



Surrey Constabulary History
An in depth history of policing in Surrey

April 2024

www.surrey-constabulary.com

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Police Constable Leonard James Saltmarsh
Surrey Constabulary 1935-1946 PC333
Squadron Leader Second World War DFC and bar
RAF 7 Squadron Pathfinders Pilot/Captain
B. 29 March 1915 D. 4th February 2004



(Police officers on war service continued to be members of their police force and had their pay made up and their seniority within the service continued therefore PC Saltmarsh was adjudged to have had ten years' service when he resigned.)

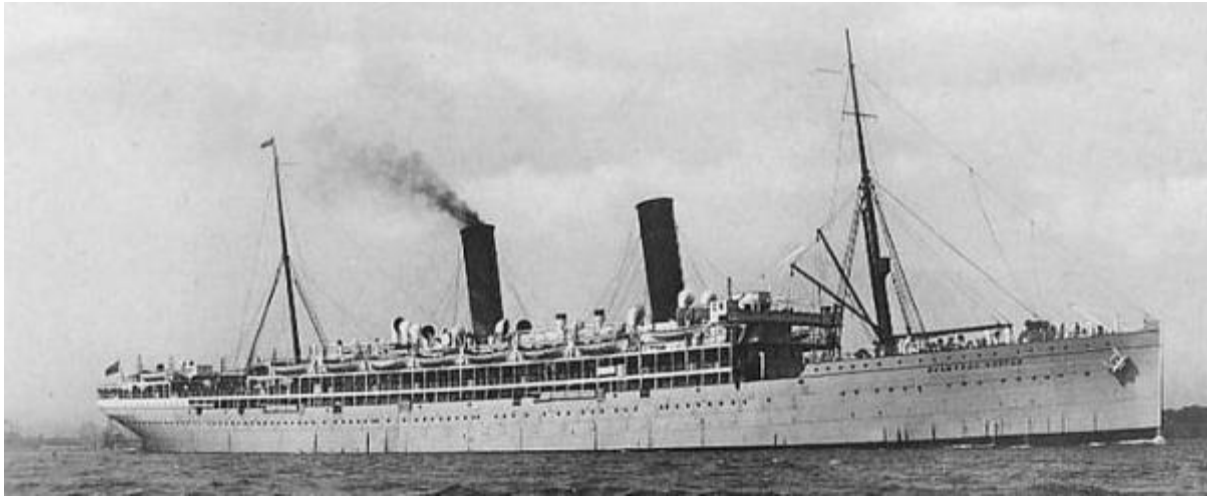
Additional research Jenny Tuffs

1915 29th March Leonard James Saltmarsh was born at Portsmouth Hampshire. His parents were Charles James and Annie Saltmarsh.

1934 21st September Leonard J Saltmarsh enlisted as a merchant seaman and made a voyage on Balmoral Castle, part of the Union Castle line. He was discharged 12th November 1934.

C.R. 2. Dis. A. No. R122670
 Cert. of Compy. No. _____
 *Name of Master, Seaman or Apprentice } LEONARD J SALTMARSH
 Birth: Date 19 Place Tieford
 Rank or Rating 2nd Purser
 Name and Official No. of Ship _____ Date of Engagement _____
 129074 (Stamp of Office) 21 SEP 1934
 *If Dis. A. is not produced, the surname should be in block capitals.
 (4222) Wt.25471 300m (18) 3/39 Gp.619 C&SLtd

