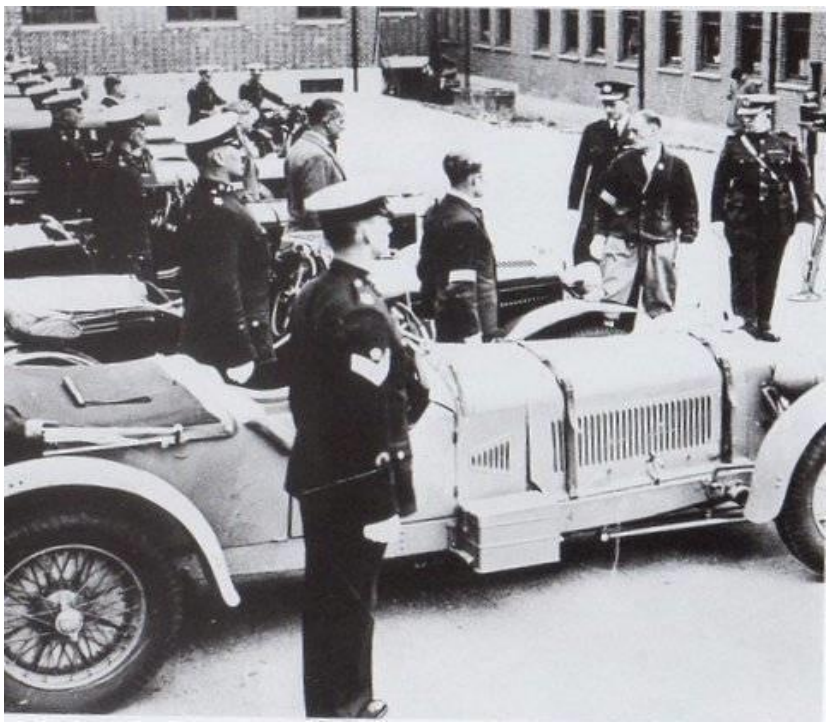
A police motor ambulance is based at Redhill under the care of the Borough Fire Brigade In the last year the ambulance attended:

Accidents	117
Street illness	19
Private cases	50
Night calls	49

[4] 1931 Annual Report by the Chief Constable William Beacher CC/98/22/2

Day calls 137

Beacher became secretary of the Safety First Organisation, an organisation whose activities and merits have been lost to time. Concerts for police charities and for the Borough Police parcels fund which provided cheer for needy folk at Christmas time, with over £6,000 being raised in this way (According to the Bank of England worth about £400,000 today[5]).



Chief Constable Beacher with Sir Malcolm Campbell inspecting the mobile section in 1932[6]

The Reigate Borough Police Special Constabulary Air Section 1935

[5] https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy/inflation/inflation-calculator
[6] A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary Gerry Middleton Stewart

JUNE 20, 1936] THE SPHERE 503

REIGATE'S PIONEER FORCE OF SPECIAL CONSTABLES

Sir Malcolm Campbell Inspecting the Aircraft and Motor Units at Last Saturday's Parade

SHOWING THE WAY: Members of the Reigate Borough Police, of the local Mobile Special Constabulary, and of the local Aircraft Section, lined up to hear Sir Malcolm Campbell last Saturday when the "Ace" motorist delivered a speech in his capacity as Chief Inspector. Reigate is rapidly achieving a nation-wide reputation for its special police units, first as a result of the establishment of the mobile force in 1932, which has already done much good work, and secondly by the formation in 1935 of the aircraft section under Mr. R. F. Bulstrode, which provides classes of instruction for "regulars" to enable them to be efficient observers to special constable pilots if they should be called upon "to go up." The progress of both units is being watched with interest by the Home Office

Sport/ First Aid

Mr Beacher had started a tug-of-war team when in the West Sussex Constabulary and he brought his knowledge of the sport with him from Horsham to Reigate.

Cricket was a very popular game for the police of the Borough and County from late Victorian times, joined a little later by football and athletics. An example of the developing sporting prowess of the Borough was reported on July 3, 1931, when members of the Reigate Borough Police journeyed to Bexhill-on-Sea to take part in the East Sussex Police Sports and the newly formed tug-of-war team coached by the Chief Constable, Mr W H Beacher, entered a competition in which they were beaten by Horsham Division of West Sussex Constabulary, Mr Beacher's old team. The Borough team suffered defeat by two straight pulls. PS Beedell and PC Laycock ran in the sprinting heats each taking third place. The journey organized by the Borough Police Sports and Social Club proved an enjoyable one.

A further of many possible examples of police sport is set down in the local newspapers. 1931 September 18: Surrey Mirror: Tug-of -war. The members of Reigate Borough Police tug-of-war team have every reason to be satisfied with the result of their outing to Sunbury on Saturday, when they went through three rounds and into the final, and then were only defeated by a team with an almost unbeaten record, the R.A.S.C. (Feltham Depot), in a hundred stone competition. The Army team, having drawn a bye only had one pull prior to the final, the Borough Police having previously pulled against Nine Elms Gas Co and the East Surrey Water Co Redhill. They were accompanied by the Chief Constable, Mr W H Beacher, to whom great credit is due for the success which the police team has so far achieved since its recent formation. Mr Beacher has taken a considerable personal interest in the training and his experience has been invaluable in the coaching of the team which he has personally undertaken. The team was as follows – PC'S Brownlow, Mason, Wing, Thorpe, Richardson, Dean, Saunders and Smith with PC Capelin as reserve.

Beacher was active in police sport generally, understanding the need for officers to remain fit. In 1935 Beacher is reported, saying in a speech, “it was absolutely essential that policemen should be 100 per cent active and without physical training instruction that could not be assured.”

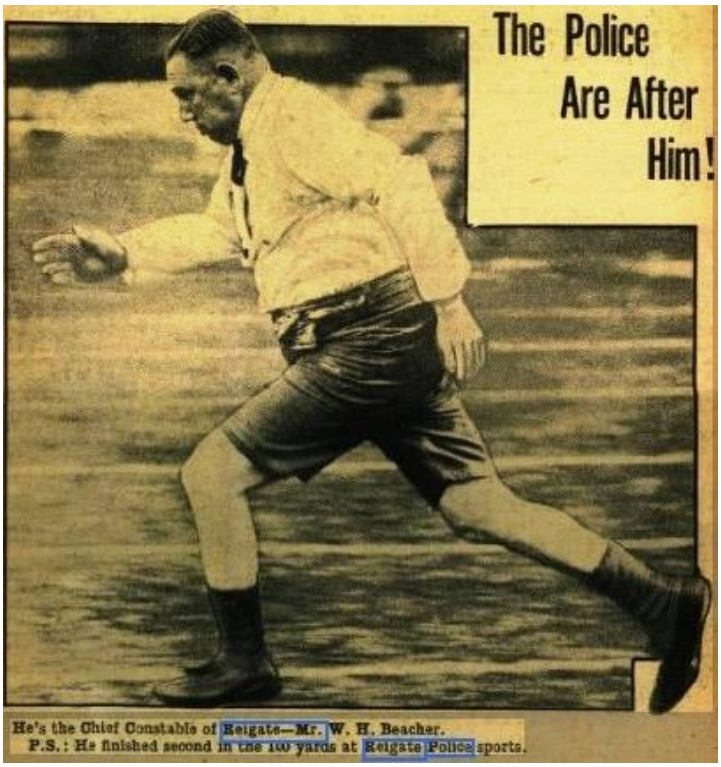
There were significant advantages playing teams from a range of organisations enhancing the respect for individual police officers who were known within their communities. All these activities were reported by the local newspapers in some depth showing their readers that he men of the Borough Police were not a different breed tucked away in police stations. There were also the advantages of a police officer meeting and socialising with members of the public breaking down the potential barriers and ignorance of police officers. With a force of 40, the ability to put teams in the field week in week out was not achieved without a great deal of personal commitment from the officers.

Excellent athletic meetings were organised in the borough. His interest in first aid encouraged a Borough Police team under Inspector Atkins to the final of the national Pym Trophy.

First Aid Trophy

1934 Reigate Borough Police cricket team Chief Constable Beacher

1934 September 27: West Sussex Gazette: Reigate Borough Police have won 24 trophies during the three years Mr W H Beacher has been Chief Constable.



Mr. Beacher practicing what he preached!

It would seem that Surrey has a strong tradition for 'sporting Chief Constables'.
This marvellous picture shows Mr W H Beacher, then Chief Constable of Reigate Borough Police, winning the 100 yrds Officers' Race during the Borough Police Sports in 1931.
The photo was kindly provided by ex-Inspector Richard Ford and as he says "Even in the heat of the chase, decorum prevailed, the Chief was still wearing his collar and tie when he reached the winning post!"

1931 Police Sports

Beacher on the right

A

further team-building activity was based around military drill. In 1935 on April 26 the Surrey Mirror reported that the Borough Police were undertaking Squad Drill which was an innovation at Reigate. The first of an annual series of squad drill competitions in connection with Reigate Borough Police Force was seen on the drill ground at Reigate County School for Girls. A handsome trophy presented by Mr V C Felix of Laker's Hotel, Redhill was awarded to the winning squad which was instructed by PC Williams and marshalled by Police Sergeant Atkins. The winning squad received 18 marks out of a possible 20 and the runners up 16. Both squads impressed greatly with their smart movements and the two instructors, both ex non-commissioned officers of the Coldstream Guards were highly commended on the manner they directed the various evolutions both at drill and physical training. In his speech afterwards Chief Constable Beacher stated it was absolutely essential

that policemen should be 100 per cent active and without physical training instruction that could not be assured.

Taking on the mighty Metropolitan Police

Police sport was vital with tug of war high on the sporting agenda but there was also involvement in community events where the police took an active role suffering a loss of dignity! All this was essential to meet the Beacher policing philosophy of close connections and being a part of the many communities that go to make up a town.

AT THE HELM: Captain F. C. Sutton, Chief of the Reigate Special Constables, and Mr. William H. Beacher, Chief Constable of the Borough

Second World War

1938 anti gas course included three Chief Constables of Reigate, Guildford and County taken at Woodbridge Road Police Station in Guildford

In his 1938 annual report to the police watch committee Mr Beacher commented, "The national crisis of September 1938 involved the police in many important and grave public duties. We trust we shall never again be faced with such a grave issue." [7]

Preparation for war became a significant role for the police during the time of the Munich Crisis and the eventual attack by the Germans on Poland. The police were ready as yet again they were to lose so many top-grade men to the colours. By the time of the Second World War, Beacher had been in post for some years and was by then well-known and a man with significant influence throughout the Borough and probably wider. Given responsibility for Air Raid Precautions, as was his fashion, he grasped the challenge and soon had an effective structure for responding to anything any enemy could throw at the Borough. Recruiting Wardens, Special Constables, first aid and ambulance parties, messengers, all to be trained and equipped. He was not to know how frequent enemy attacks were to be upon the Borough and the loss of life caused by bombing and strafing. Every war event was a police incident, and many would in today's terms be considered major incidents. There was a great deal of death and destruction!

In 1939 the head constable was living with his wife Ellen at 20, Monk Walk, just off the centre of the town and close to the church.

1939 Report for the Borough

Crimes

414 crimes with 198 detected 47.82%, £2281 stolen and £990 recovered.

[7] 1938 Annual Report by the Chief Constable William Beacher CC/98/22/4

Crimes increased over 1938 by 84 (330) a 25% increase.

1938 47% were detected and in 1939 with more crime, 58%.

The crimes included a car stolen and recovered in Oxford when a man was arrested; an arrest for housebreaking where the accused received three years at Borstal. There were several more cases of housebreaking due mainly to two local men who when taken before the court received sentences of 4 years and the other 21 months hard labour. Two meat porters evacuated to the meat market Wray Park Garages, were convicted of larceny from shops at night-time. They stole 74lbs of pork and sold it. A great deal of the reported crime that was detected was committed by juveniles. [8]

1939 The strength of the force

Force cost **£18369 10s 3d** going into the War

Chief constable, 2 inspectors, 11 sergeants, and 47 constables
First Police Reserve seven, of whom six were retired Reigate Borough officers and one from East Sussex. There was a War Reserve of nine, one a special constable.

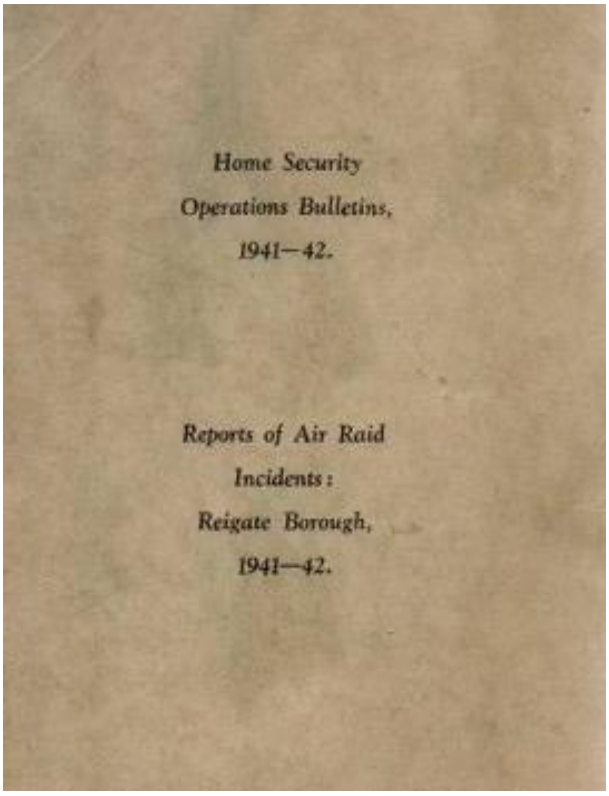
The authorised establishment became a chief constable, chief inspector, two inspectors, 11 sergeants and 45 constables.

Ordered to the Colours were Constables Williams, Crowhurst, Barker, Sweeney and Noon with Keen and Harris given permission by the Chief Constable to enlist.

Special Constabulary had a chief, 1 chief inspector, 5 inspectors, 21 sergeants and 125 constables. [9]

Ambulance calls 373 of which 228 were to accidents. [10]

[8] 1939Annual Report by the Chief Constable William Beacher CC/98/22/4
[9] 1939Annual Report by the Chief Constable William Beacher CC/98/22/4
[10] 1939Annual Report by the Chief Constable William Beacher CC/98/22/4

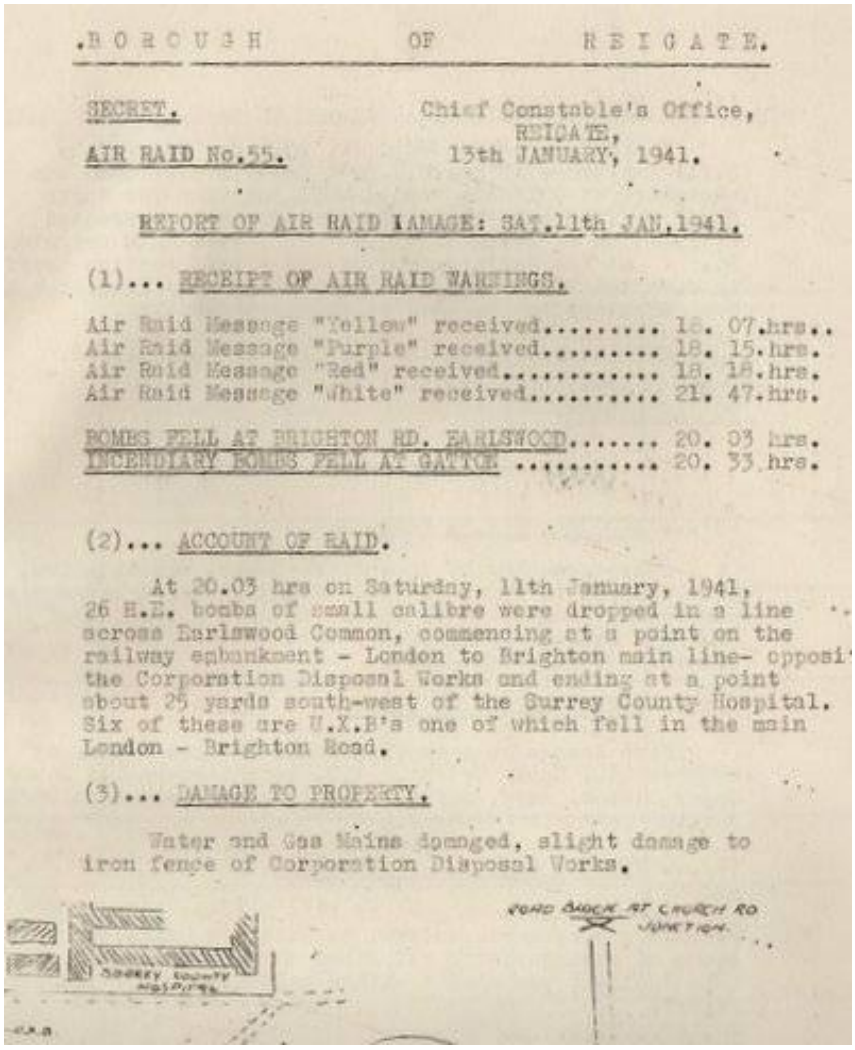


Every enemy attack within the Borough had a consequence for the police who attended every incident, coordinated the emergency services response, work with the military to clear the scene, preparing for the next attack. Every investigation was recorded with fatalities being reported to the coroner. Reports were sent to the Home Office of these events as were weekly reports on the state of morale of the public.

The reports marked "Secret" at the back of "reports of Air Raid" were prepared by the Borough Police and start with "Air Raid 55" dated 13 January 1941 and shown as from the Chief Constable's office. Each report is in a format which includes times of the air raid warnings, an account of the raid, damage to property including a very detailed sketch, road closures, casualties, incendiary bombs with damage caused and any special features of the raid including "Objects dropped from the air" as directed by Home Office Circular F700/359/46 12.12.40 and situation report 218. Attached is a report listing damage to property "consequent upon air attack" from the Borough Surveyor's Office, Town Hall, Reigate.

The reports and detailed sketches were written up in about 48 hours of the event and it is quite remarkable the level of detail obtained and collated in such a short time. The amount of man hours committed by the police to some of these incidents was enormous especially if account is taken of the brief time from the incident to the report to the Home Office.

The following is a sample of the reports forwarded to the Home Office. The first report is from air raid 55 13 January 1941:



.BOROUGH OF REIGATE.

SECRET. Chief Constable's Office,
REIGATE,
AIR RAID No.55. 13th JANUARY, 1941.

REPORT OF AIR RAID DAMAGE: SAT.11th JAN.1941.

(1)... RECEIPT OF AIR RAID WARNINGS.

Air Raid Message "Yellow" received..... 18. 07.hrs..
Air Raid Message "Purple" received..... 18. 15.hrs.
Air Raid Message "Red" received..... 18. 18.hrs.
Air Raid Message "White" received..... 21. 47.hrs.

BOMBS FELL AT BRIGHTON RD. EARLSWOOD..... 20. 03 hrs.
INCENDIARY BOMBS FELL AT GATTON ..... 20. 33 hrs.

(2)... ACCOUNT OF RAID.

At 20.03 hrs on Saturday, 11th January, 1941, 26 H.E. bombs of small calibre were dropped in a line across Earlswood Common, commencing at a point on the railway embankment - London to Brighton main line- opposi the Corporation Disposal Works and ending at a point about 25 yards south-west of the Surrey County Hospital. Six of these are U.X.B's one of which fell in the main London - Brighton Road.

(3)... DAMAGE TO PROPERTY.

