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www.surrey-constabulary.com

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Superintendent Frederick William Gray KPM Surrey Constabulary 1898-1934

Additional research Nicholas Panayiotou, Jenny Tuffs, Henry Pelham, Jean Pelham, Robert Symondson Surrey History Centre

Nicholas Panayiotou contacted Surrey Constabulary History via the website and has agreed the correspondence can be published in the Journal. The message resulted in Henry Pelham undertaking research into a police officer named Gray serving in 1928. His work recovered the lost history of Superintendent Frederick Gray who was awarded the King's Police Medal for distinguished service as he retired from his career in the Surrey Constabulary.

There is a little confusion caused by there being as unlikely as it may seem, two Egbert R Winsley, one Richard the other Reginald. Reginald was a gardener and Richard a publican. Egbert Richard Winsley was a gardener at the home of one of the victims so probably the recipient of the award. Egbert Richard Winslet drops out of the story.

Nicholas Panayiotou wrote:

I am researching a presentation watch awarded to Egbert R. Winslet on November 29, 1928 by police officers from Chertsey Division.

The inscription records "Egbert R Winslet by Officers and Men of Chertsey Division, Surrey Constabulary" for "assisting police." 29-11-1928

Research was undertaken by Surrey Constabulary History volunteers who established the correct Egbert.

Egbert Reginald Winslet

b) 1875 – Epsom, Surrey d)1951 – Surrey

1881 Census – Living Epsom, Surrey

William Winslet – Father – age 46 – occupation - Painter

Emma Winslet- Mother – age 45

Henry G Winslet – Son – age 13 – Scholar

Arthur Winslet – Son – age 8 – Scholar

Percival E Winslet – Son - age 2

Egbert R Winslet – Son – age 6 – Scholar

1891 Census – Living Epsom, Surrey

William Winslet – Father – Widower – age 57 – occupation Painter

Kate Winslet – Daughter – age 26

Arthur Winslet – Son – age 18

Egbert R Winslet – Son – age 15

Percy Winslet – Son – age 11 – scholar

1901 Census - Living Epsom, Surrey

William Winslet – Father – age 68 – House Painter

Egbert Winslet – Son – age 25 – Painter

Arthur Winslet – Son – age 28 – Brewers Assistant

Percival Winslet – Son – 23 – Grocers Assistant

Kate Winslet – Daughter – age 35

Frank Winslet – Grandson – age 5

1903 Epsom – Egbert **Reginald** Winslet – married Katherine Louisa Flint

1911 Census – Living -25 Thames Street, Staines, Middlesex-

Egbert R Winslet – age 39 – occupation Cab Driver

Katherin Winslet – age 40 – wife

Reginald Winslet – age 2 – son.

1921 Census – Living Egham, Surrey

Egbert Winslet – age 46 – Widower – **occupation Gardener**

Reginald Harry – son – age 13

Elsie Curtis – visitor – age 23

Egbert's employer – Mr Notley – Independent Ass Gentleman

1924 at Egham Egbert **Reginald** Winslet – Widower – age 44 – married Elsie Curtis age 27.

Occupation shown as Gardener.

1939 Register – Living Egham

Egbert Winslet – age 65 – occupation – **Gardener Private**

Elsie Winslet – Wife – age 44

Electoral Register

1908 – Egbert Reginald Winslet – The Harrow, Maidenhead

1914 – Egbert Reginald Winslet – 25 Thames Street, Staines – A cottage in Messrs Fitzwater's Yard.

1938 – Egbert Reginald Winslet – Harvest Road, Egham

1938 – Elsie Winslet (Wife) – Harvest Road, Egham

1938 – Reginald Harry Winslet (son) – Harvest Road Egham

1933 – 1938 – Egbert, Elsie and Reginald Winslet lived Harvest Road

1944 – 1952 – Egbert Winslet lived in Chertsey.

Egbert Reginald Winslet died 1951

Nicholas Panayiotou, this is what I have found via chat gpt, the story of Egbert R. Winsley.