C.R. 1. NO. OF DIS. A. ISSUED. R122670
 Surname SALTMARSH.
 [BLOCK CAPITALS] Christian Names Leonard James
 Birth: Date 29. 3. 1915 Place Portsmouth
 Rating 2nd Purser Certificate: Grade & No. _____
 or P.R. No. (if any) _____
 Health Insc. } Society Port Office Approved
 Membership No. _____
 Unemployment Insc. :- Local Office Aldershot No. 21504
 Height 5ft. Colour Eyes Blue Hair Brown
 Complexion Rush Distinguishing marks _____
 KEEN OVER
 DECLARATION TO BE MADE IF OCCASION ARISES.
 I hereby certify that I am not now in possession of an/unfilled Continuous Certificate of Discharge (Board of Trade, Irish Free State, or Canadian) for the following reason :-
1st Voyage 8.11.36
 Signature of Seaman Leonard James Saltmarsh.
 12 NOV 1934
 SOUTHAMPTON
 Dated _____
 (7189) 23258/34 75m (6) 3/39 C&SLtd 188



SS Balmoral Castle

1935 November- He joined Surrey Constabulary, he was stationed at Chertsey, Caterham, Esher and Woking.

SURREY CONSTABULARY APPOINTMENT BOOK

NAME Leonard James SALTMARSH

AGE 20 **years in** 1915 **HEIGHT** 5 **ft** 11ins **COMPLEXION** Pale

BORN in the parish of Portsmouth **in the county of** Hants.

MARRIED ON - WITH - CHILDREN

TRADE Engine Room Hand **LAST RESIDENCE** 'Rushmoor', Tilford, Surrey

BY WHOM LAST EMPLOYED, AND WHERE Union Castle Line, Southampton

WHAT RELATIVES RESIDING IN SURREY AND WHERE Grandparents and Aunt at Tilford

PREVIOUS PUBLIC SERVICE None

NO. ON COLLAR 333

DATE OF APPOINTMENT 10th November 1935

WHEN SWORN IN AND WHERE 22nd Nov 1935 at Guildford

BEFORE WHAT MAGISTRATES Capt. E.H. Tuckwell and Mr Neil Goseage

WHERE FIRST STATIONED 17.2.1936 Chertsey

<u>Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
1 Aug 1936	Chertsey	Caterham
25 Oct 1937	Caterham	Esher
10 July 1939	Esher	Woking
16 Mar 1942	Woking	R.A.F.

<u>Date</u>		
10 Apr 1937	Passed Official Anti-Gas Course.	
16 Mar 1942	Joined R.A.F. with C.C.'s consent.	
1937	Passed 3 rd Examination for St. Johns Ambulance	
31 Jan 1942	Sat examination for Sergeant and passed educational subjects only.	
3 rd Oct 1944	Awarded Distinguished Flying Cross. See G.O. 1051(84)	
16 th Nov 1946	Awarded bar to Distinguished Flying Cross. See G.O. 1079 (112).	
1 June 1946	Did not re-join after service with R.A.F	

CAUSE AND DATE OF REMOVAL FROM THE FORCE: Resigned voluntarily 1st June 1946 **CONDUCT DURING SERVICE:** Exemplary

DATE CERTIFICATE 15th July 1946 **COMPLETED 10 Years, Approved Service.**

1936 28th August Surrey Mirror Oxted Petty Sessions. Black "L" Plate Illegal. Norman William Dickenson, Hillminister, Westhall Warlingham was summoned as a learner driver for failing to display the letter "L" on his car in Station Avenue Caterham on August 7th. He was further summoned for failing to sign his driving licence. He pleaded guilty. PC Saltmarsh said that instead of the large red "L" plates, there were small black letters on the front and rear of the defendant's car. Defendant's father told the court that this was a technical offence. Eighteen months ago they had black "L" plates printed and used them when his daughter was driving. When a provisional licence was granted to his son the authorities sent the red "L" letters but he did not read the instructions closely enough to gather it was compulsory to put them on the car. Therefore, as the black letters were still in the car they were used again. His son had driven the

car to Folkstone and to Croydon on several occasions and never knew it was an offence. His son had had the licence three days and it was pure oversight that he did not sign it. Defendant was fined 5s for each offence.

