

# The Formation of the Surrey Constabulary

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PC 88 Carpenter 1857.

**1850 25 October:** The Rural Police Committee met at Reigate on the 25 October 1850 taking evidence from Superintendent Biddlecombe and the Chief Constable of Hampshire. Biddlecombe covered an area of 28,940 acres with a population of ten thousand one hundred and twenty six with only one felony in his district over the last twelve months, stealing faggots to the value of sixpence. However he had been sent for to deal with twelve burglaries in surrounding districts in the last six months. There had been no cases of felony in Godalming itself during the last five years. Considering how long it would take to establish it is worthy to note at this date he put in a bid for plain-clothes officers as detectives, but that is a long story and will be told in a further document.<sup>1</sup>

**The Times** reported that fifty Magistrates were present with Mr T. Puckle in the chair. ----- Rural part of the county to have three divisions, Chertsey, Dorking and Godalming and the chief constable is to reside at Dorking- the most central point. It was proposed that the various lock-up premises be repaired and that station houses etc. be erected, the estimated cost of which would not exceed £3000, which could be raised upon the security of the police rate and paid with interest in twenty year instalments. The chief constable's salary £300 pa plus £110 for horse and travelling expenses etc.; chief superintendent £170, five superintendents £450; eight inspectors £486.12s; seventy constables £3463.4s; allowances for clothing etc. £1227.11s £6284.7s annual total to be levelled on the divisions as a rate of three pennies in the pound.

Savings: The conveyance of prisoners £240; the salaries of several Inspectors of Weights and Measures whose duties can be performed by the rural police £380; superintendents of lock-up houses £80. Payments to constables at Coroner's inquests: £74; Parish, Special and private constables at least £1800 making £2,574. Balance £3710.7s which will be much reduced after the force has been in operation for a short time.--- "—that the expense of maintaining them will be, it is believed, be little felt by the rural portion of the county, while the committee are convinced that the security afforded to it's life and property will amply repay the expenditure incurred, and that their recommendations when carried into effect will prove of the utmost advantage to all classes of the community" -- On the motion of Lord Lovaine the report was adopted and the election of the chief constable was appointed to take place on the first day of the Epiphany Sessions.

**1850 3 December: The Times:** Yesterday a **special meeting** of the magistrates of the County of Surrey took place in Sessions House, Newington Causeway for the purpose of hearing the report of the committee appointed at the Quarter Sessions to ascertain the best means of extending a police force to that portion of the county **beyond the limits of the Metropolitan Police District**. The committee was arranged shortly after the late melancholy murder of the Rev. Mr. Hollest at Frimley, a village at the extremity of the western division of the county, which is without the protection of a constable. It was agreed to accept the report the details of the legislation and Home Office requirements were considered. There had to be divisions of no less than twenty six thousand inhabitants a requirement of statute. Having considered and consulted widely, including with the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police it was agreed that ninety six parishes would be policed in three divisions, Chertsey, Dorking and

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<sup>1</sup> SCC Archives QS5/3c/2

<sup>2</sup> Surrey Constabulary General Orders Book 1 1851

Godalming. The chief constable was to reside at Dorking the most central point. The various lockup houses will be repaired and the station houses etc. to be erected at an estimated cost of not exceeding three thousand pounds which could be raised upon securing the police rate and repaid with interest in twenty yearly instalments. The statute says the force must not exceed one constable per one thousand inhabitants. "Therefore if from the total expenditure of £6284 7s be deducted the ascertained amount of savings, namely £2574 there remains a balance of £3710 7s which will be so much further reduced after the police force shall have been a short time in operation; that the expense of maintaining them will, it is believed, be little felt by the rural portion of the county, while the committee are convinced that the security afforded to life and property will simply repay the expenditure incurred; and their recommendations when carried into effect will prove of the utmost advantage to all classes of the community. On the motion of Lord Lovaine the report was adopted and the election of the chief constable was to take place on the first day of the Epiphany Sessions."

**1850 3 December: Morning Chronicle Tuesday:** Meeting of the magistrates to ascertain the best means of extending a police force to that portion of the county beyond the limits of the Metropolitan Police District. The clerk of the peace read the following to the committee:

"The committee think it their duty to represent to the court that they are unanimous in considering that in those portions of the county of Surrey which is situate without the limits of the Metropolitan Police District, the ordinary officers appointed for preserving the peace are not sufficient for the preservation of the peace and for the protection of the inhabitants and for the security of property within such portion of the county; and that it is expedient that measures should be immediately adopted to remedy an evil of so serious a nature.

