

The Times Newspaper

Surrey Constabulary press cuttings 1957-1994

1957: February 26: The Times: Police Inspector Louis Chapman aged 48 was found dead with head injuries at Horley police station yesterday. A humane killer normally kept in a safe was found nearby. Inspector Chapman was due to retire and take up a post at Gatwick airport shortly. The Times of February 28th reported an open verdict recorded on the 27th at an inquest in Reigate. He was found shot in his office with a humane killer.

1957: April 23: The Times: Trapped in an overturned car: Holiday makers ran from their cars to aid two young couples trapped in their overturned car in a ditch off the Portsmouth – London Road at Wisley yesterday. Police used axes to free the couples who were taken to hospital and treated for minor injuries.

1958: July 23: The Times: Six Rifles Stolen: Surrey Police were called to Bisley Camp yesterday to investigate the theft during the previous night of six rifles valued at £200, including an international competition rifle.

1959 February 19: The Times: Bodies of 14 Crash victims recovered: The search continued yesterday for the remaining victims of the crash, which took place about three and a half miles from Gatwick airport near the village of Rusper. Early yesterday the Turkish Embassy in London issued the names of 25 people in the aircraft. There were 10 survivors and it is presumed that the remaining 15 died in the crash. At Surrey Police headquarters in Guildford it was stated last night that 14 bodies had been recovered. There was a possibility that a body had been flung so far clear that it had not yet been found.

At Gatwick airport it was stated yesterday that the aircraft was about two minutes flying time from the airport when it crashed. It went on the Epsom range for London Airport in the normal way. Visibility fell and at 4.30pm the airliner was diverted to Gatwick. It went off the Epsom range and was making a normal ILS approach with visibility over one mile. The weather was not at all bad. “Then suddenly the aircraft went off the tube”, it was stated. “His direction was excellent but obviously his latitude was not.

1959 August 6: The Times: Widow found dying: Door-to-door police enquiries: Surrey Police were making enquiries about the death of Florence Mabel Gooding aged 73, a widow who was found with head injuries in bed in her house Oast Hatch about two miles from Oxted. Her husband a solicitor died about 18 months ago. Mrs Gooding was found at about 9pm on Tuesday after police had been called, and died yesterday in hospital at Wimbledon. A post mortem examination last night showed she had received a blow on the left side of her forehead. It is believed she was last seen alive about 6.30pm on Saturday when her married daughter took her home. Police believe she was attacked between then and 6.30pm on Sunday

Lieutenant-Colonel Herman Rutherford, the Chief Constable of Surrey appealed yesterday for anyone for anyone who had seen anything suspicious in the neighbourhood to inform the police. He said that entry had been made through a window at the rear on the ground floor, where glass had been smashed. Dr Richard Christopher Howard of Harley Street who lives next door to Mrs Gooding said that he was called to the house by her son in law about 8.30pm. "It was thought she had had a stroke but she obviously had a depressed fracture of the skull and shock" he said. "Everything was knocked over the side of the bed."

1960 January 12: The Times: Body of dead boys' father found. Mother in England.; British Columbia: The body of a man who was sought by police after two of his sons had been stabbed to death during their mothers absence in England was found to day under five inches of snow. A shotgun was near the body and the police believed Leslie Egerton had committed suicide. He had head wounds and there were indications that he had tried to write a suicide note. The boys aged 11 and 12 were found in their beds in a boarding house at an experimental farm near Smithers where Egerton was a gardener. Surrey Police in Godalming traced the mother Mrs Egerton and her one year old child to Hurtmore where she was staying with her widowed mother following a telegram from the RCMP.

1960 July 11: The Times: Killed in a police car – Police Constable Frederick James Stevens aged 43 of the Surrey Constabulary was killed when the police car he was driving overturned in Broadford Road, Shalford early yesterday

1962: November 9: The Times: Police Superintendent dies at Guildford dinner: Mr Basil Barlow Superintendent of the Guildford Division died suddenly on Wednesday at a dinner of the Surrey Special Constabulary at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Guildford. He was 51 and had been superintendent at Guildford for about seven years. He leaves a widow and two children.

1963 May 2: The Times: Captain Stephen Hugh Van Neck CVO MC who was Chief Constable of Norfolk from 1928 to 1956 died on Tuesday aged 73. 1921 was attached to the Surrey Constabulary until 1925.

1963 May 23: The Times: Two soldiers being escorted to Germany broke away from their escorts at Gatwick Airport yesterday. One was soon caught and a search was mounted by the Surrey Constabulary for the other outside the airport boundary.

1963 July 9: The Times: Gunman holds up couple in a car: Yard called in: Scotland Yard is helping Surrey Police to search for a man after two armed hold-ups in Woking early today (8th). A couple in a parked car were held up by a man who was masked and armed with a pistol. He took the man's money and drove off in the car which was found abandoned at Woking. Later a man living at Yarrowfield Drive was robbed of £14 at pistol point. The raider then drove off in his victim's mini-van. This was abandoned at Wisley where police found a pistol and a mask in the woods.

1963 August 20: The Times: Caravan searched: A caravan site at Dorking was one of several places searched following the train robbery. This followed a tip that a caravan near Dorking might have been used as a temporary headquarters by some of the thieves. Surrey

police searched the caravan and checked it for fingerprints. More than £100,000 was found in a wood near Dorking last week. After studying a report from Dorking Buckinghamshire Police said the caravan had no connexion with the robbery.

1963 August 21: The Times: Mail Raid Link in Caravan: Detective Superintendent Fewtrell head of Buckinghamshire CID travelled to Dorking yesterday as detectives from Surrey Constabulary dismantled much of the caravan interior and searched fields and woodlands surrounding the site with the help of dogs. "There is something in the caravan that convinces us that it is connected with the train robbery, but we will not say what it is at this moment." Interest in the caravan was aroused when it was reported that a couple paid for its hire in £5 notes but left suddenly a few days ago. Police think it likely that some members of the gang planned to use the caravan as a hideout for several weeks but panicked because of the intensity of the police operation. Detective Superintendent E White head of Surrey CID and Detective Superintendent Gunning of Dorking directed yesterday's search at Boxhill.

1963 August 22: The Times: £30,000 found in caravan: Another £30,000 of the £2,626,000 stolen in the mail train ambush has been recovered. Police disclosed yesterday that the money, all in £5 notes, was cleverly concealed behind panelling in a caravan removed from a site at Boxhill, near Dorking and towed to the investigation HQ at Aylesbury. Descriptions of a man and a woman with a baby and a white poodle, who stayed in the caravan after buying it for £325 in cash a few days after the robbery have been circulated. Identical descriptions of the couple were obtained from two different sources and it is thought probable that they were responsible for dumping £100,000 found in a wood near Dorking last Friday. Although Surrey police made a detailed examination of the caravan on site and found the £30,000 after much of the interior had been dismantled, detectives at Aylesbury are subjecting it to further structural examination.

1964 December 22: The Times: Reprieved child murderer escapes: Guildford "Babes in the Wood" case: Frederick Albert Smith aged 38 who in 1937 was sentenced to death for the murder of a girl aged 7 and was later reprieved escaped yesterday from Wormwood Scrubs prison from a working party in the grounds. At 1.20pm he escaped over the wall with the help of two Dutch hoes and piece of bent pipe. Smith was receiving psychiatric treatment at Wormwood Scrubs. A Surrey police spokesman said last night "We are keeping a close watch on the area around Pitch Place, Worplesdon where Smith used to live."

1965 May 7: The Times: Novelist's death by fire: A police investigation was being carried out today into the death of Mr Edgar Mittelholzer aged 55, the novelist, who, soaked in petrol was burned to death just before midnight (5th). His body was found in a lonely country spot 200 yards from his home at Dippenhall, Farnham. Police with dogs were called to search near his home after a note had been found.

1965 May 27: The Times: Suspect attacks CID inspector: Surrey deputy CID chief was attacked and beaten up tonight (26th) while questioning a man. Detective Chief Inspector Ronald Harvey aged 39, was found lying semi-conscious with facial injuries in the centre of

Farnham. He was taken to hospital but later allowed home. A description of the attacker was circulated by Surrey police.

1965 July 10: The Times: Police Surround a Surrey mansion: The hunt for the escaped Wandsworth prisoner suddenly concentrated in Surrey today (9). Police threw a cordon around the Winterfold area near Cranleigh, after a warning. Within minutes more than 150 armed police with dogs were in the area. They surrounded a disused mansion. Road blocks were set up, and detectives began door-to-door enquiries. The police cordon was withdrawn after three hours. The mansion was found to be empty. (Note: The search was for Ronald Biggs an escaped train robber – the piece is in parts journalistic imagination

1966 April 14: The Times: Poison stick taken from car: After a black wooden walking stick and an air rifle were stolen from a mini estate car in the car park of Warlingham Park Hospital, Surrey police issued a warning that the stick would be dangerous if it came into contact with anyone's mouth. The stick is coated with strychnine sulphate powder and it belongs to a rodent operator. Police loudspeaker vans toured the area last night warning parents, doctors and doctors and local hospitals were alerted to watch for a child showing signs of poisoning.

1966 May 7: The Times: £35,000 found in caravan – James White on train robbery charges: In summary White aged 46, was believed to have been the occupant of the caravan found on Box Hill and who appeared at Linslade Magistrates Court, Buckinghamshire. Three days after the robbery a man who called himself Ballard paid £175 deposit on the caravan. The next day he moved in with his wife a small baby and a white poodle. They left after only 24 hours. Police found £136 in notes in a jacket in a wardrobe in the caravan and 22 bundles of £5 notes concealed in some panelling amounting to £30,400. The notes could be linked to the robbery.

1966 December 9: The Times: Man with £230,000 life policy killed himself: A former insurance director who was killed by a grenade exploding against his back whilst he was tied up took out a life policy for £230,000 in the Philippines in 1964. Inquest on Antonio Ramon Yvanovich aged 41 a Portuguese held at Chertsey. Jury returned a verdict of suicide and the Coroner Lt Col George McEwan said the whole case hinged on how Yvanovich could have tied himself up and pulled out the pin to the grenade. Dr Donald Teare a pathologist said Yvanovich could have introduced his own hands into the bonds. Then they would have had sufficient play to pluck the pin from the grenade. The nature of the bonds made it unlikely anyone else was concerned. Detective Constable R Watford showed how the cord could have been self tied and said that it was impossible for another person to tie it unless Yvanovich co-operated. The coroner said that if suicide the insurance policy was void.

1967 June 14: The Times: Man shot dead in Surrey lane: A massive police search launched after a man had been shot dead near a quiet Surrey road was called off after it was announced that a man was helping police with enquiries at Croydon police station. The shooting was at Farleigh Court Warlingham.

1968 January 3: The Times: £30,000 theft in Surrey: Surrey police were investigating the theft of jewellery worth £30,000 on Monday night from the home of Mr and Mrs Raphael at Bowers Mill, Burpham, near Guildford. The theft occurred while Mr and Mrs Raphael were having dinner and members of staff were in the house.