1936 23rd October Surrey Mirror Oxted Petty Sessions Obstruction. Celia Mills-Thomas, Sungate, Beadles Lane Oxted was fined 10s for causing obstruction in Croydon Road Caterham on October 1st. PC Saltmarsh said the defendant's car was left three feet from the kerb and 10ft from the white "stop" traffic line. Defendant returned after nine minutes. In evidence defendant said she moved her car so as to not impede the traffic and she was away for a few minutes only while she went to the Post Office.

1937 Electoral register 217 Croydon Road Caterham Leonard James Saltmarsh

1937 Surrey Advertiser Annual Sports Meeting of Surrey Constabulary at Woking. L J Saltmarsh (Caterham) was a heat qualifier in the Half Mile Cycle Handicap, but he failed to be placed in the final

1937 30th July Surrey Mirror. PC Saltmarsh produced plans of the section of road where a fatal accident had occurred, at the inquest.

1938/39 Electoral register -Esgair Portsmouth Road, Esher, Leonard James Saltmarsh

1939 15th July Leonard James Saltmarsh marries Margaret Graham at Tilford.

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No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
289	July 15 th 1939	Leonard James Saltmarsh Margaret Graham	24 24	Bachelor Spinster	Police Constable —	Esgair Portsmouth Rd Esher Bridge Cottage Tilford	Charles James Saltmarsh Tom Newton Graham	Postman Paperhanger agent

Married in the parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Charles James Saltmarsh or after baning by me, Reginald Prothero (Vicar)

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Leonard James Saltmarsh in the Presence of us, Tom Newton Graham and Charles James Saltmarsh

1939 Register 5 Bury Close Woking. Leonard Saltmarsh and Margaret Saltmarsh. Leonard- a constable

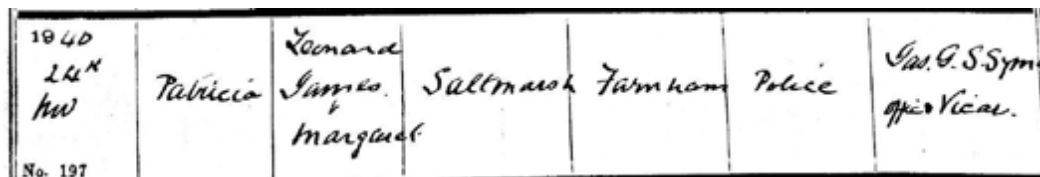
1939 26 August Surrey Advertiser- Mutilated body on railway line-PC Saltmarsh was a witness at the inquest of Leading Aircraftsman Leslie Prothero Smith (24). PC Saltmarsh said that in company with PS Cox he examined the railway line and found Smith's body lying on the four foot way about a quarter of a mile from Worplesdon and two and a quarter miles from Woking Station. About 100 yards in the direction of Woking he saw marks consistent with the body having been struck there. To get to the line Smith would either have to climb down from a bridge or walk across the nursey from the main road. After hearing all the evidence a verdict of "Death by misadventure while trespassing" was returned.

1940 24 January Surrey Advertiser. The light in the hospital. A K.C. represents woman defendant. Among seven defendants at Woking Police Court on Saturday who were summoned for causing unobscured lights to be displayed inside roofed buildings was a woman who was defended by her father, a K.C. She was Miss Shelia Raeburn of The Mount, St John's. She was defended by Sir Norman Raeburn, K.C. and pleaded not guilty. She did not appear. PC Saltmarsh said that at 7.30pm on January 4th he saw a bright light shining from a first-floor window at Woking Victoria Hospital. On investigating he saw Mis Raeburn who admitted being the person responsible. Cross examined witness said that he went to the hospital as a result of a complaint received from an A.R.P. warden. Mis Raeburn was pointed out to the witness as being the person responsible for the light. Sir Norman said that it was entirely denied by the defence that Miss Raeburn had admitted she was responsible for the light. If the Bench were impressed by this, he would ask for an adjournment so that Miss Raeburn could flatly deny such an admission. Mr A L Kelly (in the chair) said the case must be adjourned for a week for the attendance of the defendant.