Taking this view, the committee, in pursuing its investigation with which they have been charged by the court find there are two methods already provided by the legislature for the protection of the lives and properties of the inhabitants of rural districts-

First: By the establishment of a rural police under the acts of 2 and 3 vic., cap 93, and 3 and 4 Vic, cap 88.

Second: By taking advantage of statute 5 and 6 Vic cap 109 which regulates the appointment and payment of parish constables

The provisions of the Metropolitan Police Act might also be extended to this part of the county not now under its control. This however could not be done without the assistance of the Legislature. Of these plans the first mentioned has appeared to be the best and most desirable in all respects.

In considering the best method of introducing the rural constabulary into this county the committee have had to contend with the difficulty occasioned by the peculiar position in which the county is placed in consequence of the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Police force extending over so important a portion of it in respect of population and wealth; and that difficulty has been much increased by the

circumstance of the boundary of the Metropolitan Police District not being coincident with the boundaries of the petty sessional divisions.

The committee therefore recommend the court to introduce into that portion of the county, which is without the limits of the Metropolitan Police District a county constabulary under the provisions of the 3 and 4 Vic c.88 s29.

The next step was to consider how the rural part of the county might be apportioned into divisions each containing no less than twenty six thousand inhabitants as required by statute in the most convenient manner with reference to population, wealth, geographical position and the general efficiency of the police force. In order to determine this point and to obtain correct views of the numbers and expense of the force required as well as its distribution and the best method of employment, the committee have examined persons both in the upper and lower classes of those engaged in the duties of the police in other counties as well as Surrey and have also been in communication with the Metropolitan Police Commissioners. They have likewise caused tables to be drawn up exhibiting the extent, population, value and assessment of the county rate of the several parishes. After bestowing the best consideration upon the subject the committee have come to the conclusion that the rural portion of this county which contains 96 parishes and plans separately assessed to the county rate should be formed into three police divisions and that such be called Chertsey, Dorking and Godalming divisions. The committee further propose that the Chief Constable should reside at Dorking, which is the most central point of the three divisions. They propose that the various lock-up houses be repaired and that the station houses &c. be erected the estimate cost of which would not exceed £3000, which could be raised upon the security of the police rate and repaid with interest in twenty yearly instalments. By statute 2 and 3 Vic., cap 03, the force must not exceed on individual for every thousand inhabitants, according to the last census, the population of certain boroughs and towns being deducted. The following is the proposed number of constables and their salaries &c.: Chief Constable £300 per annum with £100 for horses, travelling expenses &c., chief superintendent £170, five superintendents £450. Eight inspectors £483.12s; and 70 constables £3463.4s; allowance for clothing &c., £1227 11s; making an annual sum of £6284 7s to be levied on those divisions by a rate of threepence in the pound which will produce £6377 11s 9d. Against that expenditure the following savings will be effected by the force. The conveyance of prisoners £240; the salaries of several inspectors of weights and measures whose duties may be informed by the rural police £380; superintendents of lock up houses £80; payments to constables at Coroner's inquests £74; parish, special and private constables at least £1800; making altogether £2574. A great saving may also be effected from diminution in the number of trampers and vagrants who infest the county and consequently in the amount of contributions levied by them on the charitable; a result which would immediately ensure if the Poor Law unions within the proposed rural division adopt the urgent recommendation of the committee and appoint the police to act as assistant relieving officers in such cases. The success of this measure has been fully established in Essex, and a very large amount of saving has been effected.

Therefore if from the total expenditure of £6284.7s be deducted the ascertained amount of savings namely £2574 there remains a balance of £3,710 7s., which will be so much further reduced after the proposed police force have for a short time in

operation, that the expense of maintaining them will it is believed, be little felt by the rural portion of the county; while the committee are convinced that the security afforded to life and property will amply repay the expenditure incurred, and that their recommendation when carried into effect will prove the utmost advantage to all classes of the community.” Signed by authority of the committee Lovaine, Chairman

Lord Lovaine: ----- Most of the crimes were committed by tramps and vagrants and were concocted in the beer-houses in these secluded places.(remote villages of the county) He observed in the report a saving of £1800 on parish constables but he knew it would be £400 more as many parishes sent no return.