Water and Gas Mains damaged, slight damage to iron fence of Corporation Disposal Works.

ROAD BLOCK AT CHURCH RD JUNCTION

SURREY COUNTY HOSPITAL

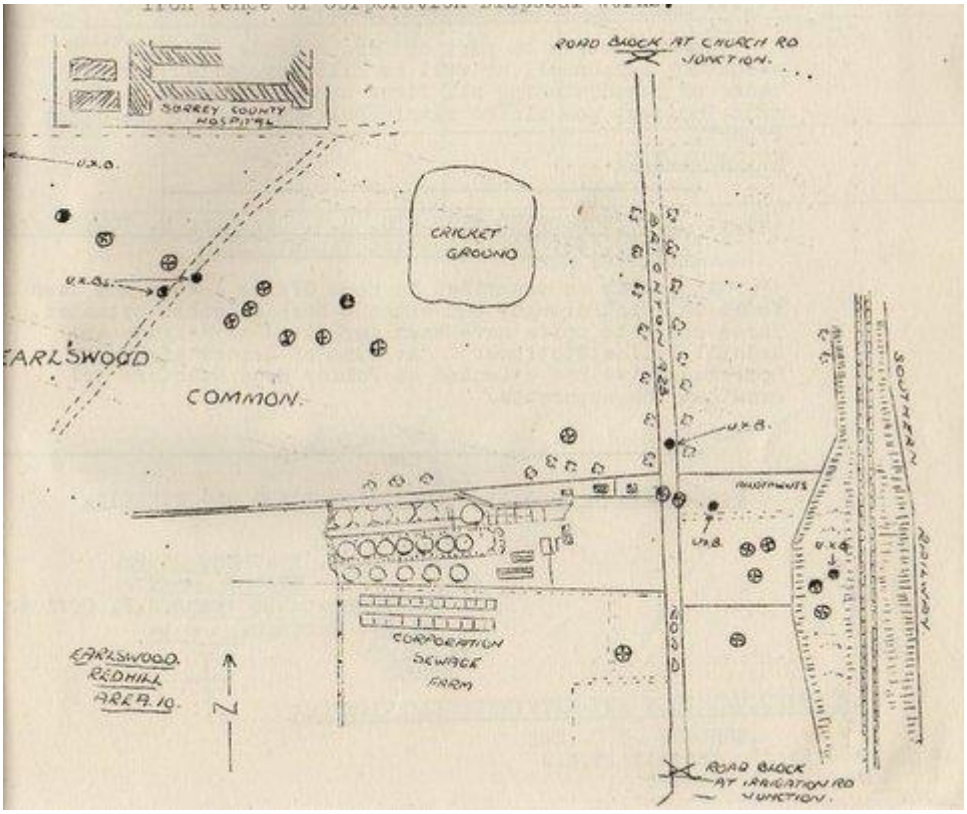
1941 11 January: Air Raid no 55 [11]

Air Raid Message Yellow received 1807
Air Raid Message Purple received 1815
Air Raid Message Red received 1818
Bombs fell at Brighton Road Earlswood 2003
Incendiary bombs fell at Gatton 2033
Air Raid Message White received 2147

At 2003 on Saturday 11 January 1941 26 HE bombs of small calibre were dropped in a line across Earlswood Common commencing at a point on the railway embankment – London to Brighton main line – opposite the Corporation Disposal Works and ending at a point about 25 yards southwest of the Surrey County Hospital. Six of these are UXBs one of which fell in the main London to Brighton Road.

[11] Reports of Air Raid Incidents - Reigate Borough 1941-1942 Reigate Borough Police

Water and gas mains damaged, slight damage to iron fence of Corporation Disposal Works The main Brighton Road (A23) was damaged by HEs and there is one UXB. Traffic diversion was necessary at Salfords School Road junction for north bound traffic, but road stopped and barriers erected at junction of Irrigation Road with main Brighton Road. At the northern end of the closed section traffic is diverted via Church Road (St Johns) and Pendleton Road. Road barriers are erected at this intersection. There were no casualties.



Continuation of Air Raid 55

2033: A large number of IBs[12] probably 200 were dropped on Upper Gatton, Reigate over a large area stretching from south of Tower Cottage, a portion of Chalmers Lane, over Crossways Farm to the borough boundary at Chipstead.

Damage was caused to a rearing house and hen coops at Henshaw Road, Upper Gatton. An IB went through Old Laundry, Upper Gatton, roof, rafters, ceiling and furniture burnt. Potting shed also damaged.

Speedy action by the Fire Brigade and all voluntary personnel as well as military units were the means of extinguishing all fires caused by IBs and this incident was closed within half an hour of the first report. No casualties were caused by the IBs.

Objects dropped from the air: Apparatus as described in the Home Office letter has been found in this Borough but without bombs or cable attached. Three complete units have been

[12] Incendiary bombs

deposited at Reigate and Redhill Police Stations. At the time of this report Admiralty representative has attended at Police HQ and examined the apparatus.
The war must have dominated the life of the police, but they still had to make time to deal with an increasing number of crimes and no doubt public disorder mostly associated with drink.

Surrey was the base for many military units including large numbers of Canadians. There were significant numbers of RAF personnel based at the fighter stations in and close to the county. All these young men without family constraints, a long way from home and an abundance of alcohol inevitably led to increase in crime. However, given the numbers of men the increase in criminal activities were limited.

1941 16 April: Air Raid No 60 [13]

Air Raid Message Yellow Received 1257
Air Raid Message Purple Received 2100
Air Raid Message Red Received 2106
Bombs fell at 2202
Air Raid Message White Received 0459

At 2202 on the 16 April 1941 after having dropped a line of flares close to the north of Merstham boundary of Reigate Borough **2 HE bombs of 500lbs** calibre were dropped and exploded

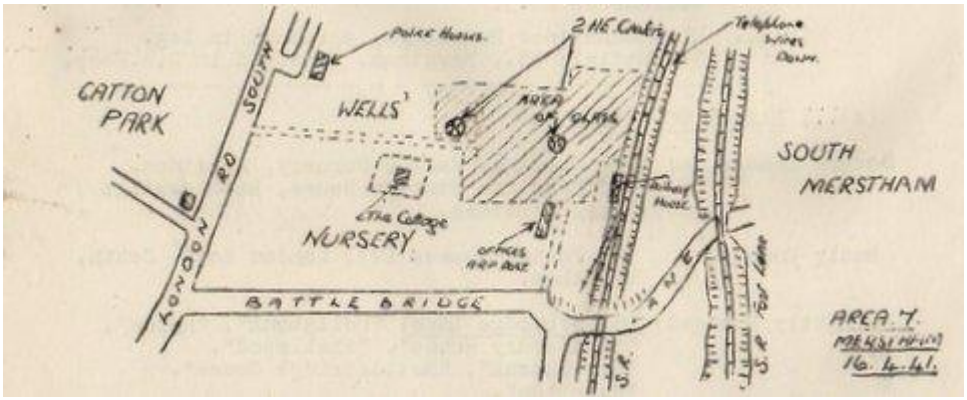
At Wells Nursery at a point 100 yards west of the main "slow" London/Brighton railway line about 5/8 mile southwest of Merstham railway station

At a point 150 yards due west of No 1 bomb (also in the nursery)

Casualties – injured:

Mr Steadman shock, The Cottage, Wells Nursery, Merstham
Mrs Steadman slight cut on hand and shock – same address
Mr Waghorne, 2 cuts on head and shock, Old Merstham Station House, Battlebridge Lane
Miss Ruby Waghorne, cut on head and shock – same address as 3
Miss Constance Hutchings – shrapnel in leg, 50 Nutfield Road, Merstham – detained in E S Hospital

[13] Reports of Air Raid Incidents - Reigate Borough 1941-1942 Reigate Borough Police



Severe damage: The Cottage, Wells Nursery, Merstham; Old Merstham Station House, Battlebridge Lane, Merstham

Badly damaged: The Police Houses (2) London Road, South Merstham

Slightly damaged: Battlebridge Lane: Hollybank, Mazoe, Shrewsbury House, Shellwood, Springbank, Battlebridge House, and Hazleton

Devon Road: Coombe Lawn, Denray, Elmdene, Harwell, and St Cyr

South Garden Close: Comberton

London Road South: Oak Tree Cottage, Ardene, Waveney, En-ephers (sic), Athalmere, Laleham and Maytrees

The Crossways: Oakwood, Lynton, Royston, Burwood, Bankside, Woodford House, Kingston, Holmlyn, Raymond, Willowbank, Rockwood, Sunneybank, Galloway, Genister, Brentfield, Langham, Dorern, East View, Maisonette, Wander, Bagshot, Marylee, Kia Ora, Mowbray, The Corner, Birkenhead, Harcourt, Waverley, Mr Sargeant's Garage (spraying shed)

Nutfield Road: Shops: F Lilley, J Mitchell, The Bob Bon, JE Jones, Warr and Sons, Mildred House (2), H Chopping, Mainwood, Houses Rutland, Kerry, Ingleside numbers 53, 51,49,47,45.

Other houses in South Merstham: Glass damage only including Police Sergeant FW Stoneman's house, 18 Manor Road.

High Street Merstham: Shops: Uridges, Underwoods, Barwells, Clarke's, The Electricity Shop

Damage to Police Houses (in detail): PC Erwin's house, London Road, Merstham- tiles off roof, back door off, inside door off, floorboards in kitchenette raised, ceiling down in scullery and windows broken

PC Godsmark's house London Road, Merstham (next door) tiles off, walls damaged, doors off and windows broken

Sergeant Stoneman's house 18, Manor Road, - windows broken and some internal damage of a minor nature.

Damage to Wells Nursery and ARP Warden's Post:

Four acres of glass greenhouses and garden lights destroyed. The offices which included the ARP Warden's Post were badly damaged and the car of Chief ARP Warden Mr T Hamer destroyed by (almost) a direct hit. One other car slightly damaged.

Evacuation: All dis-housed persons accommodated at other houses nearby including police officers.

Special Note: Police and wardens message scheme brought into operation
Total damage: Two houses to be demolished, three seriously damaged but can be repaired, 103 slightly damaged, 112 with broken windows only. Three business premises one seriously damaged and two with windows broken, and four public buildings with windows broken

W. H. Beacher Chief Constable and ARP Officer, Reigate Borough

1941 Saturday 19 April: Air Raid No 61 [14]

Air Raid Message Yellow Received 2109
Air Raid Message Purple Received 2111
Air Raid Message Red Received 2145
Bombs fell at 2218
Air Raid Message White Received 0445

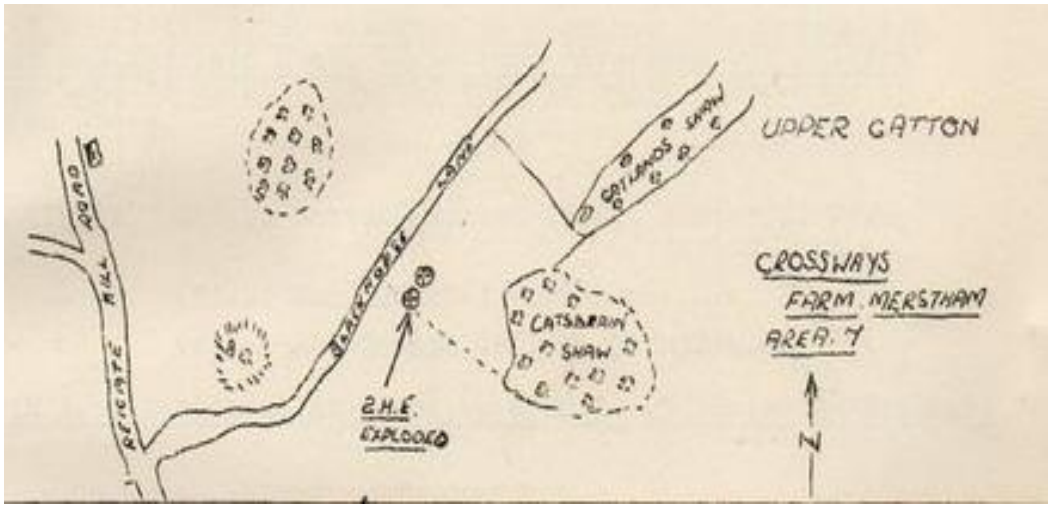
1941 April 19: Reigate worst night of the War when two parachute or land mines, were dropped at Merstham, one on Wells Nursery that failed to explode and the next morning was rendered harmless by the Admiralty Mine Squad. The second buried itself some 12 feet to the west of Battlebridge Lane and Nutfield Road exploding with such a devastating effect that ten people were killed and more than a dozen injured with 300 buildings destroyed.[15]

At 2218 two parachute mines of the largest type were dropped on Merstham one of which failed to explode

Fell on waste ground 15 yards from the junction of Battlebridge Lane/Nutfield Road/ Southcote Road. On descent the mine was ripped from the parachute which became entangled in the branches of a tree thus when the mine made contact with the earth it penetrated some 12 feet before exploding, Crater 15 feet by 12 feet deep. Water main burst in crater.

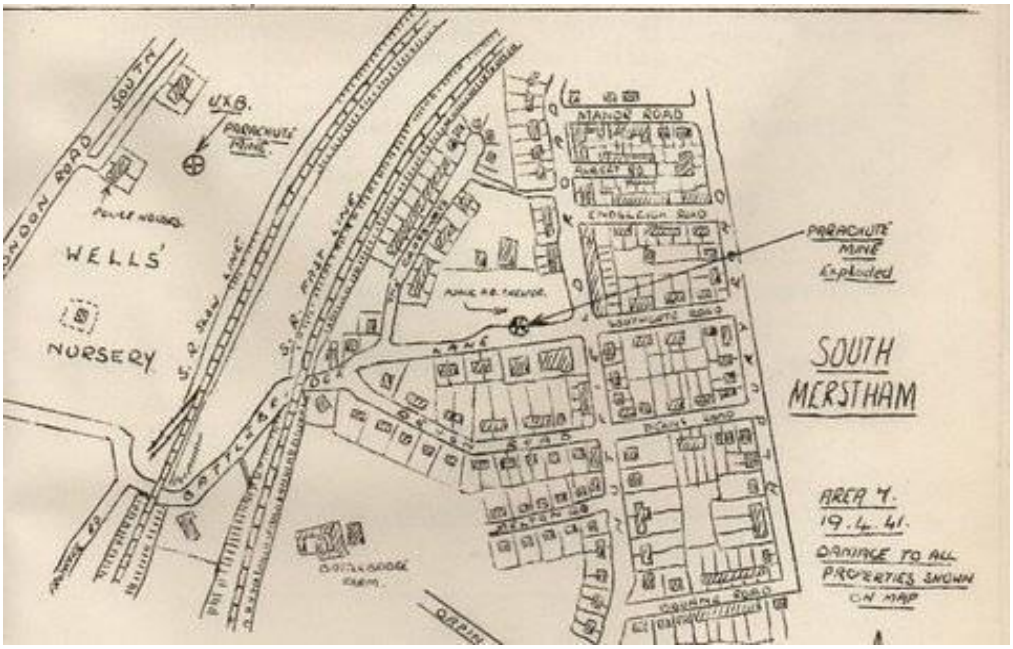
Also fell in open ground at Wells Nursery approximately ¼ of a mile from No 1 and in a direct line – west/NW. Between the two parachute mines was the London to Brighton main line railway. This mine failed to explode; 3 feet 9 inches of the mine was buried in soft soil – the parachute was intact.

[14] Reports of Air Raid Incidents - Reigate Borough 1941-1942 Reigate Borough Police
[15] Surrey at War 1939- 1945 Bob Ogley Froglets Publications undated



Number 1 parachute mine was seen to descend by a War Reserve Police Officer who observed the parachute entangle itself in the branches of a tree. The effect of the explosion was to cause considerable damage to house property over a large area but no property was actually demolished.

Five of the seven people who lost their lives were waiting at a bus stop for a bus due at 2200. All five were found near the crater. A sixth person was killed driving a car which came to rest about 8 feet from the edge of the crater although the car was not completely destroyed.



Deceased:

Corke William H, 46, Brook Road, S Merstham
Findlay Tony 104 Nutfield Road, S Merstham
Shepherd Wm. S Culverlands, Devon Road, S Merstham
Trussler Hannah 4 The Pavement, S Merstham
Baker Sarah All Saints Vicarage, S Merstham

Trussler Brian 4 The Pavement, S Merstham
Haigh Lance Corporal C. Royal Corps of Signals

Supplementary Report dated 24 April 1941:

Kemp Albert Horace CQMS aged 45 8th brigade AA HQ Signals at home on leave
Kemp Mrs Cecillia Florence age 42 4, The Pavement, S Merstham
Kemp Billy Arthur Stevens age 10 The Pavement, S Merstham

The Kemp family was believed to have perished in the incident from the articles of clothing found in the vicinity of the mine crater. It is understood that the family were in the habit of going to the public air raid shelter at Battlebridge, Merstham but usually went when the raid appeared to be noisy and not before the siren went. They accompanied the Trussler family on previous occasions and it is now thought that the Trusslers and Kemps were together going to the shelter when the parachute mine exploded.
The deceased Tony Findlay was a Warden's Messenger, and it is assumed that he was on his way to the Warden's Post to report for duty when he met his death.

Treated at East Surrey Hospital:

Trussler Flight Sergeant 4 The Pavement, S Merstham
Baker Henry Grant, The Vicarage, S Merstham
Baker Elizabeth, The Vicarage, S Merstham
Bentley Rose 73 Nutfield Road, S Merstham
Elliott Emilie The Vicarage, S Merstham
Hart William 4 Manor Road, S Merstham
Worsfold Mary Ann, Sheila Battlebridge Lane, S Merstham

Treated at First Aid Post:

Bentley Percy Henry 72 Nutfield Road, S Merstham
Booker Alfred, 5 Manor Road, S Merstham
Brocklebank Audrey, Ivor House, S Merstham
Dench Donald Cecil, The Rest, Brook Road, S Merstham
Gumbrell Special Constable, 127 Albert Road, S Merstham
Martin Douglas, 5 Manor Road, S Merstham
Martin John, 5 Manor Road, S Merstham
Martin Donald, 38 Brook Road, S Merstham
Pocock Ruth, Ivor House, S Merstham
Shrubb Irene 75 Nutfield Road, S Merstham
Southwood Arthur Leonard, Lynwood Blaclborough Road, Reigate
Willoughby Albert William 205, Albury Road, S Merstham

There were several others not named

War Reserve Dury Reigate Borough Police is worthy of mention for the number of casualties (minor) he cared for rendering First Aid.

Police Casualties: No police officer sustained injury with the exception of Special Constable Gumbrell (shown above) who suffered a cut over the eye, but after attention was able to continue duty.

Damage to property:
Serious damage: properties in Nutfield Road, Southcote Road, Battlebridge Lane, The Crossways, Deon Road, Deans Road.

Supplementary Report dated 24 April: All Saints Church is not repairable until after the war. One house is now reported as completely demolished, four houses beyond repair and to be demolished. Three hundred including twenty shop premises seriously damaged but can be repaired during the war.
Slight damage: Properties in Endsleigh Road, Albert Road, Albury Road, Manor Road, Bletchingly Road, Brook Road, School Hill, High Street, Milton Road, Orpen Road, Ford Bridge and Bourne Road.
Police Property: There was damage to the houses of four police officers, but no house was seriously damaged, and all should be repairable within a few days.
Dis-housed Person: At the time of the report the work of evacuation is still in operation. The approximate figure is given of 250 persons; 40 persons were evacuated in connection with the unexploded mine but are all now returned to their homes.