The "assistance" mentioned on the watch refers to a high-profile criminal capture. In October 1928, Winsley played a pivotal role in the pursuit and capture of a dangerous individual involved in a local crime spree. The Chertsey police were so impressed by his bravery and initiative that the officers of the division personally subscribed to buy him the Bravingtons "Renown" silver watch as set out below.

Newspaper Coverage

The event was reported in the Surrey Herald and the Surrey Advertiser in early December 1928.

- The Headline: "Chertsey Presentation to Mr. E. R. Winsley" or "Police Gratitude for Civilian Help."
- The Ceremony: The presentation took place at Chertsey police station on November 29, 1928.



PLUCKY GARDENER. Reward from Police for Helping Inspector in Desperate Fight.

Egbert Winslet, gardener to Mrs. Keogh, of Englefield Green, received from the officers and men of the Chertsey police division to-day a silver watch in recognition of his action in coming to the help of Inspector Gray, who was engaged in a desperate fight for a quarter of an hour in Mrs. Keogh's drawing-room with a criminal he was trying to arrest.

The criminal, who victimised a number of bereaved relatives in Surrey, tried to victimise Mrs. Keogh. He has since been sent to penal servitude.

Evening Standard 30 November 1928

It is most likely that following newspaper reports cover the crimes and arrest of the violent prisoner who fought Inspector Gray.

ALLEGED FALSE PRETENCES.

"BATMAN" AND LIEUTENANT WHO WAS KILLED.

At Chertsey on Friday, Walter Brackley (37), appeared on a charge of having obtained by false pretences the sum of £4 from Mrs. V. M. Keogh, of Chertsey, on August 11th.

Mrs. Keogh, who was a widow, gave evidence that the accused called on her and said that he was Sergt. Cuthbertson, D.C.M., and that he was batman in France to the late Lieut. A. C. Northey, who was killed in the war and was the son of Mrs. H. Alice Northey, of Clanricarde-gardens, Tunbridge Wells, and brother of Mrs. Keogh. He said he was with Lieutenant Northey when he died, and that he carved a cross for him.

The accused told Mrs. Keogh that he was out of work, but could obtain a position as a waiter at Lyons' if he could provide himself with a dress suit, and she gave him £4. On a second visit to Mrs. Keogh, Brackley was arrested by a detective after a struggle.

The accused was remanded.

Kent and Sussex Courier on 24th August 1928

LOCAL LADY'S DEAD SON.

NAME USED FOR ALLEGED FALSE PRETENCES.

Alleged to have obtained money from various people by claiming that he had been batman to their relations who fell in the Great War, Walter H. Brackley (37) was remanded for a week at Chertsey on Thursday week. He had previously been twice remanded on charges of obtaining £4 by false pretences from Mrs. V. M. Keogh, of Larkshill, Englfield Green, on August 11th, and with attempting to obtain £2 15s. by false pretences from Mrs. Keogh on August 16th. At a previous hearing it was stated that he had told Mrs. Keogh that he was Sergeant Cuthbertson, D.C.M., and had been batman to Mrs. Keogh's brother, the late Lieut. A. C. Northey, son of Mrs. Alice H. Northey, of Clanricarde-gardens, Tunbridge Wells, and was with him when he died. He obtained £4 from her with which to buy a dress suit for a waiter's job at Lyons'.

On Thursday week there was a further charge of obtaining £10 by false pretences from Margaret Street on August 3rd. The prosecutrix stated that she lived at Caterham, and was the widow of Second-Lieutenant E. E. Street, of the 22nd Manchester Regiment. Prisoner told her he was Sergeant Cuthbertson, and was her husband's sergeant in France, being with him in his last moments. He said he was out of work and could obtain a job at a Lyons' restaurant, but the only thing that hindered him was that he had to procure a dress suit, which he could not well afford. Witness offered him £10, and after demurring to taking it he accepted it gratefully. A day or two later he telephoned to her that he had obtained the job and would write her a letter.