1968 May 1: The Times: Boys deaths not linked police say: Inquests were opened and adjourned yesterday on two schoolboys found dead in wooded countryside in the Dorking area. Police were convinced last night that one of them had been murdered but foul play was not suspected in the other case. The deaths were not connected. A Kingston Grammar School pupil Roy Tuthill aged 14 was last seen a week ago on a hitch hike to Chessington from his home in Wheelers Lane, Brockham. He was found strangled and assaulted near Box Hill on Friday. Police want to trace the driver of a silver-grey Austin Westminster Mark11 saloon seen in Chessington last Tuesday. Dr Keith Mant, Home office pathologist told an inquest at Epsom yesterday that the death was caused by strangulation by ligature, the coroner Lt Col G McEwan adjourned the inquest until May 30 saying extensive enquiries were continuing. Adrian Stevens aged 13 was found hanging from a tree on Holmwood Common on Monday night. Detectives are working on the theory that he may have met his death during an experiment. His new red bicycle was lying close by.

1968 May 24: The Times: Reefers in the 6th Form: Five sixth form girls caught smoking “reefers” at the County School for Girls at Woking have been suspended. The headmistress Miss Violet Hill informed the parents and called in Surrey police who passed the investigation to a special drug’s squad set up to stamp out drug taking among young people in the county. The girls were caught smoking cannabis during a break

1968 August 10: The Times: 243 evacuated in Lewis Gaol fire: Following a fire at Lewes prison 243 men, almost all the prisoners in the main block were evacuated to other prisons. Eight coaches each with about 40 prisoners were brought to Gatwick by Sussex Police and were then escorted by Surrey police to London. (I remember it well!)

1969 January 15: The Times: Ariana (Afghan airlines crash at Gatwick on January 5: Inspector Kingsford-Curran of Surrey Police said “The passenger manifest has not yet been cleared. I have established that 10 extra people boarded the plane.” The coroner said “The inspector has information that there was a stowaway which throws the whole system of identification by elimination adrift.” The inquest was adjourned until Friday.

1970 January 8: The Times: 50 Youths arrested: About fifty “Hell’s Angels” motorcyclists faced a long walk last night after they were arrested by Surrey police at the devil’s Punchbowl near Hindhead in connexion with an alleged theft from a vehicle in Hampshire. A road block was set up to stop the motorcyclists after a request from Hampshire police and the youths who were travelling from the coast northwards to wards London were told to abandon their machines. They were taken to the police station at Aldershot. After they had been questioned they were released on bail in ones and twos and had to make their own way 20 miles back to the Punchbowl. Police guarded their motorcycles until they arrived.

1970 July 15: The Times: Wig thieves sought: Police in Surrey are searching for a gang who stole 1,000 wigs and hair pieces valued at £2,300 from Wig Artists in Bell Street, Reigate.

1970 August 3: The Times: Man lashed to top of tree: Passers –by today heard shouts for help and saw a man lashed to the top of a 50 foot tree on Ash ranges. Three firemen climbed in the tree and lowered the injured man to the ground and he was then taken to the Cambridge Military Hospital.

1970 August 14: The Times: Police watch CS gas factory: In the Surrey countryside today police were guarding the largest CS gas factory in Europe. It is believed to be the chief target for a team of IRA saboteurs. The plant was closed with all employees on holiday. But around the factory, which is surrounded by thick woods, plain-clothes police officers were on watch.

1970 October 30: The Times: Ganges type funeral held beside the Thames: Detectives who launched a murder enquiry after discovering charred human bones in shallow water in the Thames at Runnymede called off their enquiry last night after seven Sikhs had admitted to Scotland Yard that the remains were placed as part of a ritual burial ceremony. This ended a thirty six hour police inquiry involving the Surrey and Metropolitan Police. The police had been alerted by two witnesses who saw the Sikhs casting the bones, ashes and flower petals into the river. Police in Surrey and in London were in confusion last night. One officer said it was a “breakdown in communication – it was all quite legal to scatter the remains of their religious leader in the Thames.

1971 May 19: The Times: Princess Anne will visit the Surrey Police headquarters at Mount Browne, Guildford on June 22.

1971 August 3: The Times: Couple and neighbour shot dead: A bank employee and his wife and a neighbour died in a triple shooting at The Wolds, Slines Oak Road, Woldingham last night. Stanley and Daphne Kennedy both aged about 50 were shot several times with a shotgun and William Hall 64 next-door neighbour died later in Redhill General Hospital. As a police car pulled up Hall was seen on the lawn, there was a shot and he fell. Detective Chief Inspector Charles Brunt said that Mr Hall had a .38 pistol in his hand when police arrived. Surrey Police “We are not looking for anyone else in connexion with these three deaths.”

1971 August 17: The Times: Asian dead in cell: An investigation was being carried out yesterday into the death of Hirubhai Patel aged 51 who was found hanged in the cells of Horley police station. He had been detained at Gatwick airport on a flight from Kenya.

1972 June 26: The Times: Bicycle clue to missing boy: More than a hundred people joined a hundred police in a search for Luke Tiley aged five who disappeared after leaving home on his bicycle four days ago. The search was centred on 10 acres of wasteland and gravel pits about two miles from his home in The Hythe, Egham.

1972 July 17: The Times: Police evacuate tourists as firemen fight to control woodland blaze: A fire sweeping through a large area of woodland in the heart of Surrey yesterday

destroyed everything in its path. The crews of all fire stations for miles around were called to the blaze which threatened houses and cottages, were still fighting to control it last night. The main A287 had to be closed because of the danger. Surrey police with loudspeakers put out warnings to sunbathers who were basking on the grass at Frensham. The police evacuated everyone from the area. "It's pretty fierce out there" and official said. Hundreds of tourist's cars were moved for fear of petrol explosions. Mr Graham Woodison of Twickenham "The main road is just like a river of treacle. The tar has melted under the heat."

1972 September 15: The Times: Police appeal after two girls attacked: Two girls aged five and six were detained in hospital after being attacked by a man on the village common at Bagshot between 3.15pm and 4.30pm yesterday. Surrey police said it was a very serious attack. The man police want to interview is described as being 5ft 10in tall, slim build with greying or white hair.

1973 January 27: The Times: Ready market for the rustlers: Surrey police warned all 900 farmers in their area about the increase in rustling. After seven cases of thefts in the past two months Detective Chief Superintendent Simmons said "It can be expected that because of the marked increase in the price of meat, especially beef, thieves may turn their attention to grazing cattle in order to steal them for slaughter."

1973 April 27: The Times: Claim on Army for stray bullet death: Mr Michael Flynn aged 29 a scaffolder was killed by a stray bullet from an army training range and his family sued the Army after a verdict of accidental death was recorded. Mr Flynn from Basingstoke was working on married quarters at Deepcut when he was hit by a high velocity tracer bullet. DI Edward Suthers (Note: Should this be Sellers?) of Surrey police said that in the past five years two cases of stray bullets hitting houses off the free firing ranges had been reported.

1974 February 18: The Times: Soldiers set off gas in public house: Soldiers are believed to have set off a canister of gas in a crowded public house in Guildford on Saturday night. The incident caused panic in the Seven Stars in Swan Lane. About 50 servicemen and women dancing at a discotheque in the public house escaped through a window and doors when gas filled the room.

1974 April 29: The Times: Woman's body found: The body of a middle aged woman was found floating in water at Frensham Ponds yesterday. Foul play was not suspected.

1974 October 8: The Times: Police description of girls seen before public house explosions: Surrey Police yesterday issued descriptions of two young girls who they said may have been responsible for blowing up two public houses killing five people and injuring 65 at Guildford on Saturday night. The girls were seen in Angel Gate a dark passage linking Guildford's main streets. Mr Christopher Rowe, assistant chief constable of Surrey has been put in command of the search for those responsible. Mr Rowe attended a conference of senior police officers at New Scotland Yard where he was in touch with chiefs of other forces in whose areas bomb explosions have taken place At Guildford a pictorial dossier was being built up of everyone known to have been drinking in the Horse and Groom and the Seven

Stars where the explosions occurred. Police took head and shoulder photographs of army and civilian drinkers in an effort to identify the bombers.

1974 5 November: The Times: QC says undertaker paid coroner's officer for work: A coroner's officer demanded money from an undertaker in exchange for putting more work in his way it was alleged at the Central Criminal Court. The officer received £3 for a funeral and a £1 for the removal of a body to a mortuary it was stated. In one year he corruptly obtained £467 from the undertaker, Sir Michael Havers, QC for the prosecution said. He had obtained the money from pathologists and tried to stop undertakers getting work if they did not pay him. Leonard Gay aged 59 of Horley pleaded not guilty of two charges of attempted corruption and six charges of corruption in relation to funerals or coroner's removal of bodies and post mortem examinations between 1966 and 1973. Gay a former Surrey police sergeant was appointed coroner's officer for the Reigate and Oxted divisions of Surrey in October 1966 and used his position to put most of the work in the hands of Ronald Stoneman a Reigate undertaker. Investigations started following a complaint from one undertaker "who took the view that he wasn't getting his fair share of the coroner's work."

1974 December 3: The Times: Armed Guard on IRA man who gave list of alleged terrorists: Armed police were last night guarding a fringe member of the IRA who since the weekend has named nearly 50 men and women who in the past 18 months were alleged by him to have been associated with terrorist attacks in England. Arrested by the RUC he was flown to London and was last night being questioned at Guildford police station in connexion with the bomb attacks on two public houses. In cells near him 10 men and two women were also being detained. Surrey police yesterday applied to Mr Jenkins the Home Secretary for orders to keep eight of those questioned for a further five days. The future of the rest has not been decided.

1974 December 6: The Times: Applications for detention orders against several men and women will be made today to the Home Secretary by Surrey police investigating the bomb blasts in two public houses in Guildford. At midnight last night 30 people were being questioned by police in Guildford. Since last weekend 41 men and women have been arrested in London, the Home Counties and other parts of Britain and taken to Guildford. Surrey police disclosed that new charges against some of those being held may be made today. Police have released only a man and a woman after the first dawn raids.

1974 December 9: The Times: Eleven will face bomb charges at Guildford: Two women are to appear with nine men at Guildford magistrate's court in connexion with bomb explosions in two of the town's public houses eight weeks ago. Six will be charged with murder a seventh with conspiring to cause explosions, four other possessing explosives. It is expected that the identities of the accused will be disclosed. Two Irishmen both aged 20 appeared at Guildford last week charged with murder.

1975 February 21: The Times: Gatwick security under police control soon: Surrey police will assume responsibility for security at Gatwick airport during the summer. Only a few extra officers will be required to reinforce the present compliment.

1975 February 22: The Times: Runaway car hit by train: Passengers escaped injury last night when a train crashed into a car which had careered down an embankment and straddled the railway line at Caterham. Police said that the car had been taken from Stuart Road, Caterham only yards away from where the accident occurred. The car driver was injured. A youth is being interviewed by police.