28th January 1940 The People Sir Norman Raeburn K.C. submitted that his daughter, a voluntary nurse working 12 hours a day for seven days a week was being made a scapegoat for the hospital authorities who were responsible for the lighting. The summons was dismissed.

This case was reported in several national newspapers.

1940 24th November Patricia, daughter of Leonard James Saltmarsh and Patricia was baptised at Tilford.



1941 15th February Surrey Advertiser. PC Saltmarsh represented the local police at the funeral of Mr Henry Quartermaine of Guildford Road, Woking, a pioneering business man who had given many years of service to the public.

1941 24 May Surrey Advertiser. Woking Police Court. Encounter at Snack Bar. Pte William George Ashlin (27) and L-Corp Henry J Wilson (25) both of the R.A.S.C. were charged at Woking Police Court with being concerned together in breaking and entering the Snack Bar, 19 Guildford Road, Woking on Saturday and stealing 3s 6d belonging to Mr Henry A Searle and Mr John Brierly. PC Saltmarsh said he went with P.W.R. Smith to the Snack Bar on Saturday evening and saw that a window at the side had been broken. He went in and saw the defendants crouching down by the window. Wilson dashed for the window and got out. Witness caught hold of Ashlin and handcuffed him, and later Wilson was brought to the police station by P.W.R. Smith. When charged Wilson replied, "We just felt a bit mischievous and did it out of devilment." Ashlin had nothing to say. P.W.R. Smith said he waited outside the window when PC Saltmarsh went into the shop, suddenly he saw a soldier jump out of the window and run away. Witness chased and caught the man who was Wilson, about 200 yards

along York Road. When told he would be arrested Wilson said "Look here mate, I've got a wife and two kids. You say you didn't see me." On this evidence a remand in custody until Saturday was ordered when the men appeared on remand. On the application of their commanding officer the men were handed over to the military authorities.

1942 16th March Leonard **joined R.A.F** with the consent of the Chief Constable. During his police career Leonard Saltmarsh played cricket for divisional teams.

1943 4th September Surrey Advertiser - They Gain their Wings



In December 1942 Saltmarsh trained in a Tiger Moth and went on to fly Wellingtons and Lancasters with 7 Squadron, Pathfinders. He was awarded his first DFC for actions on the 26th of August 1944 in a raid over Kiel. He flew 99 Operational sorties.

D.F.C. London Gazette 3 October 1944. The original recommendation states:

1945 1st December Surrey Advertiser Bar to D.F.C. Flight Lieut Leonard James Saltmarsh, awarded a bar to his D.F.C. is the only son of Mr and Mrs C J Saltmarsh of Rushmoor, Tilford. He was educated at Farnham Grammar School and served in the Surrey Constabulary at Guildford and Woking before joining the R.A.F. in 1939 (sic). He was commissioned in 1942. He completed three tours of "ops" and two with a Pathfinder squadron in which he held the rank of Squadron Leader. He married Miss Margaret Graham, daughter of Mr and Mrs T N Graham, of Montrose, Stonyfield Road, Tilford and has a five-year-old daughter, Patricia.

'Flying Officer L. J. Saltmarsh has so far completed 17 successful sorties as Pilot and Captain of Lancaster aircraft and has been most conspicuous at all times for his extremely high standard of courage and resoluteness. On two difficult occasions during daylight attacks on Vaires on

12 July 1944 and on Emieville on 18 August 1944, he observed a crippled bomber proceeding at a very reduced speed away from the target.