Mr T Alcock MP: --- he did not like Dorking as it would have been fairer to choose Reigate which was of more importance in a public point of view being in proximity to the junction of the Brighton, Dover, Ramsgate and other important railway stations. Reigate ought to be the headquarters of the divisions as it was the chief place in eastern part of Surrey and all the others were in the western division. He proposed that as an amendment that Reigate be substituted for Dorking. The Hon Locke King JP supported this amendment but Lord Lovaine said the members were on the committee when Dorking was chosen when it was resolved to be one of the districts. They had considered Guildford but thought Dorking much better. Sir W Jolliffe thought Reigate preferable to Dorking. Mr Alcock said it was his sole object to see Reigate the residence of the Chief Constable not Dorking.

Sir W Jolliffe spoke of only six horses being recommended to deal with all the duties of the force. They could not perform it. There would be removing prisoners and other duties besides their being wanted by the superintendents. In a very short time prisoners for hard labour in the county would be removed to a new house of correction at Wandsworth. Look at that distance from some places. Someone said, “There is the railway.” Sir W Jolliffe: Then there will be no saving. Some of the constables will eight or ten miles apart and the inspectors who visit them must require horses constantly.

Sir R Fredericks Bart., thought it a heavy tax on the rate-payers who had not been asked who should pay the rate. The tenant farmer would be the man and it would be a great hardship on him as the great landlord would hardly pay anything

Mr Alcock: ----- There were a number of secluded villages about there unprotected and he should not like a repetition of the Frimley murder.

The report without amendment was carried and forwarded to Sir George Grey the Home Secretary.

**Morning Post December 4 1850 Wednesday:** On Monday a special meeting of magistrates of the county of Surrey took place in the Sessions House, Newington-causeway for the purpose of hearing the report of the committee appointed at the last quarter sessions to ascertain the best means of extending the police force to that portion of the county beyond the limits of the Metropolitan Police District. The committee was arranged shortly after the murder of the Rev Hollest at Frimley a village at the extremity of the west division of the county, which is nominally without the protection of a constable.

**1850 7 December Morning Chronicle Saturday:** This morning the clerk of the peace intimated to the bench that he had received a communication from the Secretary of State of the Home Department relative to the proposed extension of the Surrey rural police which was resolved upon on Monday last at a special meeting of the magistrates. The learned gentlemen said that according to the provisions of the act of Parliament he had forwarded the resolution signed by the magistrates on Tuesday last for Sir George Grey's approval. This has been agreed and the magistrates will appoint the police on the 1st January next.

**1851 1 January:** The Surrey Constabulary became operational with an establishment of seventy police officers, including five superintendents. The first chief constable, Captain Hastings, was aged thirty-eight years.

The chief constable required the men to be honest and sober, less than thirty years of age and at least five feet seven inches tall. There was no minimum age - one constable was appointed at the age of fourteen and another at fifteen. The first county headquarters was in the old Guildford Borough Police Station at the Corn Market House but this was only until the new headquarters was completed in Woodbridge Road in 1854. County police stations were established in Bagshot, Chertsey, Dorking and Farnham and new stations were built at Egham, Godstone, Guildford, Haslemere, Hersham, Leatherhead, and Reigate. The original station at Chertsey was sold because of its poor condition and a new one built. Five superintendents were stationed at Reigate, Dorking, Godalming, Farnham and Headquarters.

There was no rank of sergeant, which does not appear in the records until 1865. There were four classes of constables with newly appointed officers starting at class four and moving through the classes on promotion. They were required to work seven days a week and granted twelve days leave a year, which had to be taken in summer as no leave was permitted during the winter. It was not until 1853 that an Instruction Book was provided to give guidance on policing matters, although the system of General Orders began on 30 January 1851. The first order related to the taking of leave.

**1851 1 January:** William Henry Biddlecombe the Head Constable of Godalming aged 36, was appointed to the new force as a superintendent and was number one in the appointment book.<sup>2</sup>

**1851 January 1: Morning Post Wednesday:** At the Surrey Quarter Sessions yesterday the rural police committee submitted their report relative to the appointment of a Chief Constable and the headquarters of the force. Captain Hastings H.E.I.C.S., was recommended as a fit person for the duty; and after some discussion amongst the magistrates it appeared that the adoption of the report was carried by a majority of two, the numbers being 20 and 18. Captain Hastings was accordingly elected.

**1851 13 January: The Times:** The office of **Superintendent of the Surrey** police has been conferred on Mr Henry Cadogan Hastings, late **lieutenant (sic)** in the 55 Bengal Native Infantry.