1975 August 29: The Times: Police seek two men after Caterham explosion: Police throughout Britain were searching for two men with Northern Irish accents after the public house bombing on Wednesday at Caterham. Eleven people were still in hospital yesterday, three having lost limbs. Chief Superintendent Walter Simmons head of Surrey CID and the man in charge of the Force's 50-man bomb squad said that the bombing had been entirely unexpected. The blast caused by a 7lb bomb with a timer being placed under a seat "May have had an Irish connection" he said. Detectives visited homes nearby and interviewed soldiers at Caterham barracks who had crowded the dance floor of the Caterham Arms before the explosion burst the discothèque's roof and walls. The men police want to see came into the public house at about 7pm and left an hour before the explosion at 9.30pm after buying drinks and sitting on the seat under which the bomb was probably planted. One of the young soldiers from Neath lost both his legs and an arm. He was married with a six week old baby. Two other soldiers lost legs and another was critically ill with multiple injuries.

1975 October 23: The Times: IRA informer got £350 for vital clue that led to bombers: An IRA informer sold for £350 the clue that led to the arrest of the public house bombers. Paul Michael Hill a lieutenant of the Belfast Battalion of the IRA was becoming something of a folk hero and his name was the toast of many parties in republican houses and pubs. Listening to the exploits of Mr Hill and other members of the active service unit that planted the bombs at the Horse and groom and Seven Stars public houses in Guildford and the Kings Arms, Woolwich was the man who later betrayed them. As a packet of used £1 notes was handed over he told Detective Chief Inspector Richardson of Surrey police Hill's hiding place in Southampton. Following Mr Hill's arrest he began to talk. Far from being the tight-lipped tough hero he gave a detailed account of the bombings and identified those with him in the conspiracy. Mr Hill's three companions were arrested. Gerald Conlon also a lieutenant in the Belfast IRA was a hot headed, experience terrorist and was the operational chief for all three bombings. By a devious route he slipped into England last summer and made contact with "sleepers". It was Mr Conlon who photographed the three public houses during a reconnaissance weeks before the explosion. Patrick Armstrong also a member of the Belfast IRA having joined at Dundalk took part in armed robberies in Belfast. He formed an attachment to Carol Richardson a 17 year old girl who lived in squats in London. She and Armstrong were ordered by Conlon to kiss and cuddle in the Horse and Groom whilst they slipped the bomb under their seat. Armstrong was not keen on his part but he was told by Conlon it was a military target as only soldiers used the public house. Miss Richardson who did not want to take part was told by Conlon he would shoot her if she did not.

1976 March 3: The Times: Lion attacks woman but police unable to act: Surrey police said yesterday that they were unable to take action against the owner of a lion that jumped on

a woman in a leopard skin coat as she was on her way to work in Woking – she was unhurt by the one year old 14 stone animal owned by a taxi-company employee.

1976 April 29: The Times: James Findlay of Surrey Police who chased a gunman who had shot one colleague dead and wounded another received the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct from Lord Hamilton of Dalzell, Lord Lieutenant of Surrey

1977 January 6: The Times: Surrey police have ordered **9 more German made BMW** motor cycles but a decision on the make of the remaining eight in its vehicle replacement programme will depend on results of test runs on the British Triumph Saint 750cc machine.

1977 March 3: The Times: Surrey police in drug raids: Twelve people have been arrested in another drugs raid carried out by police in Surrey. Homes and discos at Guildford were searched for cannabis and LSD. Detective Chief Superintendent Ronald Underwood head of Surrey CID said "Substances were found and have been sent for analysis. A number of people were arrested and some of them have now been released on police bail pending further enquiries.

1977 April 15: The Times: Julie Andrews' stepmother found at roadside: Julie Andrews's stepmother Mrs Winifred Wells aged 52 was found last night sitting on a grass verge near her home. She had been missing for more than three days. Mrs Wells was seen by the side of the A24 road north of Ockley by a passing motorist. Surrey police said she had been taken to Redhill General Hospital for an examination. Mrs Wells disappeared after leaving her home near Ockley for a bicycle ride on Easter Monday afternoon and police, using dogs and helped by villagers spent three days and nights searching the area.

1977 October 13: The Times: Superintendent Brian Hayes of Scotland Yard's Special Branch to be ACC (Administration) of Surrey Constabulary

1978 January 23: The Times: The Duke of Kent will dine with the senior officers of the Surrey Constabulary on February 28th

1978 April 13: The Times: Move to check trade across the Channel in used cars: A system for checking on the cross-Channel market in used cars is being discussed as a way of curbing the lucrative flow of stolen cars between Britain and Europe. The most spectacular example was discovered recently by Surrey police when they unravelled a trade in stolen Rolls-Royce and Mercedes-Benz cars destined for Middle Eastern buyers anxious to avoid waiting lists. The cars were stolen in Europe, Paris being the favoured venue, driven to Britain and then shipped to the Middle East. In Britain last year 30,000 cars were stolen and are unaccounted for.

1978 November 4: The Times: Smoke bomb in car: Two men aged 20 have been questioned and released at Camberley police station after Gail Cardwell was injured when her boy friend's car crashed after a smoke bomb had been thrown into it from a passing vehicle.

1979 December 12: The Times: Joint winners of police staff college award: The annual prize day was held at the Police Staff College, Bramshill. The ACPO silver tipstaff for the

student considered the most outstanding on the course in all fields was won jointly by C. J. Gray Dyfed Powys police and Colin Cramphorn of the Surrey Constabulary.

1979 December 19: The Times: Christmas drink drive campaign: Surrey police breathalysed 43 people on Monday night when it launched its campaign arresting four people.

1980 February 26: The Times: 50 vehicles in fog pile up: Police yesterday accused drivers of ignoring warnings after dozens of motorists had crashed into each other on a stretch of road affected by fog and ice. Nearly 50 cars and vans were involved in the pile up on the A31 Hogs Back, near Farnham.

1980 April 18: The Times: Eight arrested after Countryman raids: Six men and two women were taken to Guildford police station for questioning after the largest series of raids by Operation Countryman, the investigation into police corruption. None of them is a serving or former police officer. IT is understood that they were questioned about three big robberies from which the allegations of corruption stemmed. The arrests were made by 40 officers of the Countryman team, which now numbers 80 officers from provincial forces and is based at Godalming. Guildford police station was sealed off as those arrested arrived from London in cars. Later, Mr Peter Matthews the Chief Constable of Surrey and recently appointed adviser to the enquiry arrived at the station to join Detective Chief Superintendent Whitby of Dorset police who is in operational command. The operation has become the centre of a controversy with allegations of non-cooperation from London officers and suggestions that the provincial officers were out of their depth.

1980 June 9: The Times: More police in hunt for girl aged 14: Police searching for Clare Hutchison aged 14 the missing Surrey schoolgirl, are to increase their inquiries today with 60 officers, twice the number used so far in the hunt. They have been unable to find a clue as to her possible whereabouts. She has been missing since shortly after leaving her home in Boundstone, Farnham on Thursday morning. Surrey police have been told by someone who saw her walking towards Wydon School that she had completed more than half her journey.

1980 June 11: The Times: Missing girl is found dead in wood: The hunt for Clare Hutchison the schoolgirl age 14 who had been missing for 6 days ended yesterday when her naked body was found in a wood. A man who was not named, was charged last night. He will appear before magistrates in Farnham today. Police went to the wood after another schoolgirl managed to fight off an attacker. The dead girl's mother was too distraught last night and the girl's boyfriend was under sedation. The girl's body partly covered by leaves was found by a police dog handler in Bourne Wood, a private wood about two miles from her home in Farnham. A few hours before the body was found a girl, aged 16, had fought off a man who allegedly tried to force her into his car as she walked home at Haslemere near by. The girl took a note of the man's car number. Police found the body at about 3.30am. Inspector Bob Ball said "If we had not been led to the right spot, the chances are we may never have found the body." It was in a rarely visited area of pine trees.

1980 November 19: The Times: Why police want people to peddle their cycles: A cash shortage has punctured the plans of the Surrey Constabulary to put their Bobbies back on

bicycles in a move to resurrect old fashioned policing methods. Without the money to pay for 100 new cycles necessary for a back-to-the-beat experiment in Guildford the police have been forced to appeal to residents for unwanted bicycles. Flat tyres, rust and faulty brakes are not regarded as drawbacks as the pedal power corps of policemen will be expected to renovate the machines. Officers of the Guildford Division who are being turned out of their patrol cars and put back on the saddle in an attempt to fight rising crime will be expected to pay for their cycles out of a monthly allowance of £3.33. If the experiment works the rest of the constabulary may follow suit. Ironically the division already has a mound of cycles in the lost and found department. But an earlier plan to use them was dropped after discussions with senior officers. Mr Brian Hayes acting DCC told me yesterday "We decided against that because we thought people might complain we were using property which did not belong to us. We are not short of money in the sense that we had to make this appeal to the public. We do not buy bicycles for use by officers because someone would have to maintain them. We are reverting to a back-to-the-beat policy partly because we have the men now that the force is almost up to strength and partly because we feel that the Bobby on the beat is the shop window of the force as far as the public is concerned. Although the police would ideally like to be offered the bicycles free, it is understood that small sums will be offered for the most suitable machines.

1980 December 8: The Times: Drink-drive campaign: Surrey police are to use special squads, some in unmarked cars, in a drive against drunken motorists at Christmas. In its campaign last year 693 drivers were stopped and 146 arrested.

1980 December 31: The Times: Peter Jack Matthews Chief Constable of Surrey was knighted in the New Year honour's list.

1981 February 19: The Times: Strychnine warning: An urgent warning was issued yesterday after strychnine was stolen from a chemist's shop in Maybury Road, Woking. Surrey police feared it could be mistaken for heroin or cocaine. It was taken in an amber glass jar marked with skull and crossbones.

1981 September 18: The Times: Search for missing journalist: Police are still searching for a missing journalist who disappeared five days ago after going to collect his daughter from a riding school. Twenty-four hours later the car belonging to John Stevenson, aged 46, the medical and science correspondent of the Daily Mail was discovered locked and abandoned near the Fort tea rooms at Box Hill. Surrey police immediately launched a search for Mr Stevenson who has three children and lives in Coulsdon. For 48 hours with the aid of a helicopter and dogs they searched the Surrey countryside around Box Hill and divers checked the River Mole near by. The police said there are no suspicious circumstances.

1981 September 26: The Times: Parking tickets rationed: A police force has clipped the wings of traffic wardens because it cannot afford the staff to cope with the paper-work caused by parking offences. The warden who patrols the streets of Camberley has been rationed to ten tickets a day. The Surrey force dealt with 34,675 parking offences last year an increase of half on the previous twelve months. It was feared that if the figure continued to rise the

processing office would be unable to cope. A survey in Camberley from Thursday to Saturday between 700 and 1000 vehicle were illegally parked in the town.

1981 November 28: The Times: Arctic Patrol: Four Surrey police traffic officers set of yesterday on their toughest ever patrol to drive from Guildford to the arctic to raise money for charity. They are aiming for North Cape on the Barents Sea.

1981 December 14: The Times: Arctic patrol: Four policemen are struggling through Arctic blizzards and temperatures of minus 30 degrees centigrade to get home for Christmas. The men from the Surrey police traffic department have been on an expedition to North Cape.