Inspector Gray said that at 10.30 a.m. that morning, August 30th, he had cautioned and charged prisoner at Chertsey Police Station. He replied: "That's all right."

Prisoner had previously asked for a remand on the other charges and his request was granted.

Kent and Sussex Courier 7th September 1928

SURREY
REGISTRY

Frederick William Gray

Age 21 years on September 1877 Height 6 feet 0 1/2 inches. Complexion Fair Hair Brown

Eyes Brown MARKS None.

Born in the parish of Old Windsor in the County of Berks.

Traffic Carpenter LAST RESIDENCE Windsor Great Park

By whom last employed and where Mr Simmonds at Windsor Gt. Park

What regular business in Surrey, and where None.

Previous Public Service None.

Length of Service _____

Date of Appointment 6 May 1898.

Where issued in and where 7 May '98, at Guildford.

Before what Magistrates Sir Herbert Barnard & W. Eastwood.

Where first detained Farnham.

Surrey History Centre register ref. 9152/1/2/1/3

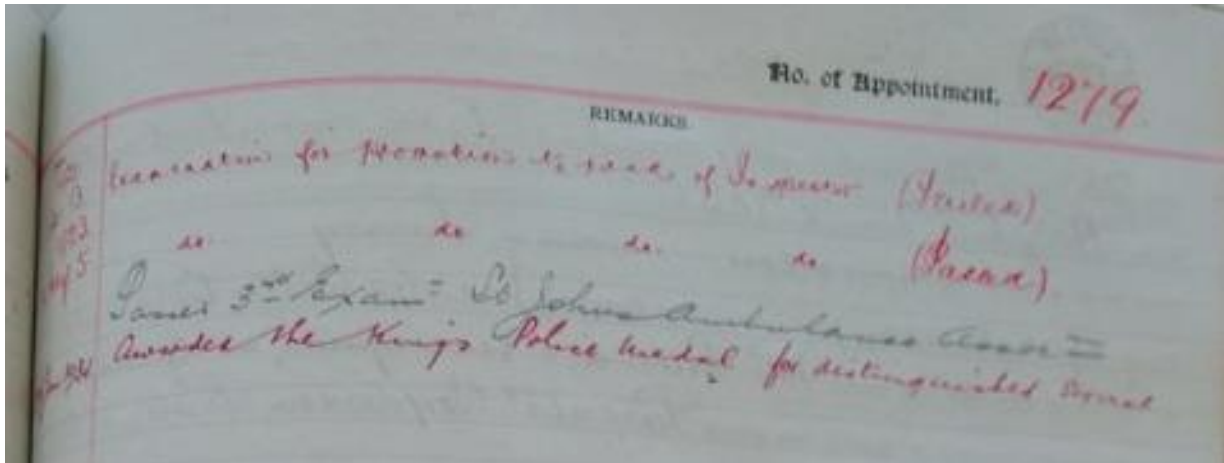
	From	To	
PROMOTIONS	July 1/99	Third Class Coustable	Second Class Constable
	July 1/99	Second	First
	Jan 1/99	Harst	Sergeant
	Dec 1/98	Sergeant	Suspector
	Oct 1/98	Suspector	Superintendent

	From	To	
REMOVALS	July 2/98	Farnham	Wrecclesham
	Feb 1/98	Wrecclesham	Brookwood
	Aug 1/97	Brookwood	Bramley
	Apr 1/97	Bramley	Wickham
	Dec 1/96	Wrecclesham	Woking
	Nov 1/96	Woking	Chertsey
	Nov 9/96	Chertsey	Godalming
	Feb 7/25	Godalming	Egham
	Oct 12/95	Egham	Chertsey