No 7 Squadron Pathfinder Bomber

On both occasions he dropped behind the main bomber stream in order to escort the damaged bomber safely back to England. On 15 August, during a daylight attack on the airfield at St. Trond, one of his engines became unserviceable on the way to the target and the propeller had to be feathered. But in spite of the fact that he was getting behind the mainstream, owing to his reduced speed, he pressed on and bombed the target, and secured an aiming point photograph. On the way back from the target another engine became unserviceable but did not deter Flying Officer Saltmarsh from proceeding to and bombing an alternative airfield target with a bomb that had failed to be released over the primary target, and once more he secured an aiming point photograph. He eventually arrived safely over base and made a perfect two-engine landing. It was not until after he had landed that he reported the fact that two engines had become unserviceable during the sortie. This very gallant pilot is strongly recommended for the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross.'

Bar to D.F.C. London Gazette 16 November 1945. The original recommendation states:

'This officer has completed 53 operational sorties, of which 28 have been carried out in the squadron, in the Path Finder Force, 18 of them as Captain of a Marker Crew. Flight Lieutenant Saltmarsh is an efficient and skilful pilot who has always shown a strong devotion to duty and a cheerful confidence which has always inspired a high standard of morale in his crew. He has always displayed exceptional fearlessness in the face of danger, complete disregard for personal safety and has pressed home his attacks against the enemy with the utmost determination.'

Leonard James Saltmarsh commenced pilot training at No. 31 E.F.T.S. at De Winton, Alberta in December 1942, and graduated from No. 34 E.F.S. at Medicine Hat in June 1943. Back in the U.K., he attended No. 11 A.F.U. at Shawbury, prior to joining No. 26 O.T.U. at Little Harwood in early January 1944, where he gained experience on Wellingtons, and then attended a conversion unit for Lancasters at Waterbeach, at which place he joined No. 514 Squadron that June.

His first tour of operations commenced with a strike against L'Hey on the 23 June and ending with another against Emmerich on 7 October, the intervening period witnessing him attack numerous French targets in support of the Allied invasion, but also a number of heavily defended German targets, including Bremen, Dortmund, Saarbrücken, Stettin and Stuttgart. And as confirmed by the recommendation for his D.F.C. after 17 sorties, several of these trips were not without incident, his flying logbook further stating that his Lancaster received flak damage during strikes against enemy panzers and transport at Villiers Bocage on 30 June and against a supply depot at Beauvoir on 2 July; similarly during a visit to Bremen on the night of 18-19 August.

In October 1944, Saltmarsh attended the Pathfinder Force's training centre at Warboys, as a result of which he was transferred to No. 7 (P.F.F.) Squadron at Oakington in the following month, flying his first such sortie on the night of the 11th-12th, against Dortmund. A daylight strike against enemy communications at Julich, in support of General Patton's troops, followed on the 14th and a night operation to Sterkrade on the 21st, Saltmarsh's flying log book again noting flak damage. Then on the 29th he flew as support aircraft to the Master Bomber on a raid to Dortmund, a role that he would fulfil with growing regularity over the coming months. Such heavily defended targets as Duisburg, Essen (twice) and Karlsruhe formed the backbone of his operational agenda in December, while January 1945 saw him attacking, among other locations, Hanover, Magdeburg, Munich and Stuttgart, his flying logbook noting an encounter with a Ju. 88 on the Munich run. February witnessed his Lancaster carrying out strikes against Dortmund, Gelsenkirchen, Ludwigshaven and Pforzheim, in addition to participating in the famous "firestorm" raid on Dresden on the 13th, an action that Saltmarsh would robustly defend in years to come.

March saw him completing five more sorties to German targets, three of them in daylight, and April another four, two of these in daylight, including Bremen on the 21st, which latter operation marked the end of his operational tour. He did, however, fly three "Cook's Tours" to the Rhur in May, and ended his career with an appointment in Transport Command in December 1945. Over and above all of this, however, it would appear that he flew 56 "unspecific" sorties of a secret nature, evidence for which is to be found in the following endorsement from "Bomber" Harris. He also flew: Diversions, experimentation of special equipment, including radar, photographic reconnaissance, these top-secret sorties and others. In May 1945 he was selected and volunteered to form a new squadron for the continuation of hostilities against Japan.'