1981 December 23: The Times: Drink-drive falls: Surrey police breath tested 211 drivers in the first five days of their Christmas campaign against drinking and driving compared with 408 in a similar period last year. Thirty-six tests were positive.

1981 December 29: The Times: Drink- drive: In the first ten days of the Surrey police campaign against drunken drivers, 364 breath tests were given of which 71 proved positive. During the same period last year 720 drivers were tested and 121 were positive.

1982 October 23: The Times: Flooding: Surrey police said that the river Mole had burst its bank at Betchworth near Dorking. Thirteen roads in the county were either closed or only just passable. In some places roads were under three feet of water.

1982 October 29: The Times: Beaten to it: The Chief Constable of West Mercia has been caught nicking another force's culottes. Police review says that Robert Cozen's idea of dressing his policewomen in funny French pants to spare their blushes, well publicised last week was not new. Surrey police put their girls in culottes four years ago and the Surrey policewoman who modelled them was the West Mercia Chief Constable's daughter Gillian. (Note Robert Cozens served in Surrey up to the rank of chief superintendent.)

1986 January 10: The Times: Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct: Constable Simon Lane, Surrey Constabulary

1986 November 26: The Times: Man held in triple murder enquiry: Detectives investigating the murder of a schoolgirl and two young women in London, Hertfordshire and Surrey was last night questioning a man arrested on Sunday. Maartje Tamboezer aged 15 was attacked near Guildford in April, assaulted and strangled. The man behind the killings has also been linked to a long list of rapes and attacks in the London area. Surrey police refused to confirm that the man is a 28 year old railway guard with an interest in the martial arts. Nor would they say whether a map of the southeast railway grid with a number of significant area marked out had been found.

1987 July 20: The Times: 17 injured in minibus crash: Seventeen people were injured, including two seriously, when a minibus carrying a group of mentally-retarded people collided head on with a van on the A3 at Hindhead yesterday. The accident near devil's Punch Bowl involved four other vehicles. The Surrey police said that the minibus apparently

veered across the road into the path of the van which was carrying a family of six. Four men died in accidents at Dorking and Effingham as storms and heavy rain affected the south east.

1987 15 October: The Times: Murder investigation into hotel stabbings: A murder enquiry has been launched after the discovery of a man and a woman who had been stabbed to death in a bedroom at a country house hotel in Surrey. The bodies were found in a bloodstained suite at the Pennyhill Hotel, Bagshot. Surrey police said the man's death was being treated as murder but it was keeping an "open mind" on the death of the woman. It was understood that a knife was found in the room and there was no sign of forced entry.

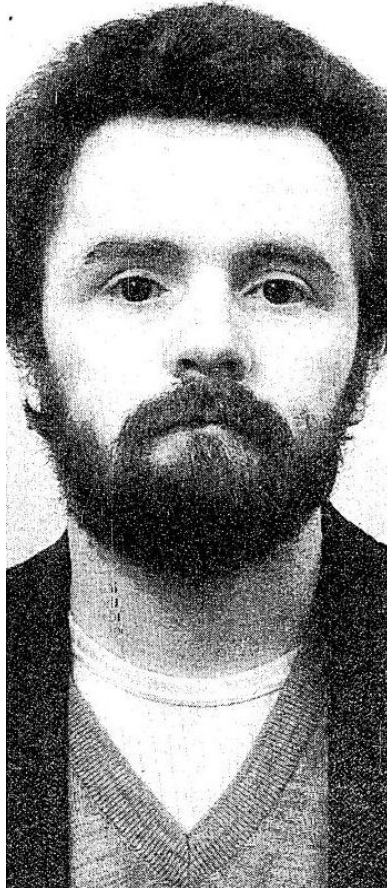
1988 January 21: The Times: Police can keep case file secret: A Surrey teacher yesterday in a preliminary legal round of a court battle in which he is suing Surrey police for wrongful arrest for the murder of his woman friend. A High Court judge in London ruled that David Evans of Guildford was not entitled to see police documents sent to the DPP which led to the police charging Mr Evans with murder. Miss Glenys Coe was found murdered in a Guildford car park in August 1984 and Mr Evans was arrested the following month, released and re-arrested in October, the released again. The following March the DPP authorized the murder charge. The next day another man arrested for rape admitted murdering Miss Coe and was later convicted. Mr Evans is suing the Chief Constable of Surrey for exemplary damages for wrongful arrest and false imprisonment.

1988 February 27: The Times: Killer captured by intuition, science and sheer hard work: John Francis Duffy was convicted for the railway Murders yesterday – trapped by forensic science, backed for the first time by the latest psychological profiling techniques. Duffy, a workshy former British Rail carpenter, was caught by a computer based police operation costing £3million. He was convicted of five rapes and two murders but police believe he may have attacked more than 30 women. He was acquitted of a third murder but police say that investigation is closed. Four forces were involved in Operation Hart the biggest manhunt since the Yorkshire Ripper; Scotland Yard, Surrey, Hertfordshire and British Transport. In the autumn of 1986 they watched every railways station along the North London Link Line from Docklands to Richmond. They even checked a million railway tickets in a search for fingerprints. But in the end it was the intuition of Detective Superintendent John Hurst of Surrey Police that led to Duffy. He spotted similarities between one of the murders and a rape which had not been linked to the police enquiry. Duffy was a petty criminal who became a "shrewd, sharp, calculating killer with eyes like laser beams." -- -- The link became clear three months later when Maartje Tamboezer a 15 year old schoolgirl was killed on her way to buy sweets in West Horsley.



Maartje Tamboezer aged 15

In a desperate attempt to remove evidence Duffy set fire to Maartje's body but he still left clues; semen traces, an unusually small foot print, lengths of an unusual nylon and Swedish-manufactured string. A neck bone which martial arts students know as a weak point was broken. Her hands were tied behind her back. In July Duffy was seen by police; he was on a list codenamed "Z men" whose blood roughly matched tests on Maartje. Detectives from the Metropolitan Police, Surrey and Hertfordshire had combined in Operation Trinity started with a list of 5000 suspects, drawn up after forensic scientists identified blood from samples on Maartje's body. The 5000 were researched by a special team which compared them with indexes on descriptions, ages, their methods of attack and any links to railways. The list came down to 1999 men who fitted all the categories or were suspects whose blood groups were unknown. All were seen. Duffy, number 1505 on the list was interviewed in July and gave an alibi and his description did not seem to fit but police were unhappy. He refused to give a blood sample and the next day put himself into a mental hospital falsely claiming he had been mugged and was suffering from amnesia. He had paid a friend to slash his chest. In September 1986 Superintendent Hurst looked through a computer printout from Scotland Yard showing patterns of rape across London using a system called crime pattern analyses. The print up threw up 40 attacks which might have been carried out by the same men. These had been identified by Operation Hart as secondary to the 27 they were investigating. One of the attacks – a rape at Cophall Park, North London a year earlier looked very like that on Maartje – the scenes were very similar, so were the methods. Mr Hurst targeted the case with a squad of 12 officers. He told his men "If we find the man who did that rape we will find Maartje's killer." In October 1986 Professor Cantor's profile was received and after computer comparisons the name Duffy came up. For two weeks more than 20 Surrey detectives followed him and he was arrested when he headed back to Cophall Park apparently planning a fresh attack. At his mother's home detectives found the rare combination of nylon and twine found by Maartje. Fibres from his clothes matched 14 found on the body of another victim. The attacker was caught. John Hurst and the psychological profile had been right.



1988 June 18: The Times: Dinner Night: Chief Constable Brian Hayes presided at the annual ladies night dinner of the Surrey Constabulary senior Officers Dining Club held at the officers mess of the Guards Depot at Pirbright.

1988 28 June: The Times: Police study catalogue of violence: Surrey police have carried out a special survey to categorise the various crimes after incidents of heavy drinking. This follows several weekends of drunken violence in rural England. The research carried out over a 24 hour period from 11pm last Friday showed that 133 incidents related to drunkenness had occurred in the Surrey's nine divisions. Of these, 10 were incident of wounding and assault, twenty involved criminal damage and another 61 public disorder. Eight involved the unlawful taking of vehicles, 17 concerned drink drive offences and only one assault on police. Sixteen were unclassified.

1988 August 23: The Times: Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct: Detective Constable John Brake of Surrey Police.

1988 October 1: The Times: Guildford pub bombings: Drug linked to confession: Carole Richardson convicted with three others of the Guildford public house bombings in 1974 was treated by a police surgeon with drugs which could have influenced her confessions according to a book on the case of the Guildford Four published yesterday.

1988 7 November: The Times: Police seize drugs worth £5m in raid: Police have seized cocaine worth £5million in a raid on a drug's factory in Surrey. Three men and two women were arrested in Operation peninsula which covered a three month watch by 30 police officers. The cocaine factory was discovered in a lock up building on the Southbrook Kiln estate near Cranleigh. The raid was made last Wednesday; Surrey police said yesterday "The drugs have been sent away for analyses and Customs and excise officers have been called in to help trace the route used to import them. It is believed most of the drugs were flown into small rural airfields. A person will appear in court at Guildford today on drugs charges and another has been remanded to Lewes prison. A man and two women have been released on bail, pending further enquiries.

1988 November 9: The Times: Force's chief: Mr John Evans aged 45 deputy chief constable of the Surrey police was named yesterday as the new chief constable of Devon and Cornwall police.

1988 December 17: The Times: Motorway knife gang in wave of stabbings: A gang of burglars who left a trail of blood through suburban Surrey, gratuitously stabbing and murdering victims were being hunted across southern England last night. One man was stripped, bound and left to die in a field after arguing with the gang when it commandeered his car. A second victim was fighting for his life in hospital after being knifed in his home as he confronted the gang and tried to defend his elderly parents. Detectives believe the gang totalling three or four has carried out up to a dozen attacks including rape, in the past two months, striking from the M25 into suburban London and the Surrey commuter belt. As Surrey police and Scotland Yard launched a joint investigation last night Detective Chief Superintendent Vincent McFadden head of Surrey CID and the joint operation said "There is every possibility these men will strike again. They showed violence in the extreme. It was gratuitous violence. I do not see how anyone can justify what these men did."

1988 December 20: The Times: Armed police arrest 12: Detectives investigating a trail of murder, rape and robbery across south London and Surrey by a gang of burglars were last night questioning 11 men and a women held in raids by armed police. The arrests were made yesterday in raids before dawn in Sydenham south-east London including a house converted into bed-sits. More than 40 officers including member of the Yard's PT17 specialist firearms unit took part in the raids. Police from Scotland Yard and Surrey were working jointly in the hunt for a gang who last week murdered Mr Peter Hurburgh leaving him to die in a field, stabbed a second man when they broke into his parent's home and carried out violent burglaries across Surrey, all in a few hours. Detective Superintendent Nicholas Brent of Surrey police said four people were arrested in connection with the murder of Mr Hurburgh. Eight people were arrested for "associated matters."