The Unexploded Parachute Mine: The parachute mine which failed to explode was discovered at 0600 on the 20th. Evacuation was carried out in accordance with the Home Office Circular 700359/51. Traffic on the main A23 was diverted in the south via the B2035, The A25 also diverted in two ways according to the local and main road requirements.
A circular was issued on traffic diversion stops and alternate routes.
Railway Company was informed that all traffic on main London/Brighton line should be suspended but although loop line was stopped traffic continued on main line which was within the specified area.

HM Admiralty Mine Squad reported at 100 hours and by 1150 hours had rendered the unexploded mine harmless; all traffic was resumed to normal, road diversions withdrawn and temporary evacuated persons allowed to return home.

Military Aid was rendered throughout by a Canadian Unit in the district. Fifteen minutes after the explosion an officer of the unit volunteered his services with 15 men. This squad under the leadership of Mr Wickens Foreman Builder of Albert Road, Merstham rendered invaluable service in search and rescue work.

Feature of the raid: During the time of the raid several complaints were received that railway engines were passing with fireboxes not properly screened. A train had passed through just two minutes before the parachute mines fell; this also occurred in the previous raid (Wednesday 16th instant) when HE bombs fell immediately after a train passed. It will

be noted that two parachute mines fell on ground either side of the line which to some extent substantiates the theory that the attack was directed on the railway.

Special mention is made of the services of the Merstham Wardens who visited houses in the vicinity of the incident especially the property which had been seriously damaged and ascertained the position rendering First Aid where necessary to several minor casualties. It can be recorded that the wardens acted in a most reliable manner and were the means of restoring calm and rendering immediate help on a wide scale. They were indeed an example of a large voluntary body working as an efficient machine and all this under the most difficult conditions.

The Fire Brigade were in attendance and although no fires were caused, they rendered great assistance to the Incident officer in the search of property etc.

The Stretcher Party under Mr Hatto carried out their duties with efficiency under arduous conditions

Rescue Party Squads were also faced with a difficult task which they overcame in their enthusiasm for hard work.

Gas Co arrived early and under the leadership of Mr Reeves completed their repairs in record time.

Water Co was also early on the spot, but their greatest task was on the following morning where they repaired a main at the crater of parachute mine 1.

Special Note: On future occasions Services are reminded to park their vehicles without headlamps alight only small side lights and tail lamps should be left switched on. Despite difficult working conditions lamps should be kept masked by Search parties and the like.
At roadblocks Services going to the incident must take the route given by the officer blocking the road or by the Warden should he be in charge at the "block". There was an instance where a "Service" took no notice of the warden on duty at the Frenches Road, block and this caused congestion and delay.

Account of the raid on Upper Gatton: At 2222 Saturday 19 April 1941 a large number, probably 300incendiary bombs fell in a line from Colley Hill, Reigate

At about the same time 2 HEs fell about 10 yards apart in a field at Crossways Farm, Upper Gatton, Reigate, about 40 yards south of Blackhorse Lane and about 500 yards from Crossways Farm (in a westerly direction) with no damage, no casualties no cattle injured.
There were 5 direct hits by IBs on dwelling houses and fires broke out which were quickly extinguished by the Fire Brigade, soldiers and residents. Some of the IBs that fell in the district were of the explosive type.

Property damaged:
Clifton's Lane: Clifton's Cottage a hole in the roof, burnt landing; Colley Orchard burnt bedroom floor; Colley Corner Cottage burnt landing; Colley Corner IB lodged in roof.
Colley Manor Estate: High Rising burn hole in bedroom floor; Fair Ways through roof of garage, damaged hood of car; UX IB at Normanton Garage.
Casualty: Private Calbury Hastings of the Prince Albert Regiment after an IB burst in his hand sustaining a cut finger. First aid rendered on the spot
Anti-Aircraft Shells (Reigate and Redhill) During the above raid reports were received that two ant-aircraft shells had fallen one at Micklefield School, Somers Road, Reigate and the other at Grove Road, Redhill
The AA shell was successfully removed from Micklefield School by police and brought to Reigate Police Station. There was some damage to the roof where the shell entered.
The UX AA shell at Grove Road, Redhill pierced a gas main and caused a small fire which was quickly extinguished. Gas Co attended immediately and repaired the main. No person injured.
Supplementary Report dated 24 April: Report on the UX (Unexploded) AA (anti-aircraft) shell
Information to hand that a UX AA shell fell on the night 20 April at rear of rockery – 50 feet in fields from fence, Gatton Hall, Gatton, Reigate. Hole diameter seven inches by 8 feet deep.

W. H. Beacher Chief Constable and ARP Officer, Reigate Borough

In a separate sheet dated 20th April 1941 and signed by HG Ash, Chief Inspector are details of the road diversions as a result of the parachute bomb

A further attachment signed by Mr Davies Town Clerk, Information Bureau, Town Hall, Reigate 20 April sets out a full casualty list including three unidentified bodies, females aged about 40 and 90 years and a boy of about 14. Their bodies were in the mortuary at 96, Cromwell Road, Redhill

The Borough Surveyor's report on the 19th April raid in the South Merstham area lists: 4 houses requiring demolition; 18 seriously damaged but capable of repair; 50 houses to be evacuated; 386 slightly damaged; 37 with just broken windows. Four business premises were also damaged as were 3 public buildings and 4 other buildings.

In all but name Reigate Borough Police ceased to exist as an independent police force in 1943 and Chief Constable Beacher was to become Superintendent Beacher of the Surrey Constabulary, Reigate Division. The following crime figures are for the county incorporating the statistics of the two former Borough forces.

Crimes in the Surrey Joint Police Area 1 January to 31 December 1943[16]

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

Division	Crimes alleged	Crimes deleted	Crimes detected	Not cleared up	Non-Indictable prosecutions
Dorking	620	122	245	40.81	577
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 Surrey Joint Police and recorded crime 1943 [17]

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"[18]

	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

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

1943 Superintendent Beacher's contribution to Chief Constable, Surrey Joint Police annual report. [19]

Population Reigate Borough 34,547 in the last census but estimated civilians only now 41,928.

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.

Establishment Special Constabulary Reigate Borough Police 147 who performed 120,431.5 hours duty. This is over 15,000 8 hour shifts an average of 41 extra officers every day.

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

Road Traffic Accidents RBP area: Fatal 5, serious injusry 105. Total road accidents 2666 as against 274 in 1942.

Twenty Reigate Borough Police officers are serving in the armed forces**.**

There are two War Reserve Constables, one retired Reigate Borough and the other retired from the East Sussex Constabulary.

Vehicle Fleet**:** Imperial motor-cycle JPG910; Triumph motor-cycle HPG474; Utility car JPF729; MG saloon CTH437; MG car JPB578; police ambulence.

For his services to the war effort Beacher was awarded the King's Police and Fire Services Medal in 1942 Birthday Honours and in 1948, no doubt for all his efforts towards first aid and ambulance work became a Serving Brother of the order of Order of St John.

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

The Chief Constables Mr Beacher's Medals

Reigate Borough Police Chief Constable's group of eight medals awarded to Chief Constable W.H.Beacher who had served during the Great War with the Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry. Comprising an enamelled Order of St John (Serving Brother), King's Police Medal (GVIR for Distinguished Service 1914 Star with clasp, British War Medal, Victory Medal (8803 Sergeant Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, Defence Medal, George V Jubilee Medal and George VI Coronation Medal.

He was chairman of No 6 District of the Chief Constable's Association in 1940-1941 and a member of the Councils of the Police Athletic Association and of the Southern Orphanage Committee. In the course of his work he has received many commendations from Judges including the Lord Chief Justice in 1926, Chairmen of Quarter Sessions and various Justices

As a temporary emergency war-time measure in 1943, under the (Amalgamation of Police Forces) Regulations, 1942, on 1 February the Guildford Borough Police and Reigate Borough Police were amalgamated with the Surrey Constabulary under the title of the Surrey Joint Police Force. Beacher was to write that the Chief Constable Surrey Constabulary, 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 continued to remain."[20]

In 1951 after retirement from the police force remained interested in tug-of-war becoming the A.A.A Chief Judge by 1959.

Retirement

1947, April, the Surrey Constabulary, along with many forces across the country, reformed to include the police of the boroughs of Guildford and Reigate. The three forces had been working as one using the name Surrey Joint Police since 1 February 1943. As the borough became a division within the new force Beacher was appointed as superintendent in charge of the Reigate Division and a member of the Surrey Constabulary serving until retirement

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

in 1951. It shows the nature of the man and his commitment to policing that he could lose his position as chief constable with all that came with it in the Borough and continued serving as a very experienced superintendent. The county Chief Constable Nicholson seems to have the sense not to "interfere" greatly in the management of the Borough.

Reported on February 15, 1951, that Beacher announced it was his intention to soon retire along with Inspector Atkins and Detective Inspector Ted Ayres head of Reigate CID.

Police retirements in the Borough

Surrey Mirror and County Post 20 April 1951 and the Worthing Gazette of 16 May 1951 reported the retirement of Superintendent WH Beacher after 38½ years' service who was crippled with arthritis a throw-back no doubt to his time in the trenches on the Western Front.

Before going on leave which preceded his retirement Mr Beacher said farewell to his colleagues at a gathering at Reigate police station and heard responses from Chief Inspector Tappenden (who on Sunday succeeded him as Superintendent).

The report in the newspapers: Superintendent W H Beacher doffed his uniform for good on Saturday night probably with mixed feelings for however good the prospect of retirement may be suddenly dropping a life's work is not a thing one can do without some feeling of regret. Doubtless those regrets, while they last, will be tempered by the thought of the host of friends he has made in those places in Sussex that have had the good fortune to know him as a zealous but kindly, efficient policeman.

A much later article reporting an interview with Mr. Beacher when he was in his 80s. However, many of Mr Beacher's memories are of a pleasanter kind, among which he includes the friendliness and cooperation he has been accorded by all classes of people in the Borough and in a letter, he asks me to pass on to them a "big thank-you" for all that that has meant to him during the score of years he has been among them. "The police are the friends of the public"

he writes “not their enemies. Their job is to prevent unpleasantness not to make it, and the general realisation of that, and the public confidence has contributed much towards a happy term of office.”

I met him on August Bank Holiday Sunday. I had crawled along the roads blocked with traffic and arrived hot, uncomfortable and tired. I was feeling thoroughly unpleasant. He was crippled with arthritis and had been sitting patiently waiting. “Come in, sit down, the traffic must have been terrible.” The first impression I got was of a solid man. He was not a particularly big man, but his stature was in his eyes, and the way he had of looking directly at you, curious, sensitive and compassionate. He has ears which stick out and an immense forehead, but this does not detract from his kindly humour. He was born in a police station and grew up in an atmosphere of truncheons and helmets. However, he has no trace of regimentation.

He became Chief Constable of Reigate in 1931 and retired in 1951. During those 20 years he built up a reputation for efficiency and complete dependability. It has been said he was respected by the villains and loved by the public. Sitting in his comfortable and perfectly ordered living room I asked him what axiom he held to be of supreme importance in police work.

“One must work with the public, not at them,” he asserted. I had a sudden picture of Mr Beacher explaining life to a raw recruit in the thirties. “Let’s face it ultimately the police depend on the public. They are the people we serve, and they can be the only judges of our efficiency and success in our job. The one thing I always tried to do was to get full and willing co-operation from the public. I wanted them to know we were there, and that we were always willing to help.

He went on to say the object of any police work was to prevent crime, not to catch the criminal after he had committed the act. “When we can wipe out both the need for crime and the environment that breeds crime, we can be satisfied that we have done the job to the best of ability. Until then we must keep on trying.”

And Billy Beacher had a reputation for trying. His police force although small was one of the best in the country. Proudly he showed me awards and recommendations which he had won for himself and for his police force. But it was always the force that came uppermost in his mind; always it was of his men that he talked. Rarely did he mention the considerable laurels which were heaped on him in the 20 years he served in the borough.

Awards ranging from medals for tug-of-war to decorations for service, conduct and the Mons Star, which he won in the First World War. One must remember that his memory goes back a long way. At 80 Billy Beacher can muster up a legion of memories. He can recall a life spent in service of people. It is well that he can also recall that the people have also shown their appreciation, if only by remembering him.

It is in a thousand little ways that Reigate recollects its own Chief Constable – Billy Beacher, who was known to refuse official transport and bicycle his way around the borough. A man who was a superintendent aged 28, who never rose further than his origin; a country police station.

Mr Beacher will be remembered as a policeman who strove to maintain the best possible relations with the public. One of the earliest innovations was to issue printed cards entitled "Suggestions to Assist Local Police." This card contained advice to the public telling them how they might help their police force. It was what Mr Beacher calls "prestige".

"The prestige of a police force is tremendously important. People must look up to their local policemen and admire them. There must never be any suggestion that they are in any way lacking. If there is one thing I can't stand is a slovenly policeman."

More pictures of knobbly kneed recruits wilting at the sight of this formidable man's tongue. He was a man who kept his own standards at an impossibly high level and was perhaps unwilling to allow lower standards in other people.

Perfection is often recognised as an ultimate achievement. Billy Beacher must have always aspired higher. Spit and polish no matter how important can never really appeal to a man so full of humour and native charms.

Naively expecting juicy stories, I found him surprisingly reticent about his service career. Maybe he was a trifle wistful about a forced full stop in so complete a chapter; he was not to be drawn out. It was also impossible to extract any comment or criticism of the modern police force. "It would be unfair to say that" and he stops Perhaps he remembered that his grinding axes were put away now; he would not pick bones in public. But he was all too eager to tell me of the men who served under him, the achievements they won and the spirit that apparently moved them all. "We had a tremendous sense of comradeship in those days --- we were a team, we behaved in the manner to be expected of a first-class team doing a first-class job; prestige, loyalty and trust. We were a small police force, but we struggled to ensure our reputation was spotless".

Reigate Borough police force is dead now. We are a part of the Surrey Constabulary. We have lost the individuality of which Billy Beacher represented. This is his regret --- perhaps his disappointment. He will talk fondly of his friends he had and still has. Ted Ayres who formed the famous CID team, the present superintendent Bert Futter who started as a boy clerk under him. These are people who live constantly with him in his memory. It will always be people rather than places that Billy Beacher remembers.

It is esprit de corps that remains with him now in his bungalow in Ashington a team spirit existing with his colleagues both dead and retired; memories of Reigate Brough Police when they were envied by other boroughs. Perhaps there are also some regrets that the individuality

of local police forces has been allowed to merge into the anonymity of panda-cars and radio-control.

Death/funeral

William Henry Beacher died 1 June 1974 aged 83

Tony Collman: In July 2010 I went to Horsham to locate Mr Beacher's grave which I found at Hills Cemetery located on the A281, Guildford Road at Horsham (RH12 1TT). Mr Beacher is buried with his wife. There is no mention of Mr Beacher's police service nor his KPM.

A Tribute to W.H. Beacher from "Off Beat" [21]

Ken Browning August 1974

On the 10th of June 1974, W.H. Beacher was laid to rest after the very impressive service at Horsham Parish Church. This very homely town was much beloved by Bill (as he was affectionally called) as it was at Horsham where he became one of the youngest Superintendents in any Police Force. I first came in contact with him when living at Horsham I went to him in 1926 about joining the Surrey Constabulary. From the start he commanded respect. His dapper manner and immaculate appearance instilled in the young constable a very real sense of pride in his job.

[21] Surrey Constabulary newspaper

On his promotion to Chief Constable at Reigate it gave him a more profound reason for giving to the community the full respect of the Police Force in which his heart and soul was dedicated. The recent articles in 'Off Beat' are a sincere memorial of his sincere faith in our British Police Force. In his later years he had been crippled and housebound by arthritis, but always loved to see any of us 'old ones'. I visited him three weeks before his death and to meet him was like going into another world with his treasures of his police service surrounding him, proving how devoted he was to a service he loved so dearly.

PC 4 James King
Reigate Borough Police - later Inspector

1866 James King: Born in Chipstead, Surrey on 26th January 1840. He was baptised in the Parish Church on February 23, 1840. His father was also James King, born about 1811 in Merstham; an agricultural labourer and his mother was Elizabeth Dodd, born about January 1818 in Chipstead. On February 1st, 1866, he joined the Reigate Borough Police as PC No 4, but he resigned from his post about a year later. The Watch Committee offered to 'place him on first class pay', to keep James in the service a stratagem that seemed not to work as there is an entry in 1869 when he is back in the force.

1869 April 29: PC King from 3rd to 2nd class –in the first three months no complaints have been made against him – having previously served18 months in this Force. [22] [23]

He married Susan Merritt on May 6, 1867 and is recorded in the indexes of the Reigate District. (They could have married in Chipstead, but only a marriage certificate will show thatfact). Susan Merritt was born in Old Alresford, Hants in January 1842 and christened in the parish church on February 6, 1842. The 1871 census placed PC James King and Susan with their two sons were living in Linkfield Street, Redhill. His widowed father, meanwhile, was alodger, boarding at Lancets Cottage in Chipstead. He died soon after the census**.**

On September 21, 1874, James King was promoted to Acting Sergeant and confirmed as Sergeant James King on 8th February 1875 (He was 35 years old). About this time, the King family would have moved into one of the newly built houses in Cromwell Road, Redhill. They lived at number 71 and later at 73. The family remained in Redhill, at least until 1891. When James King was promoted to Police Inspector in September 1893, that event may have occasioned their move to live in Reigate.

James King retired in November 1898 (58 years old) having served for thirty years in his second employment with the Borough Police. He was presented with an illuminated testimonial, on vellum in an oak frame, and hand illustrated in gold, silver and blended colours. The Surrey Mirror raised a public testimonial fund for James King, which amounted to £71 -2s- 6d. James King's retirement, which is reported as being an active time, lasted for just over 30 years and he died on Sunday, January 7, 1929 – 19 days short of his 89th birthday. His funeral service took place in St. Mary's Parish Church in Reigate on Thursday January 11th, followed by burial, with his wife Susan, in Reigate Cemetery.

[22] Report Borough of Reigate Watch Committee by George Rogers Chief Superintendent SCC CC98/22/11
[23] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm

Inspector James King

Inspector Frederick Howlett
Reigate Borough Police 1885 – 1919

Came from the parish of Charing in Kent and applied to join the Reigate Borough Police on 7th May 1885. Aged twenty-one and single he stood five feet nine inches tall and had been a stableman. He gave his reason for wanting to change his occupation as 'getting too heavy for my work', presumably a reference to horse riding. [24]

Recruits: To be eligible to join the Reigate Police Force candidates had to be between 20 and 30 years of age; stand at least 5' 8" without shoes; be able to read and write a legible hand; and be of good character and strong constitution. He had to provide certificates from at two well-known respectable persons. In 1885 the starting pay was £1-1-8, rising to £1-4-9 after 6 months and to £1-7-8 after two years.

[24] Father-in-law of PC Jock Mason – from the biography of PC Mason http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm

William Morant
Chief Constable Reigate Borough Police

1891 June 11: William Pearson Head Constable resigned in 1891 replaced by William Morant. Pearson had been found by a police sergeant playing cards in one of the principal hotels in Redhill at four o'clock in the morning. Mr. Pearson resigned on 11 June 1891and took employment outside the police in Northumberland. There were 18 candidates for the role of Head Constable reduced to six including Charles Prior of Reigate, with other applicants from Bootle, Margate, Morant of Reading, Canterbury and Bury. Mr. Morant aged 32 was given to appointment.[25]

William George Morant joined the Edinburgh Police in 1882 where he served for three years before transferring to the Metropolitan Police where he stayed for over four years before joining Reading Borough as chief constable. From 1891 to 1894 he served in Reigate Borough Police before transferring to South Shields. His distinguished service was recognised by thew award of an OBE.