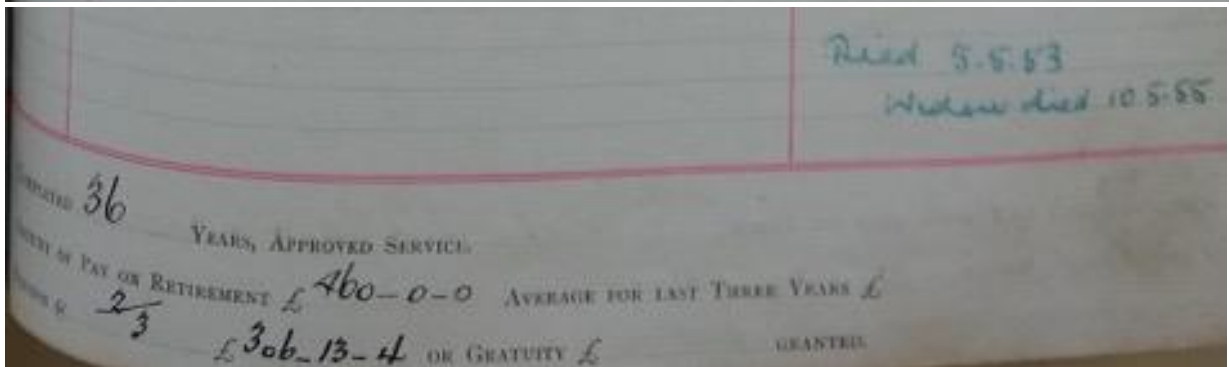
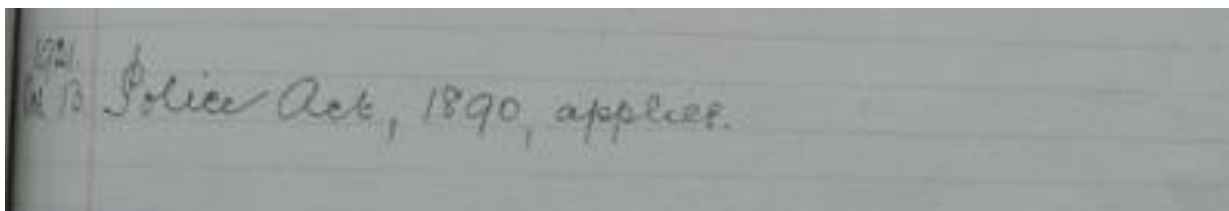
CAUSE AND DATE OF REMOVAL FROM THE FORCE Pensioned on completion of 29 years

CURRIBLE DURING SERVICE 6 years

DATE OF FAVORABLE CERTIFICATE 31st January 1935



Surrey History Centre register ref. 9152/1/2/1/



**Wedding at Farnham
Surrey Advertiser 7 February 1903**

On Monday afternoon Miss Nellie Foot, daughter of Mr. Fred Foot of West- street was married at the parish church to Mr. Frederick William Gray a constable of the Surrey Constabulary, until lately stationed at Wrecclesham, and formerly in the service of Prince Christian and in the Prince Consort's Carpentry School at Old Windsor. The Rector officiated. The bride was given away by her father, was prettily attired, and was attended by two little bridesmaids. She was for some time a teacher in the National School and many of the scholars attended and threw confetti in the path of the bridal party as they left the church. A reception was afterwards held at the Lion and Lamb Hotel, and later in the day the newly married pair left for their future home at Brookwood. There were numerous wedding presents.

Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser 12 June 1915: Inspector Gray the victim of the attack by Walter Brackley, joined the Surrey Constabulary in 1898 as a constable serving at Frimley, Hindhead, Wrecclesham, Bramley and at Mickleham where he remained for 11 ½ years.

In June 1915 PC Frederick W Gray was awarded a certificate for his commitment to the care of "Dumb animals."

Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser 12 June 1915

KINDNESS TO ANIMALS.

CONSTABLE'S SERVICES RECOGNISED.

At the Dorking Petty Sessions on Saturday, P.C. Frederick W. Gray, of Mickleham, was presented with a certificate by the Dumb Friends' League for services rendered to that Society. The presentation was made by the Chairman of the Bench (Mr. A. C. Powell) on behalf of the Society, as P.C. Gray could not attend the meeting of the Society in London on the date fixed for the presentation of the awards.