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<sup>2</sup> Surrey Constabulary General Orders Book 1 1851

**1851 22 January: The Scotsman:** The office of Superintendent of the Surrey police has been conferred on Mr Henry Cadogan **Hastings** late a **lieutenant** (sic) in the 55th Bengal Native Infantry

**1851 30 January: GO 1:** Deals with applications for leave stating the day and hour of return.<sup>3</sup>

**1851 31 January GO 6:** Superintendents on receiving information of a **robbery or any other serious offence** having been committed are required immediately to communicate the same with the chief constable. (**Note:** The term robbery is used as a generic term for crime and is interchangeable with burglary, larceny etc.)<sup>4</sup>

**1851:** On formation the headquarters was not to be Dorking but in the Guildford Borough police station at the Corn Market House; the **Woodbridge Road HQ** was completed and moved into in 1854. William Henry Biddlecombe the Head Constable of Godalming aged 36, was appointed to the new force as a superintendent and was number one in the appointment book.[ Of the first seventy men appointed only five served long enough to receive a pension; twenty nine were dismissed before they served a year and a large number of the others were dismissed or resigned over a short time. There was no shortage of recruits although as always, the pay was poor, seventeen shillings a week, and the conditions harsh. Men worked seven days a week but twelve days a year leave was granted in the summer as no leave was permitted during the winter. No instruction was given to the men and it was not until 1853 that an Instruction Book was provided. At the time of formation there were police stations at Bagshot, Chertsey, Dorking and Farnham which passed to the county and new stations were built at Egham, Godstone, Guildford, Haslemere, Hersham, Leatherhead, Reigate and at Chertsey where the original one was found to be unhealthy.

**1851 Uniform:** The first uniform style was that of the Metropolitan Police until in 1867 a new local style was adopted.

**1851 1 February: GO 8:** First commendation given to PC James Walker for the way he conducted himself in a felony case and was promoted from the third to second class of constable. In March 1852 Walker was reduced again for drunkenness. He resigned.

**1851 February “Rural Police: —** The new rural police made their entrée into this town on Tuesday morning last, 12 in number, including the chief superintendent. They all seemed to be young men. They are to be drafted to the different neighbouring villages, with the exception of two, and the superintendent, who are to remain at Dorking. We sincerely hope that the new police will have as little to do, except perambulating the town, as our last respected police officer, Mr. Donaldson, who has lived amongst us upwards of 12 years, and to his credit be it stated, not a single robbery has been committed in the town during his sojourn; and he has left here much to the regret of the inhabitants”

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<sup>3</sup> Surrey Constabulary General Orders Book 1 1851-

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**1851 29 April: GO 35: County horses** are not being cared for and were not to be ridden at a greater speed than 6mph. There were many messages about horses, which received a great deal of attention and were not allowed out in the wet! If sick the horses were taken to HQ and had to be walked. From Reigate the horse would be led to Dorking and then a luckless Dorking officer would have to walk the horse to Guildford and then presumably walk back.

**1852 1 May: GO 78:** Between 1 June 1851 and 30 April 1852 thirty-one **men were punished** mostly for drunkenness and neglect of duty.

**1851 17 May** George Pink aged eleven **stole a piece of “oaken wood”** value a two pence and was sentenced to seven days hard labour and ordered to privately whipped once.

**1851 18 May** at Godstone a thirteen year old **boy was whipped** for stealing a faggot and at the same court a boy aged fifteen was sentenced to two months hard labour for stealing a quantity of wood.

**1851 26 May GO 41:** The chief constable has observed with displeasure that certain members of the Force are in the habit of **wearing plain clothes** as if they were ashamed of their uniform. Such practice is extremely objectionable and altogether at variance with the regulations of any service in which uniform is provided. The chief constable therefore calls upon superintendents in particular to set an example to their men under them in this, as well as in all other respects and trusts he will not be called upon again to notice such irregularities. An example of this was on the first of April 1851; PC John Lawrence was severely reprimanded for being in plain clothes.

**1851 June: GO 50:** In the first five months **eight men were dismissed** mostly for **drunkenness**. Some examples: John Lawrence was severely reprimanded for signing a report without reading it, and again for wearing plain clothes on duty the following month. Richard Langridge allowed a prisoner to go into a public house whilst he waited outside. Henry Cook was dismissed for being drunk and enlisting. John Smith was fined ten shillings and reduced from first to second class for fraudulently claiming exemption from the toll and not being on duty. In large type in the discipline record on 6th November 1852 William Earl was dismissed for insolence to the chief constable.