Mr. Morant and his medals
OBE, Order of St John of Jerusalem, King's Police Medal, Queen Victoria Jubilee medal, George V 1911 Coronation Medal, Order of Leopold 11 King of the Belgians (For work during First World War)

1894 William Morant left the post of Head Constable to be replaced by Philip Woodman from Bradford Police.

[25] British Police History website https://british-police-history.uk/f/reigate-borough

James Metcalfe
Chief Constable Reigate Borough Police
1894 -1930

1894 10 December: Charge of embezzlement: At the Bradford Borough Police Court, Phillip John Woodman the chief constable of the Reigate Borough Police and until recently the chief clerk in the Bradford Borough Police was placed in the dock on charges of embezzling monies – about £200 - from Bradford Corporation. He was found guilty and sentenced to five months in prison. [26]

1894 December 11: Watch Committee: In respect of the arrest of Head Constable Woodman the Watch Committee noted that he had admitted to embezzlement and sentenced to five months imprisonment with hard labour. He was dismissed from the combined offices of Head Constable, Inspector of Common Lodging Houses and inspector under the Explosives Act and the Shop Hours Act. Potential successors were to be invited to an interview, John Morton and James Metcalfe, before the committee on the 17th inst., at Redhill. At that meeting the men were interviewed and Metcalfe was appointed on £140 a year with £60 towards a residence payable by weekly instalments. [27]

1894 December 17 James Metcalfe became head constable and remained in office until 1930, when on retirement, 28 he was permitted to retain his uniform and bicycle. [29]

[26] 1894 10 December: The Times
[27] From British Police History 22 July 2020 admin@british-police-history.uk Michael
[28] "A Short Centenary History of the Surrey Constabulary" Supt Durrant 1951
[29] "A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary" Gerry Middleton Stewart gives 22 December 1894

1899 variations in police personnel: I inspector advanced from 1st to 2nd grade; 1 constable 6-7th grade; 1 constable 5-6th grade; 6 constables 1-2nd grade; I constable pensioned; 3 constables resigned; 1 constable dismissed. [30]

1899 average age of the force 33 2/3 years, average height 5 feet 10 3/8 inches, average lengtt of service 11 ½ years average weekly pay £1 10s 4d.[31]

1899: 124 English and Welsh boroughs possessed independent police forces of which 61 were county boroughs. [32]

1899 total cost of the force for a year to 25 March 1899 £3,060 11s. 4d. [33]

1899 statistics from Reigate Borough Police

Prosecutions 423 men 255 female
Crimes 54
Apprehended 36 men and 5 females
Non-indictable offences 140
Drunkenness 96
Explosive Act premises 13
Petroleum Act: 10 licenses, 10 samples taken Sweeps/pedlars: 2 sweeps and 50 pedlars licensed Inquests: 32 sudden deaths, 10 postmortems 27 inquests
Accidents: 38

[30] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1899
[31] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1899
[32] A History of Police in England WL Melville-Lee 1901 reprint Kessinger Rare Reprints 2012 page 394
[33] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1899

Streetlamps requiring attention 190Poor Law applicants 6355
Lodging houses 4 where 75 can be accommodated
Lost and Found: £1361 73 d with £1115 13s 2d claimed
Weights and measures: 892 weights, 112 scales and 1985 measures checked
Refused charges: 9
Arrests for other forces 5
Enquiries for other forces and government departments 791Lost children 5
Sickness 150 days
Runaway horses: 4 officers involved and two commended
Insecurities found by police 424
The cost of the force £3181 3.0 [34]

1900: At the turn of the century there were two inspectors, four sergeants and twenty-eight constables. Municipal Buildings at Castlefield were built at Reigate and made provision for a brand-new police headquarters station and cells in the basement with stairs leading to the court (now the council chamber) on the first floor. There was also a new house next door for the Head Constable. The Reigate station was sold and the Redhill station, although no longer the force HQ, remained as the local station. Accommodation at the new Reigate building was also to eventually become too small as the size of both force and council increased steadily, and the Reigate police presence was later moved to a house called Cherchefelle in Chart Lane.

1903 31 December Annual Report to the Watch Committee from James Metcalfe:

Indictable offences – 67

Arrests for other forces 13

Enquiries for other police forces and government departments 627Cost of the force £3402 12s 4d

Electric calls are now established, and information of fires may be given at Redhill and ReigatePolice Stations, telephone Redhill 1 and Redhill 17 respectively.[35]

1905 December 31: Annual Report to the Watch Committee from James Metcalfe:

The Head Constable is the inspector under the Weights and Measures Act, Common LodgingHouses, Hackney Carriage Act, Petroleum Act, Explosives Act, Shop Hours Act, Music and Dancing Act, Diseases of Animals Act.

PC 13 Perry died after 23 years' service.

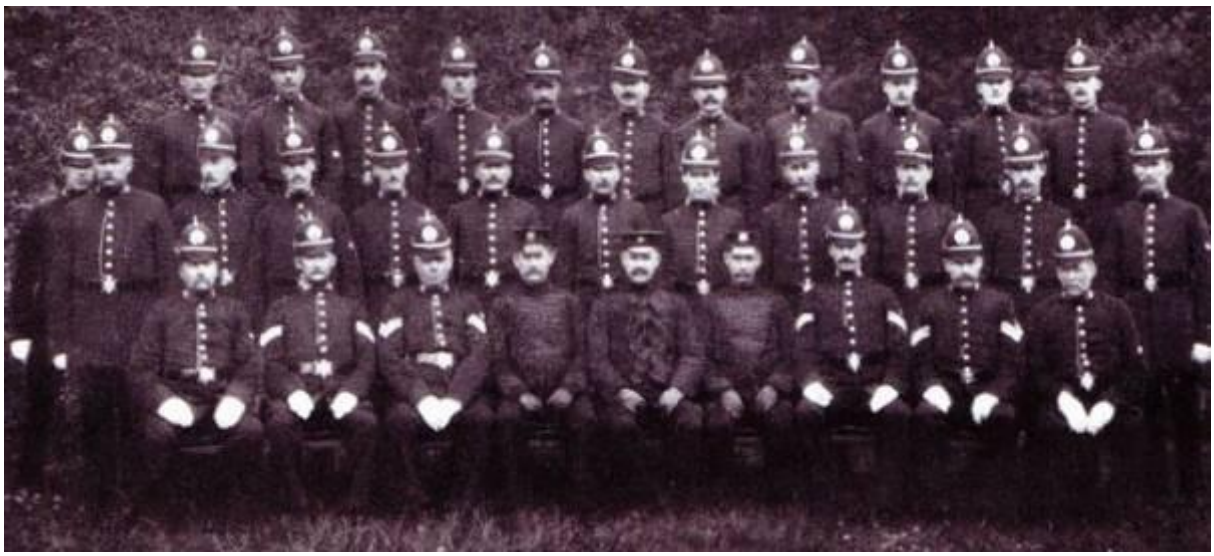
[34] http://www.redhill-reigate-history.co.uk/police.htm

[35] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1903

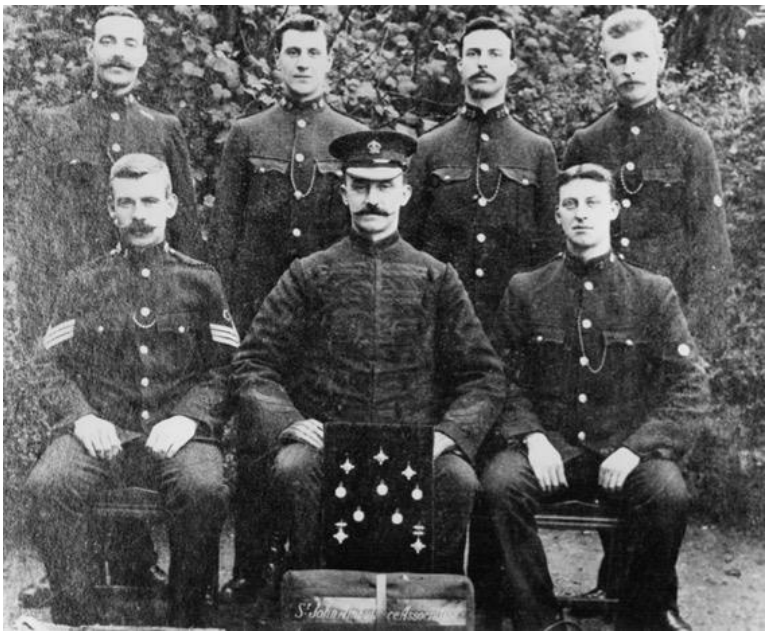
Average age of the force was 35½ years, average height 5 feet 10 ¼ inches with 13½ years' service with an average pay of £1 12s 3d.[36]

1906 December 31: Annual Report to the Watch Committee from James Metcalfe:[37]
Force was augmented by three constables. Six men appointed in the year leaving two vacancies [38]

1908 Strength – 1 Head Constable, 2 inspectors, 1 clerk sergeant, 1 detective sergeant, 1 weights and measures sergeant, 4 patrol sergeants and 27 constables. **[142]**



Reigate Borough 1912 Chief Constable Metcalfe, two inspectors and four sergeants



[36] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1905
[37] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1906
[38] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1906

Date unknown but Chief Constable Metcalfe and First Aid medals St John's Ambulance Association awards Collar numbers visible PC3 PC9 PC23 PC10 PC29 PS1?

1913 December 31: Annual Report to the Watch Committee from James Metcalfe including a report on the activities of the Fire Brigade: [39]
Reigate Borough Police Manpower Statistics

Year	**Average**	**Average height**	**Average service**	**Average pay**	**Sickness injury Per man**
1909	32	5ft 10 ¾	10	£1 10 9d	9.8
1910	35		10	£1 11 7d	0.4
1911	35		10	£ 1 11 9d	2.3
1912	35		11	£1 11 3d	4.0
1913	34		12	£ 1 11 8d	8.9

1913: An agreement was reached with Guildford Borough to provide mutual aid when required. [40]

Crime figures; a selection from the annual reports

Crime	**1909**	**1910**	**1911**	**1912**	**1913**
Rape	1		1		
Burglary	6	5	5	6	6
Larceny	64	46	48	42	48
Housebreaking		4		7	10
Arson			1	2	
Malicious wounding					1

The Reigate Borough Police remained a small force. In 1914, it had 40 officers in total, comprising 1 Head Constable, 2 Inspectors, 7 Sergeants and 30 Constables.

[39] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1913
[40] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1913

A system of Special Police was organised in August. About 30 such Specials with a chief anddeputy chief were engaged for each night beat. Reluctantly the police again became Coroner'sOfficers following an appeal from the Coroner to the Watch Committee. [41]

1914 Reigate Borough Police with Chief Constable Metcalfe outside Town Hall

1930 December 31: Head Constable **James Metcalfe retired** on the last day of 1930. He had joined Accrington Police six years later becoming a clerical sergeant and later an inspector at Bacup. He came to Reigate as Head Constable on December 22, 1891. On retirement he was permitted to retain his uniform and bicycle.[42]

[41] SCC Archive Centre CC/98/22/1 Reigate Borough Police annual report to year end 31 December 1914
[42] A Pictorial History of the Surrey Constabulary Gerry Middleton Stewart

James Metcalfe[43]

[43] Private collection Robert Bartlett

Police Constable William Henry Burn Mason
Reigate Borough Police and Surrey Constabulary

Extract

This is an abridged autobiography that was given to Alan Moore and published on his website by Jock Mason in 1995. It is missing much information and ends prematurely in 1955 when Jock was still only fifty-four. Nevertheless, it is worth reproducing a record of his time in the Borough Police.

Unless otherwise stipulated all pictures came from Jock Mason with the biography

William Henry Burn Mason, better known as Jock Mason for all of his time in the south of England, was born in St Andrews, Fifeshire, Scotland. His father was a master blacksmith who, along with his brother Alexander, employed other blacksmiths and together carried out all kinds of blacksmith's work, made artistic iron railings, and engaged in the construction and fitting of kitchen ranges and bank safes. His mother was a native of Switzerland.

Jock had a fairly hard upbringing. He worked part time from the age of ten until he became a full-time errand boy at the age of fourteen. At sixteen he went to work for a cycle and motor-cycle engineer. This continued for a short while only until he got and apprenticeship as a marine engineer aged seventeen in March 1918. The apprenticeship was at Tayport, eleven miles from home, and he got digs there to avoid the daily return journey. Jock worked day and night shifts and was earning 32/6d a week after five years.

With the end of World War One, conditions worsened, with the night shift cancelled and men paid off. Hours were generally reduced and with the corresponding loss of earning Jock had to leave his digs and go back to living at home, which meant making the twenty-two-mile round trip each day. To make this less arduous he bought a 1901 Minerva motorcycle for 15 shillings.

Jock found extra work at a local garage as a mechanic where he gained experience on all the principal machines of the time plus learning electrical welding. The owner was also the master of the local fire brigade and signed Jock up as a volunteer fireman for which he was paid a retainer and call out fees. His main job remained as an apprentice marine engineer but in April 1923, the finish of his apprenticeship coincided with a trade depression and, along with thousands of other engineers, Jock was forced to join the dole queue. He decided that there was no future in engineering and began to look elsewhere for work. Employment in the police was one avenue to explore and Jock wrote to several forces, including Glasgow, Liverpool, Brighton and Reigate, asking if they had vacancies. The reason that Jock wrote to Reigate was that his father had been in the army during World War One and had guarded

cordite stored in the caves there. He had told Jock what a nice town it was. As it happened the only force that did have vacancies was Reigate.

First he had to go to St Andrews police station to complete an examination paper. This was successful and he received instructions to report to Reigate Borough Police station at 9am on 1st April 1924. After a long journey he arrived the previous night, met Inspector Hood who arranged digs for him in Clarendon Road, Redhill. He attended as instructed on the 1st April when Inspector Hood set him a two and a half hour written and oral examination. He was medically examined by the police doctor and then interviewed by the Chief Constable, Mr Metcalfe. He was told he would be accepted as a probationer police constable and provided he proved efficient and reliable over a two-year period would be enrolled as a regular member of the Borough Force at £3.10 per week including allowances. At 10pm the next day he was sworn in at Reigate station by the Chairman of the Watch Committee. He was issued with a uniform, whistle, handcuffs, truncheon, pocketbook and oil lamp, the Borough by-laws and a copy of 'The Police Constable's Guide to his Daily Work'.

Pictures show Jock Mason in uniform and on beat duty in 1924

On the 2 April at 10pm his work began. He accompanied PC Robertson on his beat around the Earlswood and Meadvale areas. He stayed on night duty for two months, accompanying beat officers all over the Reigate Borough area. During the third month he was either on his own or was accompanied by newer recruits. No specific training was given other than attending police courts weekly and studying the police manual in off-duty hours. After three months of nights Jock was given a month of days 6am to 2pm and 2pm to 10pm alternating weekly. Duties included beats and point duty at Redhill and Reigate Market Squares.

In 1924, there were only three ambulances in the Borough. One belonging to St John Ambulance Brigade was used mostly for carrying private patients. Another was owned by the Reigate Health Department and was used for conveying patients with contagious diseases. The third belonged to the Reigate Borough Police and was used for street accidents. This ambulance was the first mechanical vehicle to be allocated to the Reigate Police and there were only four officers capable of driving it. The vehicle was a T-type Ford with two forward gears and reverse. The ignition system was operated by four high-tension coils which, together with the headlamps and horn, relied solely on a generator driven by the flywheel. There was no battery, so oil lights were fitted for use when the engine was not running. The ambulance was difficult to start. Sergeant Ash, knowing of Jock's mechanical background, asked him to look into the problem. Jock discovered that if the headlight switch was left in the on position it deprived the ignition system of electrical energy. Turn the switch off and the engine started without trouble. The sergeant reported Jock's success to

the chief constable and Jock was immediately put in charge of the ambulance and the 1924 Morris Cowley that was used for transporting prisoners. To enable his availability for this duty he was allotted special contingency duties in Reigate Town during the day and station officer duties at night.

Chief Constable Metcalfe retired on the last day of 1930 and was succeeded by Chief Constable William Beacher on the first day of 1931. Changes were made by the new man. He transferred the ambulance to the fire brigade and abolished beat patrols in favour of an area system whereby officers were allowed to patrol any part of the specified area as long as they kept in half-hourly contact with the station via public 'phone boxes and a series of twenty-four police pillars fitted with telephones.

The 1930 Road Traffic Act brought about the formation of mobile police patrols and the Reigate Watch Committee authorised the purchase of two Red Wing Panther motorcycles. One was issued to an officer named Brownlow, the other to Jock Mason. They became the first mobile police patrol in East Surrey and at the time were known as 'Courtesy Cops'.

Jock says in his autobiography that the new chief constable's appetite for publicity was boundless, and on special occasions like the Borough Carnival of the Derby Races he would borrow a large horse from a Redhill stable and parade the main roads dressed in his best uniform. This practice came to an end after a coach backfired in London Road, Reigate, and his horse reared and threw him to the ground. He was never seen riding on horseback again. During the middle 1930s the black clouds of war were forming, and Jock attended lectures on air raid precautions and poison gas warfare. Towards the end of the 1930s the political situation became very acute and there were incidents at Redhill, especially at weekends, when Sir Oswald Moseley and his Fascists travelled by road to Brighton where they held rallies. There was also an unconnected incident when a group of unemployed men arrived in Redhill en-route to a protest rally in London. Jock had the job of finding them food and accommodation and eventually got permission to bed them down for the night in the Sports Stadium in the Sports Ground. They had no food, but Lamberts Bakers gave bread and Burtons Butchers a large cheese.

By 1939 war seemed inevitable and lorries conveyed sand from sand pits in Bell Street, Reigate, to London for the sandbagging of public buildings, local hospitals were sandbagged, blast walls erected, and the basement of the Town Hall was reinforced as it was made ready to be an incident reporting centre for the police, fire and other emergency services.

Jock was put in charge of the testing and assessment of two dozen car owners who had volunteered to drive Civil Defence ambulances in the case of war. The tests involved driving a van commandeered for the purpose and driving and manoeuvring without lights at night. Some of those who were found unsuitable were allowed to remain as volunteers as long as they used their own vehicles. Others remained as ambulance attendants.

Subsequent to these activities Jock set up an ARP ambulance depot at the rear of Wray Park Garage in London Road, Reigate, and another at the Corporation refuse disposal works at Earlswood. He also took over a cottage as an office and accommodation for ambulance personnel and had storage facilities for emergency equipment and petrol. Notices were sent to three owners of trade vans in Redhill and three in Reigate that they had to supply one vehicle each at the ambulance depots.

The ambulance depots were staffed immediately upon the outbreak of war and Jock was authorised to purchase four more vehicles and have them converted to ambulances. In February 1940 Jock was transferred to the Civil Defence as Transport and Ambulance Officer. More vehicles were purchased and converted but as they all had to stand outside when not in use could be difficult to start in cold weather. This and other problems with the designated ambulance centre at Earlswood caused the Redhill depot to be relocated at a purpose-built garage in the Sports Ground just north of the entrances from the main Road in 1940. Similar problems at Reigate culminated in the requisition of the Reigate Garage as from 31st March, and for accommodation of personnel as from 3rd April 1941.