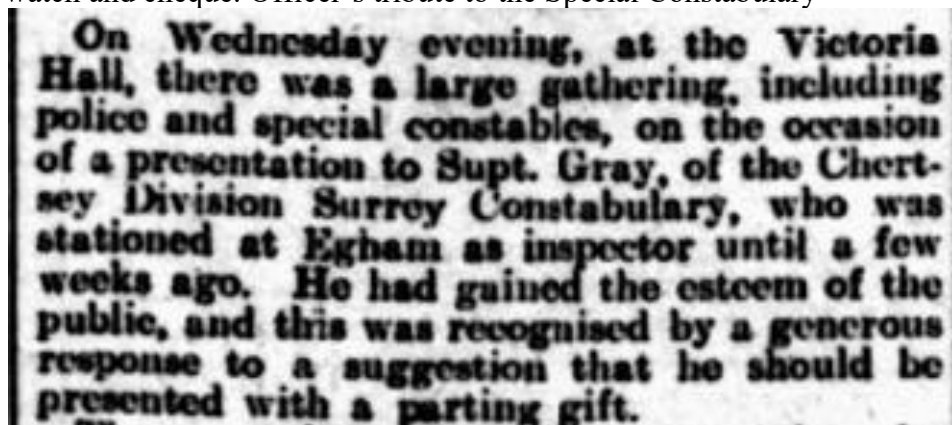
The certificate, which was in a beautiful oak frame, contained the following inscription:—"This certificate is awarded by Our Dumb Friends' League, a society for the encouragement of kindness to animals, to Police-Constable Frederick W. Gray, Surrey Constabulary, in recognition of services rendered on many occasions to save horses from ill-treatment."

Woking from acting sergeant to substantive sergeant, Chertsey as sergeant and inspector then Godalming one year as inspector 1923 followed by Egham for five years from 1924. Chertsey five years as superintendent 1929 awarded KPM 1 January 1934. Retired December 19 1934.

1925 July 20: Accident to Lord Cheylesmore: Motorcar collision near Egham: Lord Cheylesmore, chairman of the National Rifle Association was seriously injured late last evening when returning after the close of the Bisley meeting. Within two miles of his home at Cooper's Hill Park, Egham his car crashed into a telegraph pole and his left arm and left leg were fractured. He also received injuries to his head. His son was driving the car and a butler was also in the car. A passing motorist went to Egham police station from where Inspector Gray immediately despatched Sergeant Brown and picked up Dr Bird and followed. They found Lord Cheylesmore still seated in the shattered car. A passing motor van was stopped and the Lord taken to the hospital in Englefield Green He did not lose consciousness throughout his ordeal. The King and Queen caused sympathetic enquiries to be made.¹

21 September 1929 Surrey Advertiser: Inspector Gray's Promotion: Inspector Gray of the Surrey Constabulary has been stationed at Egham four years has been promoted to superintendent and will take charge of the Chertsey Division in October on retirement of Superintendent Daws. Inspector Gray who has seen between 20 and 30 years service is a popular officer and has gained the confidence of the authorities and public in a marked degree. He is to be succeeded by Inspector Minter of Cranleigh.

1929 23 November Surrey Advertiser: Presentation to Superintendent and Mrs Gray. Gifts of a gold watch and cheque. Officer's tribute to the Special Constabulary



On Wednesday evening, at the Victoria Hall, there was a large gathering, including police and special constables, on the occasion of a presentation to Supt. Gray, of the Chertsey Division Surrey Constabulary, who was stationed at Egham as inspector until a few weeks ago. He had gained the esteem of the public, and this was recognised by a generous response to a suggestion that he should be presented with a parting gift.