The house in Sydenham, south-east London, raided yesterday by police hunting the gang responsible for a murder and rape and a string of burglaries in south London and Surrey

1988 December 22: The Times: Surrey murder charge: A man aged twenty was charged with the murder of Mr Peter Hurburgh aged 57, the hairdresser who was tied up and dumped in a field after his car was high-jacked at Warlingham last Friday. The man who is to appear before Reigate court this morning was also accused of attempting to kill Mr Timothy Napier aged 40 who was stabbed while protecting his parents at their home in Oxted. Five other people are still being questioned by police.

1989 from Bill Osgood (896) (26102012): Just a little thing from the past. Old and Bold circulation No.76 for July 2009 there was an item some way through, just before the 'Missing' section, from a lady named Caroline George, who says that she was trying to trace any photo's of her father, PS Christopher Griffiths which would certainly be PS 411 Christopher Griffiths, who died in service while stationed at Camberley, I think in 1989. I was then on Camberley CID, and the late John Cobbett was a uniform Inspector also stationed at Camberley. When 'Griff', as he was always known, died, he was cremated and his ashes given to his wife. John Cobbett came to see me for local knowledge as Griff had told his wife that he wanted his ashes spread around the 13th green of Camberley Heath Golf Club. John Cobbett queried as to what course of action we should take to help Mrs Griffiths with her quest and Griff's last wish. The Japanese owners had then just taken over the golf club and I suggested to John that I didn't think that they would authorise the spreading of ashes on their golf course. As I knew a gentleman that then lived just off the Upper Chobham Road, and whose garden backed onto the said green, John and I went to put our unusual request to him. He agreed and a few days later the four of us, house owner (long deceased) John Cobbett (deceased) Mrs Griffiths (now deceased, I believe, and myself took Griff's ashes out onto the said green and Mrs Griffiths spread the ashes around I am pretty sure was the 13th green. I don't know whether Griff's surviving family are aware of this. It was just reading this circulation by Griff's daughter that as I am the only one left that was involved in this

escapade, I thought that I would try to contact you, and leave you to decide whether any contact should be made with Griff's remaining family, or we just let things lie in peace. Both John Cobbett and I truly believed that we did the correct thing by Griff, as we had both been colleagues of his for some years.

1989 March 6: The Times: Joy-riders injured in 120mph chase. Four teenage boys were hurt, one seriously, when their stolen car crashed after being pursued by motorway police on the M3 at 120mph. The driver aged 16 and passengers 17, 15 and 14 were injured when the Ford Fiesta turned over at a slip road roundabout after the car left junction three of the motorway at the Lightwater interchange.

1989 March 31: The Times: Gelignite flew on BA jumbo for three months: A BA Boeing 747 criss-crossed the Atlantic for three months with a stick of gelignite which police had forgotten to remove after a training exercise, in the back of a passenger seat. The gelignite was found by a cleaner when it worked itself loose and fell to the floor. The embarrassing discovery fuelled the intense political row over security at British airports and infuriated the chairman of British Airways who immediately promised a comprehensive investigation. The training exercise for "sniffer" dogs took place just a few days after the Lockerbie disaster when airlines everywhere were increasing security measures. The Police Complaints Authority is also to conduct an enquiry. It will be supervised by Mr Roland Moyle deputy chairman of the authority who will investigate training practices and the circumstances of the training exercise run by Surrey Police. The stick of gelignite left on the aircraft measured about 4in by 3/4inch and was in a small plastic tube and would have required a detonator or other stimulus to set it off. Surrey police said yesterday there had been no risk to passengers on the jumbo. Surrey police said Chief Superintendent Peter Monger of Thames Valley Police had been called in to investigate. He will report to the Police Complaints Authority and to Surrey Police.

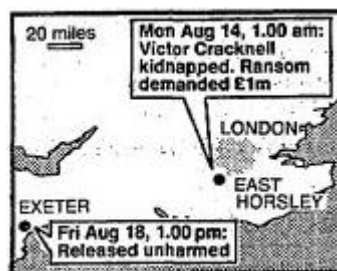
1989 April 1: The Times: Branson's M25 space odyssey: Millionaire Richard Branson's first journey into space began by fooling bleary-eyed south Londoners but ended up angering the more down to earth Surrey police. His ET mask and silver balloon with flashing lights were meant to fool Londoners into thinking they had seen a UFO. But he hovered over the M25 in Surrey and brought even more traffic chaos to it. Dozens of people phoned police to report seeing a flying saucer. Police will report him to the Civil Aviation Authority.

1989 May 9: The Times: Two students detained after guns scare: Two students were detained for questioning at Camberley police station last night after a security alert during a visit by the Princess Royal to the Royal Holloway College at Egham. In the third security scare involving the royal family in less than a month the students aged 19 and 21 were arrested in possession of imitation firearms 10 minutes after the Princess Royal arrived by helicopter from Buckingham Palace. One holding what appeared to be an Israeli Uzi sub machine gun was grabbed by officers outside a geography department which Princess Anne was scheduled to visit. The other was arrested after being seen at a window of a student's room armed with a pistol. A student at the college claimed that for weeks before the visit left-

wingers had been threatening to cause trouble and anti-royalist posters had appeared in all the windows of the geography block.

1989 August 5: The Times: Secret party switched: Organisers of an “Acid house” party are considering legal action against Surrey police for warning that the event could be a fraud. The party for which up to 24,000 tickets had been on sale at £15 each was to have been tonight at an undisclosed location near Thorpe Park, Chertsey but has now been postponed until August 19.

1989 August 19: The Times: Five days kidnapped with a wire around his neck: £1million kidnap businessman free. A wealthy businessman was free last night after being held handcuffed, blindfolded and with wire around his neck for five days by a kidnap gang demanding a ransom of £1 million. Mr Victor Cracknell aged 32 was understood to have freed himself unharmed after a kidnap ordeal which began when he was abducted at gunpoint from the bedroom of his home in East Horsley in the early hours of Monday. Mr Cracknell walked to freedom at lunchtime yesterday from the isolated cottage in Devon when he thought his abductors had abandoned him. He had been held prisoner in an upstairs bedroom throughout the ordeal. A ransom of £130,000 was handed over but the bulk has been recovered. Six people were arrested by armed police in a joint operation involving officers of from Surrey, Devon and Cornwall and the Regional Crime Squad. They were picked up in Exeter, soon after Mr Cracknell gained his freedom at 2pm. The three men and three women who had been under close surveillance at three addresses in the area were last night being returned to Surrey for questioning. Mr Cracknell’s father was multi-millionaire business-man and chairman of Foodbrokers Ltd said he had no doubts about contacting the police despite threats to kill his son if he did.



The kidnapers had threatened to kill or mutilate the father of four young boys unless a ransom of £1 million was paid by 1am on Thursday. They threatened to send a finger and an ear and a nose to his wife. The deadline passed without incident. Twelve hours later Mr Desmond Cracknell received the crucial phone call from the kidnapper calling himself Mr Murphy which gave instructions for the exchange of Victor for a ransom of £130,000 the sum offered the previous day. Surrey police requested a news blackout until Mr Cracknell was freed. Mr Desmond Cracknell said “He managed to free himself. He managed to escape to a farmhouse. He thought he was being abandoned. During the kidnap his family continued to act normally. Throughout the ordeal Mr Desmond Cracknell acted as the intermediary with the gang. Seven phone calls were made to him at his son’s home the last of which early on Thursday evening, police said, provided a significant breakthrough. Mr Hayes said the police

operation which also include the Metropolitan Police and Devon and Cornwall had been “extremely successful. It was a classic example of police co-operation in a difficult enquiry.



Victor Cracknell



Victor Cracknell's home



The kidnap victim's car, abandoned at East Horsley station, under forensic examination last night.

1989 August 19: The Times: relatives speak of ordeal: Mr Cracknell senior said that his son had been kept at an isolated cottage, had been handcuffed, secured by a wire around his neck and blindfolded the whole time. "Victor told me he managed to get the nooses from his neck, then got the hood off and walk across the moor. Victor Cracknell's wife Deborah aged 30 said her most frightening moment was "being woken by a light being switched on and his hooded figure standing at the door of my bedroom." Mr Desmond Cracknell said his first instinct was to call the police "At no stage did I hesitate. I did not think that amateurs should try to deal with professional criminals." He praised the police handling of the operation. "The police have been superb. I have nothing but the highest praise for the police operation."

1989 August 21: The Times: Hostage relives five-day kidnap ordeal: An unemployed man from Exeter, one of six people arrested in connection with the kidnapping was charged yesterday with blackmail and will appear before magistrates at Guildford. A ransom of £142,000 and not £132,000 as reported was paid most of which has been recovered. Mr Victor Cracknell aged 32 appeared briefly at a press conference at Surrey police headquarters. He had red weal's around his neck and face from being tethered with a wire noose, and grazes on his arms and wrists from being handcuffed. Mr Desmond Cracknell said the most frightening moment for him was walking into a wood at midnight to deliver ransom money to the kidnapers. I was ordered to make the drop of £142,000 in an isolated wood. I had to leave it in a brief case --- it was the middle of the night and I kept looking into the darkness to see if anyone was there. We were supposed to get a phone call from Victor at two in the morning but we heard nothing. Then ten hours later we got a phone call from Victor saying he had escaped." The first thing he did he did when he heard his son was alive was to jump into his red Bentley and pick up ten packets of fish and chips for a celebration party with the police who had guided him throughout the five day kidnapping.

1989 August 28: The Times: Acid House: A police officer was assaulted at a large “acid house” party in a field at Horsley where 8,000 people attended. There were seven arrests including one for actual bodily harm on a police officer. Two were for drugs offences.

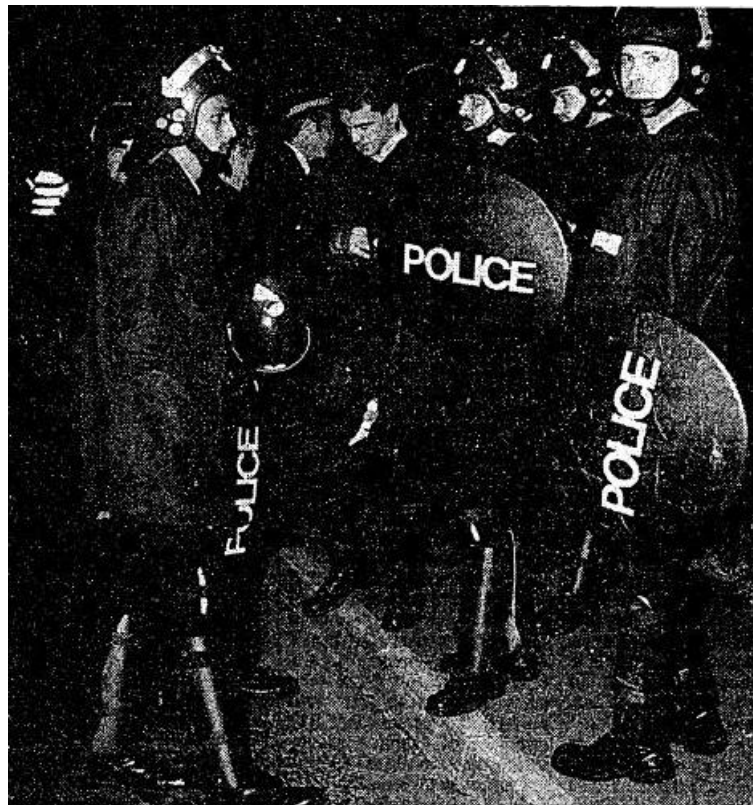
1989 August 28: Fatal RTA M23: Police yesterday appealed for witnesses to an 11 vehicle crash on Saturday night in which a woman aged 29 from Norwich was killed and 16 people injured, five of them seriously, on the M23 at South Nutfield.