**Guildford Borough Police** was originally formed on 20th January 1836 under the leadership of their chief officer Richard Jarlett who was succeeded in 1841 by Charles Hollington. In 1851 the force was abolished and became part of the larger Surrey Constabulary only to be re-formed three years later in October 1854. Leadership of the force during the First World War was under W. V. Nicholas from 1909 until his death in office in May 1929.

**1851 18 June: GO 51: Discipline.** Since the Force was formed seventeen men have been disciplined with drunkenness forming a significant number of the offences.

**June 1851 Surrey County Constabulary:** Advert for six strong horses about 15 1/2 hands high and fit for saddle or draught, with saddles for same, are proposed to be taken upon job for the purposes of above mentioned force, and kept by and at the

expense of the said Force in different parts of the county; it is also intended to hire upon job for the like purpose six new and substantial Whitechapel carts with harness for the same persons desirous of supplying the above mentioned articles upon job are invited to deliver tenders on or before Wednesday 23rd instant at the office of the Clerk of the peace hereunder mentioned, specifying the price of each article for six and also for twelve monthly. Woronzow Greig Clerk of the Peace, Record office, North Street Lambeth June 13 1851

**1851 19 June: GO 52:** Insufficient use is being made of the **county cart** for the carriage of prisoners.

**1851 1 July: GO 53: Superintendent Biddlecombe** is posted to the Chertsey Division. This is the man who can truly claim to be the first and preeminent detective within the Surrey Constabulary at this time.

**1851 27 July:** Constable John Page 1st Class Constable and acting inspector at Chobham is **appointed inspector** at twenty three shillings a week. (Note – there were no sergeants)

**1851 28 August: For trespassing in search of game** three men were charged and committed for trial where they were sentenced to six months hard labour.

**1852 5 June GO 83:** A constable was sentenced to **fourteen days in prison** with hard labour at the magistrate's court for not surrendering all his police clothing when he left the Force.

**1852 14 July GO 84:** At 0930 on the 17th inst., at 0930 seven superintendents, six inspectors and sixty-four constables had to be at HQ in Guildford. No reason was given but this may well have been the **first major operation** of the Force.

**1854 17 November** Inspector Edward Wilson **dismissed for frequenting a public house** and acting as landlord therein

**1855 April Chief Constable's report** to the Rural Police Committee: That depredations frequently occurring on the borders of those counties which have not accepted the Rural Police are very difficult of detection for example, in the year 1854 there were two burglaries, four sheep stolen, two horses and several cases of fowl stealing known to have been committed by thieves residing in Berkshire whom it is impossible to bring to justice from the petty jealousy and unwillingness on the part of the parish constables to give any information, so they do form the facilities afforded for the disposal of stolen property.

**1855 17 February: Letter from Chief Constable to the press: There are in the Surrey Constabulary** 1 Chief Constable 7 Superintendents 5 Inspectors 70 Constables total 83; Guildford 11 constables, Reigate 11 and Dorking 11. It is not true that the ratepayers of the parish of Woking pay £228 per annum for the services of one constable there being two resident in the parish, one of whom lives in the town of Woking; in addition to which there are no less than six other constables, who meet and patrol together in pairs almost nightly throughout the different portions of the parish, thus affording every protection to the parish. I can give my assertion -- the

amount of crime not only in the parish of Woking but throughout the county generally having greatly decreased since the establishment of the “rural police system”.

**1856 GO 127: March: Drill instructions** and general training started in the force in March 1856. “It being highly essential that the constables in the different divisions should have an opportunity afforded them from time to time of being instructed in their drill, which the chief constable is aware that many were extremely deficient, he therefore considers it desirable that superintendents should send two men each rotation to headquarters for the purpose of being drilled and otherwise instructed in their duties.”