¹ The Times Monday, Jul 20, 1925

The committee formed to organise the testimonial had Mr. R. V. Menzies as hon. secretary. It was decided that the testimonial should comprise a gold watch and illuminated address for Supt. Gray and a cheque, with which to purchase jewellery, for Mrs. Gray. The superintendent's initials were inscribed on the watch, together with the words: "Presented to Supt. F. W. Gray by Egham residents as an appreciation of his services as Inspector of the Surrey County Constabulary, October, 1929." The wording of the address referred to Supt. Gray's "tact, ability and courtesy," and expressed good wishes for his and Mrs. Gray's continued good health, happiness and prosperity. The names of 100 subscribers followed.

Mr. H. Weller, J.P., presided at the gathering, and among those present were Sir John Cameron, Deputy Chief Constable Kenward, Rear-Admiral B. U. Colclough (treasurer of the fund), Dr. A. G. Wilkinson, Supt. Boshier (Woking), Inspector Gower (Chertsey), a number of police and special constables, and Messrs. R. V. Menzies, G. Cameron Black, J.P. (chairman of the Chertsey Rural District Council), H. R. H. Smith (clerk to the Egham Urban Council), A. L. Pound, F. E. Larkin, E. Feltham, W. Bungard and Bennett.

The Chairman said they had met to show the esteem, respect, and affection in which the people of Egham held Superintendent Gray. He referred to a number of letters, expressing appreciation of the Superintendent's work, including letters from Sir William Barber and the matron of the Egham Cottage Hospital, and afterwards paid a tribute to Mrs. Gray.

Sir John Cameron said it was an undoubted fact that Superintendent Gray had gained the esteem of everyone in the district. It was with feelings of deep regret that they saw the chapter closed of very happy associations between that district and Superintendent Gray.—Sir John then handed the watch and address to Superintendent Gray, and the cheque to Mrs. Gray.

Deputy Chief Constable Kenward said it was good of them to make the presentations, because it showed that the police had good friends.

Mr. F. E. Laekin, on behalf of the tradesmen of the town, thanked the Superintendent for his kindness in looking after their interests, and referred to the direction and supervision of the traffic in the narrow parts of Egham and during Ascot races.

Mr. A. L. Pound thanked the chairman, and also referred in kindly terms to Superintendent Gray.

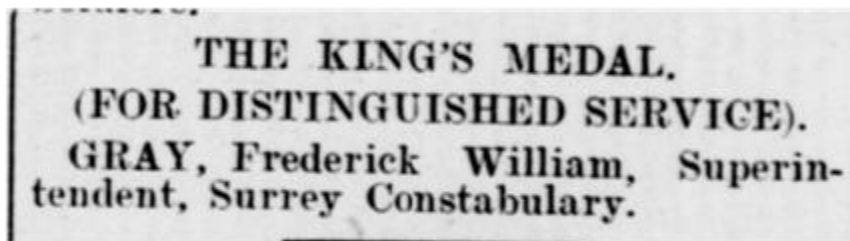
An excellent musical programme was carried out by Messrs. Stokes, Crosswell, Riley, Joe Cox and P.C. Wiggins.

The Funeral of PC Herrett KPM

Captain M. L. Sant, Chief Constable, and over 120 officers and men of the Surrey Constabulary attended the funeral at Elstead yesterday (Friday) afternoon. All the divisions in the county were represented and among the officers were Superintendents W.R. Lucas, (Farnham), A. Dawes (Chertsey), **Inspectors Gray (Egham)**, Evans (Woking) Dibley (Hersham) Pickard (Farnham) and Rendell (Caterham). There were also present large a number of special constables from Bagshot and other districts, a contingent of men from the Hants Constabulary, and members of the Bagshot Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade. The bearers from the Bagshot section of the Chertsey Division were Sergeant Holloway, PCs Bright, Newman, O'Donnell, Tarrott, and Wood. Mrs Holloway, wife of Sergeant Holloway represented the wives of officers and men of the Bagshot Division. Windlesham Urban Council were represented by Mr. H. W. Penford, a member and Mr Cyril Gray, surveyor. Two Guardsmen represented the Grenadier Guards. -----
---. The police and representatives of other bodies lined the pathway to the church and the Venerable J. G. S. Syme (rector) conducted the service.