Jock managed the day-to-day operations of the ambulance centres for the rest of the war until the improving situation following the allied invasion of Europe caused a reduction in Civil Defence personnel. He returned to the Borough Police Force on 5th January 1945.
Two incidents occurred shortly after. The first was when Jock retrieved a boy from live electricity cables at Brown's Brickyard at Meadvale. In spite of applying artificial respiration the boy was pronounced dead upon the arrival of a doctor. The second was when two armed soldiers had attempted a hold up at Aldershot and were reported as heading for Reigate by car at 4am. Jock waited in a patrol car at the Black Horse at Reigate Heath and gave chase when they passed, ramming their car in Castlefield Road. The two men were captured and a sten-gun found in their vehicle.

Jock also attended the scene when the US Air force bomber crashed into Reigate Hill when returning from a raid on Germany.

Jock remained on traffic patrols, seeing the new traffic department established at Guildford in 1947. Early in 1948 radios were installed in police cars and Jock was in charge of Headquarters' car with call sign M2R05. His last arrest was in 1950 when he apprehended a man in Redhill for loitering with intent whilst in possession of an 18" jemmy.

On the 30 June 1951 Jock resigned from the police force after twenty-seven years' service. On his record were a dozen commendations, including one for arresting six men in possession of a stolen car in Bell Street, Reigate, one for the arrest of jewel thieves and another for his actions at the fire at Gatton Hall in 1934.

These and many other of Jock's actions are not included in his abridged biography. It is worth noting that in his very early service Jock had to appear before the Watch Committee for the very serious misdemeanour of not saluting Alderman Lemon.

Sergeant Ronald Bowles [44]

Reigate Borough Police and Surrey Constabulary

Ronald Bowles a former borough officer died peacefully on April 18th aged 94. He was the last surviving member of the Reigate Borough force which he joined in 1938. He was conscripted into the armed forces in 1942 and drove a tank (no mean feat for a 6 ft 4-inch Corporal) seeing action in France, Belgium, Netherlands and Germany. He returned to Reigate and was promoted Sergeant in the newly merged Surrey Constabulary, serving at Woking with his older brother John (Inspector). His wife Mabel died on 14th June 2010 at the age of 87 when Ron was 93 years old. He moved to Essex in 2009 to be nearer his daughter and grandchildren and was active and enjoyed life right up until the end.

Police Sergeant Bowles upon and in deep retirement

In the photo above Ron is wearing medal ribbons. He was conscripted in 1942. It was a class of conscription from the police and had to join a combat unit. It was either him or older brother John (the penalty of being the younger brother?) who had to go. He wanted to join the RAF but ended up in the Royal Armoured Corps as a tank driver. He was later transferred to the Assault Engineers and was due to go over to France on D Day. The War Office had decided that even tank drivers should be made to wear hob nail boots and just before D Day whilst climbing over his tank he slipped and badly gashed his head and was invalided out of the troop. None of that troop survived D Day and he returned to action about three weeks later and fought through France and Belgium and then took part in the amphibious landings into the Netherlands. He fought through from there up until the Rhine and was waiting to take part in the assault to cross the Rhine as part of the final push. He developed a rash and was given a shot of the new wonder drug Penicillin to which he proved allergic and came out in nasty blisters - much worse than the original rash! He was pulled out of the front line and none of his troop survived the Rhine crossing. He was invalided back to the UK where he used his considerable typing skills (learned in the Police!) to bag a job as a clerk. He then had the enjoyable experience of drawing up his own discharge papers, returning to Reigate Borough and re-joining his brother John. We think someone was watching over him at that time!

[44] Information received from Michael Mackman (Son in law)

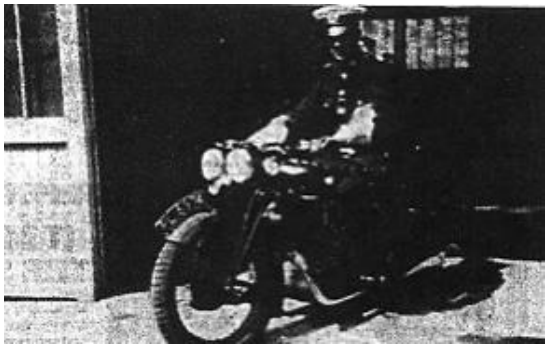
His medals reflect his war service, not unusual or especially noteworthy ones but a typical collection for those who joined up and fought at that time. There is also a Police long service medal. Quietly, he was proud of the medals (rightly so) and as a demonstration of that, and his enduring sense of humour, we found him sitting up in bed, in his pyjamas, wearing the full set on the morning of the 50th anniversary of D Day.

Sergeant Reginald Charles Brownlow
Reigate Borough Police

The 1930 Road Traffic Act brought about the formation of mobile police patrols and the Reigate Watch Committee authorised the purchase of two Red Wing Panther motorcycles. One was issued to PC Brownlow, the other to PC Jock Mason. They became the first mobile police patrol in East Surrey and at the time were known as 'Courtesy Cops'.

1931 September 18: Surrey Mirror: Tug-of -war. The members of Reigate Borough Police tug-of-war team have every reason to be satisfied with the result of their outing to Sunbury on Saturday, when they went through three rounds and into the final, and then were only defeated by a team with an almost unbeaten record, the R.A.S.C. (Feltham Depot), in a hundred stone competition. The Army team, having drawn a bye only had one pull prior to the final, the Borough Police having previously pulled against Nine Elms Gas Co and the East Surrey Water Co Redhill. They were accompanied by the Chief Constable, Mr W H Beacher, to whom great credit is due for the success which the police team has so far achieved since its recent formation. Mr Beacher has taken a considerable personal interest in the training and his experience has been invaluable in the coaching of the team which he has personally undertaken. The team was as follows – PC'S Brownlow, Mason, Wing, Thorpe, Richardson, Dean, Saunders and Smith with PC Capling as reserve.

1932: The first motorcycle police in the Borough, Jock Mason and R. Brownlow, were first seen patrolling the streets in 1931/2. Here PC Mason is seen on his machine in 1932.



1932 May 20: Surrey Mirror: Y.M.C.A. Sports at Redhill- four teams were entered for the tug-of -war – Reigate Borough Police team being PCs Brownlow, W H Mason, T Thorpe, G Capelin, R Dean, F Walker, W Saunders and F Stoneman. The Police beat Mr J Elsey's team in two straight pulls following which the East Surrey Water Company's two teams pulled against one another, the team coached by Mr H Penfold beating that coached by Mr A Penfold also by two straight pulls. In the final two exceedingly good pulls gave the honours to the police who were coached by their Chief Constable.

1932 July 22: Surrey Mirror: Borough Police- Tug-of -war success- After getting into the semi-final at the Police Sports at Brighton the previous Saturday, the Reigate Borough tug-of-war team reached two finals and won one on the following Thursday and Saturday. On Thursday they competed in the Metropolitan Divisional Sports at Leyton, on the Essex County Cricket Ground and were beaten in the final. They drew a bye in the first round, pulled over the Bow Division in the second round and Aylesford Paper Mills in the semi-final. They were beaten by a fine team in the R.A.S.C. in the final. On Saturday they were entered in the Pals' ex Servicemen's A.C. Sports at Cranleigh and had several strong sides to compete against. The favourites were the Long Grove Sports Club and Reigate were drawn against them in the semi-final. After two strenuous pulls the Borough Force had advanced to the semi-final when they beat "D" division Metropolitan Police in two straight pulls having beaten Oakwood Hill by two pulls in the first round. Long Grove, the victors of the London Fire Brigade this season were a difficult team to beat and the Borough Police are to be congratulated on the splendid strides they are making. They became the first holders of a handsome perpetual challenge cup. The team which has the advantage of the experienced coaching of the Chief Constable, Mr W H Beacher was as follows – PC'S Brownlow, Dean, Stoneman, Mason, Saunders, Smith, Richardson and Walker.

1933 April 28: Surrey Mirror: Reigate's Mobile Specials: Sir Malcolm Campbell at their fort parade: Making a talkie! Reigate's recently formed Mobile Section of the Special Constabulary hailed at the time as a practical attempt by the Chief Constable WH Beacher to cope with any possible outbreak of motor banditry in the district. Held its first parade at the Municipal Buildings parade ground on Sunday morning, when the Chief Constable, the head Special Constable Captain CJ Sutton, and Sir Malcolm Campbell (chief inspector of the "Flying Squad". The British Movietone and Paramount News films were made of the event. Eight vehicles in all were paraded, three of them being low-slung, powerful-looking racing models driven by Sir Malcolm Campbell, Major Gardner MC, Leonard Bell, Mr. Freshfield junior, G Burtenshaw, Captain Mason and Urling-Clark. The eight car was the chief constables own driven by PC Thorpe. The two mobile members of the regular force PCs Mason and Brownlow also took part. The idea was that of the Chief Constable and had received a ready response. They were not expected to do ordinary police work but called out in special circumstances and then each driver would be accompanied by one or more uniformed officers. It was not meant to alarm the public but to assist in its protection. Equipping the Special Constabulary is only bringing them up to date and adding to its efficiency for if a mobile section was necessary for the regular force it was necessary for the Special Constabulary. At a given signal the vehicles drove out of the Municipal Buildings led by the two regular officers making an impressive spectacle. Further action pictures were taken on the Dorking Road near Reigate Heath.

1933 July 14: Surrey Mirror: Reigate and Redhill – **Tug -of -war** success- Reigate Borough Police were successful in winning the tug-of -war championship at East Sussex Police Sports at East Grinstead last week beating Petersfield in the final. Members of the police team, who were as follows were each presented with a handsome eight -day striking clock, PC'S Brownlow, Richardson, Dean, Saunders, Mason, Smith, Walker and Stoneman.

PC Ingram was reserve and PC Dale trainer whilst the team were coached by Mr W H Beacher, Chief Constable. Much pleasure was occasioned at beating Petersfield for the first time. In as much as the members of that team are old stalwarts with a great name in this particular sport. The local team also met with success at recent meetings at Leatherhead and Cuckfield bringing home a trophy in each case. Of nine contests entered the Borough Police have been winners or runners up eight times

1934 August 24 Surrey Mirror: Reigate Borough Police Sports at the Memorial Ground Redhill - Now in its fourth year and enjoying the distinction as being one of the best events of its kind in the southern counties. **Tug -of-war** – Sixteen teams entered the 104 stone tug-of-war contest open to Police Forces in the United Kingdom and this event provided great interest. Most of the pulls were strenuous and in a number of cases gruelling duels lasted several minutes. Reigate's team which is coached by the Chief Constable and which lately has earned several successes had the misfortune to be drawn in the first round against a team with no less a reputation than that of Luton. A plucky fight was non-availing and the home team went down in two straight pulls. Luton went on to win the Challenge Cup that had been presented by Sir Malcolm Campbell.
Among local events popularly hailed was the one-mile inter-divisional cycle race in which PC'S Brownlow and Wing were riding to a splendid finish when the latter had the misfortune to come off his machine. It appears that the cycles just touched whilst nearing the last bend. Fortunately, PC Wing was unhurt, although his fall was a heavy one, but for this fall there is little doubt that he would have won.

1936 July 3: Surrey Mirror: Tug-of -war successes- Reigate Borough Police tug-of-war team have had a successful week. On Wednesday (June 24th) at Dorset they were only defeated in the final of the 104 stone section while they reached the semi-final of the catchweights. The following day they went to Herford and won the Hertfordshire County Cup. This is the second year that the Borough have gained this trophy. On Saturday they journeyed to Luton but were unfortunately beaten in the semi-final by a strong team from Dorset. The Reigate team including a reserve is as follows- PC's Barber, Brownlow, Gaze, Hampshire, Johnson, Ridpath, Richardson Stoneman and Walker with the Chief Constable, Mr W H Beacher as coach.

1936 August 21: Surrey Mirror: Reigate Borough Police Sports- **Reigate Borough's sixth athletic meeting** was full of promise but fated to be spoiled by rain, a heavy shower shortly after four bringing in its train a steady persistent drizzle which remained until the end. Although the crowd grumbled everybody made the best of it. The programme was one of the most attractive yet presented and but for the rain the athletic prowess would also have been the best.
The tug-of -war – Thirteen teams participated in the police(open) 104 stone tug-of -war competition for the handsome challenge cup presented by Sir Malcolm Campbell. In the first round Reigate Borough beat West Sussex, the contest being of a strenuous nature and Reigate were fortunate in gaining ground rapidly. Staines, however making short work of their stamina in the second round. The borough team coached by Mr Beacher consisted of

PC's Brownlow, Walker, Laycock Hampshire, Gaze, Ridpath, Johnson and Richardson. The final being won by Ulster.

An interesting addition to the programme this year was the catch weight tug-of-war contest between Reigate and Redhill divisions of the Borough Police coached respectively by PS Kimber and PS Foster. Redhill won by two pulls to one, but not without stern opposition. The contest was for the new 17 guineas challenge cup generously presented by Mr E L Page of Castlelea, Reigate. The contest was rendered all the more thrilling by reason of the fact that members of the regular Reigate Borough Police tug-of-war team were expressly excluded from taking part.

The Chief Constable himself ran in the 100yards handicap race for Borough Police officers of over 15 years' service. Starting at scratch PS Beedell made short work of covering the 8 yards start given to his Chief but did not pass him until near the tape. Photo from Daily Mirror 20th August.

1937 August 6: Surrey Mirror: Oxted Sports Bank Holiday Meeting- Reigate Police win **tug-of -war.** Reigate Police did not have the luck of the draw in the tug-of -war but they easily proved their superiority over the three teams they had to meet. They had a big fight against R.A.S.C. who came from Feltham with a big reputation but having the benefit of a slight slope, won by two pulls to one. They beat Sutton Water Co in the semi-final in two straight pulls, one lasting 69 seconds and then met "L" Div, Metropolitan Police, winning after one round had been declared a "no pull". Reigate team members were – PC'S Hampshire, Wilmott, Laycock, Johnson, Barber, Ridpath, Gaze and Richardson with PC Brownlow as reserve, Mr W H Beacher, Chief Constable was coach.

1943 17/18 January December Air Raid No 63[45] 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.

1991 February 9: Off Beat: On the 6 December 1990 ex sergeant Reginald Brownlow died at the age of 84 years and Reigate lost one of its distinguished former policemen who made a considerable contribution to the Borough. He joined the Reigate Borough Police in August 1925 and after early years on the beat he became one of the first motorcyclists in the Force. He was promoted to sergeant in September 1940 and transferred to the Surrey Joint Force in February 1943. He was commended on numerous occasions with special mention for bravery when he risked his life to save Gatton Manor during a serious fire in 1934. Mr. Brownlow played a leading part in making Reigate Borough Police the police national tug of war and First Aid national champions. He joined the army in 1944 and landed in Normandy shortly after D Day and rose to the rank of major when he joined the control

[45] Reports of Air Raid Incidents - Reigate Borough 1941-1942 Reigate Borough Police

commission to assist in the rehabilitation of occupied Germany for which he was personally thanked by General Montgomery. He returned to the Borough police and retired in 1948

Edward Clutterbuck
Ox and Bucks Light Infantry 1909-1919
Police Sergeant 239
Surrey Constabulary 1919-1948

His son

Junior Police Clerk (Cadet) Robert Frank Clutterbuck
Sergeant (Wireless Operator /Air Gunner) 100 Squadron
Died aged 20, 17 April 1943

Research undertaken by Robert Bartlett, Jean and Henry Pelham, Robert Simonson Surrey History Centre, Barrie Friend, Battlefield Tour Guide. With assistance from Rob Davis, Bomber Command Losses Database.

EDWARD CLUTTERBUCK was born 5th August 1893, North Newington, Oxfordshire and died January 1963 age 69.

Parents: Father William Clutterbuck age 41 when Edward was born. Mother, Elizabeth Ann Clutterbuck nee Green, 40 when Edward was born. Died April 1901 Banbury, Oxford age 48 years

They had two children: **Edward who married**: Elsie Elizabeth Scaterfield 1st May 1922 in Leatherhead whilst living in Cranleigh/ Fred who was born January 1898 in Oxford.

Edward's Brother – Fred was born January 1898 – Oxford

Edward's Mother died April1901 – Banbury, Oxford – age 48 years

Edward was living: **1901** North Newington, Oxford. **1911** Cheriton, Kent, Army Barracks

1914 – 1920 in the Military – Ox and Bucks Light Infantry

Acting Cpl 9175 2nd Btn and 1st Btn Ox and Bucks LI

1911 Census Shorncliffe Camp, 2 Ox and Bucks

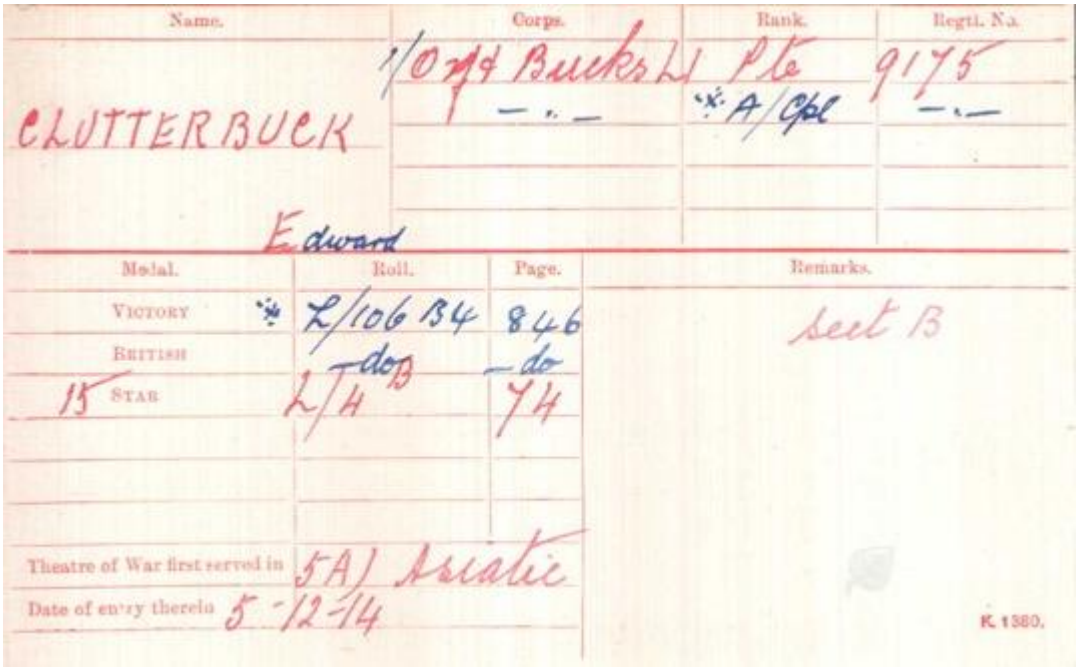
Medal Index Card: 5/12/14 entered Theatre of War 'Asiatic'. This would have been with 1st Battalion

1st Battalion
August 1914: in Ahmednagar, India. Under command of 17th Indian Brigade of 6th (Poona) Division, Indian Army.
27 November 1914: moved to Mesopotamia.
29 April 1916: Battalion was captured after surrender of garrison at Kut-el-Amara. A Provisional Bn was formed from the reinforcements and details who were not captured, which was attached to 28th Indian Brigade, 6th Poona Division. This Provisional Bn was renamed 1st Bn on 6 July 1916.
19 October 1917: transferred to 50th Indian Brigade in 15th Indian Division. Remained in Mesopotamia throughout the war.