### **Reports of Inspectors of Constabulary 1858 - Surrey**

Area in acres	372,880
Population in 1851	108,792
Acres to each constable	3299
Population to each constable	262

The constabulary of Surrey was established in the beginning of 1851 and consisted of eighty four officers and constables; several augmentations have however since taken place and on the 29 September 1857 the force consisted of one hundred and thirteen officers and constables who are paid for by the county; one chief constable, six superintendents, six inspectors and one hundred constables and no alteration in the organisation or numbers have taken place since that date. In the last year’s return, however, the total number of Surrey Constabulary force was stated to amount to one hundred and thirty three officers and constables; but this number included twenty men paid by the Government for services in connection with the Aldershot Camp and who are incorporated with the constabulary of the county, and placed under the charge of the chief constable. Several of these men have since been discharged and there now only remain ten men paid by the government who are placed under the charge of the chief constable and these men are now enumerated with the regular police of the county as above named. The general average meeting points of the constables whose districts adjoin each other is computed to be about two miles and a half, and a regular system of communication is established between the constables on the borders of the county and the constables on the borders of Berks, Hants, East Sussex, West Sussex and Kent. In this county nine police stations each containing several well constructed cells and suited generally to accommodate one resident police officer, have been erected by the magistrates. In two of the stations court rooms for the convenience of the magisterial business of the district have been added, and six of the stations have stables and cart-sheds attached to them. The officers and constables are paid once every month at headquarters of their respective divisions when advantage is taken of the occasion to exercise the men in drill. The clothing is of good quality and each officer and constable is provided with all necessary appointments and a book of instructions, and each member of the force is also required to keep a diary in which is

entered a statement of all duties and occurrences of which a copy is transmitted to headquarters. The office arrangements are of a satisfactory character and the duties appear to be well provided for, and I consider the force to be efficient in number and discipline.

### **Godalming Borough**

Area in acres	480
Population in 1851	2500
Acres to each constable	240
Population to each constable	1250

The police force of the borough on the 29th September 1857 was composed of one superintendent and one constable, and no alteration in the organisation or number of the force up to the date of my inspection on the 11th May in the present year had taken place. The station adjoins the superintendent's residence and contains two cells, which are furnished with all necessary requisites, and kept in good order. There is also an additional cell in another building but it is not required.

### **Surrey Quarter Sessions 23 June 1858 County Constabulary Committee**

The Chief Constable was seeking an increase to his salary which had stayed the same for seven years since the Force was formed. The Chief Constable reported that “- he had never been absent from his duties either upon sick leave or for his private affairs and he had never slept out of the county for three consecutive nights. Since his appointment the Force has been increased from 84 men to 113 its present number being an increase of upward of one third of the Force, involving a proportionate increase of duty and responsibility.

--- served without a deputy saving upwards of £183 the average salary of a deputy chief constable of the eighteen principal counties where appointed.”

The Committee “—considering the very efficient and satisfactory manner in which the Chief Constable of this county has discharged his duties and the great savings of public money which he has effected by taking upon himself the discharge of the duties which he might have performed by means of the deputy and clerk the court be recommended to order an increase of £100 a year to his salary. He has further saved the county the sum of £25 annually together with the clothing allowance of £6 3s by employing one of his superintendents to discharge the duties of clerk for the yearly remuneration of £40 instead of the salary of £65 and annual clothing allowance as contemplated in the original police report.

### **Quarterly Treasurers Police account June 1858:**

Receipts: £5624.12.11d

Expenditure: £2111.13.11d

Balance: £3512.13.11

It was recommended that a police rate be set at a penny in the pound

**1859 1 October GO 149: Superintendent Coward has been guilty** of great remissions in not taking immediate and active steps relative to certain stolen property supposed to have been disposed of in Reigate and about which he had been asked to make enquiries by an officer from another force is hereby publicly reprimanded. **Inspector Law** is reduced to the rank of constable for allowing a **prisoner to escape**.

**1859 29 December: PC 65 Allen Mason** aged thirty **died** of a ruptured blood vessel in the lungs caused during a violent assault by a deserter. Newspaper report: "Death of a Policeman. A policeman of the Surrey Constabulary, named Allan Mason, who had been stationed at Cobham for some years, and greatly respected both by the inhabitants and the members of the force, died on Dec 29th, he having broken a blood vessel in the lungs some short period before. In July last he was violently assaulted by a deserter, and this is presumed to have brought on his illness. He was interred this day, Saturday, and followed to the grave by a number of his late brother officers, whose feelings evidenced they had lost a friend and a brother to whom they were sincerely attached." Force records for Epiphany Session 1859 " I regret to have to report the death of Police Constable Allen Mason, an old and efficient officer of this Force, which took place on 29th ultimo. The deceased had a ruptured blood vessel a few weeks ago, and attributed his previous reduced state of health to a violent assault committed upon him by a Deserter in July last...." There are two different spellings of his first name - Force records have spelt it Allen.

**1860 26 November** PC Josiah King cautioned for "**being in a public house** when he ought to have been at home."