<http://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/ww2/allied/royalairforce/514sqd-raf.php>

1945 29 December Surrey Advertiser Farnham Grammar School **Roll of Honour**. Decorations awarded during the year included L J Saltmarsh (1927-31), Flight Lieutenant, R.A.F., bar to D.F.C. (captain of a pathfinder)

1946 28 February Michael James the son of Leonard James and Margaret Saltmarsh was born he was **baptised** at Tilford 3RD October 1948

b 28 th February 1948	1948 3 rd October No. 316	Michael James	Leonard James Margaret	Saltmarsh	Keepers Lodge Waverley	Farmer	Rev. Smith Vicar
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1946 June he left R.A.F. but did not re-join Surrey Constabulary but returned to live in Surrey. (see baptism of son in 1948) Leonard later moved to Devon where after divorcing Margaret he married Thelma Mary Brightwell in 1955, Barnstable Registration District and they had three children.

Leonard died 14th February 2004 and is remembered on a grave at Holy Trinity Churchyard Landcross Devon.



Leonard James Saltmarsh: Memorial

SALTMARSH Leonard, James Squadron Leader Retired; born 29th March 1915 to 14th February 2004 Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth Put out my hand, and touched the face of God

Published in the Plymouth Herald on 18th February 2004 (Distributed in Plymouth, Plympton)

Published in the Cornwall and Devon Media on 19th February 2004 (Distributed in Bodmin, Truro)

SALTMARSH Squadron Leader Leonard James DFC and Bar Ex RAF WWII No 7 Squadron Pathfinder Bomber Command March 29th, 1915, to February 14th 2004 Various of the Officers Association Huntly Bishopsteignton, Knotty Corner Bideford, Orley Court Buckland Brewer, Applegarth Swimbridge, The Dovecot Exeter, Kingfishers East Down, Hennaforde Bradworthy, Hele Farm Welcome, West Week Chawleigh, Keepers Lodge Farnham, Bat Cottage Dockenfield Surrey, Rushmoor Tilford, Hillside Farnham.

An incredible character of old-world charm, extreme courage, sentimentality admired by the ladies and by others of personality. He will be sorely missed by his family and friends in many parts of the world ranging from New Zealand to the USA, not least by his children Pat Gallagher, Michael Saltmarsh, Scilla Moyse and Sally Saltmarsh their partners and his many grandchildren and 5 great grandsons both in the UK and USA. His passing robs the world of some of its colour.

Funeral 14.30 Friday, February 20th at Land Cross Church, Bideford, North Devon

<http://www.bonhams.com/auctions/11597/lot/222/>

A Roman marble funerary stele

Circa 1st-2nd Century A.D. Carved with a scene depicting members of a deceased family set within a recessed border, showing a female wearing her *himation* drawn over her head, a *chiton* beneath, seated on a raised dais facing right, with her left arm raised to her face, her right arm resting on her lap, her husband shown draped and lying on a couch, resting on his left elbow, his right arm raised and holding a wreath, a small three-legged table set before them, each leg carved as an animal leg with a cloven hoof, laden with provisions, possibly fruit and loaves of bread, to the left of the scene stands a diminutive figure of a girl with her right arm resting across her waist, to the right of the scene stands a diminutive figure of a boy, his right leg crossed in front of his left, his right arm resting across his waist and his left arm held upwards supporting his neck, these figures probably represent their children, 25 x 17½in. (63.5 x 44.5cm.), *some small chips and wear, mounted*

Sold for £5,760 inc. premium

Provenance: Acquired from the deceased estate of Squadron Leader Len Saltmarsh. Actively collecting 1945-1998, Squadron Leader Saltmarsh had a keen interest in Tribal arts and Antiquities. He had a brave and distinguished career in the air force during the Second World War, during which time he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) twice. After the War he settled in Devon near Salcombe and died on the 14th of February 2004.