1989 October 2: The Times: Gas used to rout police at acid party: Self styled security guards armed with canisters of CS gas and holding Rottweiler’s and bull-terriers on leashes beat back police trying to stop an “acid house” party near Reigate at the weekend. Sixteen police officers were injured and seven were taken to hospital. One officer had 17 stitches in an arm wound. A total of 51 people were arrested – 33 for drug offences. A police vehicle was besieged and attempts were made to overturn it before officers decided to release two men they were holding. Two police cars were seriously damaged and a CS gas canister let off. Superintendent John Hoyle the officer in charge ordered his 25 officers to withdraw as “mayhem broke out. He also released two prisoners because he feared that a policeman he saw being dragged into a field was to be taken hostage. Police reinforcements were called and arrests were made as party-goers left for home at dawn yesterday morning. At least six of those arrested were “security” guards. Last night police were questioning several men who had helped organise the party held in a field beside the A217 and reportedly attended by 10,000 people. Drugs seized included LSD, “ecstasy” and cannabis. Police began an urgent investigation into the incident yesterday as Mr Douglas Hurd the Home Secretary called for a report from Surrey’s Chief Constable. One of the disc jockeys at the party apparently broadcast a message saying: “The security people have had to have a fight with the police to make sure this party went ahead; we told you we were going to do it and we kept our word.” Inspector Edward Sherwood of Surrey police said: “We backed off after a fight broke out, and allowed the party to continue. We were completely overwhelmed.” The party was one of several held in southern England at the weekend. In all more than 100 people were arrested.

1989 October 2: The Times: Police feared for their lives in acid riot: Police who fought “security” guards as they attempted to stop an “acid house” party described last night how they feared for their lives. Superintendent John Hoyle said nearly 100 “security” guards and party organisers armed with clubs and canisters of CS gas smashed vehicles and menaced police with Rottweiler and Doberman dogs. Police retreated and whilst they waited for more officers to arrive the 40-acre field near Reigate became a no go area. The officers were forced to wait until daylight before arrests could be made. More than 50 complaints had been received from families living nearby. Mr Hoyle said “During the night the field was in total darkness and it would have been dangerous for us to have done anything like move in. When we withdrew, calm came and it was clear that any attempt to stop the party would be met with severe aggravation.” It was not until people began to leave the party that the 150 police attempted to make arrests. Drugs worth £2000 including LSD, “ecstasy” and cannabis were seized. Surrey police said that in the past they have successfully prevented “acid house” parties from taking place but they had no earlier warning that the weekend’s party was going

ahead. Officers arrived on Saturday night to find a group setting up the party. Mr Hoyle said “One of the group struck a passing car with his fist and he was arrested. This was the signal for mayhem. I had approximately 25 officers at my disposal and there were at least 60 party organisers. Fighting took place and while trying to arrest the offenders someone discharged a gas canister which released choking fumes. I and six of my colleagues had to be taken to hospital for treatment later in the night. The seven were treated for the effects of gas, a broken finger and bruises. Mr Hoyle said “I was forced to make a tactical withdrawal for the safety of myself and my officers. We had to allow the party to continue through the night. At no stage did we go into the field. Partygoers said the even was organised by a group called Fantasy and that tickets were sold for £15 each. Police said that they believe the organisers were London based. Last night they were interviewing a number of men who they understood were responsible for organising the event.

(Note: Robert Bartlett: I was called to Reigate Police Station during this incident and asked the Metropolitan Police for urgent aid to be told across the whole of the Metropolitan Police District there was one double crewed traffic car uncommitted!)



1989 October 3: The Times: Police face up to public order dilemma: Surrey police's experience of battling against private security guards hire to prevent them from gaining access to an "acid house" part in Reigate will be high on the agenda at a national conference of Chief Constables beginning tomorrow. Surrey's problems are the latest in a series of difficulties and dangers police have faced dealing with acid house parties across southern England and the Midlands this summer.

1989 October 4: The Times: BBC refuses police "acid house" film: The BBC last night refused to hand over without a court order film shot during violence at an "acid house" party near Reigate. Surrey police, 16 of whose officers were injured on Saturday night, hoped untransmitted footage would be given to them voluntarily. Organisers of the parties use BT's Callstream numbers which start with 0898 and Racal Vodafone's 0836 numbers which are reproduced on tickets to give last minute information on venues for the parties which can attract 10,000 or more young people. "They give out the information as late as 8 or 9 pm on the evening of the party and this is simply too late for us to intervene" said a senior Surrey police officer. "We have had discussions with the relevant authorities but this appears to be a very grey legal area. We would like to see Telecom and Racal put their house in order.

1989 October 4: Organiser in court: David Lambert aged 35 a video producer and party organiser from south London was yesterday charged with riot. He will appear before Reigate Magistrates Court. Four other men yesterday appeared before the court charged with riot. They were Ngoi Boon Sze aged 31 a former Singapore undercover narcotics officer of Holland park west London, Paul Scarborough aged 26 unemployed of Stockwell south London; Gary Higgins aged 31 a driver of Croydon south London; and John Irving aged 25 a shop manager of Stockwell south London. Scarborough Sze and Higgins were remanded in custody until October 9. Irving who is further charged with causing £700 damage to Superintendent Hoyle's private car was remanded on bail until November 27.

1989 October 14: The Times: Airship critics: Surrey police are monitoring Mr Richard Branson's airship, which carries advertising for British Rail after complaints from drivers on the M25 that it is a hazard.

1989 October 18: The Times: Chapter closes on the Guildford bombing: The DPP announced yesterday that the crown would no longer try to sustain the convictions of the Guildford Four ending one of the most extraordinary and sustained campaigns in British legal history. Pleading not guilty at their Central Criminal Court trial the four retracted the signed confessions they had made after their arrests. They claimed the confessions had been forced out of them by Surrey police. The jury unanimously found them guilty of all charges. The disputed confessions also led to arrest and conviction of Conlon's aunt Mrs Anne Maguire, five other members of the family and one friend for the possession of explosives.

1989 October 19: The Times: Four killed in M25 crash: Four people died yesterday in a crash on the M25 between Leatherhead and Reigate in which two vehicles collided head-on. Both vehicles exploded after the collision and the fire was so fierce police were at first unable to tell whether three or four people had died in the van. The motorway was closed for more

than four hours. An off-duty police sergeant Gordon Larkins leapt from his motor-cycle and tried to help a man trapped in the blaze. The car driver was hurled into the road and a man was thrown half through the windscreen of the van. Sergeant Larkins' clothes were set alight as both vehicles exploded when he tried to pull the man to safety through the windscreen



The car and van after yesterday's head-on crash on the M25 in which four people were killed after the vehicles exploded



1989 October 20: The Times: Inquiry ordered on Guildford Four: A judicial enquiry will be established immediately into the circumstances leading to the trial of those convicted of the Guildford and Woolwich bombings.

1989 October 28: The Times: Mystery of Ascot “laser gun” mystery: Police are investigating claims that a racehorse which mysteriously unseated its jockey at Royal Ascot last year had been nobbled by a laser gun disguised as a pair of binoculars. Surrey police and New Scotland Yard drugs officers have made inquiries into how the heavily backed second favourite threw Greville Starkey as it led the field 150 yards from the finishing line at the King George V Handicap.

1989 November 4: The Times: Acid house film: A judge ordered the BBC to hand over to detectives a film of an acid house party where 16 police officers were injured in clashes with bouncers. The film was shot by a documentary crew at a party at Woodhatch. Nine men were later charged. Detective Chief Inspector Patrick Crossan told a hearing at Guildford crown Court that police were considering further prosecutions. The BBC claimed the film was confidential.

1989 November 13: The Times: Classic example of poor road design: The M25 the world's longest and busiest orbital motorway epitomises the problems of motorway design. It was virtually out of date by the time it was complete. Only 47 miles of it were lit and little account has been taken of the problems caused by fog. Traffic flow forecasts were so inadequate that the motorway has recently been widened to four lanes in places. To counter wholesale resistance to the M25 being built at all the Government pledged to keep lighting to a minimum to prevent “light pollution.” However Brian Hayes the Cc of Surrey said “I have pressed successive ministers and the Department of Transport for the M25 to be full lit along its entire length. “Surrey Constabulary sections of the M25, apart from junctions are almost totally unlit. This is a dangerous situation on such a busy urban motorway.” The constabulary said that cars which broke down with electrical difficulties were almost impossible to see on the hard shoulder, especially in the winter as Surrey sections of the motorway were particularly prone to fog.

1990 November 15: The Times: Three face charges over the Guildford Four case: Three of the Surrey detectives involved in questioning the Guildford four are to be prosecuted for conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. Up to a dozen current and former officers were named in a report sent to the DPP some weeks ago by a team of Avon and Somerset officers investigating the case. Yesterday the DPP said there was insufficient evidence to justify criminal proceedings against any other officers involved in the prosecution of the four after IRA bombings in Guildford and Woolwich 16 years ago. The three men facing charges are former Detective Chief Inspector Tom Styles who retired as a superintendent, former detective Sergeant John Donaldson and Detective Constable Vernon Atwell. Two other officers Detective Sergeant Martin Wise and Detective Constable Peter Lewis remain suspended pending a decision on disciplinary proceedings.

1989 November 25: The Times: Frost brings road chaos: C On motorist was taken to hospital with serious injuries and five cars were damaged in a multiple collision on the M25 near Byfleet. Chief Inspector Ken Langridge of Surrey Motorway Police said “It is the usual story. People drive too fast and do not take account of conditions. They come to put the brakes on and find they do not stop usually because of a bit of frost.”

1989 December 4: The Times: Action against CID in Guildford Four case is delayed: Action is not now expected before the new year. The Guildford Four were freed on October 19 by the Court of Appeal after the Crown accused five past and present Surrey officers of corruption, including fabrication, concoction and suppression. Three serving officers were suspended – one other officer has died.

1989 December 5: The Times: Sir John May inquiry: Preliminary sitting at Church house: Witnesses who give evidence to the Guildford four inquiry will be offered partial immunity from prosecution, Sir John May, the former appeal judge heading the investigation announced yesterday. Sir John would not look into the police handling of the case until proceedings against Surrey detectives was complete. Sir John said “I make it clear at this stage that it would not be helpful or right for any represented party to seek to use this enquiry as a vehicle to prove the guilt of those originally convicted for the Guildford and Woolwich pub bombings. Any evidence with that sole view in mind will not be admitted. Any evidence which on its face points towards guilt will be admitted only if it can be demonstrated that it is relevant to a material issue in my enquiry.”