Edward Clutterbuck was to serve in Mesopotamia for some time and seems to have been at the siege of Kut. British and Indian troops, sent to the Persian Gulf in early November to protect British oil interests at Abadan, made rapid progress inland against weak Turkish resistance. In less than a month, they had occupied the towns of Basra and Kurna, capturing more than 1,000 Turkish prisoners and losing just 65 of their own men. Despite the unforgiving climate, British forces continued to march steadily up the River Tigris in 1915. By 28 September, under the leadership of General Charles Townshend, they had taken the town of Kut-al-Amara just 120 miles south of Mesopotamia's major city, Baghdad. Scornful British estimates of Turkish fighting capabilities seemed to be amply borne out by events - witness, for example, the timorous surrender of 2,000 Turkish soldiers to a tiny British advance force in the garrison town of Amara in June 1915.

The siege of Kut-al-Amara: Bolstered by 30,000 reinforcements, Turkish troops besieged Townshend's forces in Kut-al-Amara before the Allied troops could act on the British War Cabinet's advice to withdraw further down the Tigris. The siege of Kut-al-Amara lasted 147 days, before the 11,800 British and Indian troops inside the garrison town finally surrendered on 29 April 1916. Conditions during the siege were appalling. In bitterly cold weather and with little medical treatment, many of the soldiers did not survive the winter. Several attempts were made to relieve the besieged town, but they encountered stubborn Turkish resistance, and all ended in failure. For instance, the relief force under the command of General Aylmer suffered heavy losses

Medal Index Card/Roll 1st Ox and Bucks then attached to RE Signal Coy

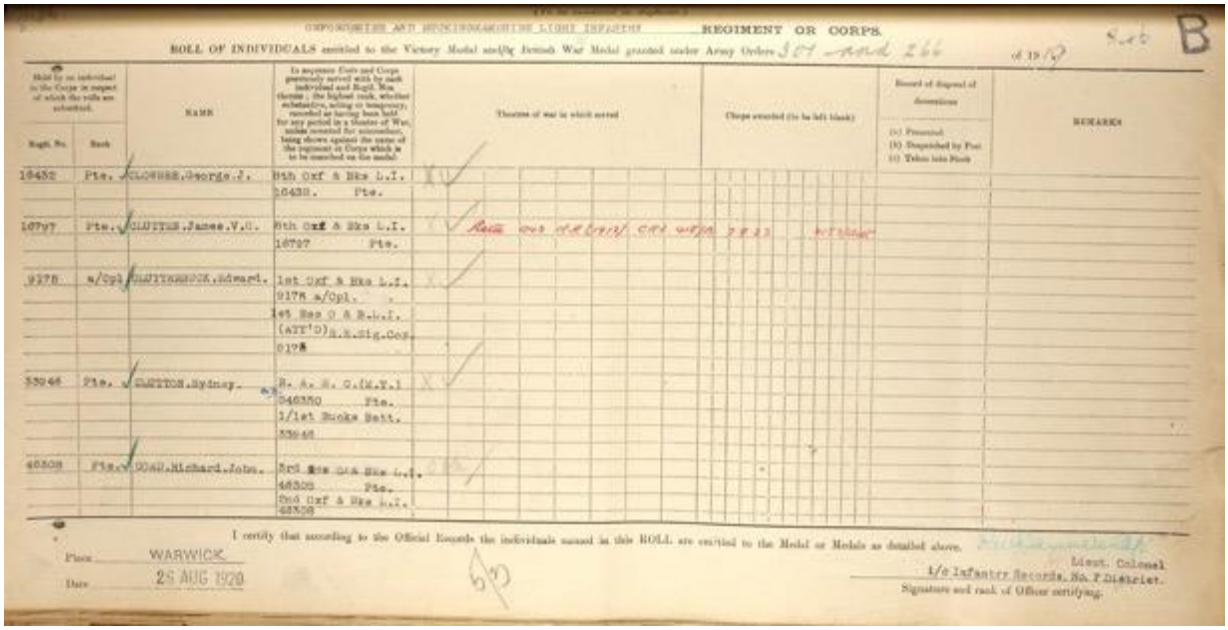


Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
CLUTTERBUCK	1/Oxf Bucks L I	Pte	9175
Edward	— " —	* A/Cpl	— " —

Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY *	2/10634	846	Sect B
BRITISH	— do —	— do —	
15 STAR	2/4	74	

Theatre of War first served in: 5A) Asiatic
Date of entry thereto: 5-12-14

K. 1380.



REGIMENT OR CORPS

ROLL OF INDIVIDUALS entitled to the Victory Medal and/or British War Medal granted under Army Orders 307 and 266 of 1919

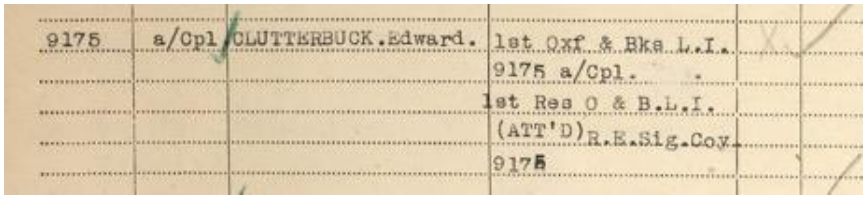
Sect B

Regt. No.	Rank	NAME	Theatre of war in which served	Clasps awarded (to be left blank)	Record of disposal of decoration (1) Presented (2) Despatched by Post (3) Taken into Stock	REMARKS
16432	Pte.	CLOSHER.George.J.	5th Oxf & Bks L.I. 16432 Pte.			
16727	Pte.	CLUTTER.James.V.C.	5th Oxf & Bks L.I. 16727 Pte.			Rec'd one bronze oak with 7843 attached
9175	a/Cpl	CLUTTERBUCK.Edward.	1st Oxf & Bks L.I. 9175 a/Cpl. 1st Res O & B.L.I. (ATT'D) R.E.Sig.Coy. 9175			
33946	Pte.	CLUTTON.Sydney.	R. A. M. C.(M.V.) 946350 Pte. 3/1st Bucks Batt. 33946			
46309	Pte.	COAD.Richard.John.	Rcd Res 0/4 Bks L.I. 46309 Pte. 0s4 Oxf & Bks L.I. 46309			

I certify that according to the Official Records the individuals named in this ROLL are entitled to the Medal or Medals as detailed above.

Place: WARWICK
Date: 25 AUG 1920

Lieut. Colonel
i/c Infantry Records, No. 7 District.
Signature and rank of Officer certifying.



9175	a/Cpl	CLUTTERBUCK.Edward.	1st Oxf & Bks L.I. 9175 a/Cpl. 1st Res O & B.L.I. (ATT'D) R.E.Sig.Coy. 9175		

1919 Sister of Edward Minnie died – 1878-1919 – Brackley, Northampton – Edward was 26 years

1921 Census living Police Station, Bridge Road, Godalming, Surrey, occupation Police Constable, employer Surrey County Council. Boarding with 5 other Police Constables - Single

1922 Married Elsie Elizabeth Scartfield

1922 Son Robert Frank was born 1922 Farnham, Surrey and died 17 April 1943 over Germany, aged 20.

1925 Daughter Jean E was born 6 January, Farnham, Surrey

1930 Son Peter was born 7th October – Godstone, Surrey

1939 Lived in Surrey – Police Cottage, Godstone – occupation Police Constable

1939 Census Police Cottage, Godstone

1946 Edward's brother William Albert died – Banbury, Oxford

1953 Edward's sister Emily Elizabeth died

1963 Edward died age 69 years – Surrey South Eastern

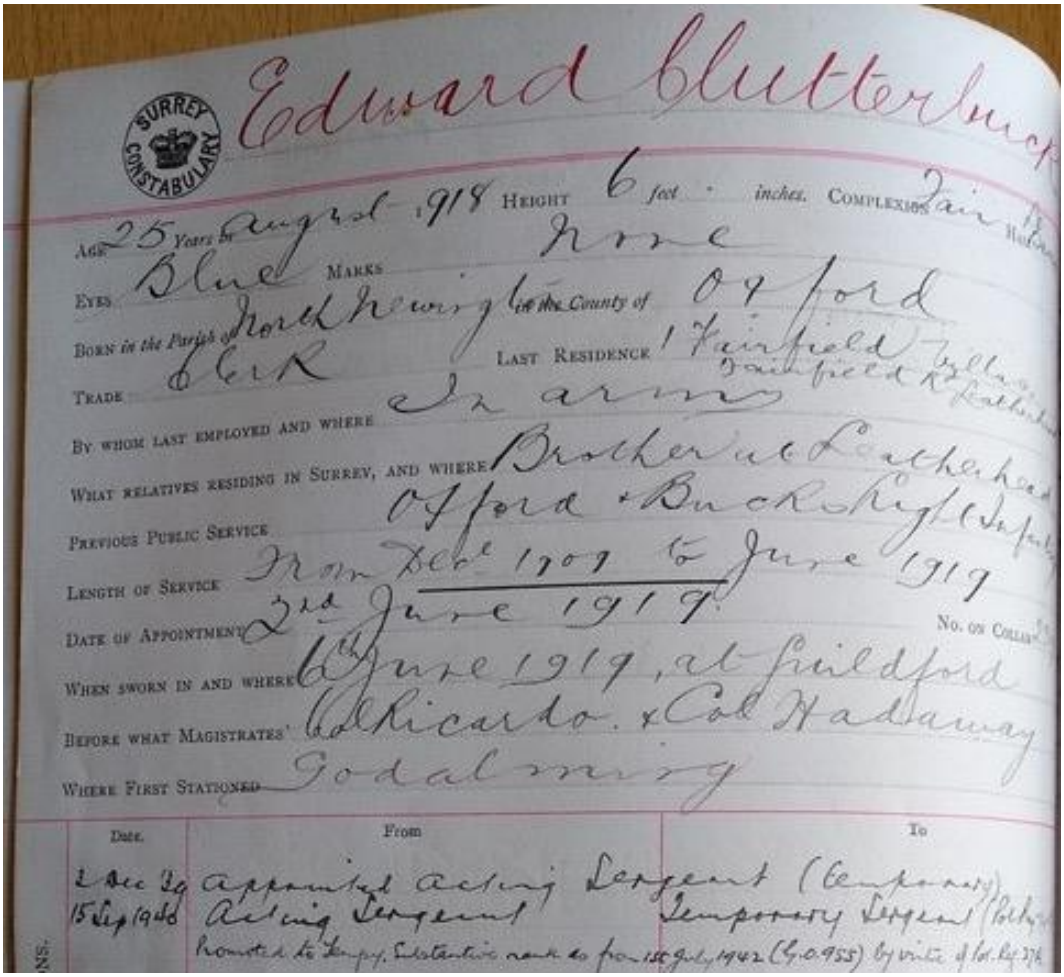
Robert Simonson Woking History Centre: I have found Edward Clutterbuck's entry in the Surrey Constabulary appointments book (9152/1/2/1/4). I see he was in the army (Ox and Bucks Regiment 1909-1919) before joining the Surrey Constabulary.

Among the other staff records is a 'register of unestablished clerks', which covers Apr 1939-Nov 1945, and is the only example of this type of record (ref. 9152/1/2/3/1), and there is an entry for Robert Frank Clutterbuck in it, which I am also sending to you. I noticed that some of the other clerks whose details are in the book also went off for war service.

The records that Jennifer King has worked on are the 'day books' of the Oxted Division, which again seem to be a chance survival. I imagine the other divisions must have kept them as well, but they don't survive. They are in the original deposit of police records with us (CC98/8/12-18) and cover 27 Sep 1940 to 19 Mar 1946. Our catalogue note says: "The first day book bears a note: 'From the 27th September 1940 all messages relating to (1) Air Raids (2) Air Raid Damage (3) Aircraft (4) Air Raid Messages will be entered in this Day Book and not in the

general Day Book, AF King, Superintendent'. Later books are marked 'Air Raid Damage Messages', 'Air Raid Damage Messages and Messages for the Attention of 'E' Department' or simply 'E'. The day books give time and date, message received by, message disposal.

Surrey Constabulary Appointment Book[46]


SURREY CONSTABULARY

Edward Clutterbuck

AGE 25 Years by August 1918 HEIGHT 6 feet · inches. COMPLEXION Fair

EYES Blue MARKS None

BORN in the Parish of North Newington in the County of Oxford

TRADE Clerk LAST RESIDENCE Fairfield Village, Fairfield R.A.F. Station

BY WHOM LAST EMPLOYED AND WHERE In army

WHAT RELATIVES RESIDING IN SURREY, AND WHERE Brother and Mother Oxford + Buckingham (Aylesbury)

PREVIOUS PUBLIC SERVICE

LENGTH OF SERVICE From Dec 1907 to June 1919

DATE OF APPOINTMENT 2nd June 1919. No. on Collar

WHEN SWORN IN AND WHERE 6th June 1919, at Guildford

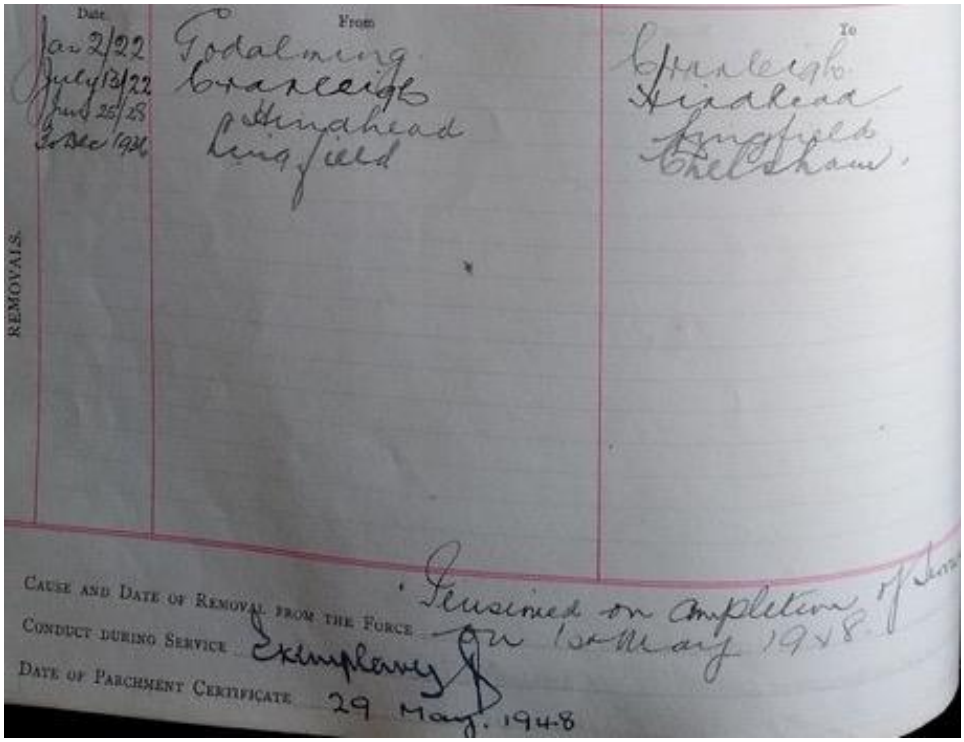
BEFORE WHAT MAGISTRATES' Col Ricardo. + Col Haddaway

WHERE FIRST STATIONED Godalming

Date.	From	To
2 Dec 19	appointed acting Sergeant	(Temporary)
15 Sep 1948	Acting Sergeant	Temporary Sergeant (Retd)

Promoted to Temp. Substantive rank as from 15 July 1942 (G.O. 955) by virtue of Lo. Lg. 376

[46] 9152/1/2/1/4 Surrey History Centre Woking kind assistance Robert Simonson



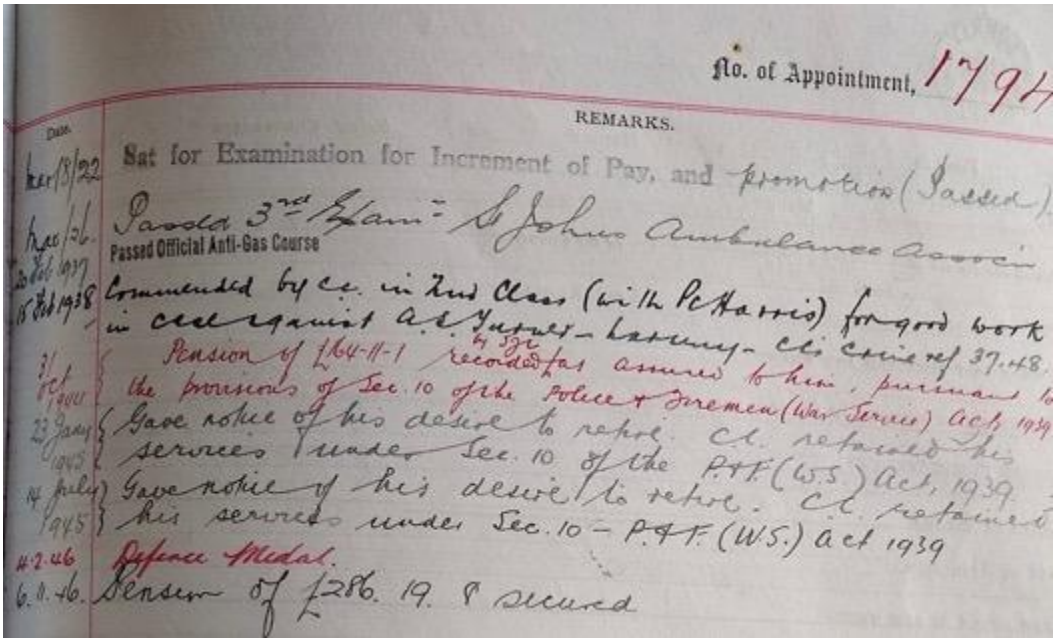
REMOVALS.

Date	From	To
Jan 2/22	Godalming	Stanleigh
July 13/22	Branscombe	Hindhead
June 25/25	Hindhead	Longfield
5 Dec 1928	Longfield	Cheltenham.

Cause and Date of Removal from the Force: Resumed on completion of War Service on 1st May 1948.