1931 January 10: Early yesterday a party of Surrey police officers some carrying spades set out on an extensive search of the vicinity of Virginia Water and of parts of Windsor Great Park for clues to the disappearance seventeen months ago of Winifred Parrant then aged eighteen. This was the sixth day of the search, which so far has produced two outstanding finds, a woman's hat and an attaché case. The girl went missing on August 13, 1929, and an extensive search was undertaken then without result. The search was re-activated following information from a soldier who had been stationed in the area. A conference was held in Guildford attended by Deputy Chief Constable Kenward and Inspector Head of Esher, which resulted in a search of Clock Case Plantation. The deputy chief constable and **Superintendent Gray of Chertsey** and seven constables left Chertsey police station early in motorcars. The policemen were wearing workmen's clothes in order to avoid attracting attention. ² ³ **1931 January 12:** The missing person was traced alive and well, married and living in London. ⁴

1933 June 22: Alleged attack on a woman: Attempted charge: Jack Francis Haines 33, a factory worker of Rose Bank, St Paul's Road, Egham Hythe was charged yesterday at Chertsey with the attempted murder of Mrs Mabel Rosina Smith at her home at Avenue Road, Egham Hythe on June 17. Inspector Head said that at 12.30 am yesterday he saw Haines at Staines Police Station and after cautioning him, charged him with attempting to murder Mrs Smith Haines replied, "I have nothing to say." Later at Chertsey police station Superintendent Gray charged Haines and he made no reply. **Superintendent Gray** asked for a remand for sufficient time to enable him to communicate with the Director of Public Prosecutions. Haines was remanded for seven days, and magistrates granted his application for legal aid.⁵



Surrey Mirror 5 January 1934

1934 February Court Circular: Superintendent Gray, Surrey Constabulary King's Police Medal.⁶

² 1931 January 10: The Scotsman

³ The Times Saturday, Jan 10, 1931

⁴ 1931 January 12: The Scotsman

⁵ The Times Thursday, Jun 22, 1933

⁶ The Times Wednesday, Feb 28, 1934

HOLDER OF KING'S MEDAL

Supt. Gray holds the King's police medal for distinguished service, this award being made in the honours list on January 1st this year, and shortly afterwards he was presented with the medal by the King at a levee at Buckingham Palace.

On joining the police force Supt. Gray was stationed at Frimley, and later was at Hindhead, Wrecclesham and Bramley. He was transferred to Mickleham, where he remained for 11½ years. He next moved to Woking as acting-sergeant, and while there was made sergeant, and went to Chertsey with that rank. He was promoted inspector during his service at Chertsey, and took over duty at Godalming. After about a year at Godalming he served nearly five years at Egham, before going to Chertsey five years ago.

Supt. Gray has been an efficient and popular officer.

Surrey Advertiser December 1934

THIRTY-SIX YEARS WITH COUNTY POLICE

As stated last week, Supt. F. W. Gray, who has been in charge of the Chertsey Division of the Surrey Constabulary for the last five years, is retiring on December 19th. He will be succeeded by Det.-Inspector Curry, from county headquarters, Guildford.

Supt. Gray has had an honourable career in the Surrey County Constabulary for 36 years, having joined as a constable in 1898. Prior to that he had lived in Windsor Park, his father being an official in the park. Supt. Gray went to the Park School, and was in the choir of the church in the park, which was frequently attended by Royalty. He was also a member of the Windsor Park Company of the Royal Berks Volunteers, and served under the present chairman of the Chertsey Bench, Mr. J. H. W. Pilcher, who was the captain of the company for many years.

Surrey Advertiser 15 December 1934

1934 December 28: Lynn Advertiser: Detective Inspector Curry of the HQ Division of the Surrey Constabulary, Guildford will succeed **Superintendent G Gray**, Chertsey who retires on December 29. Detective Inspector Curry is the son of Mr. Alfred Curry and the late Mrs Curry of New Houghton. His family have lived in the Houghton District for many years.