Surrey Chief Constable Brian Hayes, left, and Chief Supt Tony Jackson at Church House.

1989 December 19: The Times: Cocaine trafficker made over £3m in deals: The mastermind behind the first cocaine factory found in Europe made more than £3million from international drug dealings a court was told. The factory in Surrey produced 180kg of cocaine with a market value of £15.5 million. Rene Black a Peruvian aged 34 used the vast profits from drugs to enjoy a “luxurious lifestyle.” Black of Ellen’s Green, Surrey admitted conspiracy to import, produce and supply cocaine and possession of 30kg of the drug worth £5m when he was arrested in November last year. More than £400,000 was found near Heathrow Airport. The £400,000 was put on deposit and has accrued interest of £60,000. Mr Brian Hayes is hoping to claim the interest to cover part of the cost of the investigation which includes enquiries in Hong Kong, the United States and West Germany. Rene Black turned Queen’s evidence, becoming a super-grass with a £1million price on his head and his brother Rudi is in hiding in South America. The prosecution is pressing for all drugs assets to be seized. Rene has estimated realisable assets of £1,351,575 from drugs.



Rene Black (left) and his brother Rudi, who used profits from international drug dealing to enjoy a luxurious lifestyle.

1990 January 8: The Times: Delay in Guildford four hearings: The Home Office says the inquiry is unlikely to sit before April but it is unlikely to deal with the Guildford or Maguire cases until much later. Hearings on those subjects will depend on the progress of police investigations into allegations against current and former Surrey CID officers. Avon and Somerset Police have yet to complete reports on the allegations against four present and former detectives. The inquiry seems certain to stretch into 1991.

1990 February 12: The Times: Officer suspended: A fourth Surrey police officer has been suspended in connection with investigations by the Avon and Somerset Police into allegations of malpractice over the conviction of the Guildford four.

1990 March 1: The Times: Four prisoners escape: Four prisoners described by police as highly dangerous were on the run last night after overpowering warders in a van at Churt, Surrey and hijacking a Mercedes sports car. The escape came when one of nine inmates being taken from Wandsworth prison to Parkhurst drew a knife and threatened and slightly injured one of the five officers escorting them.

1990 March 8: The Times: Arson feared in pollution leak: Arson is suspected as the cause of a fire that caused 5,000 gallons of wood preservative to leak into a Thames tributary killing thousands of fish and other wildlife, police said last night. Two men and three women have been questioned by police and released on bail in connection with the incident, according to officers at Woking. By yesterday evening traces of the pollution were found at Teddington.

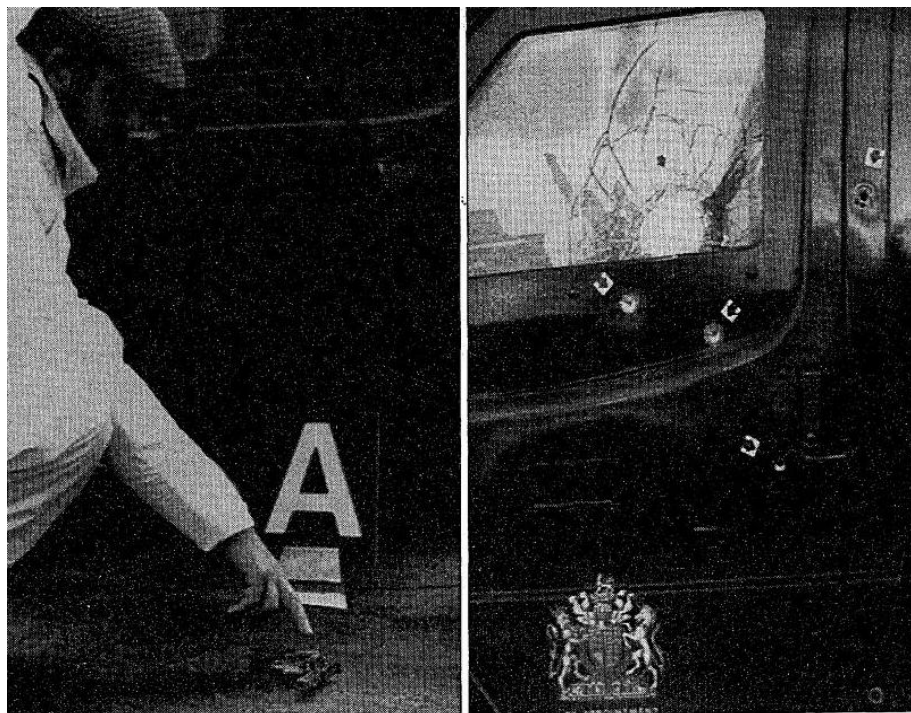
1990 March 8 1990: the Times: Poll tax erupts in council chambers: One of the biggest demonstrations of the evening was at Walton on Thames where police reinforcements were called in to maintain order among 1000 protesters. Eggs, coins bricks and fireworks were thrown at the town hall while Elmbridge Council set a levy of £449 a head, one of the highest in the country. (Note: RFB: I was called to Addlestone police station from where I contacted the Metropolitan Police and they sent immediately a Territorial Support Group unit from central London to help out.)

1990 April 12: The Times: Public confession of Conlon condemned: The publication of a confession tape-recorded in prison by Gerard Conlon one of the Guildford four and Sir Peter Imbert now Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police was condemned yesterday as an attempt to undermine evidence to the inquiry into the convictions. Sir Peter is expected to give evidence at the inquiry

1990 May 21: the Times: Four killed in M25 air crash: A student pilot and his instructor were among four people killed when two light aircraft collided over the M25 near Reigate

1990 November 28: The Times: Gunman shot dead:





A forensic officer pointing to a gun used by the gang in the shootout which damaged a Securicor van at the garage in Woodhatch, Surrey

A suspected armed robber was killed and a second man wounded yesterday when New Scotland Yard marksmen and Flying Squad officers ambushed a gang as they tried to hijack a security van with £2million in a Surrey village. The police operation follows investigations by detectives into a series of armed robberies in the past year in Surrey and Kent which had netted hundreds of thousands of pounds. Officers were in the area of yesterday's robbery two weeks ago but nothing happened. Superintendent Pat Crosson of Surrey police was appointed by the Police Complaints Authority to carry out an inquiry into the shooting. He said "it is a tragedy that there has been a loss of life." The security vehicle was making deliveries when it was stopped and attacked by a four man armed gang. The gunmen opened fire after they were challenged by armed police. The police retaliated – neither the police officers the security staff nor members of the public were injured. Last night the dead man was named unofficially as Kenny Baker from south London. The wounded man also from south London, is being held in hospital and was described as being in a stable condition after surgery for two wounds. His brother is one of two men held by police at the scene at Woodhatch, near Reigate. The ambush took place just before 10am when a Securicor van with a crew of three parked in a garage forecourt and two of the three got out. The gang were hiding in an opened back truck. They leapt out and swooped on the security van. Police believe the plan was to seize it and then drive off with the crew but members of Scotland Yard's PT17 firearms unit were hidden nearby. Two of the gang are said to have opened fire when challenged. Police last night displayed the gang's guns: a 12 gauge pump action sawn off shotgun, a '30 revolver, a .45 self-loading pistol all with live ammunition.

1991 January 21: The Times: Ant-hunt alert: Twenty five people were evacuated from their homes yesterday after a incendiary device was found in Abinger Hammer. Police believe it was intended for Rodney West a leading member of the Surrey Union Hunt.

1991 February 6: The Times: Three remanded: Three former Surrey police officers were remanded on bail by Bow Street magistrates accused of fabricating evidence against Patrick Armstrong one of the Guildford four.

1991 March 2: The Times: Mr Brian Hayes Chief Constable of Surrey to be one of HM Inspectors of Constabulary responsible for forces in the south east of England. Mr John Smith (former Surrey ACPO officer) one of HM Inspectors of Constabulary has been re-appointed an Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. He will succeed Sir John Dellow as Deputy Commissioner in the spring.

1991 April 2: the Times: Man is buried by garden drill: A man aged 52 was found by his wife yesterday with only his head protruding from their garden after apparently become caught up in the cork screw action of a drilling machine which dug him into the ground. Emergency services were called to the garden at Ranmore Common but Surrey police said the man was found to be dead.

1991 June 13: The Times: Ban lifted on reporting of Guildford Four detective's cases: Two High Court judges last night lifted the ban on reporting a stipendiary magistrates reasons for discharging three Surrey detectives facing allegations of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice 17 years ago during the Guildford Four investigation. The case was thrown out by the magistrates on Tuesday for reasons that included the substantial delay in bringing them to trial, adverse public comment by the media and a failure to caution the defendants before police interviews. After a five day hearing Ronald Bartle sitting at Bow Street dismissed the defendants on grounds of abuse of process. Mr Bartle said the Crown's case rested on the discovery of rough notes found in the archives of the Surrey Constabulary which the crown claimed showed that typed notes of interviews with Patrick Armstrong released by the Court of Appeal in 1989 were not contemporaneous. He said the lapse of time had been great and was as such, likely to give rise to prejudice. Mr Bartle said that the defence had argued that three other matters were prejudicial to the applicants: the death of a detective involved in the case in 1984 (Note: Tim Blake); the fact that all those involved in the interviews had no clear recollection of the events; and the fact that detectives diaries were all destroyed after three years. Mr Bartle said "What chance do these applicants have in rebutting these allegations in the absence of this evidence?" He referred to evidence that the officers had not been cautioned before being interviewed by police. Mr Bartle said "This was because caution might encourage these three to exercise their right of silence. This was clearly a flagrant violation of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. Of the publicity surrounding allegations against the three men, Mr Bartle said that "the normal presumption of innocence was turned to one of guilt."

1991 24 October: The Times: DPP wins plea over Guildford detectives: The DPP was yesterday given leave to appeal against a magistrate's decision to discharge three former detectives accused of conspiring to pervert the course of justice in connection with the Guildford four.

1991 27 October: The Times: Police find “secret” boy 11: A full investigation was launched last night after Surrey police found an 11 year old boy who had escaped the attention of education authorities, living with his mother surrounded by 80 animals many of them dead. Officers had called at the house in New Haw to enquire into an allegation of theft for another police force. They received no reply, entered through an upstairs window and found the boy and his mother surrounded by the animals. There were also hundreds of mice and the house was soiled with excrement.

1991 December 10: The Times: Science may finally solve schoolboy’s 1968 murder: Surrey police are to use a new genetic technique to try to solve a murder mystery that has been on the files for 23 years. In April 1968 Roy Tuthill a schoolboy aged 14 was picked up by a car when hitch-hiking home from Kingston Grammar school. Three days later his body was found in a plantation beside a private road on the late Lord Beaverbrook’s estate, Cherkley Court, Mickleham. Police believe they have pinpointed a motorist now in his fifties, who gave Roy a lift. They have established that the firm he worked for at the time, owned a fleet of Austin Cambridge models similar to descriptions of the car believed to have picked up Roy. All Roy’s clothing has been stored for the last 23 years and have now been sent to the Home Office forensic science laboratory at Aldermaston where scientists will use a technique known as polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to multiply minute traces of body fluids in order to create sufficient DNA to produce a genetic fingerprint; this could be matched against the subject. Retired Detective Chief Inspector Patrick Doyle has been visited by senior serving officers from Surrey police to seek his advice. A police spokesman said “The Roy Tuthill murder was particularly nasty and Mr Doyle’s one regret when he retired was that the killer was still at large.