Conduct during Service: Exemplary

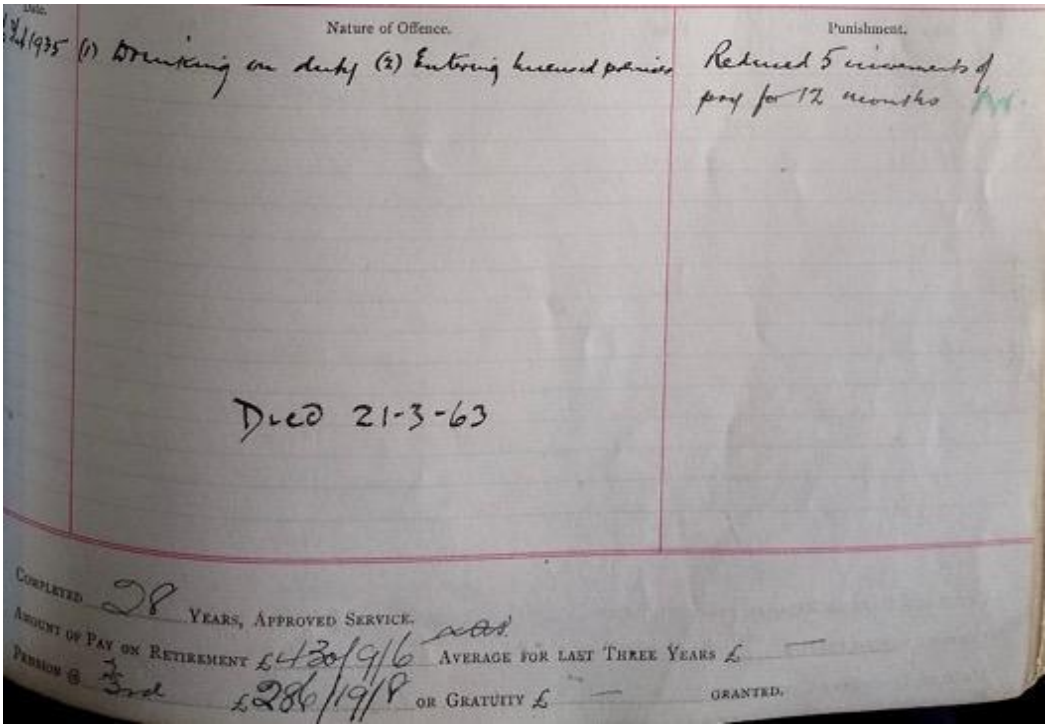
Date of Parchment Certificate: 29 May. 1948



No. of Appointment, 1794

Date	REMARKS.
Dec 13/22	Sat for Examination for Increment of Pay, and promotion (Passed)
Dec 26. 1927	Passed Official Anti-Gas Course
15 Feb 1938	Posted 3rd Class Constable to St Johns Ambulance Assoc
	Commended by Cr. in 2nd Class (with Pc Harris) for good work in connection with Larceny - Cl. Crime ref 37.48.
31 Oct 1940	Pension of £64-11-1 recorded as assured to him, pursuant to the provisions of Sec. 10 of the Police & Firemen (War Service) Act 1939
23 Jany 1945	Gave notice of his desire to retire. Cl. returned his services under Sec. 10 of the P.F.F. (W.S.) Act, 1939
14 July 1945	Gave notice of his desire to retire. Cl. returned his services under Sec. 10 – P.F.F. (W.S.) Act 1939
4.2.46	Defence Medal.
6.11.46.	Pension of £286. 19. 8 secured

1922 Oct 13.	Police Act, 1890, applies



Date.	Nature of Offence.	Punishment.
24/1935	(1) Drinking on duty (2) Entering licensed premises	Reduced 5 increments of pay for 12 months

Died 21-3-63

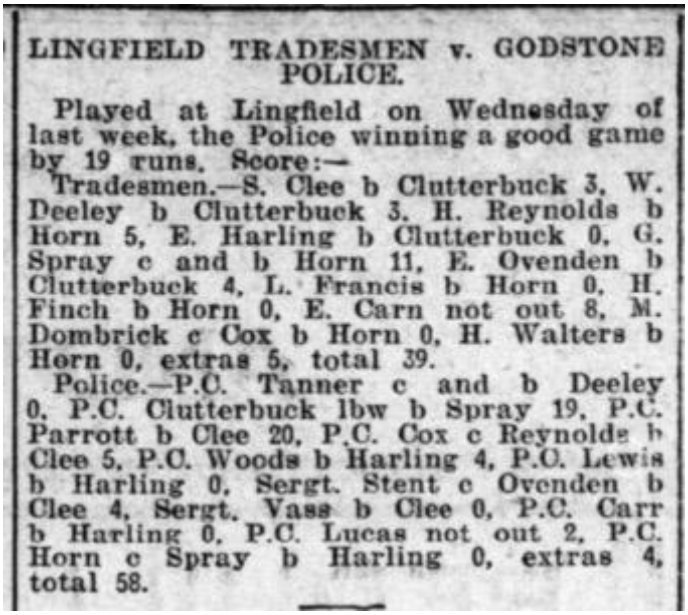
Completed 28 Years, Approved Service.

Amount of Pay on Retirement £430/9/6 Average for last Three Years £ —

Pension @ 3/3rd £286/19/8 or Gratuity £ — granted.

P.C. Clutterbuck

Surrey Mirror 24 August 1928



LINGFIELD TRADESMEN v. GODSTONE POLICE.

Played at Lingfield on Wednesday of last week, the Police winning a good game by 19 runs. Score:—

Tradesmen.—S. Clee b Clutterbuck 3, W. Deeley b Clutterbuck 3, H. Reynolds b Horn 5, E. Harling b Clutterbuck 0, G. Spray c and b Horn 11, E. Ovenden b Clutterbuck 4, L. Francis b Horn 0, H. Finch b Horn 0, E. Carn not out 8, M. Dombrick c Cox b Horn 0, H. Walters b Horn 0, extras 5, total 39.

Police.—P.C. Tanner c and b Deeley 0, P.C. Clutterbuck lbw b Spray 19, P.C. Parrott b Clee 20, P.C. Cox c Reynolds b Clee 5, P.C. Woods b Harling 4, P.C. Lewis b Harling 0, Sergt. Stent c Ovenden b Clee 4, Sergt. Vass b Clee 0, P.C. Carr b Harling 0, P.C. Lucas not out 2, P.C. Horn c Spray b Harling 0, extras 4, total 58.

Surrey Mirror 23 November 1928

attended the meeting.

POLICE CRICKET DINNER. — A pleasant evening was spent at the "Blue Anchor" on Wednesday on the occasion of the annual dinner of the Godstone Divisional Police Cricket Club. Supt. Claydon presided over a good attendance. Mr. J. W. Knell provided an excellent and tasty repast, to which full justice was done. The loyal toast was honoured on the proposal of the Chairman. In a brief address, Supt. Claydon expressed his thanks to the club for once again inviting him to preside at the dinner, remarking that it was his fifth year as Superintendent of the Godstone Division. It gave him great pleasure to be present at what he looked upon as the policeman's social evening. Sergt. Vass (Hon. Secretary), in a short report of the season's play, said that they had played ten matches, of which they had won three and lost seven. The presentation of the prizes followed. P.C. Clutterbuck (Lingfield) received the first prize for batting, which was presented by Supt. Claydon, the second prize going to P.C. Malyon, (Godstone). P.C. Horne (Merstham) won the bowling prize, and that for the most catches was won by P.C. Woods (Caterham). Sergt. Vass expressed thanks to the Chairman for his work as Hon. Treasurer of the Club. Replying, Supt. Claydon said that, although he himself was not a cricketer, he gave them all the support he could. P.C. Horne (Captain) said he could not add much to the remarks of Sergt. Vass. They had done better than they had for some time past. He expressed thanks to the members who gave their support to the club by turning out week after week and also to those members who could not play but helped with their subscriptions. During the evening an excellent musical programme was sustained by the following:—Supt. Claydon, P.S. Vass, P.S. Hilton, P.C. Pink, P.C. Malyon, P.C. Bishop, P.C. Norris, P.C. Clutterbuck and P.C. Lewis. Inspector Rendall moved a cordial vote of thanks to the host, Chairman and all those who had helped to the success of the gathering. A happy evening concluded with the National Anthem and Auld Lang Syne.

Surrey Mirror 26 April 1929

EXCEEDING THE SPEED LIMIT.—Five motorists were summoned for exceeding the twenty-mile-an-hour speed limit at Newchapel cross roads, Godstone. The following is a list of the defendants, their addresses, speeds and amount which they were fined:—James C. B. Tingling, 52, Cavendish-street, London, 40¾ miles an hour, fined £5; Roger Grantham Hill, 49, High-road, Chiswick, 38¾, £2; Charles Wallarton, 230, Lower Road, London, 43¾, £5; Guthrie Watson Williams, "Combeberry," Caterham Valley, 37½, £4; and James Desmond, 26, St. Leonards-terrace, Chelsea, 40¾, £5.—P.S. Vass and P.C. Clutterbuck proved the cases, and defendants were represented by Mr. W. R. Howe Pringle (Messrs. Grece & Pringle, Redhill), and one of the Automobile Association solicitors.

Surrey Advertiser 01 June 1929

WOKING POLICE WIN CUP MATCH.

Woking Police defeated Blindley Heath in a match played in the competition for the Chief Constable's Cup at Blindley Heath on Tuesday, winning by an innings and 47 runs. Scores: Blindly Heath 59 and 89 (Bishop 20, Mallett 39, Malyon 14); Woking Police 195 (Blackmore not out 100, Berry 22). Bowling for the Woking Police in the first innings, Glanville took six wickets for 19 runs, and Pett four for 33. For Blindley Heath Horne took three wickets.

Blindley Heath.—P.C. Malyon c Pett b Glanville 10; P.C. Wood b Pett 8; P.C. Clutterbuck b Glanville 4; P.C. Avery b Pett 0; P.C. Bishop c Blackmore b Glanville 20; P.C. Mallett b Glanville 4; P.C. Ford b Pett 0; Sergt. Vass not out 3; P.C. Horne b Glanville 1; P.C. Carn b Glanville 0; P.C. Lucas b Pett 5; extras 5; total 59.

2nd innings: 89.

Woking Police.—P.C. Berry c Malyon b Clutterbuck 22; P.C. Taylor b Horne 16; P.C. Glanville b Horne 5; P.C. Blackmore not out 100; P.C. Elkins run out 4; P.C. Pett c Horne 5; P.C. Browning b Avery 9; P.C. Hamilton c Lucas 8; P.C. Ellis b Clutterbuck 8; P.C. Armstrong c Lucas 0; P.C. Gilder run out 0; extras 18; total 195.

Surrey Advertiser 22 August 1931

OXTED POLICE CHAMPIONS.
WOKING LOSE CUP BY ONE RUN.

In the final of the Chief Constable's Cup, played at Leatherhead on Tuesday, Woking Police were beaten by Oxted Police by one run. Scores: Woking 64 (P. C. Berry not out 14, P. C. Taylor 12, P.C. Strudwick 12, P.C. Warner 10); Oxted 65 (P.C. Bishop 19, P.C. Wingent 16, P.C. Hamilton 13). For Woking Robinson took five for 17 and Warner three for 18, and for Oxted Wingent took seven for 13.

Woking.—P.C. Russell b Hornett 0; P.C. Browning b Wingent 0; P.C. Robinson c and b Malyon 1; P.C. Godman b Hornett 0; P.C. Taylor c and b Hamilton 12; P.C. Warner b Wingent 10; P.C. Blackmore c and b Bishop 1; P.C. Strudwick run out 12; Sergt. Hagley b Bishop 1; P.C. Berry not out 14; P.C. Booley b Wingent 1; extras 12; total 64.

Oxted Police.—P.C. Bowden b Robinson 0; P.C. Berry run out 0; P.C. Clutterbuck b Robinson 4; P.C. Bishop b Warner 1; P.C. Malyon b Taylor 1; P.C. Hamilton c Robinson b Blackmore 13; P.C. Wingent c Strudwick b Robinson 16; P.C. Bishop b Robinson 19; P.C. Hornett lbw b Warner 3; P.C. Crowhurst b Robinson 0; P.C. Horne not out 1; extras 7; total 65.

Surrey Mirror 25 December 1931

INJURED CYCLIST'S OFFENCE.—Archibald William Henry Pettifer, Newchapel-road, Lingfield, was summoned for riding a motor-cycle without a horn or other instrument to give audible warning of his approach.—P.C. Clutterbuck said that on December 4th he was called to an accident at Jacksbridge-hill, where defendant, after collision with another vehicle, had received a broken leg. Witness noticed there was no horn on defendant's machine. Defendant said he had had the machine "down" a few days before, and he had forgotten to replace the horn.—The Chairman said in the circumstances they would fine defendant only 5s.

Surrey Advertiser 11 June 1932

OXTED BEAT GODALMING.

In the first round of the competition for the challenge cup presented by Capt. M. L. Sant, former Chief Constable of Surrey, the Godalming and Oxted Divisions of the Surrey Constabulary met on Tuesday on the Godalming Recreation Ground, and Oxted won by three runs. For the winners Hornett took nine wickets for 22, Bishop six for 10, and Clutterbuck four for 28, and for Godalming Horne captured nine for 33, Andrews seven for 29, and Constable three for four runs. Scores :—

Godalming Div.—P.C. Barnett b Clutterbuck 2; P.C. Warren b Clutterbuck 5; P.C. Hopkins b Hornett 5; Sergt. Hagley run out 10; P.C. Sizer b Hornett 1; P.C. Andrews not out 14; P.C. Constable b Clutterbuck 5; P.C. Tucker c Smedley b Clutterbuck 0; P.C. Robinson b Hornett 1; P.C. Fry b Hornett 0; P.C. Horne b Hornett 5; extras 2; total 50.

Second innings : 19.

Oxted Div.—P.C.'s Bowden b Andrews 6; Butler b Andrews 5; Smedley b Horne 1; Bishop not out 7; Hamilton lbw b Horne 1; Clutterbuck b Horne 5; Crowhurst b Horne 0; Hornett b Horne 0; Washington b Constable 1; Wilson b Constable 1; Sergt. Vass c Andrews b Constable 3; total 30.

Second innings : 42.

Surrey Mirror 8 July 1932

CRICKET.

REIGATE BOROUGH POLICE v. OXTED DIVISION, SURREY COUNTY CONSTABULARY.

Played at Blindley Heath on Tuesday, and resulted in a draw, rain stopping play. Clarke, for Oxted, took 7 wickets for 52 runs. Score:—

Reigate Borough Police.—P.C. Dean c Clarke b Turle 24, P.C. Capelin c Hamilton b Clarke 40, P.S. Beedell lbw b Clarke 5, P.C. Laycock b Clarke 25, P.C. Atkins b Clarke 6, P.C. Simmonds c Clutterbuck b Clarke 4, P.C. Morse b Clutterbuck 12, P.C. Wing b Clarke 8, P.C. Saunders b Clutterbuck 0, P.S. Kimber not out 0, P.C. Walker b Clarke 0, extras 8, total 132.

Oxted Police.—P.C. Bowden not out 17, P.C. Clarke not out 21, extras 4, total (for 0 wkts.) 42. P.C.'s Hamilton, Adsett, Turle, Butler, Clutterbuck, Knell, Washington, Ballard and Wilson did not bat.

Surrey Mirror 29 July 1932

BOWLS

LINGFIELD POLICE AND SPECIALS v. LINGFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

This game was played on Thursday evening of last week at Ivy House, by kind permission of Mr. E. P. de Clermont. The Police team won by 10 shots. Score:—

Police.—Rint 1: P.S. Vass (skip), P.C. Clutterbuck, S.C. Fiveash, SC. Bracey 21.

Rink 2: P.C. Lucas (skip), S.C. Joiner, S.C. Tatnall, S.C. Billings 21.—Total 32.

Chamber of Commerce.—Rink 1: A. E. Potter (skip), H. Everist, H. Nightingale, C. Matthews 17.

Rink 2: G. W. Steers (skip), W. Boorer, I. A. Slade, F. Bryant 15.—Total 32.

Surrey Advertiser 30 July 1932

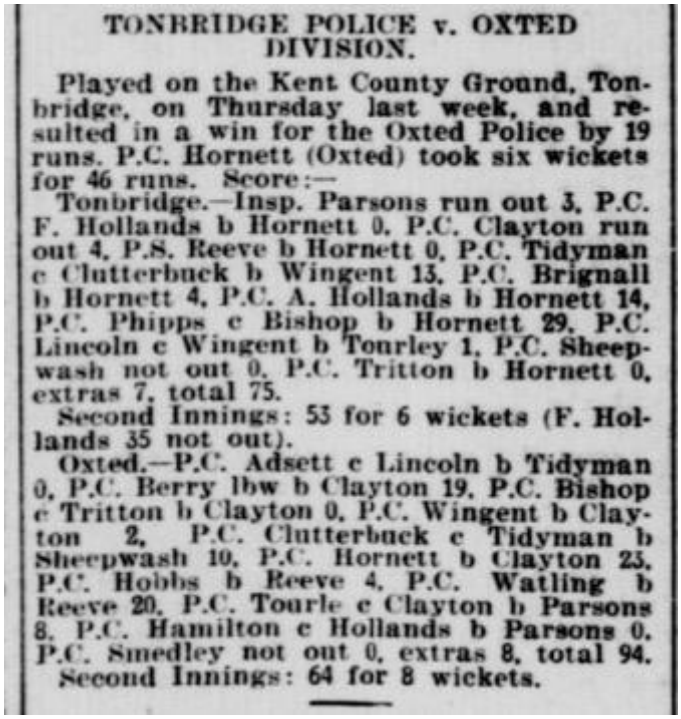
POLICE CRICKET CUP.

In the semi-final of the Sant cricket cup, Hersham Division of the Surrey Constabulary defeated Oxted Division (the holders) at Merstham on Tuesday by an innings and 13 runs. Oxted were dismissed for 32 and 55, P.C. Wingent taking seven wickets for 12 runs in their first innings. Scores:—

Oxted.—P.C. Bowden 4 and 8; P.C. Hamilton 5 and 5; P.C. Bishop 6 and 12; P.C. Clutterbuck 1 and 17; P.C. Avery 1 and 0; P.C. Butler 0 and 2; P.C. Adsell 2 and 2; P.C. Crowhurst 3 and 1; P.C. Tourle 4 and 4; P.C. Hornett 0 and 0; P.C. Washington 1 and 0; extras 5 and 4; totals 32 and 55.

Hersham.—P.S. Turner 1; P.C. Mothersele 0; P.C. Simpson 0; P.C. Wingent 22; P.C. Cordier 44; P.C. Farndale 7; P.C. Hornblow 7; A/S. Wright 2; P.C. Boxall not out 0; P.C. Middleton 4; P.C. Walker 0; extras 13; total 100.

Surrey Mirror 2 June 1932



TONBRIDGE POLICE v. OXTED DIVISION.

Played on the Kent County Ground, Tonbridge, on Thursday last week, and resulted in a win for the Oxted Police by 19 runs. P.C. Hornett (Oxted) took six wickets for 46 runs. Score:—

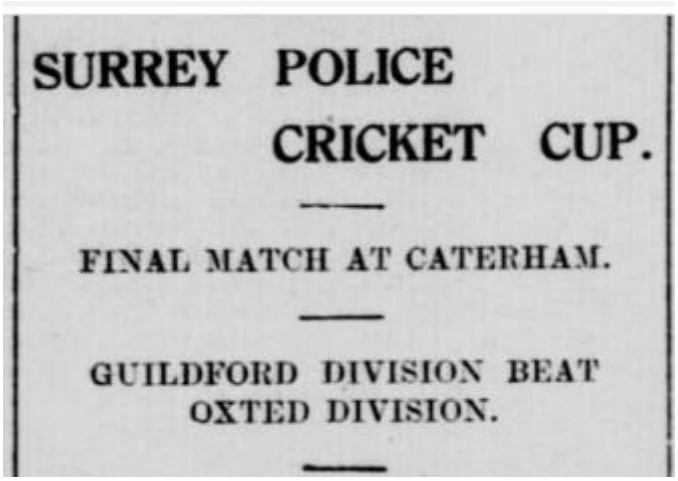
Tonbridge.—Insp. Parsons run out 3, P.C. F. Hollands b Hornett 0, P.C. Clayton run out 4, P.S. Reeve b Hornett 0, P.C. Tidyman c Clutterbuck b Wingent 13, P.C. Brignall b Hornett 4, P.C. A. Hollands b Hornett 14, P.C. Phipps c Bishop b Hornett 29, P.C. Lincoln c Wingent b Tourley 1, P.C. Sheepwash not out 0, P.C. Tritton b Hornett 0, extras 7, total 75.

Second Innings: 53 for 6 wickets (F. Hollands 35 not out).

Oxted.—P.C. Adsett c Lincoln b Tidyman 0, P.C. Berry lbw b Clayton 19, P.C. Bishop c Tritton b Clayton 0, P.C. Wingent b Clayton 2, P.C. Clutterbuck c Tidyman b Sheepwash 10, P.C. Hornett b Clayton 25, P.C. Hobbs b Reeve 4, P.C. Watling b Reeve 20, P.C. Tourle c Clayton b Parsons 8, P.C. Hamilton c Hollands b Parsons 0, P.C. Smedley not out 0, extras 8, total 94.