Doyle: in charge of initial investigation



Tutill: murdered on way home from school

1991 December 14: The Times: man held over 1968 murder: A man was arrested yesterday by detectives investigating the murder in 1968 of Roy Tuthill aged 14. Surrey police said “A 52 year old man was arrested at Dorking police station this afternoon in connection with the death of Roy Tuthill in 1968.” They said that the man had recently been released from prison.

1991 December 16: the Times: man released: A man questioned about the murder of a boy in 1968 was released on police bail last night from Dorking police station.

1992 January 25: The Times: Officers to face trial on Guildford four conspiracy trial:

The High court ruled yesterday that three police officers from Surrey police must face trial accused of conspiracy to pervert the court (sic) of justice. The court quashed a decision last year to dismiss charges against former Surrey policemen and ordered him to go ahead with committal proceedings against them

1992 August 7: The Times: Villagers caught in robbery shoot out: A policeman and a passer-by were injured yesterday when a gunman taking part in a robbery ran through the village firing as he was chased by police. Shoppers in Brockham took cover behind cars and a telephone box as police marksmen returned fire. One man caught in the crossfire was hit in the ankle. A policeman was stabbed in the chest and the gunman shot in his side. A police spokesman said "I am satisfied with the action of our officers although it is always a matter of regret that anyone is shot. The incident began when detectives acting on a tip off lay in wait for a gang of armed robbers at the village sub post-office. The men who had been followed from London by police apparently opened fire when they were challenged. The wounded including the gunman were taken to East Surrey Hospital. Four men have been arrested in connection with the robbery, three in the village and the fourth after a ten mile chase along the M25.

1993 April 29: The Times: Guildford four "man gave police IRA names": Gerard Conlon one of the Guildford Four volunteered the names of nearly 40 active members of the IRA after being jailed for the public house bombing murders a court was told yesterday. However when Mr Conlon appealed against his conviction the confession evidence was ruled inadmissible because it would prejudice the case against the other three defendants the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday. Mr Edmund Lawson QC for one of the three policemen accused of fabricating evidence in the Guildford case said "he gave a whole catalogue of names of persons said by him to be involved in terrorism. Thirty eight names were identified by the innocent Mr Conlon." Mr Lawson said that it was the first time that the post conviction interviews with Mr Conlon had been disclosed in court. The court was told yesterday that Mr Conlon had called police including Superintendent peter Imbert later Sir Peter and Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police to Wandsworth prison the day after he was jailed for life. Mr Conlon had then admitted being an IRA quartermaster. Later he provided Mr Imbert with a "substantial tape recording" about the IRA Mr Lawson said. The Surrey police officers deny manufacturing notes of an interview with Mr Armstrong.

1993 May 6: The Times: Imbert defends his Guildford Four confession notes: Sir Peter Imbert said yesterday that his record of one of the Guildford Four confessing to planting a pub bomb that killed five people was "as accurate as could humanly make it." Sir peter appeared at the Old Bailey at the request of lawyers defending three officers accused of defending three former Surrey police officers. The prosecution alleges that notes of an interview with Patrick Armstrong which the former officers said were written contemporaneously were written up later from roughly typed notes. Sir Peter was at the time a superintendent on the Bomb Squad and he knew that Paul Hill had confessed to his part in a murder in Belfast and in the Guildford bombings to Surrey police officers. Sir peter said that

he and other senior officers travelled to Guildford to interview Mr Hill about another bomb in Woolwich in November 1974. Mr Hill admitted for the first time going on the Woolwich bombing mission but claimed that Mr Armstrong hurled the bomb. Mr Hill also indicated where Mr Armstrong could be found. Sir Peter said he and other senior bomb squad officers interviewed Mr Armstrong after he was arrested and had confessed his part in the Guildford Bombings to Surrey police. Sir Peter who wrote shorthand recorded the interview in which Armstrong admitted going with Carole Richardson into one of the Guildford pubs and planting the bomb. Mr Armstrong denied taking part in the bombing. Asked by Edmund Lawson QC for the defence if his shorthand record was a truthful account of the interview, Sir Peter said "It was as accurate as one could humanly make it." Sir Peter told the court that he had also interviewed Miss Richardson and she repeated what she had admitted to the officers – her part in the Guildford bombing. The day after the Guildford Four's conviction Sir Peter received a message from Conlon who in a secretly tape recorded interview "went into considerable detail about IRA personalities and places."

1993 May 20: The Times: Police defence team was remorseless: The defence team representing the three officers accused of fabricating evidence were remorseless in their attempts to convince the jury that police caught the right IRA bombing team almost 20 years ago. Patrick Armstrong was said by the defence team, who was the focus of the month-long trial was said by the defence to have established links with terrorism and to have given police vital information about unsolved crimes in Northern Ireland. Mr Armstrong "sang like a canary" about his IRA involvement. Anthony Evans QC told the jury "The innocent Patrick Armstrong does not exist. He is being created by the ill-informed and misinformed and the not-want-to-be informed. Armstrong had not made himself available to give evidence in the current trial and it was stated that after his conviction for the 1974 bombings he provided police with the names of ten IRA terrorists. Anthony Glass QC said in his final speech" The Horse and groom was the worst peacetime outrage since 1945. That bombing was carried out by Patrick Armstrong/ he said that the jury that convicted him in 1975 had "reached a just conclusion."

GUILDFORD CHRONOLOGY

October 1974: Bombs explode at Guildford pubs. Five die.
November 1974: Bomb explodes at Woolwich pub. Two die.
December 1974: Guildford Four charged with the Guildford bombing. Armstrong charged in connection with Woolwich bomb.
June 1975: Hill convicted of murdering former soldier in Belfast.
October 1975: Guildford Four convicted. Life sentences.
October 1976: Guildford Four refused leave to appeal.
August 1987: Home secretary announces enquiry by Avon and Somerset police.
January 1989: Case referred to Court of Appeal.
October 1989: Appeal court frees Guildford Four after evidence that police "seriously misled" original trial. Sir John May enquiry announced.
November 1990: DPP announces that three Surrey police officers charged with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.
June 1991: Three officers discharged on grounds of delay in bringing case to trial and prejudicial media comment.
January 1992: High Court rules that three officers must stand trial.
April 1992: Old Bailey trial of officers opens.



The Surrey police officers outside the Central Criminal Court after they were acquitted

1993 October 21: The Times: Robbery M25: Mina Mullins from Wentworth was ambushed and robbed while in her car on the M25 slip-road. Surrey police last night issued artists impressions of the two men they believed attacked Mr Mullins who was held at gunpoint and robbed of jewels worth £71,000 and her £55,000 Mercedes.

1993 December 23: The Times: Risk of prosecution deters all but a few: PC Len Martin aged 39, who joined Surrey police 11 years ago stopped the car on the A3 near Guildford at 1030pm in the week before Christmas, as it was going faster than 70mph and did not have a local number plate. He quickly established the driver was sober and, after the contents of his car were checked, he was sent on his way. "There is no point breathalysing someone if you do not suspect them, although during the Christmas campaign we test everyone if there is an accident." It was Monday night and PC Martin and PC Roger Chamberlain 39, were on their first shift of the Christmas anti-drink-driving campaign that began across the country on Sunday and will last until the New Year.

1994 February 24: The Times: Hill's confession made after hours of intimidation: The conviction of Paul Hill a member of the Guildford Four for the murder of a former soldier was gained solely on the evidence of his "involuntary" confession, the High Court in Belfast heard. The confession had been made when Hill was "ready to agree to any suggestion or allegations that were put to him by police officers, his counsel Lord Gifford QC told the court on the first day of Hill's appeal against a life sentence. Hill had no knowledge of the murder but had made a confession because of his treatment at Guildford police station in November 1974. Lord Gifford said detectives acted with serious impropriety during interviews during interviews and one firearms officer allegedly pointed a gun into Hill's cell. Hill was freed on

bail in 1989 after the Court of Appeal quashed his conviction for the Guildford and Woolwich bombings. Gifford told the court that the confession to RUC detectives in Guildford was unsafe because Hill had been “reduced to a wreck” by detectives. He said Hill was “subjected to threats, acts of intimidation, deprivation of sleep and food. After 24 hours of questioning at Guildford police station Hill was ready to agree to any suggestion or allegation put to him by police officers. He was taken to an interview room where he signed a written statement confessing to taking part in the murder of Mr Shaw. Lord Gifford said that following the freeing of the Guildford Four and allegations against Surrey police officers the integrity of the evidence was now “fatally undermined.” Of the 13 Surrey officers who formed the various interview teams only three escaped unscathed. There is evidence that ten were guilty of or party to serious impropriety particularly in the re-writing of handwritten notes and the presentation of that as being contemporaneously. The hearing is expected to last for several weeks.

1994 May 2: The Times: Doorstep killer may have shot wrong sister: The British wife of an Armenian serving life for an assassination was under armed guard today after her sister was shot dead by a professional hit-man in what police believe to have been a case of mistaken identity. Karen Reed was shot at point blank range when she opened the front door of her home in Woking to her killer. He fired four or five shots from a handgun and escaped by car. Her sister Alison Ponting 29 was at work at the BBC World Service at the time. The sisters had been warned by police that they could be the target of an attack a fortnight ago when a gun was found in a suspicious vehicle near her home. Police had chased the speeding car which the driver abandoned whilst it was still moving and made his escape across wasteland. Inside the stolen red cavalier with false licence plates were a gun and a map bearing a few marks indication the area of Woking. From those police pinpointed an area around Willow Way and identified people who could have been at risk. Five people were warned and their homes equipped with panic buttons and other security devices by the police in case of attack. Detective Superintendent John Stewardson said “it was an absolutely callous assassination carried out in cold blood. She would not have stood a chance. It has all the hallmarks of a professional killing.” Mrs Reed had not followed the safety advice given to her sister.

1994 July 1: The Times: Human failings blamed for the Guildford Four error: Intelligence reports named Paul Hill and Gerard Conlon as members of the Provisional IRA’s second battalion in the years before the Guildford pub bombings, according to the judicial inquiry into the attacks published yesterday. The report by Sir John May said the conviction of the Guildford Four occurred through human failings against which no rules could give complete protection. Asked whether he had any lingering doubts about the acquittals of Richardson, Hill, Conlon and Armstrong he said “We can never be certain.” Hill was a member of D company of the 2nd Battalion PIRA. In September 1974 the Army received intelligence that Hill had gone to London to join a bombing team. The report criticised the DPP’s office and Surrey police and crown lawyers but individuals were not identified. Sir John May criticised the mythology surrounding aspects of the case. He singled out the film “In the name of the father” based on Conlon’s book as misleading. Sir John criticised Surrey

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police for trying to destroy and alibi of Richardson rather than investigate it with an open mind. He said the police might have been threatening or even behaved improperly towards the four.