Second Innings: 64 for 8 wickets.

Surrey Mirror 11 August 1933



SURREY POLICE CRICKET CUP.

FINAL MATCH AT CATERHAM.

GUILDFORD DIVISION BEAT OXTED DIVISION.

Once more the representatives of the Guildford Division of the Surrey County Constabulary have gained the trophy for the police cricket championship. This is the tenth time that the Division has held the cup.

The final game for the present season was played on Wednesday afternoon, on the beautiful ground of the Caterham School, Harestone Valley, kindly lent for the occasion. Of course, the pitch was rather on the hard side owing to the spell of hot dry weather, otherwise it was in fine condition. Amongst the spectators of the contest was the Deputy-Chief Constable (Mr. Bird), Supt. Mann (Oxted), and Inspector H. Rendell (Caterham).

The Guildford Division had the good fortune to have first knock, and after losing the first wicket, Sergt. Andrews

and P.C. Oliver made a big stand, punishing all the bowlers heavily. Eventually Andrews retired with 102 to his credit, his chief hits being 21 fours. Oliver continued to bat well, and with the total at 215 for 4 wickets, the closure was applied. Oliver carried out his bat for 77, in which he hit 15 fours. Of the bowlers tried, P.C. Hobbs came off best with 2 for 32, and P.C. Clutterbuck 1 for 24.

P.C. Bowden and P.C. Berry started well for the Oxted Division, the former, particularly, defying the bowlers. After the fall of Berry's wicket, and two others, P.C. Clutterbuck made a good stay with Bowden whilst compiling 26, but after their separation no one else was in long until P.C. Hornett commenced to bat. However, Bowden was then somewhat unluckily caught, after playing a fine steady innings of 35. Hornett looked as if he meant business, for he lost two balls over the boundary, one lodging on the pavilion roof and the other in the bushes beyond. These were the biggest hits of the match. Unfortunately, just as he seemed to be getting set he was clean bowled for a very useful 22. The innings closed for a total of 113, leaving the Guildford Division

victorious by 102 runs.

Sergt. Andrews was also the most successful bowler, capturing 3 wickets for 9, P.C. Rose taking 3 for 27, P.C. Lemon 3 for 33, and P.C. Boshier 1 for 13.

During the interval the teams sat down to tea, Mr. Percy Broad catering very satisfactorily.

The scores were as follows :—

Guildford Division.

Sergt. Andrews retired	102
P.C. Hall c Hamilton b Clutterbuck	9
P.C. Oliver not out	77
P.C. Cross b Hobbs	7
P.C. Lemon c Bowden b Hobbs	7
P.C. Rose not out	4
Extras	9
Total (for 4 wkts., dec.)	215

Acting-Sergt. Wright, Constables Boshier, Adams, Nicholas and Mitchell, did not bat.

Oxted Division.

P.C. Bowden c Nicholas b Andrews	35
P.C. Berry b Lemon	4
P.C. Strudwick b Lemon	0
P.C. Wingent b Lemon	10
P.C. Clutterbuck b Andrews	26
P.C. Hobbs c Nicholas b Rose	0
P.C. Hamilton b Andrews	2
P.C. Watling b Rose	5
P.C. Bishop b Rose	4
P.C. Hornett b Boshier	22
P.C. Smedley not out	1
Extras	4
Total	113

Surrey Mirror 15 June 1934

OXTED POLICE v. SEVENOAKS POLICE.

At Blindley Heath last week, the game was drawn.

Sevenoaks Police.—Mannering c Laws b Head 68, Hollands c Hobbs b Head 29, Colman lbw b Clutterbuck 9, Welch b Tourle 14, Culf c Miles b Tourle 20, Hoot run out 12, Harwood c Watling b Head 4, Carter c Laws b Tourle 11, Sessford not out 13, extras 6, total 186 for eight wickets, dec.

Oxted Police.—P.C. Bowden lbw b Sessford 54, P.C. Berry c Green b Sessford 26, P.C. Head lbw b Sessford 0, P.C. Clutterbuck not out 54, P.C. Smedley not out 2, extras 9, total 145 for three wickets. P.C.'s Watling, Tourle, Miles, Fry, Hobbs, and Laws did not bat.

Surrey Mirror 6 July 1934

OXTED POLICE v. LINGFIELD WEDNESDAY.

At Blindley Heath on Wednesday, the Police won by 18 runs.

Lingfield Wednesday.—Barrowman b Tourle 5, James b Strudwick 52, E. Karn b Tourle 5, Charman lbw b Tourle 0, Simmons b Tourle 5, H. Seamore b Head 7, A. Bryant b Head 0, C. Cooper b Head 5, Blunden c and b Washington 0, E. Hughes not out 1, W. Murdon c and b Strudwick 4, extras 4, total 88.

Oxted Police.—P.C. Bowden lbw b James 24, P.C. Berry lbw b Blunden 26, P.C. Clutterbuck b Simmons 0, P.C. Strudwick c Bryant b James 7, P.C. Head c and b Blunden 14, P.C. Tourle b Simmons 21, P.C. Washington b Simmons 0, P.C. Nicholas run out 1, P.C. Fry b Blunden 0, P.C. Ford b Blunden 3, P.S. Vass not out 0, extras 5, total 106.

GODSTONE TRADESMEN v. OXTED POLICE.

At Blindley Heath last week the Police won by two wickets.

Godstone Tradesmen.—R. Hoare c Nicholas b Head 56, A. Jell c Tourle b Head 4, J. Sales b Head 7, J. Millian c Strudwick b Head 0, H. Andrews c Nicholas b Strudwick 1, J. Sales jun. b Strudwick 1, S. Colyer b Tourle 12, J. Chapman b Strudwick 5, W. Knight not out 16, A. N. Other st Nicholas b Tourle 0, A. Houghton b Tourle 3, extras 6, total 111.

Oxted Police.—P.C. Berry c Andrews b Jell 113, P.C. Malyon b Sales 2, P.C. Clutterbuck b Jell 14, P.C. Head c and b Sales 51, P.C. Tourle c and b Knight 12, P.C. Strudwick c and b Jell 0, P.C. Smedley b Knight 23, P.C. Nicholas c and b Knight 0, P.S. Vass not out 8, P.C. Ford not out 4, extras 5, total (8 wickets) 232. P.C. Watling did not bat.

Surrey Mirror 17 May 1935

OXTED ONE UP.

Oxted Police .... 67 Reigate Borough.. 66

At Blindley Heath on Tuesday, the Reigate Borough Police took advantage of an overthrow, attempted to "steal" another run to equalise, and their last man was run out.

Oxted Police.—P.C. Bowden b Dean 8, P.C. Berry b Dean 1, P.C. Clutterbuck b Dean 15, P.C. Head b Dean 13, P.C. Tourle c Atkins b Beedell 8, P.C. Miles b Dean 1, P.C. Smedley b Dean 4, P.C. Mallett b Nichols 6, P.C. Watling b Nichols 6, P.C. Fry b Dean 0, P.C. Mead not out 0, extras 5, total 67.

Reigate Borough.—P.C. Capelin c Miles b Fry 11, P.C. Dean c Berry b Fry 26, P.C. Laycock b Head 4, P.S. Atkins c Watling b Fry 0, P.S. Beedell lbw b Tourle 6, P.C. Nichols b Head 0, P.C. Walker c Berry b Head 0, P.C. Wing c Smedley b Tourle 13, P.C. Erwin c Miles b Head 0, P.C. Smith not out 2, Sub. run out 1, extras 3, total 66.

Surrey Mirror 18 October 1935

BURST TYRE CAUSES ACCIDENT.—Ernest R. L. Bowden, Warren-road, Wanstead, was fined £2 for using a motor-car with tyres which were in a dangerous condition in the Eastbourne-road, Blindley Heath, on September 15th. P.C. Clutterbuck said that defendant and another motorist were involved in a collision which defendant told him was due to a burst tyre causing him to swerve to the offside. He examined the tyre and found that two-thirds of the tread was worn off. When told the tyre was unfit for use, defendant said: "I did not think it was so bad as that."

Surrey Mirror 28 August 1936

were fined 5s. each.

WITHOUT A LIGHT.—Mel. Evans, 1, Park Cottages, Felbridge, was fined 10s., for riding a bicycle without a light in Copthorne-road, Felbridge, on August 5th. P.C. Clutterbuck said defendant told him he had been to a cinema in East Grinstead and when he came out found his cycle lamp had been stolen. Witness added that he got into touch with the police in the town and found that no report had been received of a stolen lamp. In a letter, defendant re-iterated that he reported his loss to the police.

Surrey Mirror 18 September 1936

OUT-OF-DATE LICENCE. — John Thomas Freeman, Isobel Cottages, Warwickswold, Merstham, was fined £1 for driving without a licence in the Lingfield-road, Crowhurst, on July 30th. P.C. Clutterbuck said that defendant produced a licence which expired on April 25th. Subsequently, he produced another licence which he had taken out on August 3rd. In a letter to the Court, defendant said that he committed the offence unwittingly. He had been driving for nearly eighteen years and had never failed before to take out a licence.

Surrey Mirror 27 January 1937

PIGS NOT ISOLATED.—Bron Garner, Shawlands Farm, Lingfield, was summoned for contravening a swine movement order by failing to keep a number of store pigs in separate pens for 28 days. —P.C. Clutterbuck said that on November 23rd a licence was issued to defendant to move six white store pigs from Westerham market. On November 26th he was licensed to move seven pigs from East Grinstead market, and on the 30th six pigs. On December 2nd he visited Shawlands Farm and found the three lots of pigs were in separate cattle pens, but that they could get into contact with each other as there were only iron bars between them. These three lots of pigs were isolated from all other pigs on the farm. When he drew attention to the fact that he was contravening the order, defendant said, "Well, they are in separate pens. I thought that was good enough for you. I have kept hundreds of pigs in my time."—Defendant was fined 5s. on each of three summonses.

Surrey Mirror 29 August 1941

AGRICULTURAL LEAVE.

GODSTONE JUSTICES ADJOURN ABSENTEE CASE.

A soldier who was technically an absentee but actually had good reason to believe he had been granted agricultural leave was before the Godstone Justices on Monday. He was Pte. James Alfred Hines (35), R.A.O.C., and he pleaded not guilty to being absent without leave.

P.S. Clutterbuck said at 11.30 a.m. on Sunday he saw Hines at Tatsfield and told him he would be arrested as being absent without leave.

The Secretary of the Surrey War Agricultural Executive Committee told the magistrates Hines was granted seven days' compassionate leave owing to the illness of his wife. At the beginning of that period his wife made application to the Agricultural Committee for 28 days' agricultural leave for her husband to assist in looking after their smallholding during her illness, and also to help a neighbouring farmer. Hines' commanding officer sent a note to the police and another to the Committee recommending this man should be granted 28 days' leave. Mr. T. Okey, a member of the Oxted Sub-Committee of the Agricultural Committee, also made an application on behalf of this man. The decision to grant leave was entirely a matter for the commanding officer, but he understood Mr. Okey, entirely on his own volition, advised this young man not to report back to his unit at the end of the period of compassionate leave. That, of course, was entirely wrong, but he thought it would be agreed this was merely a technical offence, as it was not a deliberate attempt on the part of Hines to be a deserter.

The Chairman (Mr. F. H. Elliott) said the case would be adjourned for a week, during which time they hoped matters would be cleared up.

Junior Police Clerk Robert Frank Clutterbuck
Sergeant (Wireless Operator /Air Gunner) 100 Squadron
Died aged 20 17 April 1943

100 Squadron badge (Disbanded 31 March 2022)

Robert served as a Sergeant Wireless Operator /Air Gunner in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve on No 100 Squadron. Aged 20 when he died, PC Clutterbuck was the son of Police Sergeant Edward and Elizabeth Clutterbuck, of Chelsham, Surrey. He is buried in Rheinberg Wesel War cemetery. 100 Squadron flew 308 sorties in Lancasters from Grimsby over Berlin during 1943-44 as part of a Group losing 20 aircraft 115 men with 20 taken prisoner. (Edward Clutterbuck was a police sergeant based at Chelsham – a member of the Surrey Constabulary. Mrs Jennifer King has been researching Police Sergeant Clutterbuck's war on the Oxted sub-division))

From: Rob Davis Bomber Command Losses Database.

DATE: 16-Apr-1943 / 17-Apr-1943
UNIT: 100 Squadron
AIRCRAFT: Lancaster III
RAF BASE: Waltham
TAKE-OFF AT: 21:22
SERIAL: ED563
CODES: JA: G
TARGET: Pilsen

PILOT: Atkinson, Donald Keith, Sergeant, RNZAF (NZ/416075) (killed)
CREW: Sergeant Norman Vanston (flight engineer) (1128891) (killed), Flight Sergeant Ian Stewart Brown RCAF (navigator) (R/124176) (killed), Sergeant John Rutter (bomb aimer) (1535677) (killed), **Sergeant Robert Frank Clutterbuck (wireless operator) (1292995) (killed)**, Flight Sergeant Peter

Rudick RCAF (mid-upper gunner) (R/140995) (killed), Pilot Officer Peter Vivian Monk RAAF (rear gunner) (Aus/416383) (killed)

On 15 December 1942, No. 100 Squadron RAF proper was re-formed in the UK, at RAF Grimsby, near Waltham, as a night-time heavy bomber squadron and was part of No. 1 Group RAF, RAF Bomber Command. In January 1943, the squadron received the first of its new complement of Avro Lancasters; the first operation of the squadron was on 4 March 1943 against a U-boat base at St Nazaire. A few days later the squadron was involved in a raid against Nuremberg in Germany and from then on, as part of Bomber Command's strategic role against Germany, took part in every major raid.[47]

DETAILS: Coned by searchlights and shot down by flak, crashing near the churchyard at Rentrish, near Saarbrucken. All members of the crew are buried in the Rheinburg War Cemetery.[48]

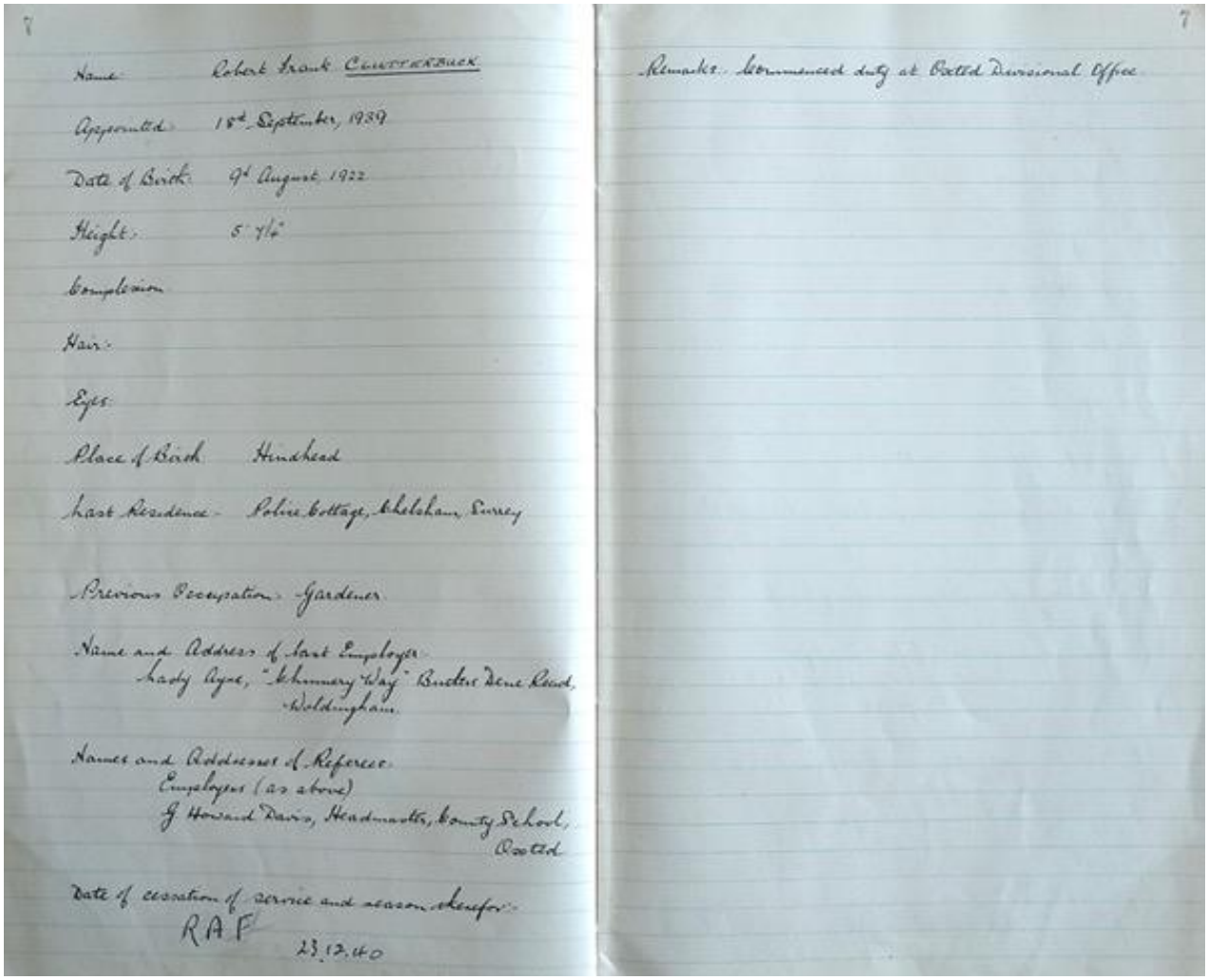
The site of Rheinberg War Cemetery was chosen in April 1946 by the Army Graves Service for the assembly of Commonwealth graves recovered from numerous German cemeteries in the area. The majority of those now buried in the cemetery were airmen, whose graves were brought in from Dusseldorf, Krefeld, Munchen-Gladbach, Essen, Aachen and Dortmund; 450 graves were from Cologne alone. **(CWGC site)**

A different Squadron but the action must have been the same and Robert Clutterbuck flew on operations to Germany and will have passed over Holland. On the night of November 3rd, 1943 Flight Lieutenant Bill Reid took his No. 61 Squadron Lancaster off to join a force detailed to attack Dusseldorf, deep in the heart of Germany. Right after crossing the coast of Holland they were attacked by a Me110 night fighter. Robert Taylor's dramatic reconstruction shows a split-second during Bill Reid's epic flight as the Fw190 flashes past the port side of the mighty

[47] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No._100_Squadron_RAF
[48] Bomber Command database email to Robert Bartlett16 April 2022

Lancaster. His aircraft now crippled and almost defenceless, illuminated by search lights and fires below, thunders on through the hostile night sky over Germany

Register of Unestablished Clerks April 1939-Nov 1945[49]



7

Name: Robert Frank CRUTTENDEN

Appointed: 18th September, 1939

Date of Birth: 9th August 1922

Height: 5' 7½"

Complexion:

Hair:

Eyes:

Place of Birth: Hindhead

Last Residence: Police Cottage, Chelsham, Surrey

Previous Occupation: Gardener

Name and Address of last Employer: Lady Ayre, "Rhumary Way" Buckles Dene Road, Woldingham.

Names and Addresses of Referees: Employers (as above) J Howard Davis, Headmaster, County School, Oxted

Date of cessation of service and reason therefor: RAF 23.12.40

7

Remarks: Commenced duty at Oxted Divisional Office

[49] Surrey History Centre Woking with assistance Robert Simonson ref. 9152/1/2/3/1